

Expressive Speech Acts found in Orion and the Dark Movie

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Abstract

Expressive speech acts are designed by the speaker so that the utterance is interpreted as an evaluation of the thing mentioned in the utterance. Expressive speech can be praising, thanking, congratulating, criticizing, insinuating, complaining, and blaming. This research aims to interpret expressive speech acts, describe the types of expressive speech acts, and analyze the form of expressive speech acts in Orion and the Dark Movie. The qualitative method was used because this study aimed to determine the types of speech acts, especially expressive ones, found in Orion and the Dark Movie (2024). The researchers analyzed the data using the pragmatic identity method. The analysis found that 21 expressive speech acts were used in the movie. The most frequently used expressive speech acts are complaining 6 times, apologizing 1 time, congratulating 1 time, thanking 5 times, protesting 1 time, greeting 1 time, welcoming 1 time, and complimenting 7 times. The absent ones are the condole, boast, and deplore.

Keywords: Speech Acts; Expressive Speech; Movie; Pragmatics.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication tool used by humans to interact with each other. The Indonesian language is very varied. With language, a person can convey what he thinks. Language is also one of the communication tools used by humans to speak and express meaning (Oktiawalia et al., 2022). Humans and language are inseparable because, in everyday life, humans always use language in communication (Tanjung, 2021).

Humans can use language as a communication tool to convey information, discuss, and exchange ideas. Communication involves two or more speakers (Nareswara & Suseno, 2019). Speech act is a science that examines the meaning of language based on the actions and speech performed by the speakers. A speech act is also an event that contains a person's speech when using language to communicate. Speech acts are specifically discussed in the study of pragmatics (Ricca & Ambalegin, 2022).

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies aspects of the use of language meaning by speakers and their partners (Damayanti, 2018). Putra et al. (2019) states that speech acts are divided into three types, namely locutionary speech acts, illocutionary speech acts, and perlocutionary speech acts. Locution is the act of saying a word or sentence that contains meaning and follows syntactic rules. Illocutionary acts are actions that not only convey the true meaning of a speech act but also have a purpose (Royanti, 2019).

A movie is not only a work of art created for entertainment. However, movies are also entertainment as well as moral values, means of information, education, and expression of art, and films are also considered a means of

communication between the maker and the audience (Talumingan et al., 2022). Through dialogs between characters in the film, which look real, similar to the situation when speaking. This form of language event is referred to as a speech acts (Ruhiat et al., 2022).

Speech acts can be understood as actions performed in language. When a speaker speaks, they are not just speaking words but also acting on them (Aritonang & Ambalegin, 2023). These acts allow the speaker to express their opinions, feelings, and emotions about something or someone. Communicating emotions through language enhances the understanding and connections between people (Rahmawati, 2021).

Horn and Ward (2006) defined expressive acts, actions, or behaviors through which individuals convey their emotions, feelings, attitudes, or subjective states to others. These acts are typically performed through various means of expression, including verbal communication, body language, facial expressions, tone of voice, and gestures (Indriyana & Sumardiono, 2023). Expressive speech plays a crucial role in our daily interactions; for instance, congratulating a colleague on their accomplishments. Understanding speech acts is crucial for effective communication because it helps us interpret the intended meaning of an utterance and respond appropriately (Aritonang & Ambalegin, 2023). It also highlights the performative aspect of language, emphasizing that language is not just descriptive but also has the power to change the meaning of words (Muliana, 2015).

The phenomenon of expressive speech acts can be found in YouTube videos from Vogue with the title "Blackpink's Jennie Kim on Attending Her First Met Gala 2023 With Emma Chamberlain". This information was uploaded on May 2, 2023. The video is about Emma Chamberlain as a fashion interviewer at Met Gala 2023, asking Jennie about the fashion she is wearing. The expressive speech act is expressed as:

Emma : **"I love this because this is so effortless, gorgeous, and simple. Who is this?"**

Jennie : "Thank you. I'm wearing Chanel from the 90s runway. I am so lucky to have the Chanel team recreated this look from the 90s. So, I'm just like so happy."

(00:35 – 00:56)

The conversation described above contains an expressive speech act. "I love this because this is so effortless, gorgeous, and simple." Emma said that the dress worn by Jennie was nice, and she meant that it was so great to be worn by Jennie. According to Searle and Vanderveken (2005) who stated that The act of expressive communication "compliment" is an expressive speaking act in which the speaker expresses admiration or agreement with the characteristics, actions, or belongings of the other person. The complement aims to increase happiness and enhance another person's reputation or sense of self.

Orion and the Dark is a 2024 American animated fantasy adventure comedy film produced by DreamWorks Animation, animated by Mikros Animation, and distributed by Netflix. It was directed by Sean Charmatz (in his feature directorial debut) and written by Charlie Kaufman, based on the 2014 children's book of the same name by Emma Yarlett. The film stars the voices of Jacob Tremblay, Paul Walter Hauser, Colin Hanks, Mia Akemi Brown, Ike Barinholtz, Nat Faxon, Golda Rosheuvel, Natasia Demetriou, Aparna Nancherla, Carla Gugino, Matt Dellapina, and Angela Bassett. Robert Lydecker and Kevin Lax composed the film's musical score. Orion and the Dark premiered at the TUDUM Theater in Los Angeles on January 27, 2024, and was released on Netflix on February 2. The film has received positive reviews from critics, with praise for its screenplay, animation, themes, and performances.

Orion and The Dark Movie is the second collaboration between Netflix and DreamWorks Animation after Trollhunters: Rise of the Titans (2021). Orion and the Dark tells a story of anxiety and fear that engulfs the life of a teenager. From the official Netflix source, the synopsis of Orion and the Dark characterizes the journey of an elementary school student named Orion. Despite looking like any other kid his age and having a shy and unassuming nature, Orion holds a deep secret of love. Behind his seemingly normal appearance, Orion is haunted by irrational fears. His fears include bees, dogs, the sea, cell phone waves, killer clowns, and fear of falling off a cliff. These fears even turn into a creepy Dark figure who visits him every night. First, Dark takes Orion on a roller coaster ride around the world to prove that there is nothing to fear at night. Furthermore, the researchers applied the

theory from Searle and Vanderveken (2005) into "Orion and the Dark" movie to find out the expressive speech act. The researchers found the expressive speech act between Orion and Lisa in the class. The conversation emerges between 04:30 – 04:55 when the teacher asks to leave permission slips on her desk for the planetarium leaves on Monday at 9 am.

Lisa : "Ah, this is gonna be so fun!"
Orion : **"Fun? It sounds fun to you, Lisa? Are you insane? This field trip sounds terrifying"**
(00:35 – 00:56)

The conversation above contains of expressive speech act. Lisa was telling me that planetarium leaves would be so much fun. Orion replied, "Fun? It sounds fun to you, Lisa? Are you insane? This field trip sounds terrifying". These words indicate that Orion disagrees with Lisa. Orion thought that the planetarium sounded really scary. This statement is included in the expressive act of complaining. According to Searle and Vanderveken (2005) Complaints are when a speaker feels dissatisfied with something and does not agree with what is happening. This type of speech expresses criticism toward a person, organization, or institution. The objective of a complaint is to communicate one's opinion about a condition without proposing any changes.

Research from Talumingan et al. (2022) with the title "Expressive Actions in the Movie The Kissing Booth" by Vince Marcello (a pragmatic analysis). The results found are expressive acts that apologize, praise, thank, congratulate, greet, and blame, while functions such as forgiving and condolences are not found in The Kissing Booth. "Nanti Kita Cerita tentang Hari Ini" by Angga Dwimas Sasongko. This study found expressive speech acts of praising, thanking, criticizing, complaining, blaming, congratulating, and flattering in the film Nanti Kita Cerita Tentang Hari Ini.

The next research from Muliana (2015) is entitled Expressive Speech Acts in the film "Mimpi Sejuta Dolar" by Alberthiene Endah. The results of this study are data in the form of expressive speech acts in the form of speech act functions: "thanking" was used sixteen times, "congratulating" was used five times, "giving praise" was used five times, "apologizing" was used five times, and expressive speech acts in the form of "complaining" used once. The expressive speech acts have different functions according to the utterances spoken by the speakers.

Then Aritonang and Ambalegin (2023) research entitled An Analysis of the Expressive Speech Acts in "The Willoughbys" movie. The expressive speech acts with the most occurrences were complaints with 12 occurrences, followed by 6 data of greet, 4 data of apologies, 6 data of compliments, 10 data of protest, 9 data of lament, 3 data of thanks, 3 data of boast, 5 data of praise, 4 data of condole, and 5 data of deplore. The expressive speech acts of congratulate were not found in the movie because the scene was mostly found in their journey and the adventure that they had to do.

The next research from Tanjung (2021) entitled the expressive speech act in the Lovely Bones movie. The results show nine types of expressive speech acts found in the film: apologizing, blaming, congratulating, doubting, greeting, praising, regretting, thanking, and hoping. The most dominant type of expressive action used is the act of praising because the character performs this action when he admires someone or an object for the listener. In addition, giving compliments to others can make others more motivated; giving compliments has a calming effect, makes others feel appreciated, and increases the listener's self-confidence. It is hoped that the results of this study can be used as a reference for further research.

In this study, the researcher's goal is to find and analyze the types of expressive speech acts in Orion and the Dark Movie (2024). This research differs from previous studies in that the object of research used is different from the others because the title of "Expressive Speech Acts contained in the Orion and the Dark Film" is the first time the author has researched this topic.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research applied a qualitative descriptive method. Sugiyono (2019) defines the qualitative descriptive approach as a study that implements narrative research, phenomenology, ethnography, grounded theory, and case

studies in society. Additionally, the data source in this research was the expressive speech acts by the characters, which were categorized as case studies in society. In collecting data, this research applied an observational method by Sugiarto (2017) which was completed by observing the uttered language. The researcher used the qualitative method because the purpose of this study is to describe the types of speech acts especially expressive speech acts which are found in Orion and the Dark Movie (2024).

Moreover, the data-collection technique was non-participatory, which meant it was done without researchers' involvement in the data source. There were a few steps in data collection.

1. The researchers browsed and watched Orion and the Dark Movie on Netflix channel
2. The researchers downloaded the transcript.
3. The researchers watched, read the transcript, and highlighted the expressive speech acts at the same time.

After collecting data, the researchers analyzed the data by using the pragmatic identity method by Sudaryanto (2018). The pragmatic identity method involved the utterances by participants found in the dialogues of the web series. By using the same expert, the researchers applied the Pragmatics equalizing method with the theories of Searle and Vanderveken (2005) to analyze the types of expressive speech act in three steps. The first step of analyzing the data was identifying and classifying the highlighted expressive speech act sentences. Second, the data were analyzed based on expressive speech act types. Third, the data were concluded descriptively by presenting the highest and lowest types used among all in the movie.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data analyzed in this study are dialogues in the form of speech acts in conversations that show expressive speech acts in the Orion and the Dark Movie. Orion and the Dark is a 2024 American animated fantasy adventure comedy film. It was released on Netflix on February 2, 2024, and lasts 92 minutes.

Searle's speech act theory is about making sense and nonsense in speaking, how people say something to the interlocutor, and then the interlocutor can easily understand what the speaker wants to convey. There are twelve types of expressive speech acts based on Searle and Vanderveken (2005) theory, which are apologize, thank, condole, congratulate, complain, lament, protest, deplore, boast, compliment, and greet.

The analysis found that 21 expressive speech acts were used in the movie. The most frequently used ones are complaining 6 times, apologizing 1 time, congratulating 1 time, thanking 5 times, protesting 1 time, greeting 1 time, welcoming 1 time, and complimenting 7 times. The absent ones are condole, boast, and deplore.

3.1. Apologize Example

Orion apologizes to Dark for speaking carelessly 00:14:48,333 → 00:14:51,458.

Dark : "I didn't ask to be a supernatural entity that causes fear and despair, I was just doing my job. But people are always bullying me. Almost everyone is afraid of me. Or hates me. Or think I'm evil. People think I'm nothing. I'm sick at heart."

Orion : "Look, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to ... "

Apologize Example: "Look, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to..." From the example, when Orion feels guilty to Dark for hurting Dark's feelings with his words, apologizing is an act of expressive illocution. This is in line with the statement of Searle and Vanderveken (2005) who stated an expressive speech act that allows speakers to communicate their regret, remorse, or sadness for a mistake.

3.2. Thank Example

Hypatia, her father's workplace, and the adult Orion praising his son's thinking 01:00:26.250 → 01:01:10.625).

Hypatia : "Thank you."

Old Orion : "Not criticizing you."

Hypatia : "This planetarium is cool. It's a cool place to work."
Orion Youth : **"Thank you. I like this. And also what you said. Both of them."**

Thank Example: "Thank you. I like this. And also what you said. Both." From the example, the utterance says thank you because his son said the planetarium is a cool and beautiful place to work and his son's profound words about the night sky. Thus, the utterance above is classified as the thanking act of expressive illocution. This is in line with the statement of Searle and Vanderveken (2005) who stated that thank serves to convey gratitude or appreciation to someone or something. Usually, people use this speech act to recognize a good deed or favor done for them by someone else.

3.3. Congratulate Example

Dark congratulations to another entity for doing the job right 00:24:01,500 → 00:24:03,375.

Dark : **"Good job tonight."**

Congratulate Example: "Good job tonight..." (dark). From the example, the speaker makes a favorable assessment of the interlocutor's work. The speaker's positive opinion indicates something good in the interlocutor, hence the implied congratulation. Thus, the utterance above is classified as the act of congratulate in expressive illocution. Searle and Vanderveken (2005) classified the speech act of congratulating as an expressive act that conveys the speaker's positive emotions and attitudes toward the recipient's accomplishment, good fortune, or success. Unlike other expressive speech acts, it doesn't attempt to alter any aspect of the situation or reality but is solely intended to express the speaker's emotions towards the receiver.

3.4. Complain Example

Regrets another night's sleep as Orion continues to screw up 00:27:58,167 → 00:28:02,792.

Etintas sleeping : "It's dark, please. I don't want this babbler freaking out while I work!"
Orion : **"You're not doing your job! Smothering with a pillow? Chloroform? Hammer?"**

Complain Example: "You're not doing your job! Smothering with a pillow? Chloroform? A hammer?" From the example, the speaker feels that what was done was unethical and did not follow common sense. Thus, the utterance above is classified as the act of complaining in expressive acts. This is in line with the statement of Searle and Vanderveken (2005), who stated that a complaint is an expressive speech act that is used to express disapproval toward the hearer while expecting the hearer to be more than what the hearer stated or done beforehand and meet the speaker expectation.

3.5. Protest Example

Regretting the other night's passing as Orion continues to complain 00:27:58,167 → 00:28:02,792.

Etintas sleeping : **"It's dark, please. I don't want this babbler freaking out while I work!"**
Orion : "You're not doing your job!"

Protest Example: "It's dark, please. I don't want this blabbermouth freaking out while I'm working!" the speaker is troubled by someone's behavior, and it is preventing him from doing his job properly. This is in line with the statement of Searle and Vanderveken (2005) who stated that protest is an expressive speech act that expresses disapproval toward the speaker while expecting the hearer to do something with the current condition.

3.6. Boast Example

Dark thanks for being shown how night entities work 00:28:22.500 → 00:28:25.167.

Etintas sleeping : **"I've been doing this for thousands of years. I'm experienced, kid."**
Dark : "Thank you for showing me how you work."

Boast Example: "I've been doing this for thousands of years. I'm experienced, son". From the example, the speaker feels he is an expert in his field and has been doing the job for a long time. Thus, the utterance above is classified as the boasting act of expressive illocution. His answer implied a boast towards the speakers. This is in line with the statement of Searle and Vanderveken (2005) who stated that boasting aims to enhance the speaker's self-image or reputation and impress or intimidate others.

3.7. Compliment Example

Dark encourages Orion to try to fight his fear 00:37:48.000 → 00:38:50.083

Orion : "That could be a disaster."

Dark : "It wasn't a disaster. You know why? Because you looked at your fear and fought it! Okay, let's try again. You have to put your hands like this. Am I more excited than you?"

Orion : "I was scared and trying not to die."

Dark : **"Now that you mention it, it does have a desperate feel, but it's still impressive!"**

Compliment Example: "Now that you mention it, it does have a desperate feel. But still impressive!". From the example, the speaker says that what his interlocutor just did is a cool thing, for something that allows people to become more united. This is in line with the statement of Searle and Vanderveken (2005), who stated that a compliment is an expressive speech act where the speaker expresses their approval, admiration, or praise of another person's qualities, actions, or possessions. The aim of the compliment is to convey positive emotions and to enhance the other person's self-image or reputation.

3.8. Greet Example

Hypatia testing her father's workplace and Old Orion testing his child's mind 01:00:26,250 → 01:01:10,625.

Old Orion : "The patterns seen among the stars became known as constellations. From various ancient depictions of the night sky, we begin... We see the ceiling. It's a nice illusion. And very educational."

Hypatia : "We should look at the real night sky. They built cities to cover the stars, and then put up artificial stars to look at?"

Old Orion : "Not criticizing you."

Hypatia : **"This planetarium is cool. It's a cool place to work."**

Greet Example: "This planetarium is cool. It's a cool place to work. ". From the example, the speaker likes the place where the interlocutor works, which looks cool. Thus, the utterance above is classified as the praising act of expressive illocution. This is in line with the statement of Searle and Vanderveken (2005) who stated that greet is a way of acknowledging the presence of another person or people, typically at the start of a conversation or meeting.

3.9. Welcome Example

Orion is grateful to be reunited with dark 01:07:00,333 → 01:07:08,750.

Orion : **"You came back to me."**

Dark : "Of course I did. You're my friend!"

Welcome Example: "You came back to me?". From the example, the speaker says that he finally met again with the interlocutor whom he thought he would not meet again. Thus, the utterance above is the greeting act of expressive illocution. This is in line with the statement of Searle and Vanderveken (2005) Welcome is an act of politeness; it is a positive or polite manner of the speaker in greeting the arrival of the hearer.

This research is in line with other studies such as research conducted by Aritonang and Ambalegin (2023), Indriyana and Sumardiono (2023), Ruhiat et al. (2022), and Tanjung (2021) which discuss expressive speech acts.

However, this study differs from previous studies in that the object of research used is different from the others because the author has researched the title Expressive Speech Acts found in Orion and the Dark Movie for the first time.

4. CONCLUSION

The analysis found that expressive speech acts are used in Expressive Speech Acts found in Orion and the Dark Movie, namely complaining, apologizing, congratulating, thanking, protesting, greeting, welcoming, and praising. Then the expressive speech acts that do not exist are condolences, boasts, and regrets. The research on expressive speech acts in this movie is expected to provide references to English language learners and increase the interest of other researchers in studying expressive speech acts in movies, drama scripts, comics, and other media.

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