



EXPRESSIVE ILLOCUTIONARY ACT FOUND IN LARRY WILMORE SPEECH AT HARVARD CLASS DAY 2023

¹I Gusti Agung Ayu Diah Ari Putri, ²I Gde Agoes Caskara Surya Putra

¹Faculty of Foreign Languages, Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar

Email Correspondence: diahagung986@gmail.com

Abstract

The objectives of this research are to identify the expressive illocutionary acts used in the Larry Wilmore Speech at Harvard Class Day 2023 and categorize the most dominant expressive illocutionary acts in the speech. The descriptive qualitative method was employed in the research. The research's data was collected from YouTube Harvard University. The result of this research founded 40 data of expressive that found. There are 15 data of thanking, 8 data of praising, 7 data of welcoming, 5 data of congratulating and 5 data of apologizing. Thanking is the dominant type of expressive that was founded in this speech.

Keywords: Expressive, Larry Wilmore, Speech, YouTube

INTRODUCTION

In speech act, communication it's not only about how to recognizing the meaning of sentences in spoken, but also recognizing what the speakers mean by their utterance. There is a relation between the speaker's speech acts and the utterances he or she produces (Oktadistio & Aziz, 2018). The speaker wants the audience to comprehend the speech act, which includes being aware of the context in which it is being delivered. According to Wijaya & Helmie (2019) the speech act is the action of using language. One of the tools human use to communicate in social situations is languages. Language is a human activity (Zulianti, 2017). In general language is closely related to speech act. Additionally, Speech acts could be split into various parts. According to Austin (1962), speech act divided into three kinds. There are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act.

One component of the speech act is the illocutionary act. According to Anggita and Dewi (2018) an illocutionary act is the activity by the speaker in producing a given utterance that has intentions. Learning illocution is essential since it communicates how



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<https://ejournal.umpri.ac.id/index.php/smart/index>
SMART Journal: Journal of English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics

the entire statement should be understood in a conversation. People will be able to understand any hidden messages and avoid misunderstandings when communicating since they will be aware of the meaning behind words. Because every utterance made in conversation by the speaker actually has an intention for the listener and is not always intended to be taken literally. According to Searle (1979), illocutionary act has five kinds. The five types of illocutionary acts are representative, directive, commissive, declaration, and expressive. These types of illocutionary can be found both in spoken and written utterances. Apart from that, an illocutionary act can be found in Speech, novels, movies, scripts, conversations, songs, and many more.

The writer searched for a topic that was relevant to it before deciding on it. The first previous study from Kaewmoon Jarassri and Klaisingto Phennapha which a study entitles Illocutionary Act Analysis of Encouragement Songs (2020). In this study, the write used purposive sampling method. They found 3 types of illocutionary acts which they divide into 47 representative, 37 directive and 14 commissive. The most use illocutionary act in song were representative with 47 data. The writers also mention that they did not find Expressive and Declarations in the song lyric. The conclusion of this research was to analyze song with encouragement content by using Searle's illocutionary theory. Second topic is taken from Riza alifianti Putri (2020) under the title "The Analysis of illocutionary Acts of Judges'. In this study, the writer concluded that there were 146 utterances. Third Luki, Siti and Cicik (2021) reported Illocutionary acts performed by the Joker movie's character Arthur Flek. This article attempts to understand the many illocutionary act that Arthur Flek employs in the Joker movie, as well as the significance of those types of acts. There are utterances 52 of Arthur Flek's remarks that demonstrated illocutionary acts were discovered. Fourth previous study found by the researcher is a study from Sifa Arif Setiawan (2022) The Illocutionary Act Found in Song Lyrics 'To the Bone'. This study is using qualitative descriptive as the research method. The writer conducted this study that contains into 12 directives (30,77%), 9 representatives (23,08%), 9 commissive (23,08%), 8 expressive (20,51%), and 1 declaration (2,56%). Last study from Diah and Yulianto (2022) that reported illocutionary acts from speech President Joe Biden's. The purpose of this research is to find out the types of illocutionary acts and identify the context of speech President Joe Biden's. Researcher applied qualitative descriptive method in this study.

The difference between the previous study and this study is that the most of previous study focused to analyzed all of type illocutionary acts such as asertive, directive, commissive, declarative, and expressive. The researcher's only focus in this study will be the illocutionary act found in the Speech Larry Wilmore especially expressive. The speech scripts of Larry Wilmore will serve as a data source. This Larry Wilmore Speech was selected as the data source because this speech can fulfill every kind of illocutionary act according to Searle's (1979) theory. There are two of problems are solved. In the beginning is to identify the expressive illocutionary acts that are applied in the Larry Wilmore Speech on Harvard Class Day 2023. After that to categorize the most dominant expressive illocutionary acts in the speech and examine a few of the statements. In this study the writer employed two combinations of the theories. The classification of expressive illocutionary acts is covered by Searle (1979) in the book *Expression and Meaning: Studied in The Theory of Speech Act* and by Searle & Vanderveken (1985) in their theory. The findings of the research should be useful to readers that show interest in studying expressive illocutionary acts in speech or other forms of data sources can utilize this study as a source of knowledge. It will improve pragmatic research and make it possible for them to carry out more in-depth investigations related to this one.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research's data was collected from YouTube Harvard University. The Harvard University YouTube channel provided the research's data. That video released on 23 May 2023. The duration of this speech around twentysix minuets thirtytwo seconds (26:32) . This speech was selected because contains numerous instances of illocutionary behavior that was need for this study. The applied theory was used to do a descriptive analysis of the data. The data is analyzed to see the shape and function of illocutionary act. The data is presented using numerous words, and the research employed a descriptive method. The researcher used descriptive qualitative method because the data were provided in words rather than numbers. Qualitative method was an explanation of the research by describing an analysis of illocutionary.

The data were collected through the following steps. First, the researcher needs to hear the speech in order to find the illocutionary act in the speech. Second collecting and categorize the data by highlighting the sentences that contain illocutionary acts and

classify the information according to the different kinds of illocutionary acts. After collecting and classifying the data, it's time for analyzing the types of expressive acts and intended meaning from utterances that contains.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

In this section, the writer discusses the results of the research divided into two aims. There are (1) to identify the expressive illocutionary acts used in the Larry Wilmore Speech at Harvard Class Day 2023 and (2) categorize the most dominant expressive illocutionary acts in the speech and analyze some of utterances. The writer divides it into two parts. In the beginning to identify expressive illocutionary act and after that to categorize the most dominant of expressive illocutionary acts discovered in Larry Wilmore Speech at Harvard Class Day 2023.

The data were presented using both formal and informal methods. In the formal method, the researcher used tables to show the frequency of different expressive acts found in the speech "Larry Wilmore." The informal method was used to explain the meanings behind the utterances. This part showed the finding of expressive illocutionary acts found in Larry Wilmore Speech. The data was presented in the table to show the expressive that found in Larry Wilmore, namely thanking, praising, welcoming, congratulating, apologizing. In this speech, the most common expressive illocutionary act is thanking. The following data represents all of the research findings that the writer compiled.

Table 1. Expressive Illocutionary Act Types Founded in the Larry Wilmore Speech at Harvard Class Day 2023

No	Expressive Illocutionary Acts Classification	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Thanking	15	37,5%
2.	Praising	8	20%
3.	Welcoming	7	17,5%
4.	Congratulating	5	12,5%
5.	Apologizing	5	12,5%
Total		40	100%

The researcher was able to identify 40 utterances and categorize them as expressive illocutionary acts depending on the table. The expressive illocutionary acts that were found by researchers in data sources, namely thanking, praising, welcoming, congratulating, and apologizing are expressive illocutionary acts that found in Larry Wilmore Speech in Harvard Class Day 2023. There exist 40 data in Larry Wilmore Speech indicating expressive illocutionary acts. There are 15 data of thanking classification, 8 data of praising classification, 7 data of welcoming classification, 5 data of congratulating classification, and 5 data of apologizing. In this speech, the most common expressive illocutionary act is thanking.

Discussion

In this section, the data analysis is presented by showing the speech Larry Wilmore that contained the expressive illocutionary acts. Then, it continued by describing the types of expressive contained in the utterances. The five types of expressive acts are thanking, praising, welcoming, congratulating, and apologizing. The analysis can be seen below.

Thanking

According to Searle (1979) the point of thanking is to express gratitude. Expressing gratitude is something that must be done, especially when someone felt happy or achieve something. Thanking is a form of expressing gratitude to God and other people related to us. In English, thanking is defined as expressing gratitude. Expressing gratitude is an expression that can be used to express appreciation or gratitude to someone.

Data 1:

Let me get that speech out of the way. Has anybody talked about serendipity yet? No. Oh shoot, I can't do that. **Well, thank you.** I am so honored to be here. Distinguished faculty, Harvard students, parents, Class of 2023.

(Larry Wilmore Speech – 0:13)

The sentence highlighted in bold is an expressive speech act. He said that well thank you to the audience at the beginning of speech. This situation at the time was still lively. Several viewers enthusiastic about listening to his speech. The audience gave applause to him. The sentence was categorized as expressive because it conveys the speaker's thoughts and feelings in a thank you sentence. There is an intended meaning in

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the words that he conveys to the audience. The intended meaning of the sentence conveyed by Larry Wilmore was to express his pleasure for the opportunity as a speaker at the event. He showed his pride at the opportunity to deliver a speech by saying well, thank you. So, the utterance above can be said as an expressive act, thanking.

Data 2:

Have you guys heard about that? Yeah. Oh, it's very helpful. Hello very helpful. "ChatGPT 4, are white people invited to the cookout?" "Traditionally, white people have not been allowed at the cookout." **"Thanks, ChatGPT, I appreciate that."**

(Larry Wilmore Speech – 1:56)

The sentence highlighted in bold is an expressive speech act. He said Thank you ChatGPT, I appreciate that in the beginning of the speech. ChatGPT is a very useful application today and Larry Wilmore expresses his gratitude for the existence of GPT chat in this digital era. This speech is expressive because it conveys the speaker's thoughts and feelings. The intended meaning of the sentence that Larry Wilmore conveyed to the audience was that he wanted the audience to know that using ChatGPT could make everything easier. Currently, technological developments are developing so fast that anyone who doesn't learn it will be left behind. Difficult things can be helped by using ChatGPT. This statement shows the situation of appreciation from the speaker. So, the speech above can be said to be an expressive act of thanking.

Data 3:

All the Black people watching this on YouTube will get that joke, **thank you very much**. And since you guys brought up race, how about a hand for your incoming new leader, Claudine Gay, Harvard's first Black female president, you guys?

(Larry Wilmore Speech – 2:02)

The sentence highlighted in bold is an expressive speech act. He expressed his thanks to the audience in the beginning of the speech. Some viewers were enthusiastic about listening to Larry Wilmore as he thanked black people who watched this video on YouTube. Larry Wilmore wanted the audience to know that his speech was aimed at everyone regardless of race or color. The intended meaning of the sentence that Larry Wilmore uttered in his speech was that he wanted to remind the audience to always

support and be proud of Harvard's first black female president. This speech is expressive because it conveys the speaker's thoughts and feelings. So, the speech above can be said to be an expressive act of gratitude.

Data 4:

I am so honored to be here. Distinguished faculty, Harvard students, parents, Class of 2023. I'd like to start off by saying, and I mean this with all respect, what up, 2023.

(Larry Wilmore Speech – 0:15)

The sentence highlighted in bold is an expressive speech act. He said that I am so honored to be here to the audience at the beginning of speech. On this video he wants to the audience know that he wanted to inform the audience that Larry Wilmore was already there and would start his speech so that the audience would focus on the speech he was going to deliver. The intended meaning of the sentence spoken by Larry Wilmore in his speech that he wanted to express his pride by said this sentence as the opening of his speech. He hopes that the audience can listen to the speech he will deliver from the beginning until the end. The purpose of the sentence conveyed by Larry Wilmore is expressing his pride for the audience in his speech. So, the utterance above can be said as an expressive act, thanking.

Data 5:

Let your life not just be an example for others to follow, but an inspiration to fill people's hearts of a life well lived. Play better. ***Thank you so much guys.***

(Larry Wilmore Speech – 26:17)

The sentence highlighted in bold is an expressive speech act. He said that thank you so much guys to the audience at the end of speech. The audience claps and cheers while listening the speech. Larry Wilmore wants to the audience know that's he expressed his attitude and grateful to the hearer his speech. The intended meaning of the sentence spoken by Larry Wilmore in his speech that his speech was coming to an end. The utterance was categorized as expressive because conveys the speaker's thoughts and feelings. The purpose of the sentence conveyed by Larry Wilmore is expressing his

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pleasure for the audience to hear his speech. So, the utterance above can be said as an expressive act, thanking.

Praise

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), The act of expressive communication "Praise" is an expressive speech act in which the speaker conveys appreciation, approval, or a positive assessment of a certain behavior, action, or situation. This speech act is intended to communicate the speaker's positive feelings and attitudes towards the recipient of the praise, and it may be directed towards individuals, groups, or institutions. The aim of the praise speech act is to convey the speaker's feelings and attitudes regarding the situation. Praise can take various forms, such as verbal or written statements, and it may serve different functions, such as encouragement or recognition of achievement.

Data 6:

I had to pour myself into doing something meaningful or there was no point. Thank you very much.
(audience claps) ***I like partial clapping, That's great.***

(Larry Wilmore Speech – 17:24)

The sentence highlighted in bold is an expressive speech act. He said that I like partial clapping, that's great to the audience at the middle of speech. The audience claps while listening the Larry Wilmore speech. He wants to the audience responding to the speech delivered in the form of applause by clapping which is a form of non-verbal activity. The intended meaning of the sentence spoken by Larry Wilmore in his speech to liven up the situation and the audience to keep the spirit. The utterance was categorized as expressive because conveys the speaker's thoughts and feelings. So, the utterance above can be said as an expressive act, praise.

Data 7:

Let me get that speech out of the way. Has anybody talked about serendipity yet? I mean this with all respect, what up, 2023? It's not gang symbols. 2023. ***It's pretty good.***

(Larry Wilmore Speech – 0:35)

The sentence highlighted in bold is an expressive speech act. He said that It's pretty good to the audience at the beginning of speech. He wants the audience know that's the symbol of 2023 is pretty good. The intended meaning of the sentence spoken by Larry Wilmore in his speech is this year is great to do something and do not put it off. There is a hidden meaning behind the sentence it's pretty good by Larry Wilmore. The utterance was categorized as expressive because conveys the speaker's thoughts and feelings. The purpose of the sentence conveyed by Larry Wilmore is expressing his feeling by said It's pretty good. So, the utterance above can be said as an expressive act, praise.

Welcoming and Greeting

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985) "Greet" is only marginally an illocutionary act since it has no propositional content. Greeting is an expression used to greet someone by saying "Hello". This expression is used as a sign of respect, courtesy, or to start a conversation with another person. Greeting expressions also apply when you want to introduce yourself to other people. Welcoming, like greeting, is essentially hearer-directed.

Data 8:

I'd like to start off by saying, and I mean this with all respect, what up, 2023

(Larry Wilmore Speech – 0:22)

The sentence highlighted in bold is an expressive speech act. He said I'd like to start off by saying, at the beginning of speech. He wants to get the attention of the audience. The intended meaning of the sentence spoken by Larry Wilmore in his speech will be begin soon. There is a hidden meaning behind the sentence I'd like to start off by saying. The utterance was categorized as expressive because conveys the speaker's thoughts and feelings. The purpose of the sentence conveyed by Larry Wilmore is expressing his feeling by said I'd like to start off by saying. So, the utterance above can be said as an expressive act, welcoming and greeting.

Congratulating

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Congratulations or congratulations are words or expressions given to people who are getting or experiencing something/getting happiness (a speech or expression given to a person who is getting or experiencing something happiness). According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985) classified "congratulate" as an expressive act that conveys the speaker's positive emotions and attitudes towards 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.

Data 9:

Congrats to the class of '23. (audience claps and cheers) Thank you so much, you guys. Thank you.

(Larry Wilmore Speech – 26:20)

The sentence highlighted in bold is an expressive speech act. He said that Congrats to the class of '23 at the end of speech. He wants to the audience know that's he proud to the class of 23 in his speech. The intended meaning of the sentence spoken by Larry Wilmore in his speech that the real journey will only begin. The utterance was categorized as expressive because conveys the speaker's thoughts and feelings. The purpose of the sentence conveyed by Larry Wilmore is expressing his proud for the class of 23. So, the utterance above can be said as an expressive act, congratulating.

Apologize

According to Searle and Vanderveken's Speech Act Theory (1985), saying "apologize" is an expressive speech act that enables one to convey their regret, remorse or sadness for a mistake, and wrong. Speakers utilize this term to acknowledge their wrongdoings and seek forgiveness, while also taking responsibility for their actions. The purpose of an apology is to convey a message that hopes to address the harm caused, repair relationships, and strengthen the social ties between the speaker and the listener.

Data 10:

"Sorry, not interested," and let your life not just be an example for others to follow, but an inspiration to fill people's hearts of a life well lived.

The sentence is an expressive speech act. He said that Sorry, not interested to the audience at the end of speech. He wants to the audience know that's he expressed wrong and regretted to the hearer his speech. The intended meaning of the sentence spoken by Larry Wilmore in his speech that wants to give advice and hopes that the listeners will be serious about listening to his speech which he feels is important. By saying the sentence sorry not interested will attract the attention of listeners. The utterance was categorized as expressive because conveys the speaker's thoughts and feelings. The purpose of the sentence conveyed by Larry Wilmore is expressing his felling. So, the utterance above can be said as an expressive act, thanking.

CONCLUSION

From the research above, the writer divides the analysis into 2 parts. The first to find out expressive illocutionary acts that use in Larry Wilmore Speech at Harvard Class Day 2023 and to find out most dominant expressive illocutionary acts classification discovered in Larry Wilmore Speech at Harvard Class Day 2023 and found several of utterance. The result of study in this research is displayed in the table above and it also shows the explanation of each speech that are identified as expressive acts. The speech contained five different kinds of expressive illocutionary, namely thanking, praising, welcoming, congratulating, and apologizing. The most common kind of expression is thanking. The findings of the research should be useful useful to readers who are interested in studying expressive illocutionary acts in speech or other forms of data sources can utilize this study as a source of knowledge. It will improve pragmatic research and make it possible for them to carry out more in-depth investigations related to this one.

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