

**The Expressive
Illocutionary Act Used By
The Main Character In
“Persuasion” Movie**

Made Adis Indayanti

adisindayanti@gmail.com

Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar

Ida Ayu Mela Tustiawati

Mela.tustiawati@unmas.ac.id

Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar

Abstract

This study analyzes the Attitude of expressive illocutionary acts found in the movie script of "Persuasion." Data used in this study could be considered qualitative data, and it was analyzed using a qualitative descriptive method. Explaining the sentence in the data allows a precise analysis using the theory from Searle (1979) and Halliday and Hasan (1985). The findings show that there are 13 Sentences of expressive illocutionary acts. The result shows that the most dominant type used by the main character is expressive of Attitude, which contains nine utterances. The character in The 'Persuasion' movie mostly expressed feelings about disagreement, so they most used an expressive attitude. There should be more research on the expressive illocutionary act with different theories and methods. Hopefully, this research can be helpful in education and help further research.

Keywords: *Expressive, Illocutionary act, Movie*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini menganalisis jenis-jenis tindakan ilokusi ekspresif yang ditemukan dalam naskah film di 'Persuasion'. Artikel ini menggunakan data kualitatif dan dianalisis menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Dengan menjelaskan kalimat yang terkandung dalam data, untuk mendapatkan analisis yang jelas menggunakan teori yang dikemukakan oleh Searle. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 13 Kalimat tindakan ilokusi ekspresif. Dari hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa jenis yang paling dominan digunakan oleh karakter utama adalah ungkapan tidak setuju yang terdiri dari 9 ujaran. Karakter utama dalam film 'Persuasion' lebih banyak mengekspresikan perasaan tentang rasa tidak setuju, komplain, oleh karena itu mereka lebih banyak menggunakan ungkapan tidak setuju dan komplain. Dengan artikel ini, diharapkan akan ada lebih banyak penelitian tentang tindakan ilokusi ekspresif dengan teori dan metode yang berbeda. Diharapkan penelitian ini dapat berguna untuk pendidikan dan membantu penelitian selanjutnya.

Kata kunci : Ekspresif, Tindakan ilokusi, Film

1. Introduction

According to Bou-Franch (2002), communication is an elaborate human activity that is primarily effective. Nevertheless, this does not indicate that comprehension occurs automatically or is always the case. One of the leading media of communication is language. Rabiah (2018) said that language represents each nation, as a parable once stated. It may make us wiser in comprehending and treating all circumstances that link language and the Attitude or behavior of groups of language speakers. People use language to communicate their ideas and opinions to others and to provide them with information (Kreidler, 1998). Through communication, much can be reflected, starting from someone's character, level of education, and perspective on something they can communicate to their interlocutors. In addition, communication can also be very influential on the interlocutor. It is crucial to be aware of both speakers and interlocutors. Being able to understand the language used during communication will help in avoiding any misunderstandings during communication.

Misunderstanding is an ordinary and unexceptional element of human interaction, whether cross-cultural or not (Dascal, 1985; Brown, 1995). Misunderstandings between the speaker and the interlocutor can prevent conversations from failing. There are often misunderstandings between speakers and interlocutors; this happens because the speaker and the interlocutor need to learn the situation when they use the language. The speaker's goal in communication is to deliver a message or information to the interlocutor, whereas the interlocutor's goal is to obtain information from the speaker. As a result, misunderstandings from the use of language often occur in everyday life, for example, *I've just made some coffee* (Yule, 1996: 48). This sentence may cause confusion and misunderstanding between the speaker and the interlocutor as it is not clear whether first, the speaker makes coffee for the interlocutor, second, the speaker makes a statement that the speaker makes coffee, third, the speakers intentionally invites the interlocutor to make coffee.

According to Searle (1969, 23-24), a speaker can realize three types of acts through their speech: the act of expressing something (locutionary act), doing something (illocutionary act) and influencing the converse to speak (perlocutionary act). The three types are, in that order, the act of saying something, the act of doing something, and the act of affecting someone. An illocutionary act occurs when a speaker proclaims, promises, apologizes, threatens, orders, or requests something. The speaker can perform this act by using words like "command," "offer," "promise," "threaten," "thank you," and so on (Austin: 1962). As a result, this action is known as obtaining something. In addition to saying something, an illocutionary act aims to get the interlocutor to do something. Illocutionary acts can be classified into five types: representative, directive, commissive, declarative, and expressive. These illocutionary acts are ordinary in everyday conversation.

Several studies on the analysis of the Illocutionary Act have been used to support this research. The first review was taken from a thesis written by Wiliastini et al. (2021). This study aims to analyze the types of directive illocutionary acts and the function of directive illocutionary acts. The writer used the theory proposed by Kreidler (1998) and Leech (1993). The documented method was used to collect the data throughout the study. This study focuses on directive illocutionary acts and the function of directive illocutionary acts. The second review is taken from an article written by Sudiyono et al. (2023). The researcher found that the most dominant type of illocutionary act was the assertive act. The third review was taken from an article written by Tanjung (2021). Their research discovered nine types of expressive expressions in the film: apologizing, blaming, congratulating, doubting, welcoming, praising, regretting, thanking, and hoping. The praising act is the most common expressive action because the character does it when they admire someone or something for the interlocutor.

The current research differs in many aspects from what has been conducted previously. The current study employed the theory proposed by Searle (1979) and Halliday and Hasan (1985).

The data for the study was also different, which made this study essential to do. This study aimed to discover the types of expressive illocutionary acts used in the film and to analyze the context of the situation, how the scene occurred, where it occurred, and the relationship between the characters in the film.

2. Research Question

There are two research questions to guide the analysis as follows:

1. What types of expressive illocutionary acts are found in the Persuasion movie?
2. What is the context of the situation where the expressive illocutionary act happens in the Persuasion movie?

3. Method

This study falls under the category of descriptive qualitative research. Dornyei (2007) also believed that qualitative research focuses on non-numerical data without statistics. The data was gathered from the Persuasion movie. This data was taken without involving numbers in this study. The theory used in this study is the first theory from Searle (1979) and the second from Halliday and Hassan (1985). The data used in this study was a film entitled Persuasion. This film is an American romantic period based on Jane Austen's 1817 novel. It was directed by Carrie Cracknell from a screenplay by Ron Bass and

Alice Victoria Winslow. This film depicts the narrative of Anne Elliot, a young woman who is convinced not to marry Frederick Wentworth, a gorgeous guy who is simple and humble.

Furthermore, they reunite after an eight-year absence. When the guy who got away, Frederick Wentworth, reappears in Anne Elliot's existence, she must decide between putting the past behind her and following her heart regarding second chances. Three data collection procedures were involved in the current study: watching the entire movie, reading the script, and note-taking. The above procedures were conducted to ensure familiarity with the scenes in the movie.

After gathering the data, the writer analyzed it in several steps, including categorizing expressive illocutionary acts and determining the context of the situation based on the data. Two theories were used to collect data for this study. The first theory was proposed by Searle (1979). The theory describes types of expressive illocutionary acts divided into six types: expressive of thanking, expressive of Attitude, expressive of apologizing, expressive of wishing, expressive of greeting, and the last one is expressive of congratulating. The second theory proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1985) is about the context of the situation that is divided into three, namely field, mode, and tenor. Formal and informal approaches to outcome presentation were used to describe the current study's findings.

4. Result and Discussion

Table 1. Expressive Illocutionary Acts

No	The Types of Expressive Speech Acts	Total	Percentage
1	Expressive of Attitude	9	69,2%
2	Expressive of Apologizing	2	15,3%
3	Expressive of Thanking	1	7,6%
4	Expressive of Greetings	1	7,6%
	Total	13	100%

The researcher found that the most dominant type used in this data was expressive of Attitude, with 9 (69,2%) occurrences. Furthermore, 2 data (7,6%) on using expressive apologizing. In contrast, only 1 data (7,6%) was found on using expressive of thanking and greeting. That means the type of expressive

illocutionary act found was expressive of Attitude. The less expressive illocutionary act was thanking and greeting, and the researcher did not find any expressive congratulating and wishing.

a. Expressive Attitude

Data 1

Louisa: It's that Elliot pride. I find it detestable. To know Sir Walter, one might believe the title of Baronet is second only to King. Lord knows how sweet Anne came out of that lot.

We all so wish Charles had married her instead. Don't you agree?

Frederick: *Don't let her fool you.*

The speaker's utterance can be classified as Attitude according to the principle of Expressive illocutionary act. Searle (1979:15) defines Attitude: This utterance communicates disagreement or disapproval with the interlocutor's Attitude by criticizing, complaining, and deprecating. Frederick disagreed with what Louisa said about Anne. From the conversation above, According to Halliday and Hasan (1985:12), field discourse relates to what is happening or the participants' location of social action. The field happened at the lake in the middle of the forest when they wanted to take a walk in the middle of the forest with their friends. When Louisa talks to Frederick about Anne, they talk about Anne's father and Louisa's hopes that Anne will marry Charles, but that is just a supposition. The tenor from the conversation above occurred between Louisa and Frederick, who are friends. Frederick is a friend of Louisa's older brother. They met at a dinner together, and from then on, they became intimate and close. The mode of speech spoken by Frederick is spoken mode. Frederick is the speaker, and Louisa is the interlocutor. Frederick said that with an expression of disbelief and a slight wrinkle on his face. From the expression, it was clear that Frederick disagreed with what Louisa said. The utterance "*Don't let her fool you*" that Frederick said as a speaker meant that he disagreed with what Louisa had said about Anne to Frederick. (*Persuasion 00.42.02*)

Data 2

Louisa: Okay, that was your warm-up. Once more.

Frederick: *No, Louisa, that's enough. No more.*

Louisa: I'm jumping, so either catch me or don't.

Frederick: Louisa!

From the conversation above, it can be concluded that the speaker's utterance was classified into Attitude. Frederick as a speaker, disagreed with what Louisa said; she wanted Frederick to catch her when she was playing games with Frederick. The context of the situation field happened in the lodging near the beach. They stayed during a vacation in Lyme. At that time, they were going down the stairs.

Moreover, they were playful, so Louisa threw herself to be caught by Frederick. Then Louisa went upstairs again and threw herself deliberately to be caught by Frederick, but Frederick disagreed. Louisa then threw herself down, but Frederick missed her. Frederick thought that after he said that, Louisa would stop playing around, but Louisa did not hear Frederick's words and finally fell to the ground. The tenor in this conversation is Frederick as the speaker and Louisa as the interlocutor. Frederick was a friend of his brother, whom they met at a banquet. Frederick and Louisa are close to each other as friends and are always together. The mode in this conversation is Frederick as the speaker. He disagreed with Louisa's statement when they were on the beach. This expression of Attitude was spoken in an informal spoken tone. According to the description of the context situation above, Frederick, as a speaker, communicated his displeasure with the words, "*No, Louisa, that's enough. No more*" Frederick warned Louisa to stop her behavior, but Louisa did it until she fell on the ground.

(*Persuasion 01:03:40*)

b. Expressive Apologizing

Data 3

Frederick: Please forgive me. I've been too harsh.

Louisa: If I forgive you. Will you teach me how to read a sextant?

According to Searle (1979:15), apologizing is regretful speech. Some words for apologizing are related. Ask forgiveness, plead guilty, beg pardon, and so on. According to the theory, this utterance can be categorized as expressive of apology. The conversation above occurred at the lake inside the wood, where Frederick and Louisa spoke. The conversation happened after Frederick spoke nonsense about Anne, and Louisa was upset about him. Then in this situation, Frederick apologized to Louisa for being rude to Anne. Louisa and Anne are very close, so when someone talks nonsense about Anne, Louisa becomes angry and upset. The relationship between Louisa and Frederik is closed. Frederick should not talk to Louisa, which will make her a little irritated by Frederick's previous words. Frederick apologized for talking about Anne's no-no, and then Frederick expressed his guilt to Louisa and apologized for it. This utterance clearly shows that it is an expression of apology. Frederick expressed his apology to Louisa. The function of expressive apologizing is to express the apology as Frederick did. Frederick's statement, "*Please forgive me. I've been too harsh*", was formal because Frederick showed remorse when he said the sentence. (*Persuasion 00:43:02*)

Data 4

Frederick: I'm sorry about this morning.
Anne: What happened this morning?
Frederick: I'm speaking of that rude gentleman we encountered.

The dialogue above occurred at Lyme Beach, and Frederick and Anne speak it. As they walk on the beach, Frederick apologizes for what he did this morning to Anne, and Anne feels nothing happened that morning. It was apparent that Frederick's face was sad because of this. Frederik felt guilty for Anne for speaking harshly to Anne. Furthermore, Anne turned the question to Frederick as if nothing happened this morning. However, Frederik felt that he was insulting this morning. Anne did not mind that and seemed fine. Anne was slightly offended by Frederick's

words in her little heart, but she tried to be okay with what Frederick said this morning. Anne was a forgiving woman who did not want to make a fuss about it, but Frederick still felt guilty about what she said. The relationship between the two is not closed anymore, but both still have great feelings for each other; they used to be in a romantic relationship. However, eight years ago, they chose to separate and were reunited. From the above conversation, it was obtained that Frederick expressed his regret and apology to Anne. Expressive apologizing is used to express regret and apology, as Frederick did to Anne. There is still distance and awkwardness, so the language used is semi-formal. (*Persuasion 00:53:46*)

c. Expressive Thanking

Data 5

Anne: Good luck.
Frederick: What will you do now?
Anne: I need to go to Bath.
Frederick: *Thank you for everything.*

From the conversation above, it can be concluded that the speaker's utterance is classified as expressive of thank. Searle (1979:15) thanking is the speaker expresses their gratitude to the addressee with this utterance. Frederick as a speaker, was very grateful to Anne because Anne had encouraged Frederick. The context of this data was the field in which it happened in a horse-drawn carriage on the way to the Musgrove residence of Louisa's parents. Frederick came to them because Louisa had an accident while playing with Frederick. Louisa fell because Frederick did not catch her at that time. It was not entirely Frederick's fault; Frederick had warned Louisa not to play games like that. Accidentally the incident happened, and Frederick felt guilty. Then Frederick came to the Musgrove family residence.

According to Halliday and Hasan (1985: 12), the tenor discourse refers to the players, the actors, who are involved in creating the text. The tenor in this conversation is Frederick as the speaker and Anne as the interlocutor. Frederick used to be Anne's lover, but for some reason or another, they separated, but they still cared about each other.

Based on Halliday and Hasan (1985: 12), the mode of discourse refers to what language is used in that situation. The mode in this conversation is Frederick as the speaker. He expressed his gratitude for Anne's words. These words made Frederick comfortable and grateful to Anne. The meanings from the explanation of the context situation above are that Frederick as a speaker, expressed his gratitude with the words "*Thank you for everything*" Frederick was so grateful when Anne said that to him. Their language is formal because there is a distance between them and awkward. Therefore, the language spoken is formal. (*Persuasion* 01:06:45)

d. Expressive Greetings

Data 6

Frederick: Hello.

Anne: Hello.

Based on the Expressive illocutionary act theory, Searle (1979:15) states that greeting is the act of welcoming the interlocutor; in the utterance above, the speaker's utterance can be categorized as an expressive greeting. Frederick greeted Anne by saying, "Hello," and Anne answered, "Hello," too. From the conversation above, the field happened on the beach when Frederick wanted to talk to Anne by greeting Anne. The situation was when Frederick greeted Anne, and Anne greeted him back, they looked awkward at each other, and the atmosphere between them was so cold, coupled with cloudy weather, like not supporting the relationship between them. The tenor from the conversation above occurred between Frederick and Anne, who were lovers before but now acted like they were strangers. Frederick was Anne's boyfriend before, and they separated for eight years. They used to be a lover, and they loved each other; now they have become a stranger but still have a love for each other. The mode of speech spoken by Frederick was spoken mode. Frederick is the speaker, and Anne is the interlocutor. Frederick greeted Anne with awkward emotion. From the expression, it was clear that they have boundaries with each other. The meanings of the speaker were found based on the theoretical context of the situation above. The

utterance "*Hello*" that Frederick said as a speaker meant that he greeted Anne. (*Persuasion* 53:39)

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the main characters in *Persuasion*'s movie created utterances involving expressive speech acts. All utterances have a specific meaning that the speakers seek to convey. Searle's (1979) theory states that six different categories of expressive speech acts exist. However, in this study, the researcher only discovered 4 out of 6 types of expressive speech acts from 13 total utterances produced by the main character in the movie script '*Persuasion*' found several types of expressive illocutionary acts, namely: expressive attitudes (69.2%), expressive apologies (15.3%), expressive thanks and greetings (7.6%). The results suggest that the main character's most prominent kind is expressive of Attitude, which has nine utterances. The movie '*Persuasion*' 's main character mainly exhibited disagreement and discontent. Therefore, they employed the expressive Attitude, which the main character frequently used.

References

- Austin, J.L. 1962. *How to do Things with Word*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bou-Franch, Patricia (2002). "Misunderstandings and Unofficial Knowledge in Institutional Discourse", in David Walton & Dagmar Scheu (eds) *Culture and Power: Ac(unofficially)knowledging Cultural Studies in Spain*, Bern: Peter Lang. (pp. 323-341). Retrieved August 12, 2023. From https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228996315_Misunderstandings_and_unofficial_knowledge_in_institutional_discourse
- Brown, Gillian (1995). *Speakers, Listeners, and Communication*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dascal, Marcelo (1985) "The Relevance of Misunderstanding", in Marcelo Dascal, ed. *Dialogue: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 441- 459.

- Dörnyei, Z. (2007). *Research Methods in Applied Linguistics*. Oxford University Press.
- Halliday, M. A. K and Hasan, R. 1985. *Language, Context, And Text: Aspects of Language in A Social Semiotic Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kreidler, C.W. (1998). *Introducing English Semantic*. New York: The Taylor and The Francais
- Persuasion movie. Retrieved Juli 24. 2023. From <https://www.netflix.com/id-en/title/81410649>
- Persuasion Movie Script. Retrieved Juli 25. 2023 From [Persuasion \(2022\) Movie Script / SS \(springfieldspringfield.co.uk\)](http://Persuasion (2022) Movie Script / SS (springfieldspringfield.co.uk))
- Sudiyono, B. A. T., Candra, K. D. P., Putri. I. G. A. V. W. (2023). Illocutionary Acts in Spider-Man: No Way Home. *Elysian Journal English Literature, Linguistics, and Translation Studies*. Vol. 3 no. 2. Retrieved August 03. 2023. From <https://e-journal.unmas.ac.id/index.php/elysian/article/view/4833>
- Tanjung, I. (2021). *The Expressive Speech Act In The Lovely Bones Movie*. *Jurnal Ilmiah STBA*. Vol. 7. No. 2. 86-87. Retrieved February 23. 2023. From <https://doi.org/10.47255/spectral.v7i2.76>
- Searle, Jhon. R. 1979. *"Expression and Meaning" Studies in The Theory of Speech Acts*. New York. Cambridge University Press.
- Searle, John. R. 1969. *"Speech Acts: An Essay in The Philosophy of Language"*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Wilastini, K, A, M., Suastini, N, W., Juniarta, I, W. Directive Illocutionary Act In Moana Movie. *Elysian Journal English Literature, Linguistics, and Translation Studies*. Vol.1, no.1. Retrieved Juli, 29. 2023. From <https://e-journal.unmas.ac.id/index.php/elysian/article/view/1546>
- Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxford. Oxford University Press.