

The Analysis of Expressive Illocutionary Acts in the Final Shows of The Ellen DeGeneres Show

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ABSTRACT

This study identifies expressive illocutionary acts and describes how they relate to The Ellen DeGeneres Show conversations. The researcher uses descriptive-qualitative content analysis. This study gained the data from 3 YouTube videos of Ellen DeGeneres Show; (1) *Jennifer Aniston Gets Emotional Over Ellen's Final Season* (2) *Oprah Gets Emotional as Ellen Nears Show's End*, and (3) *What Portia Thinks Ellen Should Do Next*. This study used the Listen-Read-Note technique to collect data. The researcher uses Miles, Huberman, and Saldana's three-step interactive model for data analysis: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. This study found that the most common expressive illocutionary acts are complimenting (21 data), thanking (10 data), complaining (10 data), congratulating (6 data), welcoming/greeting (4 data), and wishing (4 data). The types that not shown in the videos are 5 types of expressive illocutionary acts: apologizing, boasting, lamenting, deploring, and condoling. In Conclusion, Ellen DeGeneres' final shows featured 6 types of expressive illocutionary acts.

Keywords: Pragmatics; Speech Act; Illocutionary Act; Expressive Illocutionary Act; The Ellen DeGeneres Show.

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INTRODUCTION

The most effective tool of getting a message across to others is through language. In addition to being a means of communication, language also serves as a tool for expressing feelings, intentions, ideas, and opinions, as well as for fostering inter-citizen cooperation. Because it serves as a tool for communication, language has a big impact on how people live their lives. If the language used is not accepted or understood by others, communication won't be ideal. Instead of the sentence structure, speech act theory looks at the meaning of sentences. For instance, if someone wants to communicate with another person, he wants to convey the meaning of the sentence. However, the person must use speech acts in order to communicate the meaning or intent. The theory of speech acts was first put forth by Austin in 1962 and later developed by Searle. According to Austin, a person does something in addition to what they say. Another definition of speech acts offered by Yule is actions communicated through speech. The three categories of speech acts that Austin identified are locutionary acts, illocutions, and perlocutions. Yule asserts that the act of creating an utterance will be composed of three connected acts. The primary act of speech, or the creation of a meaningful linguistic expression, is called the locutionary act. Then the illocutionary act continues to follow. The communicative emphasis of an utterance demonstrates illocutionary acts. The perlocutionary act then produces an utterance with a function without implying that the utterance has an effect.

An utterance can be used to do something in addition to inform or say something. When this happens, the resulting speech act is an illocutionary act. The Act of Doing Something refers to the illocutionary act. Searle (1979) divides illocutionary acts into five types of speech forms, each with a communicative function. The function can be seen in five different speech forms: directive, assertive, expressive, declarative, and commissive. Assertives are speech forms that combine speakers with the truth of the prepositions expressed, such as stating, boasting, implying, claiming, and complaining. Directive speech is a type of speech in which the speaker exerts influence on the speech partner, such as ordering, advising, requesting, and recommending. Expressive speech is

a type of speech that expresses or shows the speaker's or speech partner's psychological attitude toward an event, such as congratulating, thanking, apologizing, praising, blaming, and condolences. Commissive speech is a type of speech used to express an offer or promise, such as promising, offering something, or swearing. Declaration is a type of speech that connects or relates the speech's contents to reality, such as firing, surrendering, excommunicating, naming, lifting, and punishing.

Illocutionary speech acts can be found in a variety of everyday communication mediums such as talk shows, films, dramas, and even novels that include expressive illocutionary acts. Expressive illocutionary acts are speech acts that demonstrate how the speaker feels. The expressive illocutionary acts were chosen for analysis in this study because they are closely related to human emotions, which are always expressed by people. These emotions can be pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, or sorrow. In everyday life, people always express themselves. People do it because they feel something and want to express it. When people express themselves, they can express themselves negatively or positively to other people. As a result, expressive illocutionary acts are essential for people to understand and learn. In this study, researcher chooses talk show to be analyzed. The researcher uses The Ellen DeGeneres Show in the analysis. Since 2003, actress Ellen DeGeneres has been the host of the talk show The Ellen DeGeneres Show. The Ellen DeGeneres Show is primarily focused on entertainment talk shows with well-known celebrities or inspirational figures who were previously unknown, such as volunteers, program fans, philanthropists, people with special talent, or people who are well-liked on social media for their generosity. These role models frequently receive special honors in the form of cash or exclusive goods. After 19 seasons, the final episode of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," hosted by Ellen DeGeneres, aired on Thursday, May 26, 2022.

Therefore, this study was carried out to examine and describe the expressive illocutionary act, which is one of the types of illocutionary act that found in The Ellen DeGeneres Show's recent episodes. So, the purpose of this study is to identify and describe the expressive illocutionary acts and their functions in the most recent episodes of The Ellen DeGeneres Show. Reaearcher concludes objectives of the research, (1) to identify the types of expressive illocutionary acts that consist in the final shows of The Ellen DeGeneres Show talk show, (2) to describes how expressive illocutionary acts relate to conversations in the final shows of The Ellen DeGeneres Show talk show.

RESEARCH METHOD

Researcher uses a content-analysis type with descriptive-qualitative approach as a research method. The data is described using a qualitative approach. According to Schreier (2012), one of several qualitative methods for analyzing and interpreting data is qualitative content analysis. There are seven different kinds of qualitative research. Case studies, content or document analysis, ethnographic studies, grounded theory studies, historical studies, narrative research, and phenomenological research are all examples of research methods (Ary et al. 2010). This study is a document or content analysis because the data used is from the internet and was previously posted. The object of this research was the dialogue or speech performed by Ellen DeGeneres and the guests in the The Ellen DeGeneres Show. The data source of this research was collected by downloading the talk show videos of The Ellen DeGeneres Show's YouTube channel. There are 3 videos from The Ellen DeGeneres Show 's Youtube channel that will be analyzed. Those videos are (1) *Jennifer Aniston Gets Emotional Over Ellen's Final Season* (2) *Oprah Gets Emotional as Ellen Nears Show's End* , and (3) *What Portia Thinks Ellen Should Do Next*.

Furthermore, the *Simak dan Catat* technique (listening, reading, and taking notes) was used in this study to collect data. This technique is used to present data by carefully listening and reading before taking notes. This is a non-interactive data collection technique because it does not require researchers to interact with the subject being studied (Sudaryanto in Somantri, 2016). The researcher observed and analyzed the dialogue from The Ellen DeGeneres Show talk show videos before transcribing it into written form. In addition, the researcher examined the types of expressive illocutionary acts displayed on that talk show. The researcher then goes into detail about each type of expressive illocutionary. Meanwhile in the technique of data analysis, the researcher used the interactive model of Miles, Huberman, and Saldana for data analysis, which consists of three steps: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Data are important aspect in a study. Without data, the research cannot be completed. Data are usually in the form of transcripts, notes, documents, etc. This research take data from three talk show videos by Ellen DeGeneres Show entitled (1) *Jennifer Aniston Gets Emotional Over Ellen's Final Season* (2) *Oprah Gets Emotional as Ellen Nears Show's End*, and (3) *What Portia Thinks Ellen Should Do Next*. The data in this study

will be in the form of sentences spoken by the talk show host Ellen DeGeneres and the guests. The researcher transcribed the videos to obtain the data. As a result, the information is obtained in the form of sentences.

1. Type of Expressive Illocutionary Act

There are 11 types of expressive illocutionary acts which will be analyzed in this study based on Searle's theory. Searle (1979) classifies the expressive speech act into 11 cases: expressive of thanking, expressive of apologizing, expressive of congratulating, expressive of welcoming/greeting, expressive of complimenting, expressive of boasting, expressive of complaining, expressive of lamenting, expressive of deploring, expressive of wishing, expressive of condoling. The following are data from utterances containing expressives found in the final shows of the Ellen DeGeneres Show:

1.1 The Data in “Jennifer Aniston Gets Emotional Over Ellen’s Final Season” video.

Table 1. The Data in “Jennifer Aniston Gets Emotional Over Ellen’s Final season video.

No.	Type	Utterances	Description
1	Thanking	And I know you don't go out much, so thank you for being here	Showing gratitude expression
2	Thanking	Oh, well, thank you for your honesty.	Showing gratitude expression
3	Thanking	Thanks. Oh, gee, thanks.	Showing gratitude expression
4	Thanking	Thank you.	Showing gratitude expression
5	Thanking	Thank you.	Showing gratitude expression
6	Congratulating	But by the way, I love the show, as you know	Showing appreciation towards another's good fortune or success.
7	Complimenting	OK, this is amazing	Showing praising expression
8	Complimenting	I don't believe the intelligence of this dog, but it's super smart. It is super smart.	Showing praising expression
9	Complimenting	He's got gorgeous teeth	Showing praising expression
10	Complimenting	You look gorgeous, by the way.	Showing praising expression
11	Complimenting	Ah, you're sweet.	Showing praising expression
12	Complimenting	And you're brilliant at it, and I told you that	Showing praising expression
13	Complaining	This is not supposed to be emotional! God dang it!	Showing dissatisfaction expression
14	Complaining	That's not true. That's not true.	Showing dissatisfaction expression
15	Complaining	Yeah. Let's take a look because I just didn't believe it.	Showing dissatisfaction expression
16	Complaining	No, you don't! That's not even a splurge	Showing dissatisfaction expression
17	Wishing	Yeah, I hope you don't	Show an expression of desire or wants to expect it becomes reality.

1.2 The Data in “Oprah Gets Emotional as Ellen Nears Show's End” video.

Table 2. The Data “Oprah Gets Emotional as Ellen Nears Show’s End” video.

No.	Type	Utterances	Description
1	Thanking	And I've been thanking them every single day	Showing gratitude expression
2	Thanking	Thank you Oprah, thank you.	Showing gratitude expression
3	Congratulating	And just was really applauding your team for making this show what it's been for 19 years	Showing appreciation towards another's good fortune or success.
4	Congratulating	what a great job you've done	Showing appreciation towards another's good fortune or success.
5	Congratulating	There's a lot of pride	Showing appreciation towards another's good fortune or success.
6	Welcoming/greeting	It's good to see people!	Showing greeting expression
7	Welcoming/greeting	We're back with my friend and my neighbor Oprah Winfrey	Showing greeting expression
8	Complimenting	Our new director, Bltiz Bazawule, who's done some really beautiful things	Showing praising expression
9	Complimenting	I love that show because – anybody here watch “All Rise?”. So fantastic	Showing praising expression
10	Complimenting	And I think the storylines are so great.	Showing praising expression
11	Complimenting	the baby, which is the cutest baby on earth	Showing praising expression
12	Complaining	I say, you're not Mother Earth. You're not	Showing dissatisfaction

		mother of the Earth. You're just one expression	
13	Wishing	grandmother I hope so because that means that I made an impact	Show an expression of desire or wants to expect it becomes reality.

1.3 The Data in “What Portia Thinks Ellen Should Do Next” video.

Table 3. The Data in “What Portia Thinks Ellen Should Do Next” video.

No.	Type	Utterances	Description
1	Thanking	Okay, thank you.	Showing gratitude expression
2	Thanking	Well thanks. Yeah.	Showing gratitude expression
3	Thanking	I want to thank everyone who has been supporting the Ellen Fund.	Showing gratitude expression
4	Congratulating	I want to talk about how proud I am of you for a second because you stopped acting to start a company and it was a big decision	Showing appreciation towards another's good fortune or success.
5	Congratulating	And I love that you have transitioned into a whole new career	Showing appreciation towards another's good fortune or success.
6	Welcoming/greeting	Hi	Showing greeting expression
7	Welcoming/greeting	Hi	Showing greeting expression
8	Complimenting	She did it	Showing praising expression
9	Complimenting	But your story about telling your grandmother that you were with me is a beautiful story that I would love you to share with them	Showing praising expression
10	Complimenting	That was a beautiful thing for someone at that age to have such strong feelings	Showing praising expression
11	Complimenting	Yeah, pretty amazing	Showing praising expression
12	Complimenting	It's hilarious	Showing praising expression
13	Complimenting	Because you're so good at it, you're so good at it.	Showing praising expression
14	Complimenting	It's amazing. I mean—she's good at everything pretty much	Showing praising expression
15	Complimenting	you stopped acting to start a company and it was a big decision.	Showing praising expression
16	Complimenting	are super smart and I just think that's amazing.	Showing praising expression
17	Complimenting	It's really incredible. It's amazing.	Showing praising expression
18	Complimenting	Portia gave me the most amazing birthday gift ever on the show	Showing praising expression
19	Complaining	Sounds awful to me	Showing dissatisfaction expression
20	Complaining	there are a few things you're not so good at. Like, I don't know. Doing my hair, for example.	Showing dissatisfaction expression
21	Complaining	Oh, God. You should never, ever be a dog groomer that's for sure.	Showing dissatisfaction expression
22	Complaining	So I love art but I kind of hate the art world because I think it's very exclusionary and it kind of benefits the gallerists rather than the artist	Showing dissatisfaction expression
23	Complaining	That's how ridiculous I think that scarcity model for painting us.	Showing dissatisfaction expression
24	Wishing	And so I hope that you continue to do something like that	Show an expression of desire or wants to expect it becomes reality.
25	Wishing	I gave this gift to Ellen because we both love and want to protect gorillas.	Show an expression of desire or wants to expect it becomes reality.

2. How do the Expressive Illocutionary Acts relate to the Conversation in Final Shows of The Ellen DeGeneres Show

The researcher discusses how the expressive illocutionary acts relate to the conversations in the final shows of the Ellen DeGeneres. Therefore, after the data needed is obtained and classified by the types, the

researcher then analyze the data by giving a reason how do expressive illocutionary acts relate to the conversations in the final shows of the Ellen DeGeneres Show. Here the researcher gives the example of the analysis of thanking expression.

2.1 The Data Analysis of “Thanking”

Thanking is defined as an expression of gratitude used to express gratitude for something. A speaker's expression of gratitude and kindness expressed through words. The researcher found several expression of thanking that contained in the conversation of *Jennifer Aniston Gets Emotional Over Ellen's Final Season*, *Oprah Gets Emotional as Ellen Nears Show's End*, and *What Portia Thinks Ellen Should Do Next* videos.

2.1.1 The Data Analysis in “Jennifer Aniston Gets Emotional Over Ellen's Final Season” video

The dialog in the video are uttered by Ellen DeGeneres and Jennifer Aniston. There are 5 expression of thanking found in the “*Jennifer Aniston Gets Emotional Over Ellen's Final Season*” video. Those are analyzed by following descriptions:

Data 1

Jennifer: “Right?”

Ellen: “And I know you don't go out much, **so thank you for being here**. I know you're very, very careful.”

Jennifer: “You're very welcome.”

The bold sentence above is used to expresses Ellen's appreciation toward Jennifer. Ellen's utterance shows that she said thankful statement because Jennifer comes to Ellen's show at that day. The expression was made by Ellen to Jennifer because of the gratitude expressed by Ellen to Jennifer for the fact that Jennifer did not go out too much, but Jennifer still attended Ellen's show that day. The statement above included expressive type of thanking because it contains thanking or gratitude utterance.

Data 2

Jennifer: “You did?”

Ellen: “I think the other one's gone.”

Jennifer: “Oh, well, **thank you** for your honesty.”

The utterance above is the form of expressing gratitude for Ellen for her honesty about her joke that her doormat is gone.

Data 3

Ellen: “I swear to God. We trust that that's what he was going to do. Yeah, and here, more things to talk about, besides your beauty on the cover of InStyle magazine. Besides the beauty of it all—“

Jennifer: “Thanks. Oh, gee, **thanks**.”

The bold statement above is used to expressing Jennifer's gratitude toward Ellen because of her compliment for Jennifer. Ellen praising towards Jennifer's beauty, and then Jennifer said thanking statement to Ellen.

Data 4

Ellen: “But by the way, I love the show, as you know.”

Jennifer: “**Thank you**.”

The utterance “thank you” is said by Jennifer to Ellen as thanking expression towards Ellen's compliment about her show. Ellen said that she loves Jennifer's show.

Data 5

Ellen: “And you're brilliant at it, and I told you that.”

Jennifer: “**Thank you**.”

The last thanking expression type of the video is utterance “thank you” spoken by Jennifer to Ellen because of Ellen's compliment. Ellen said that Jennifer is brilliant.

2.1.2 The Data Analysis in “Oprah Gets Emotional as Ellen Nears Show's End” video

The dialog in the video are uttered by Ellen DeGeneres and Oprah Winfrey. There are 2 expressions of thanking found in the “*Oprah Gets Emotional as Ellen Nears Show's End*” video. Those are analyzed by following descriptions.

Data 1

Ellen: “And they have. And **I've been thanking them** every single day. And they know how much I love them. And we're all feeling emotional because we have, after this, two more shows. What did you feel—do you remember your feelings exactly the last week?”

The bold underlined sentence above is spoken by Ellen DeGeneres for expressing thanking to Ellen's staffs. The utterance is not directly uttered but it is still categorized the thanking expression because Ellen has been felt thanking to her staffs.

Data 2

Oprah: “And you are going to be so missed. Isn't she going to be so missed? You are going to be missed.”

Ellen: “**Thank you Oprah, thank you.** I hope so because that means that I made an impact.”

The underlined sentence above is spoken by Ellen to Oprah because Oprah said she is going to be missed during the talk show ends. Ellen feels grateful because it means she made an impact.

2.1.3 The Data Analysis in “What Portia Thinks Ellen Should Do Next” video

The dialog in the video are uttered by Ellen DeGeneres and Portia De Rossi. There are 3 expressions of thanking found in the “*What Portia Thinks Ellen Should Do Next*” video. Those are analyzed by following descriptions.

Data 1

Ellen: “We’re going to take a break. We’re going to let you cry and then we're going to come back.”

Portia: “Okay, **thank you**”

The bold underlined utterance above is thanking expression spoken by Portia to Ellen because Ellen let her to cry. Ellen welcomed and gave Portia time to cry. Portia feels appreciated and said thank you.

Data 2

Ellen: “And I love that you have transitioned into a whole new career and are super smart and I just think that’s amazing.”

Portia: “Well thanks.”

The utterance above is a form of thanking expression spoken by Portia to Ellen because of Ellen’s compliment towards Portia. Ellen told Portia about her pride to her because Portia made a big decision about her career.

Data 3

Ellen: “So this was four years ago and it is now open in Rwanda. I want to thank everyone who has been supporting the Ellen Fund. Every little bit helps.”

The utterance above is expression of thanking said by Ellen to everyone who has been supporting the Ellen Fund even every little bit helps.

CONCLUSION

The result of the analysis shows that the first video entitled Jennifer Aniston Gets Emotional Over Ellen's Final Season is, the researcher found 17 data expressive illocutionary acts with 5 data expressive of thanking, 1 data expressive of congratulating, 6 data expressive of complimenting, 4 data expressive of complaining, and 1 data expressive of wishing. Furthermore, in the second video entitled Oprah Gets Emotional as Ellen Nears Show's End, 13 data of expressive illocutionary acts were found, with 2 data expressive of thanking, 3 data expressive of congratulating, 2 data expressive of welcoming/greeting, 4 data expressive of complimenting, 1 data of expressive of complaining, and 1 data expressive of wishing. While in the third video entitled What Portia Thinks Ellen Should Do Next, the researcher found that there were 25 expressive illocutionary acts, with 3 data expressive of thanking, 2 data expressive of congratulating, 2 data expressive of welcoming/greeting, 11 data expressive of complimenting, 5 data expressive of complaining, and 2 data expressive of wishing.

Overall, the most common or the most dominant expressive illocutionary acts that appeared are expressive of complimenting with 21 data, followed by expressive of thanking which has 10 data, expressive of complaining with 10 data, expressive of congratulating with 6 data, expressive of welcoming/greeting with 4 data and expressive of wishing with 4 data. There are 5 types of expressive illocutionary acts that not found in the videos, they are expressive of expressive of apologizing, expressive of boasting, expressive of lamenting, expressive of deploring, and expressive of condoling.

Based on the findings, there are various possibilities for future research on the topic of expressive illocutionary acts because this study only examines the types used and the reasons for their use. As a result, the researcher recommends that those interested in this topic investigate the effect of using expressive illocutionary acts on people's attitudes and perceptions of expressive illocutionary acts.

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