# An Analysis of Expressive Illocutionary Acts Found In Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

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**Abstract**− Language is an important aspect of communication that is used to interact, speak, and express feelings. The aspects of speech acts that are usually used in communication are expressive speech acts. This study aims to identify and analyze the illocutionary acts of expressive categories by examining the dialogue in the movie. The results of the analysis show that the movie Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows uses several expressive types, namely; Thank, Compliment, Greet and Welcome, Apologize, Complaint, Congratulate and Boast. In addition to examining these categories, the purpose of this research is to study the types of expressive Illocutionary acts that are useful in communication. The meaning of expressive illocutionary acts in this film is thanking, giving praise and pride, expressing greeting and welcoming, apologizing, giving complaints, congratulating, and boasting.

**Keywords**: Language, Communication, Study, Expressive, Movie

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Communication is the process of passing information and understanding from one person to another (Keith Davis, 2007). That statement explains that communication is an important component for humans to express information, understand an explanation, and interact with other humans. Mulyana (2007) said that communication is the process of creating a commonness or a unity of thought between the sender and the receiver. Based on these two understandings of communication, it can be interpreted broadly that communication is a process of conveying a thought, meaning, or message by the sender to the recipient to achieve unity and common understanding.

In communication, a language is a tool used between community members in the form of sound symbols produced by human speech tools. Gorys Keraf (1997:1) states that language is a very important thing in communication. Meanwhile, Chaer (2003:71) said that language is a system of symbols used by humans to communicate or express ideas and thoughts to others. From the definitions above, it can be explained that language is an important component that is used in speaking or interacting with humans to get feedback and information. Martinet (1987) claims that there is the science that takes language as its object of study namely Linguistic.

Siminto (2013) states that linguistics is the study of the intricacies of language or linguistics. It can be concluded that linguistics is a science that studies or examines the intricacies of language scientifically. Crystal (1987) divides the types of linguistics into six parts; morphology, phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. According to Leech (1993), one of them is pragmatics that the study of the meaning of speech situations which include the elements of the addresser and the addressee, context, purpose, illocutionary acts, speech, time, and place. In pragmatics, there is a speech term namely a speech act.

According to Searle (1969), speech act is a theory that assumes that the meaning of linguistic expressions can be explained by following the rules that apply when performing speech acts, such as admonishing, asserting, commanding, calling, promising, questioning, requesting, and warning. There are several forms of Speech Act, one of which is the Illocutionary Act. Searle (1932) states that illocutionary act is an action which is performed when the sentences uttered by the speaker. For example; He urged (or advised, ordered, etc) me to shoot her. Illocutionary acts are categorized into five types: (1) Assertive is Speech that binds the speaker to the truth of the proposition expressed. Examples are stating, suggesting, boasting, complaining, and claiming. (2) Directive is an utterance that is intended for the hearer to act according to the speech. Examples are ordering, ordering, requesting, advising, and recommending. (3) Commissive is an act that requires the speaker to

commit to doing something in the future. Examples are promising, swearing, refusing, threatening, and guaranteeing. (4) Expressive is the expression of attitudes and feelings about a situation or reaction to the attitudes and actions of people. Examples are congratulating, grateful, regretting, apologizing, welcoming, and thanking. (5) Declarative is illocutionary that causes change or conformity between proposition and reality. Examples are baptizing, firing, naming, and punishing.

The illocutionary act can be found in various media, one of them is movies. Movies are a medium used to communicate a message to the general audience by using moving pictures and sound. Movies can also be considered a form of artistic expression for writers, directors, and other creatives (Rizal, 2014). There are many types of illocutionary acts found in Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows Movie. This movie is an adventure and action genre that contain various types of expressive that can be used for research. Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows is one of the best and most popular movies in the film industry, directed by Guy Ritchie, and was made by Joel Silver, Lionel Wigram, Susan Downey, and Dan Lin. This movie is captivating since it depicts the tale of a brilliant investigator (Sherlock Holmes) who battles the cleverest criminals, who are terrifying and take an awful lot of lives.

There is the result of the journal on expressive illocutionary acts from Risa Dewi Rahmawati (2021) entitled *"An Analysis of Expressive Speech Acts Used In Crazy Rich Asian Movie"* which used the theory from Searle. Her research found more classifications of apologize, thank, and compliment, but there are no types of expressive acts such as boast and condole. Meanwhile, according to the article *"Expressive Acts Realization in 'I Care a Lot' Movie"* by Fanny Virginia (2021), the data includes several types of expressive illocutionary acts but the dominant is the type of complimenting because the character is commonly complimented. Meanwhile the article belongs to Anak Agung Putu Rina Dewi (2016) the title *"Commissive and Expressive Illocutionary Acts And Their Intended Meanings In Steel's The Cottage"* used Searle's theory to find expressive illocutionary acts. The result of her data is contain thanking, congratulating, apologizing, wishing, greeting, and attitude that show the speaker's feelings and experience.

In this study, researchers discuss Expressive Illocutionary Acts in the movie entitled *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* according to the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985:211). This film is an adventure and action genre, there are many expressive types in this movie. *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* is also very popular and much in demand by the audience. The purpose of this study is also to provide knowledge about illocutionary expressive acts and discuss the types of illocutionary expressive acts found in the movie.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This study analyzed the types of Expressive Illocutionary Acts in *Sherlock Holmes: A Games of Shadows* movie. The data were analyzed by using a descriptive qualitative method which means, the collected data were classified into several types of expressive illocutionary acts and found out what the character tried to express based on the theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985). The data were gathered by using observation and documentation techniques. The observation method was done in multiple steps, which were; (1) searching the movie on a website, (2) downloading the movie, (3) watching the movie repeatedly, (4) taking notes of the subtitles or dialogues that contain expressive acts, (5) identify and match expressive illocutionary acts, and (6) collected each scene that potentially contains expressive illocutionary act and understands the context.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Result

The results of the data in this article used the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985:215). After analyzing the data in the movie *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*, the researcher found 54 data on Expressive Illocutionary Acts. The following table present all of the findings including their types and in which part of the movie the data was presented:

**Table 1.** Type of Databese

| Types | Frequencies | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Compliment | 16 | 29,7% |
| Thank | 12 | 22,2% |
| Greet and Welcome | 11 | 20,4% |
| Complaint | 7 | 12,3% |
| Apologize | 5 | 9,3% |
| Boast | 2 | 3,8% |
| Congratulate | 1 | 1,9% |
| Deplore | 0 | 0% |
| Protest | 0 | 0% |
| Condole | 0 | 0% |
| Lament | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 54 | 100% |

**3.2 Discussion**

Based on the table above, the most used expressive illocutionary act in the movie is Compliment (29,7%), followed by Thank (22,2%), Greet and Welcome (20,4%), Complaint (12,3%), Apologize (9,3%), Boast (3,8%), and Congratulate (1,9%). There were several types of Expressive Illocutionary acts that are not uttered in the movie such as; Deplore, Protest, Condole, and Lament.

1. Thank

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985:212), the point of thanking is to express gratitude. The preparatory conditions are that the thing in question benefits or is good for the speaker and that the hearer is responsible for it. As with apologies, one normally thanks for actions. The data included this type as follows:

Example 1

Time: 00:13:54

*Mr. Watson: "And thank you for looking after Gladstone."*

In the conversation above, Mr. Watson thanks Mrs. Hudson for looking after his dog during a visit to Sherlock's house. We can see that the conversation contains the expressive illocutionary act type of thank. The utterance of thanks showed that the speaker appreciates the interlocutor's action. Meanwhile, the conditions in the conversation are mutually beneficial for the speaker and the interlocutor.

Example 2

Time: 01:21:11

*Sherlock Holmes: "This isn't Schnapps, it's Aquavit, distilled from potato mash. A common misconception. Thank you, by the way."*

After being caught by Moriarty, Sherlock is given a drink which is called Schnapps by the waiter, but he realized that it was not Schnapps but Aquavit. But still, then he thanks him as an appreciation to Moriarty's waiter who gave him the drink. Even in a desperate situation, Sherlock still shows his gratitude. This conversation can be categorized as a thank in an expressive illocutionary act because of the character's utterance that contains thanks.

Examples 1 and 2 above are categorized as expressive illocutionary type; thank, because the

actions in the conversation express feelings of gratitude, which according to the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985:212) explains that this type of thank is expressing gratitude from the speaker that normally for an action.

2. Compliment

To compliment is to express the approval of the hearer for something. Complimenting indicates that the hearer is complimented for something good, though it does not need to be good for him, for example, complimenting him on his heroic and self-sacrificing behavior. Searle and Vanderveken (1985:215) said that a compliment is like a boast, it can be assertive or expressive

Other verbs in the class of expressive verbs that mark favorable expressions of attitude are "praise", "laud", and "extol". Unlike complimenting, praising, lauding, and extolling carry no suggestion that the hearer is necessarily related to the thing being praised, lauded, or extolled. The data included this type as follows:

Example 1

Time: 00:40:53

*Mrs. Watson: "Ooh, first-class champagne. You do know how to spoil a girl, Mr. Watson."*

After the marriage, Mister and Mistress Watson go on a honeymoon. As Mrs. Watson gets on the train, she spots first-class champagne ready to serve. She praised Mr. Watson for what he has done by saying "...you do know how to spoil a girl..." According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:215), her utterance can be categorized as a "Compliment" of an expressive illocutionary act because we can see clearly that she was pleased and she praised Mr. Watson for what he has done.

Example 2

Time: 00:37:31

*James Moriarty: "I have the utmost regard for your talents."*

Sherlock visits Moriarty in his college as he fulfills the request from Moriarty who invited him. Moriarty respected Sherlock because he feels that Sherlock's talents are quite rare, as he possesses photochromic memory and excellent observation and prediction skills. He explicitly praised Sherlock in the middle of their meeting. The utterance is categorized as a compliment of an expressive illocutionary act because James Moriarty's utterance is a compliment addressed to Sherlock.

As we know, examples 1 and 2 above belong to the type of compliment. Example 1 praise the actions taken by the interlocutor, while Example 2 describes praise for the talents or traits of the interlocutor. Where can be categorized as a compliment type according to the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985: 215)

3. Greet and Welcome

"Greet" is only marginally an illocutionary act since it has no proportional content. When we greet someone by saying "Hello!", we politely indicate recognition. So we might define greetings as a polite indication of recognition, with the presupposition that the speaker has just met the hearer. To welcome somebody is to receive him hospitably, and thus welcoming might be defined as an expression of pleasure or good feeling about the presence or arrival of someone. Welcoming, like greeting, is essentially hearer- directed. The data included this type as follows:

Example 1

Time: 00:06:19

*Sherlock Holmes: "Hello, darling."*

In the conversation above, Sherlock Holmes suddenly appeared and then greeted Irene who was sent to deliver a package by Moriarty, Irene is kind of surprised to see Sherlock who appears out of nowhere, then Sherlock greets her by saying "Hello, darling". The utterance of Sherlock, according to the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985), is a greeting. "Hello..." is included in polite speech so that it can be categorized as Greet and Welcome of Expressive Illocutionary Acts.

Example 2

Time: 00:19:51

*Mycroft Holmes: "Good evening, Sherly."*

Mycroft and Sherlock Holmes meet to celebrate Watson's stag party and greet him with "Good evening...". The data above is categorized as Greet and Welcome of Expressive Illocutionary Acts. In the conversation, which indicates that the speaker welcomed the presence of the interlocutor in a good and polite manner.

Examples 1 and 2 are categorized as Greet and Welcome, where both examples include a greeting and welcome; Hello..., Good evening…, that indicates such a polite acknowledgment after meeting someone as the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985) stated.

4. Complaint

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985:213), when one complains, one expresses discontent and displeasure". people can complain about the weather, inflation, or Gödel's theorem. This is why complaining can be either assertive or expressive. People can complain by asserting (stating) that something is bad or they can simply express their feeling of displeasure or discontent. The data included this type as follows:

Example 1

Time: 00:13:11

*Mr. Watson: "I'm not going out with you dressed like that."*

Sherlock Holmes is dressed in a camouflage suit while Watson visits him for the stag party, Watson complained about Sherlock's dress because it looks weird. The conversation above shows a complaint from Mr. Watson. He showed his displeasure at the appearance of Sherlock Holmes who was wearing a camouflage costume with a wall. As the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985) states that complaints are expressions of displeasure feelings and dissatisfaction. This data shows that the speaker complains about the appearance of the interlocutor so that it can be categorized as a Complaint of Expressive Illocutionary Acts.

Example 2

Time: 01:37:42

*Mycroft Holmes: "That's my private and personal supply of oxygen, and you're not to touch it."*

When Sherlock and his friends were having dinner with Mycroft, Sherlock accidentally found Mycroft's mini oxygen tube and used it. Mycroft feels uncomfortable with it and tells Sherlock to put it down. The utterance of Mycroft above is in the category of Complaint of Expressive Illocutionary Acts where Mycroft Holmes complained to his brother who touched his personal belongings. The speakers express his feeling of dislike straight to the interlocutor.

According to the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985:213), The two examples above are categorized as the Complaint type, where the conversation contains utterances of displeasure or complaints that are poorly expressed by the speaker.

5. Apologize

Apologize is a speech act to express an apology, as in the theory of Searle and Vanderveken

(1985:211) The point of apologizing is to express sorrow or regret for some state of affairs that the speaker is responsible for. The preparatory condition is that the speaker must be responsible for the thing about which the sorrow is expressed. The data included this type as follows:

Example 1

Time: 00:44:39

*Train Conductor: "I'm sorry Madam, you can't use the lavatory while the train's in the station."*

When Sherlock Holmes got on the train to save Watson and his wife, he covered himself and disguised himself as a woman. He was about to use the lavatory, but the train conductor did not allow him to because the train is not moving yet. The speaker apologizes and says sorry for not being able to fulfill the request of the other person. The conversation is categorized as Apologize of Expressive Illocutionary Acts.

Example 2

Time: 01:35:50


*Sherlock Holmes: "I'm sorry you didn't get to Brighton."*

Sherlock felt sorry that he interrupts Mr. Watson's honeymoon and separated him from his wife until the mission was done. Even if he did it to protect both brides, he is still feeling guilty and feels sorry for Watson, so he apologized. The data above expressing feelings of guilt and regret are included in the category of Apologize of Expressive Illocutionary Acts according to the theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985).

In the data above, example 1 is an apology for not being able to fulfill the wishes of the other person, while example 2 is an apology that occurs because of a mistake made by the speaker. In this conversation, it can be categorized as an expressive act of apologizing because it expresses an act of apologizing for sorrow, regret, and not being able to fulfill a request.

6.  Congratulate

The opposite of "condole" is "congratulate". Based on the theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:212), in congratulating we express pleasure with the preparatory condition that the thing in question is beneficial or good for the hearer. The symmetry between condole and congratulate is reflected in the fact that condoling is expressing sympathy for the misfortune of others; congratulating is expressing pleasure at the good fortune of others. In each case, one condoles or congratulates only the person or persons whose fortune or misfortune is involved.

There is a whole series of verbs that concern bewailing, expressing sorrow, discontent, disapproval, and generally grumbling, grouching, and bitching. The data included this type as follows:

Example 1

Time: 00:48:49

*Mycroft Holmes: "Over here, Madam! I believe congratulations are in order, Mrs. Watson."*

On their honeymoon, the bride, Mr. Watson, and Mrs. Watson headed to Brighton by train, but their honeymoon was sabotaged by Moriarty. He sends a lot of soldiers to assassinate Mr. Watson. Sherlock was there to save them by separating the couple safely, Sherlock worked with his brother, Mycroft. He threw Mrs. Watson out of the train safely and Mycroft was there catching in perfect timing then saying "Over here, Madam. I believe congratulations are

in order, Mrs. Watson ". This utterance is categorized as "Congratulate" as explained in the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:212) that congratulating is expressing pleasure at the good fortune of others. In the scene above, Mycroft congratulates Mrs. Watson on her wedding and also her fortune.

The example above is categorized into the type of congratulations in expressive actions, where in the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985:212) congratulation is an act that expresses congratulations withfeelings of pleasure and benefit to the listener. In the example above, the speaker expresses congratulations to the other person with a good purpose for the listener because she was just married.

7.  Boast

Based on the theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:215), boasting is expressing pride with the presupposition that the thing one boasts about is good for the speaker (and therefore will be admired or envied by the hearer). Boasting, like complaining, can be assertive or expressive. For example, someone boasts by saying that he or she did something great or that something great happened to him or her. But, boasting can also mean lying or overstating and is usually applied to bragging when he or she tries to conceal the fact that he or she is boasting. The data included this type as follows:

Example 1

Time: 00:07:36

*Sherlock Holmes: "I'm a consulting detective of some repute."*

In the scene above, Sherlock was trying to save Dr. Hofmannsthal from an incendiary package delivered by Moriarty, the package contains a bomb that is covered by a sheet of paper that looks like money. According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:215), her utterance can be categorized as boasting, because as presented in the dialogue when Dr. Hodmannstahl asked him about who he is, Sherlock proudly introduced himself as a consulting detective of some repute. It indicates that he is feeling confident and proud of his achievements as a detective that never failed to solve any cases.

Example 2

Time: 01:42:53

*Sherlock Holmes: "Well, I've done a fine job."*

Sherlock was in the meeting of ambassadors and he realized that there was an assassin among the ambassadors and decided to invite Watson to dance with him as they observed every ambassador who attended the bowl. Sherlock then asked who taught Watson to dance, and Watson replied "You did". The utterance of Sherlock is categorized as a "boast" of the expressive illocutionary act, as mentioned in the theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:215) that a boast is the indication of a good feeling by doing something. As presented in the dialogue above, Sherlock praised himself which means that he is proud of himself and Watson.

Examples 1 and 2 are Boast types of expressive actions, where the two sentences in the conversation contain words acknowledging the speaker's strengths or boasting by saying excessive things.

## 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the previous discussions, it can be concluded that there were a lot of Expressive Illocutionary Acts that were found in *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* movie, such as; Compliment, Thank, Greet and Welcome, Complaint, Apologize, Boast, and Congratulate. Expressive illocutionary act of *Compliment* became the most found data in the movie as it holds 22 data while *Congratulate* considered as the least found data as it only contains 1 data from the

whole movie. On the other hand, there were several types which are not found in the movie, such as; Deplore, Protest, Condole, and Lament, because the situations of the scenes in the movie does not suitable for these types, therefore these types were not uttered by any characters as the movie only focused on the rivalry between Sherlock Holmes and *Prof.* James Moriarty. Furthermore, there are more scenes in the movie that express feelings of gratitude and appreciation to the interlocutor, give praise, and give greetings and welcome because the conversation in this movie tends to be formal. The purpose of this article is to explain that *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* movie contains a lot of expressive illocutionary acts and the writer hope that this article could help readers to understand the classification of expressive illocutionary acts.

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