

EXPRESSIVE SPEECH ACTS ON SAM SMITH'S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT COMMENTS

Albert Ryan Ramaputra¹⁾, Priska Meilasari²⁾

^{1,2)}English Language Program, the Faculty of Communication Science

Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University

albertryanramaputra@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to explain the types and functions contained in comments on Sam Smith's Instagram account. The research design is descriptive qualitative. The data in this study are utterances that contain expressive speech acts. The data collection technique was carried out by collecting data from Instagram comments on Sam Smith's Instagram account in a post stating that her new album entitled Gloria has been released. Data in the form of comments were classified and analyzed according to the types and functions of expressive speech acts based on Norrick's (1987) classification.

Differences in each comment contained in Gloria's post is that each character in the comment has its expressive type - including those using expressive speech acts of thanking, expressive speech acts of greeting, expressive praise speech acts, and expressive complimentary speech acts. The fifty-two data contained in this study included five types of expressive speech acts taken from nine types based on Norrick's classification. The five types found in the comments includes expressive speech acts of thanking (11 data), expressive speech acts of praising (28 data), expressive speech acts of greeting (10 data), expressive speech acts of protesting (1 datum), and expressive speech acts of complaining (1 datum). Furthermore, the functions of expressive speech acts are classified based on each type. The expressive speech act of thanking functions to convey the speaker's gratitude to the listener, and to convey the speaker's appreciation for the benefits that have been given by the interlocutor. The functions of expressive speech act of praising include expressing the speaker's admiration to the album, expressing the speaker's approval of something, expressing the speaker's admiration for the song, and expressing the speaker's admiration for the photo. The expressive speech act of Greeting is used to welcome someone's arrival. The function of expressive speech act of complaining is to show disappointment with something whereas the function of the expressive speech act of protesting is to criticize undesired actions performed by listeners.

The result of the study could contribute to the deeper analysis of expressive speech acts in the field of pragmatics. Perhaps the implication of the result of the study would give more understanding of expressive speech acts used in social media.

Keywords: Pragmatics: speech acts, types of speech acts, function of speech acts.

1. INTRODUCTION

Instagram application is a social media application meant for its users to post personal photos, sell, and comment on what other people have posted. Instagram application users can also follow what they like or dislike. For example, if Instagram users like to watch movies they will follow an Instagram account that displays the latest movie updates, like Netflix. Various contents dealing with a movie are shown on their Instagram account. The followers of this account are those who are interested in movies. If Instagram users idolized a public figure, they can follow the public figure they like. By doing so, they can interact with their idol through direct messages or comments. In some other cases, someone can follow certain accounts to show their hatred towards the account owners. As the name suggests, social media is a medium that allows its users to socialize and interact with each other, as well as share information or

collaborate (Rohmadi, 2016).

The study discusses the expressive speech acts found in the Instagram account of Sam Smith, a public figure who is currently being discussed because of his controversy. Sam Smith is well known for his work through albums of songs he made. LGBT is something that Sam Smith agrees on which makes him controversial. In this research, Sam Smith's Instagram comments would be analyzed from a pragmatic point of view. A well-known public figure who is in controversy must be the center of people's attention. His followers could give various comments on his posts both positively and negatively. The comments might contain speech acts, especially expressive speech acts. The discussion of expressive speech acts is included in the topic of pragmatics.

Pragmatics is the study of the use of natural language in communication, more generally, the study of the relations between languages and their users (Searle, 1969). Moreover, pragmatics is the study of the use of natural language in communication, more generally, it is the study of the relationship between language and its users (Searle, 1969). Therefore, pragmatics is a field of linguistics concerned with what speakers imply and hearers infer based on contributing factors such as situational context. One of the discussions of pragmatics is speech acts.

Speech acts are closely related to communication. We perform speech acts when we offer apologies, greetings, requests, complaints, solicitations, compliments, or rejections. Speech acts are the basic or the minimal units of linguistics communication. Searle, (1969) expresses that the speech act or acts performed in the utterance of a sentence are in general, a function of the meaning of the sentence. The meaning of a sentence does not in all cases uniquely determine what speech act is performed in a given utterance. Speech act theory assumes that the meaning of linguistic expressions can be explained by following the rules that apply when performing speech acts (Searle, 1969). One of the discussions of speech acts is expressive speech acts.

Expressive speech acts are one of the five basic categories of speech acts identified by Searle (1969). Expressives remain under-researched, though select categories of expressive speech acts, especially offering thanks and compliments, have received more extensive attention. There are twelve types of expressive speech acts mentioned by Searle; apologizing, thanking, condolences, congratulating, complaining, wailing, protesting, regretting, boasting, praising, greeting, and welcoming.

Expressive speech acts are commonly found on Instagram comments as in Sam Smith's account. For example, when Sam Smith posted a photo of himself, his followers or users on Instagram can see his post. Photos uploaded on Sam Smith's Instagram account have their uniqueness with clothing models that invite controversy. He often wears strange and unique clothing styles and writes attractive captions. This is one of his posts which is controversial. Sam Smith's posts invite comments from his followers that contain expressive speech acts since they want to express what they feel about the posts.

Vanderveken (1985) said that the expressive point is expressing feelings and attitudes. In this study, the followers' comments towards Sam Smith's Instagram post are analyzed to see how they express feelings and attitudes. Comments that express feelings will be related to the expressive speech acts that form the basis of this research.



Picture 1. One of Sam Smith's Posts

Picture 1 is one of Sam Smith's Instagram posts. In the post, he wears unusual clothes which makes people give comments differently. One of his followers commented *I'm so excited for this and you Sam. Congratulations!*. The comment given by @ci_dubose is categorized as congratulating and functioned as an expression of joy by congratulating public figures who are idolized.

In this research, three previous research were taken as a comparison of this research. The first is research written by Rukmini (2016) who only analyzed the types of expressive speech acts in Wayne Rooney's Facebook. The previous study did not discuss the functions of expressive speech acts. However, the study discusses not only the types but also the functions of expressive speech acts.

There is also another study taken as a comparison. Sativa (2021) conducted research on the translation of expressive speech in the movie. The previous research focuses on the techniques of translation of expressive speech acts while this study analyzes expressive speech acts by using a pragmatic approach.

Another study used as a comparison is a study conducted by Syafitri (2015) that discusses expressive speech acts in the statuses of Facebook users. The previous study only analyzed the types of expressive speech acts whereas this study found the types and functions contained in expressive speech acts.

This study aims to find the types and functions of expressive speech acts on Sam Smith's Instagram. The comments on Sam Smith's Instagram contain expressive speech acts that are interesting to explore. Perhaps, the result of this research contributes to the research on speech acts.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

Research This research uses a descriptive qualitative research design because, in conducting this study, the writer used a descriptive qualitative approach. Sales, et al. (2002) stated that the method is influenced by and represents a paradigm that reflects a perspective on reality. Furthermore, Kasinath (2013) suggests that there are three reasons for using qualitative methods, namely (a) the researcher's view of phenomena in the world, (b) the nature of the

research questions, and (c) practical reasons related to the nature of qualitative methods.

Meanwhile, according to McCusker, K., & Gunaydin, S. (2015), choosing to use qualitative methods in terms of research objectives is to understand how communities or individuals accept certain issues. In this case, it is very important for researchers who use qualitative methods to ensure the quality of the research process because researchers will interpret the data they have collected. Qualitative methods help provide a rich description of phenomena. Qualitative encourages an understanding of the substance of an event.

Thus, qualitative research not only fulfills the researcher's desire to get an overview/explanation but also helps to get a deeper explanation (Sofaer, 1999). Thus, in qualitative research, researchers need to equip themselves with adequate knowledge about the problem to be studied. Qualitative research begins with an idea expressed by research questions. The research questions will determine the method of data collection and how to analyze it. The qualitative method is dynamic, meaning that it is always open to changes, additions, and replacements during the analysis process (Srivastava, A. & Thomson, S.B., 2009).

In this study, the researcher uses the theory of Norrick as a guide. According to this formula, he compared nine kinds of expressive illocutionary acts. They are apologizing, thanking, congratulating, condolences, congratulations, contrition, and welcoming. The data form of this research is words, phrases, and clauses. This research takes data from Instagram social media. The data are taken from the comments on "Sam Smith" Instagram account especially on one of his posts below:



Picture 2. Sam Smith's post

This post was posted on Sam Smith's Instagram social media account on February 21, 2023. This research will only focus on that post because this post contains controversy regarding Sam's support of LGBT. Besides, this one post has already gotten more than a thousand comments. From his followers. This research focuses on the comments on that post that belong to expressive speech acts.

Data collection techniques are a method of analysis or even the main tools of data analysis methods and techniques. In doing this research, there are several steps taken as data collecting techniques, namely:

- a. Preparing and reading the Instagram comment from the data source in Sam Smith's Instagram social media account to know the identity of expressive speech acts contained in the comments.
- b. Finding the types of expressive speech acts from the collected data.
- c. Classifying the functions of expressive speech acts performed by the followers. Thus, the researcher gets the general function to the next stage.
- d. Displaying the data in a table makes it easier for researchers to analyze and categorize the data. In this phase, the researcher also gives certain codes to ease the data presentation.

According to Moleong (2002:103), data analysis is the process of compiling data sets and organizing them into models, categories, and units. In this way, the basic description of the data is easier to read and more peaceful. At the same time, according to Taylor (1975:79), data is a process that refines formal efforts to find themes and construct hypotheses (ideas) as presented, and efforts to provide support and themes for hypotheses. If you look closely, the first definition focuses more on organizing data, while the second definition focuses more on the purpose and intent of data analysis.

The analysis technique used is descriptive data analysis technique where factual information is collected and described. The information is derived in several steps from the information in all documents. After data collection and data collection, the researcher conducted an interaction analysis consisting of data reduction, representation, and verification. Research analysis occurs simultaneously with data collection or after data collection.

1. Data collection

Analyzing data from a data source, namely by reading the data source, namely comments on "Sam Smith" Instagram social media account and analyzing the comments contained in one of his posts posted.

2. Data reduction

The data obtained in data reduction is sorted because the data obtained from the results of the analysis is very broad informative data, although it is still raw (Lexy J. Moleong, 2002:114). This way we can select the most related data. The data reduction stage consists of several steps. The first step, edit, group and summarize the data. In the second stage, subject-related codes and notes were compiled from the examined data so that the researcher could identify types, functions, and data patterns. Data reduction is the collection of concepts and explanations of relevant topics, patterns, or groups. Therefore, qualitative research can be simplified and modified in various ways: through rigorous selection, brief summaries or descriptions, categorization into larger models, etc.

3. Presentation of data

The results of the data presented system can be formed in a report. The form of presentation of this report is analytical and logically descriptive which leads to a conclusion. In this case, researchers are required to interpret the data being analyzed.

4. Drawing Conclusions/Verification

Concluding the researcher's interpretation, namely the development of meaning taken from the data displayed. Conclusions that are still imperfect are always competing during research and conclusions are obtained that are guaranteed credibility and objectivity. Verification can be in the form of rethinking what data goes into the recorder when recording the captured data.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the research findings. The findings include the kinds of expressive speech acts that are found on Sam Smith's Instagram comments and the function of the expressive speech acts that are found on Sam Smith's Instagram comments. Table 4.1 shows the types and functions of expressive speech acts in Sam Smith's Instagram comments.

Table 1. The Types and Functions of Expressive Speech Acts

Number	Types of Expressive Speech Act	Function of Expressive Speech Act	Total	Percentage
1	Thanking	to convey the speaker's thankfulness towards the listener	5	10%
		To convey the speaker's appreciation for the benefits that have been given by the interlocutor	6	12%
2	Complimenting	To express speaker's admiration towards the album	17	33%
		To convey speaker's approval on something	9	17%
		To express speaker's admiration towards the song	1	2%
		To express speaker's admiration towards the photos	1	2%
3	Greeting	To welcome upon someone's arrival	10	20%
4	Complaining	To show disappointment towards something	1	2%
5	Protesting	To criticize upon undesirable action done by the listener	1	2%
	Total		52	100%

The analysis of the types and functions of expressive speech acts found in Sam Smith's Instagram comments is provided in the next parts.

4.1.1 Expressive Speech Act-Thanking

There are two forms of expression of thanks, namely "thank you" and "thanks". Thank you and thanks are two expressions that should be used differently because there is a difference between thank you and thanks. Thankyou and thank you are polite expressions used to show our gratitude, thank you is another way of saying thank you. There is no difference between the context in which "thank you" and "thank you"

01/THA

(The follower @Denisee714 commented on the post uploaded by SamSmith. The caption said *Gloria* that is the title of Sam Smith's new album. Inthe picture, Sam Smith wears a pink costume that is shaped like bird feathers.The follower comments on the album).

@Sam Smith's : "Gloria " @Denisee714 : "**Thanks Sam**"

In this case, the follower named @Denisee uses a type of expressionof gratitude to convey the speaker's gratitude. The speaker expressed and conveyed gratitude directly to Sam Smith who just released his new album.

The other example of expressive speech acts of thanking could be seen in the following comment.

06/THA

(Sam Smith's Instagram social media account posted a new album entitled *Gloria*. In that post, Sam Smith uploaded a photo wearing a unique costume. The pink costume was made of fur.

Sam Smith managed to attract his followers' attention, including the Instagram account owner @Its.me.sabine, who is his follower. The follower of Sam Smith, @Its.me.sabine commented on the post.)

@Sam Smith: “Gloria.”

@Its.me.sabine: “**Thank you for that album. It feels like therapy.**”

In this case, the account @Its.me.sabine uses expressive speech act to express the speaker's appreciation for the benefits the other person has provided from the release of Sam Smith's album.

There is another expression of gratitude after listening to a song entitled *Gloria* using expressive speech acts of thanking in the following example.

10/THA

(Sam Smith posted a new album entitled *Gloria*. In this post, Sam Smith wore a red dress like a bird. In a post captioned *Gloria*. Follower Sam Smith @Crashingchandelier revealed expressive speech acts of thanking in commenting on Sam Smith's posts.)

@Sam Smith's: “Gloria “

@Crashingchandelier : ”**Thanks for sharing the beauty that is Gloria with us**”

In this case, the account owner @Crashingchandelier uses a type of expression of thanks to convey the speaker's appreciation for the benefits that have been provided by the other person. The speaker states the speech act of expressive expression to the listener, namely Sam Smith, the expression is given to the listener as a form of expressive speech act addressed to the listener, that is thank you.

@Sam Smith: “ Gloria “

@thrxllofitall : “**Thank you from the bottom of my heart “**

In this case, @thrxllofitall uses expressive speech acts of gratitude to convey the gratitude to Sam Smith. The utterance *Thank you from the bottom of my heart* expressed the feelings of a fan to thank Sam Smith for releasing his newest album.

The other expressive speech act of thanking can be seen in the data numbers 02/THA, 01/THA, 03/THA, 05/THA, 07/THA, and 08/THA.

4.1.2 Expressive Speech Act - Complimenting

There is an expression of compliment about the album made by Sam Smith. The praise was given to Sam Smith for the launching of his newest album entitled *Gloria*.

15/COMT

(Sam Smith on his Instagram social media account posted a new album entitled *Gloria*. The Instagram Caption mentions the title of the album *Gloria*. Besides that, Sam Smith uploaded a photo wearing a unique costume in this post. The costume that Sam Smith uploaded in his post was a pink costume made of feathers. Then, the follower of Sam Smith, @Shawnstitcheslover22 commented on the post by expressing a compliment.)

@Sam Smith : “ Gloria “

@Shawnstitcheslover22 : “**Fantastic album you're a very talented musician. Huge fan of yours, Sam Smith.**”

In this case, the account owner @Shawnstitcheslover22 uses an expressive speech act of complementing to express the speaker's admiration for the album. @Shawnstitcheslover22 expressed his admiration for Sam Smith's talent and revealed that he likes Sam Smith because of Sam Smith's talent both in his singing voice and the album Sam Smith has made.

There is another expression of complimenting about a new album entitled *Gloria* created by Sam Smith. The expression of feelings about the praise was given to a song called *Gloria* which was composed by Sam Smith.

14/COMT

(Sam Smith posted on social media accounts his new album entitled *Gloria*. In the post, Sam Smith wears a bright pink costume clad in a bird-shaped dress with feathers growing on it. In Sam Smith's post caption *Gloria*, a follower of Sam Smith's commented on what Sam Smith uploaded. The follower @Se_y5573 commented on the post by using expressive speech acts complimenting.)

@Sam Smith : “Gloria “

@Se_y5573 : “I’m a Korean fan. **The song is good .”**

The account owner @Se_y5573 uses the expressive Complementing type to express the speaker's admiration for the song. @Se_y5573 expressed praise for the song composed by Sam Smith, the expression was given as a form of praise for the album made by Sam Smith entitled *Gloria*. @Se_y5573 liked the song composed by Sam Smith and expressed his praise for the song composed by Sam Smith. Sam Smith’s follower @Se_y5573 conveyed his expression to Sam Smith by using expressive speech acts compliment.

There is another expression of complimenting about a new album entitled *Gloria* created by Sam Smith. The expression of feelings about the praise was given to a song called *Gloria* which was composed by Sam Smith.

26/COMT

(Sam Smith uploaded his new album entitled *Gloria*, Sam Smith wore a costume that managed to attract the attention of his followers. The costume was pink and covered in a dress made of bird feathers. The account @deniseflattry who is the Instagram follower of Sam Smith praised his good voice in his song *Gloria*.)

@Sam Smith’s : “Gloria “

@deniseflattry : “**Your voice is truly beautiful “**

Sam Smith’s follower , @deniseflattry uses the Expressive Complementing type to express the speaker's admiration for Sam Smith by saying *Your voice is really beautiful*. It means that the owner of this account has listened to the song and expressed his positive response to the song in the post. A similar analysis is found in the data numbers 04/COMT, 12/COMT, 15/COMT, 14/COMT, 17/COMT, 18/COMT, and 20/COMT.

4.1.3 Expressive Speech Act - Greeting

Expression of greeting is used to welcome Sam Smith. To the extent, greetings are also used to welcome someone's arrival and express feelings of impatience to wait for Sam Smith to come.

39/GRE

(In a post uploaded by Sam Smith with the caption *Gloria* referring to his new album, he is wearing a pink costume with layers of bird feathers. Then, the Instagram account @mxs.nails Instagram, a follower of Sam Smith welcomed the album by showing enthusiasm in the comments contained in Sam Smith's post.)

@Sam Smith : “Gloria”

@mxs.nails : “**Coming to see you in April! Would love to do your nails”**

Sam Smith’s follower, @mxs.nails uses expressive greetings to welcome his new album. The speaker expresses the expressive speech act of greetings by saying *Coming to see you in April! Would love to do your nails* to express enthusiasm in welcoming the new album.

(In the post uploaded by Sam Smith, he is seen wearing a pink costume and wrapped in a dress made of bird feathers. The @cookieyummy2021 account, a follower of Sam Smith, also commented on this in the *Gloria* caption uploaded by Sam Smith. The post attracted the attention of the followers of the Instagram named @cookieyummy2021 to welcome Sam Smith to Australia.)

@Sam Smith: “Gloria”

@cookieyummy2021: “**Cant wait to see u in Australia”**

4.1.4 Expressive Speech Act – Complaining

Complaining, deploring, or censorship are uttered when the interlocutor is criticized for events that hurt the speaker or third person. Regret is used to express resentment, pain, disappointment, or intense regret by lamenting or mourning.

The comment containing expressive speech act of complaining is found in the following datum. 43/COMN

(The new album released by Sam Smith entitled *Gloria* appeals to his followers. Sam Smith uses a pink costume with feathers in his dress making it look like a pink bird. The owner of the Instagram account, @alen_popking conveyed his complaints from the post uploaded by Sam Smith with the caption *Gloria*. In this comment, he gives negative comments on what Sam Smith uploaded on his Instagram.)

@Sam Smith: “Gloria”

@alen_popking : “**Minus the unholy and gimme crap**“

Sam Smith’s follower, @alen_popking uses the expressive type of complaint to show disappointment of Sam Smith’s post. Here, the follower intends to express expressive speech act of complaining to Sam Smith. As we all know that Sam Smith is being a controversy nowadays because of his decision to support LGBT. This expression shows that the account owner regrets Sam Smith’s performance with the pink costume that looks feminine.

4.1.5 Expressive Speech Act - Protesting

Protesting, like criticizing and complaining, presupposes that the propositional context represents something undesirable. On the other hand, demonstrations have their characteristics. First, the state of mind expressed is disapproval, not sadness or unhappiness, and protest is a formal expression of disapproval.

The example in datum 45 shows the expressed feelings that lead to protests and disapproval of Sam Smith's actions in supporting LGBT.

45/PRO

(Sam Smith in his Instagram social media account introduces his new album entitled *Gloria*. In the upload, Sam Smith wears a pink costume with a costume covered in bird feathers, making Sam Smith get protests from his followers in the post with the caption *Gloria*. His follower, @Sausageasshole give comments in the form of expressive speech acts of protesting against what was posted by Sam Smith.)

@Sam Smith: “Gloria”

@Sausageasshole : “**So did you find out who was the woman screaming at you? you can expect many more of “ That “ as not everyone accepts satan as their god like you .”**”

Sam Smith’s follower, @nat.I.brown uses an expressive protest type to criticize unwanted actions done by Sam Smith. The speaker reveals the expression of feelings felt by the speaker, in the form of protesting which is expressed as a form of protest or disapproval. This comment shows that the account owner is criticizing something beyond the post. He/She is not commenting on the post but on the overall act of Sam Smith. He disagreed with what Sam believed to be true so he expressed his protest here.

This research classified expressive speech acts found in Sam Smith’s Instagram Account comments into thanking, greeting, complementing, complaining, and protesting. The most dominant type of expressive found in the source of data was complimenting which functioned as an expression of appreciation towards Sam’s new album entitled *Gloria*. In this degree, the felicity conditions are fulfilled that the act must be feasible so the speaker is capable of uttering the utterances sincerely, and the addressee believes in it. It means that the speaker, or in this case, Sam Smith’s follower on Instagram, express their feelings towards Sam Smith's previous achievement in completing his newest album, *Gloria*. It proves that despite Sam Smith is being controversy for supporting LGBT, his followers on Instagram still appreciate and praise his

achievement as a musician and artist. In other words, most of his followers know how to differentiate the personal life from the professional life as a musician. Expressive speech acts of complaining and protesting are not used frequently by the followers. These negative expressions are used to comment on Sam Smith's choice to support LGBT.

The protests in Sam Smith's personal life prove that expressive speech acts are an honest expression of someone's feeling and can be affected by so many factors including the previous actions or failures or the present result of the actions and failures. In other research analyzing expressive speech acts, the most dominant types of expressive speech acts are different. The research conducted by Endy (2021) found that the most dominant type was denying. The difference is caused by the different situations and applications.

4. CONCLUSION

All the study aims to find out how expressive speech acts exist in the Instagram application, using Sam Smith's Instagram social media account as the basis of this research. The analysis shows the procedure used in the expressive speech acts and its usage. The research highlights the use of expressive speech acts in Instagram comments of Sam Smith's social media account. The ability to use expressive speech acts resembles a quality of understanding expressive speech acts that satisfy the needs of the participants involved in such a conversation. The quality to understand the use of expressive speech acts underlies the expression of feelings from the speaker.

It has been stated previously that the definition of expressive speech acts implies that it produces the same meaning or message to understand the notion of expressive speech acts. In expressive speech acts regarding the expression of feelings, many problems result from differences in expressive speech acts found by researchers. The problems of the research are to find out the types of expressive acts and the functions of the expressive speech acts based on the contexts.

This research refers to what naturally happens to comments on Instagram owned by Sam Smith. Perhaps, the result of the research contributes to a deeper understanding of expressive speech acts used in social media.

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