Illocutionary Act in the Movie "Aftersun" by Charlotte Wells

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Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menentukan apakah aktivitas ilokusi ekspresif terjadi dalam film "Aftersun" (2022) dan untuk menyelidiki jenis dan tujuan dari tindakan-tindakan ini dalam konteks yang diberikan. Penelitian ini menerapkan metode kualitatif deskriptif untuk menganalisis data dan memanfaatkan kerangka kerja yang dikemukakan oleh Searle dan Vanderveken. Penelitian ini terutama akan mengajukan dua pertanyaan: Berapa banyak jenis tindakan ilokusi; Jenis-jenis tindakan ilokusi apa yang digunakan dalam film tersebut. Data, yang meliputi percakapan, isyarat, ekspresi, dan hasil, disajikan menggunakan teknik formal dan informal. Analisis tersebut mengungkapkan total 49 contoh tindakan ilokusi ekspresif dalam film tersebut, dengan keluhan muncul sebagai ekspresi yang paling umum, yang terdiri dari 8 ucapan. Dalam penelitian ini, 10 dari 12 tindakan ilokusi ekspresif diperiksa, termasuk permintaan maaf, terima kasih, mengeluh, meratap, protes, menyesalkan, membanggakan, memuji, memuji, dan menyapa.

Kata kunci: *Tindak Ilokusi Ekspresif, Film, Aftersun*

Abstract

The purpose of the research was to determine whether expressive illocutionary activities occurred in the movie "Aftersun" (2022) and to investigate the kinds and purposes of these acts in the given context. It applied a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data and made use of the framework put forth by Searle and Vanderveken. The study will mainly ask two questions: How many types of illocutionary acts; What kinds of illocutionary acts are used in the movie. The data, which included conversations, gestures, expression, and results, were presented using both formal and informal techniques. The analysis revealed a total of 49 instances of expressive illocutionary acts in the movie, with complaint emerging as the most prevalent expression, constituting with 8 utterances. In this study, 10 of the 12 expressive illocutionary acts were examined, including apology, thank, complain, lament, protest, deplore, boast, compliment, praise, and greet

Keywords: *Expressive Illocutionary Act, Movie, Aftersun*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a structured method of communication that uses written characters, sounds, and gestures as symbols to express meaning. It is a characteristic that distinguishes human contact, and studying entails knowing how these systems function, how they are utilized, and how they change over time. Language is a dynamic, complex system that interacts with society, culture, history, and cognition. It is not just about words and grammar. The goal of linguistics is to comprehend and elucidate these aspects.

The scientific study of language with an emphasis on its structure, function, and use in human communication is known as linguistics. Understanding how language functions, how it is learned, how it evolves, and how it is utilized in diverse circumstances is the goal of this vast area. The vast and multidisciplinary study of linguistics aims to provide basic answers on the structure, function, and social usage of language as well as its relationship to human cognition and culture.

The social function or activity that the speaker accomplishes by making an utterance, such as asking, commanding, promising, or apologizing, is referred to as an illocutionary act. It is an essential idea for comprehending how language is employed for purposes other than informational communication.

"Aftersun" (Wells, 2022), directed by Charlotte Wells, is a poignant coming-of-age drama that centers on the relationship between 11-year-old Sophie that's played by actress Frankie Corio and her young father, Calum by actor Paul Mescal, during a summer vacation in a Turkish resort. The movie is framed as a series of memories, with an adult Sophie reflecting on this vacation and trying to piece together her father's emotional state at the time. The movie subtly explores themes of memory, loss, and the fleeting nature of childhood as Sophie enjoys the carefree pleasures of the holiday swimming, making friends, and spending time with her father.

We chose Charlotte Wells' "Aftersun" as the subject of our research since the movie is filled with expressive illocutionary acts that contribute to its emotional depth and narrative structure. In "Aftersun", expressive acts such as apologies, professions of love, sorrow, and delight are conveyed through delicate exchanges, body language, and unspoken feelings between the characters, particularly Sophie and her father, Calum.

For example, throughout the movie, Calum's indications of internal struggle are frequently concealed beneath acts of care and compassion for Sophie, providing a painful contrast between his apparent demeanor and inner mental torment. The movie's concentration on nonverbal communication and fragmented recollections allows for an original investigation of how emotions such as love, remorse, and melancholy are expressed indirectly. These expressive illocutionary gestures are critical to comprehend Sophie and Calum's complex relationship, making "Aftersun" an excellent source for studying how emotions are transmitted in subtle, context-dependent ways in a cinematic narrative.

In communication, language plays an important part in our daily lives. Based on (Marzuki, from Haucsa et al., 2020) "By using language, people will be able to share and express their ideas, thoughts, and feelings." Both the speaker and the listener must interact for communication to be successful. The speaker will make utterances during the communication, which may have a meaning or message. Therefore, for the listener to completely comprehend the speaker's intended meaning, they must be able to successfully interpret the speaker's utterances first.

For us to understand language and communication, linguistics becomes essential at this point. Based on (Tahir, 2023) in "Introduction to Linguistics", it stated that "Linguistics is the scientific study of language, or it is the science of language involving sounds, words, and grammatical rules." One of the most basic facets of human existence—language—can be better understood by studying linguistics. People interact and communicate with one another through language. People can learn more about how language works, how it is utilized in different situations, and how it changes over time by studying linguistics. It also aids in investigating ways to renew and conserve languages in dynamic contexts.

According to (Searle and Vandervenk, from Agung et al., 2021) "Searle divided the illocutionary acts into five categories: representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarations". Searle and Vanderveken introduced a more systematic and thorough approach to categorizing and comprehending illocutionary behaviors. Their approach also includes specific criteria for determining illocutionary force, which refers to the speaker's intent behind the speech. Their thorough examination of several sorts of speech acts and how they operate in communication made their framework more useful to linguistic analysis in both theoretical and practical situations. According to (Agung et al., 2021) "Humans are essentially expressive beings", therefore this study will primarily look at expressive illocutionary acts between conversation, gestures, or expressions.

We chose (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985) framework because their theory allows for a more detailed and organized description of illocutionary behaviors. By clearly defining five categories (assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations), their framework is easy to apply in numerous studies, making it extremely valuable for examining various sorts of speech actions across contexts. Searle and Vanderveken offer a holistic framework to comprehending both direct and indirect speech acts. This makes their theory accessible to studies that need precise categorization and interpretation of many types of speech activities.

In a book titled "Film Art an Introduction". According to (Bordwell et al., 2019), he defines a movie as "a series of still images that, when shown on a screen, create the illusion of moving images due to the phi phenomenon." They emphasize that a movie is a visual art form that can

encompass narratives, emotions, and even abstract concepts, providing an experience distinct from other media because of its dynamic nature.

Prior studies that used similar categories of expressive illocutionary acts were also surveyed to determine the uniqueness of this research. The first study is "Expressive Speech Acts Analysis of Percy Jackson's Movie (2010)" by (Mareta & Afriana, 2024), which focuses on identifying and analyzing the categories of expressive speech acts in the 2010 movie "Percy Jackson". Using Searle and Vanderveken's (1985) speech act theory, the study looks at how characters in the movie convey emotions such as apologies, gratitude, complaints, and compliments. The researchers collected data using qualitative approaches such as observation and note-taking, and then interpreted it using Flick's (2014) qualitative analysis framework.

The second study, brought by (Sitohang & Satria, 2023) in their article "Types of Expressive Act Found in "Free Guy" Movie". This research tries to describe the many sorts of expressive speech acts in the movie "Free Guy". Using a descriptive qualitative methodology, the researchers collected data using observation and non-participatory procedures. They analyzed using the referential identity approach and the pragmatic competence-in-equalizing technique, which are based on Searle's (1969) theory of expressive acts.

The last research, "Types of Expressive Acts in Bohemian Rhapsody Movie 2018" by (Omar & Kunci, 2022) aims to discover and analyze expressive speech acts in the 2018 movie "Bohemian Rhapsody". The study takes a descriptive qualitative method, employing Martinez's (2013) theory to categorize various forms of expressive behaviors in the characters' utterances. The researchers used an observational approach with a non-participation strategy to collect data, and the analysis was based on pragmatic identity and pragmatic competence approaches.

Several studies have investigated expressive illocutionary behaviors in movies that emphasize emotional expressiveness through character speaking. (Mareta & Afriana, 2024) applied Searle and Vanderveken's theory to "Percy Jackson (2010)", selecting 15 examples of the most prevalent expressive acts, such as protests and compliments. (Sitohang & Satria, 2023) investigated "Free Guy" using a descriptive qualitative technique, identifying compliments, thanks, and greets as essential expressive gestures. (Omar & Kunci, 2022) used Martinez's theory to evaluate "Bohemian Rhapsody (2018)" and discovered five categories of expressive acts, the most common of which was thanking. All research employed qualitative methodologies to investigate how speaking acts convey emotional dynamics in movies.

METHOD

The research utilized a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze and gather data from the movie "Aftersun", which was written and directed by Charlotte Wells. According to (Nurjanah, 2021) article, (Lambert & Lambert, 2012) states that the purpose of qualitative descriptives is to give simple explanations of occurrences as they happen in their natural environments. They also emphasize that qualitative descriptive studies are a suitable approach for research on language use and communication strategies since they seek to provide detailed accounts of events or actions without greatly abstracting or altering the data. The process of data collection involved viewing the movie and making notes on the dialogue spoken by the characters. The process involved renting and watching the movie several times, reading the transcripts, selecting expressions that are qualified as expressive illocutionary acts, and documenting the findings. Following that, the framework provided by (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985) was used to categorize the information obtained from the movie. The informal method used language to provide technical descriptions of the facts, whereas formal methods used data in tabular form combined with visuals to better describe the expression being presented in the conversation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION
Result

This study identified 12 instances of expressive illocutionary acts, with 12 of these actions, including apology, thank, condole, congratulate, complain, lament, protest, deplore, boast, compliment, praise, and greet, are recognized as expressive illocutionary acts through data analysis. The objective of the study was to recognize the types, strategies, and purposes of

expressive illocutionary acts featured in the movie "Aftersun" (2022). The methodology applied the framework developed by (Agung et al., 2021) to categorize the information obtained from the movie into specific classifications. The results were detailed in the ensuing table, illustrating the frequency of occurrences.

Table 1

NO	ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS	FREQUENCY
1	Apology	4
2	Thank	3
3	Condole	0
4	Congratulate	0
5	Complain	8
6	Lament	4
7	Protest	5
8	Deplore	6
9	Boast	3
10	Compliment	7
11	Praise	5
12	Greet	4
TOTAL		49

Discussion
Apology

The term "apologize" refers to an expressive illocutionary act in which speakers express their remorse, repentance, or sorrow for an error, transgression, or harm that was acted against the addressed individual. Speakers used this statement to express regret for their errors, beg forgiveness, and accept responsibility for their actions. An apology was a confession of contrition that expressed regret for offending or disappointing someone. The speaker attempted to make amends by expressing regret and offering an apology. Here is one of the expressive apologizing examples:

Data 1

CALUM: "I'm sorry about the hotel, Soph."

Calum's statement, "I'm sorry about the hotel, Soph," is an example of an expressive illocutionary act, specifically an apology. In speech act theory, expressive illocutionary acts are those where the speaker expresses a psychological state or emotion, such as regret, gratitude, or apology. By saying "I'm sorry," Calum acknowledges the problems they are having and then expresses regret and asks forgiveness towards Sophie that's related to the hotel because it was his responsibility, making it a clear example of an apology.

Compliment

A "compliment" is an expressive illocutionary act in which the speaker shows admiration or approval for the traits, deeds, or belongings of another person. A complement was meant to boost the recipient's reputation or sense of self-worth while also expressing good feelings. A compliment could be expressed verbally, physically, or through other means. These compliments were aimed at the qualities, actions, or possessions of the characters. One of the emotive compliments is the examples:

Data 2

CALUM : "That looks good on you"

Calum makes frank, complimentary remarks about Sophie's attractiveness, therefore this is a complement. This remark expresses respect for her appearance with the drink, in contrast to praise, which recognizes talent or ability.

Praise
The expressive illocutionary act of "praise" was an action in which the speaker articulated a favorable opinion, appreciation, or approval of a particular action, behavior, or situation; the purpose of praising was to express the speaker's feelings and position toward the situation, not to alter it; praise could be expressed verbally or in writing, and it was used to encourage people or recognize their accomplishments in a variety of ways; in general, praise was composed of affirmative statements expressing approval or admiration for people, things, or ideas; it could be expressed orally or in writing, and it was used to inspire people or recognize their accomplishments in a variety of contexts. Here is one of the dialogue examples:

Data 3
SOPHIE: "Ladies and gentlemen, my father, the marvelous, wondrous, one-armed, Calum Aaron Patterson.
In this moment, Sophie praises her father Calum with an elaborate introduction, referring to him as "marvelous" and "wondrous." Praise, in Searle's theory, is an expressive act where the speaker emphasizes admiration for someone's qualities, often celebrating them in a positive light. Here, Sophie's tone and choice of language elevate Calum's qualities in a lighthearted and affectionate way, demonstrating both pride in and playful admiration for her father. This act of praise strengthens their bond, showing Sophie's appreciation and respect for Calum, even as she humorously highlights his uniqueness

Thank
Expressing thanks served as the objective of thanking someone. Thanking was a type of expressive illocutionary act employed by speakers to convey appreciation from themselves to the recipient. Individuals commonly used these expressive verbal actions to express gratitude for a kind gesture or favor they had received. Here is an example of how thanking was expressed in the movie:

Data 4
SOPHIE: "Tesskur...edrim (-- Thank you)."
Sophie thanks the bartender in Turkish, reflecting her appreciation for his service. By using a language familiar to the listener, Sophie also connects with the local culture. In Searle's theory, thanking is an expressive act acknowledging a benefit or service received. Through this polite interaction, Sophie demonstrates social awareness and appreciation for others' efforts, fostering a positive social exchange. This gratitude aligns with her character's observant and thoughtful nature

Complain
The term "complain" denoted an expressive illocutionary act in which the speaker conveyed discontent or disgust with a particular facet of the circumstance or the surrounding environment. This expressive illocutionary act was intended to reflect the speaker's unfavorable feelings and views about a certain situation and was directed at people, groups, or institutions. People could protest or claim that something was inadequate to vent their annoyance or discomfort. Here is an example of an expressive complaint:

Data 5
SOPHIE: "What's your problem this morning?"
Sophie's question to Calum reflects frustration with his behavior, making her displeasure known. Complaints, as expressive acts, allow the speaker to express dissatisfaction or highlight something problematic. Here, Sophie's tone and question serve to initiate a discussion about his behavior, suggesting that she feels inconvenient or upset by his mood. This complaint provides her with an outlet to voice her discomfort and might lead to a deeper understanding of their perspectives

Greet
The expressive illocutionary act of "greet" was used to acknowledge the presence of other people, usually at the beginning of a discourse or encounter. Establishing or strengthening social ties and expressing good intentions toward the people being addressed were the goals of

greetings. When meeting or speaking to someone, greetings include polite or agreeable facial expressions and body language. Here is one of the expressive greeting examples:

Data 6

SOPHIE: "Good night." to the Receptionist

As Sophie departs, the receptionist formally greets her with "Good night," creating courteous social acknowledgement. In order to preserve social harmony, greetings are expressive actions that acknowledge someone's arrival or departure. According to Searle's thesis, welcome gestures frequently set the tone for subsequent interactions by opening or ending them in a cordial or kind manner. This brief greeting makes a good impression on Sophie and reinforces civility and respect throughout the exchange.

Protest

An expressive illocutionary act that conveyed disagreement, rejection, or disapproval of a certain circumstance, behavior, or policy was defined as "protest." Protests, like criticism and lamentation, presumed that the propositional context denoted an unpleasant situation. However, there were distinguishing features of protests. Protesting was an official way to voice disapproval and push for reform. Here is an example of an expressive protest:

Data 7

SOPHIE: "I told you I didn't want to play."

Explanation: Sophie's firm statement shows her resistance to Calum's encouragement to join the game, clearly establishing her boundaries. Protesting is an expressive act where the speaker resists or objects to an imposed activity or opinion. By repeating that she "didn't want to play," Sophie reaffirms her autonomy, asserting her right to make her own choices. This expressive act signals her reluctance and possible frustration with feeling pressured, inviting the listener to respect her wishes

Boast

The act of boasting involved displaying pride while assuming that the subject matter was advantageous to the speaker (and hence, would be admired or coveted by the audience). People could boast, for example, by claiming they had accomplished something noteworthy or experienced something amazing. However, boasting may also involve making up or embellishing things, and it was typically used to show off bragging in a subtle way when people were trying to hide it. The purpose of boasting was to terrify or amaze others, as well as to improve the speaker's reputation or sense of self-worth. Here is an example of expressive boasting:

Data 8

SOPHIE: "I hope you've been practicing, Michael."

By implying that Michael could require more preparation to match her, Sophie quietly brags about her abilities. Without saying it out loud, she positions herself as a worthy opponent and emphasizes her confidence in this lighthearted yet competitive comment. This conversation leads to her doing an illocutionary act of boasting.

Deplore

Deploring is an expressive act that conveys extreme displeasure, disappointment, or condemnation. When someone deplores something, they express remorse or disapproval for a specific event, action, or behavior that they consider disagreeable or morally wrong. This behavior is usually a reaction to something that the speaker considers to be harmful, unjust, or regrettable.

Data 9

BURNT SCOTTISH MAN: "That sulphur shit fucking reeks, man."

Using foul words to highlight his discomfort, the Scottish man expresses how much he dislikes the sulphur odor at the mud bath location. As an expressive act, deploring entails expressing a deep physical or moral dislike for something unpleasant. In order to convey how intolerable he feels the situation, the language used here emphasizes the depth of his revulsion. Listeners who share his sentiment may find resonance in this behavior, strengthening group identity through a shared repulsion.

Lament

Lamenting is an expressive act that conveys feelings of regret, sadness, disappointment, or grief. It frequently entails pondering on a sad or unfortunate experience, whether personal or seen. The speaker expresses these emotions to convey an emotional reaction to something they consider sad or painful, generally in a way that elicits empathy or understanding from the listener.

Data 10

SOPHIE: "Don't you ever feel just, like, I don't know. Like when you've been on a real high, like something's been amazing, and then you kind of crash. And feel like you're kind of…sinking or something like that."

Sophie captures a sense of loss or emptiness in this chat by expressing her emotional disappointment after a happy event. This reflective moment depicts lament as Sophie expresses regret or sadness without a clear explanation, verbalizing a decline in her feelings.

CONCLUSION

According to the preceding talks, "Aftersun" featured a variety of expressive illocutionary behaviors, including apologizing, thanking, criticizing, protesting, boasting, complementing, praising, regretting, deploring, and greeting. These activities were discovered and classified based on the vocal expressions and interactions between the characters. Complaint appeared as the most observed illocutionary behavior, appearing eight times throughout the movie, indicating situations where individuals voiced dissatisfaction or disgust with a specific aspect of the situation or the surrounding environment. In contrast, thanking and boasting were the least frequent, appearing only three times, conveying thanks from oneself to the recipient and displaying pride while assuming that the subject matter was beneficial to the speaker.

On the other hand, expressions of condolence and congratulations were noticeably lacking in the movie, most likely due to the narrative's emphasis on the intricacies and sometimes tense connection between the father and daughter bond. This omission highlighted the deliberate selection and portrayal of illocutionary behaviors that were consistent with the storyline and character interactions in "Aftersun". The article sought to provide a thorough examination of these expressive acts, providing useful insights into the various ways characters communicated and interacted within the movie's narrative structure. This study contributed to a better understanding of how illocutionary behaviors functioned in cinematic contexts, broadening our appreciation and gratitude for language and communication in movies.

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