

Expressive Speech Acts in Ellen Show “An Interview with Ed Sheeran”

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Abstract

This article performs the most dominant Expressive Speech Acts in Ellen Show entitled “An Interview with Ed Sheeran” by using Searle theory (1976). The data are the transcript of Ellen and Ed Sheeran interview taken from YouTube Channel “The Ellen DeGeneres Show.” In analyzing the data, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative. The researchers describe the types of expressive acts in which the data are taken from listening and reading the transcript of the interview. Then the writers identifying and analyzing the expressive acts were used in the interview. The last step is to analyze the data by applying the concept of John R. Searle. From all the data analysis taken from the transcript interview, the writers found the types of expressive acts like surprise, happiness, sadness, congratulation, and thank. Regarding the expressive acts found, the most used expressive speech acts is the surprise. This finding implies that Ellen gained new information that she has never known before from Ed.

Keywords: expressive speech acts, interview, speech acts

Introduction

This study explores the use of expressive speech acts in Ellen Show which was an interview with Ed Sheeran. Searle (1976) gives Apologizing, Congratulating, Surprising, Thanking, etc. as examples of Expressive speech acts. Discourse analysis is a study in linguistics of a text or a conversation. It does not study sentences, but the entire text or conversation. The text or conversation is known as discourse. On the other hand, expressive in speech acts also called evaluative speech acts. Expressive speech act includes speech to say thank you, congratulate, pardon, flatter, praise, blame, and criticize. For example, "good question once" (praise), "Because of your carelessness, our group was disqualified from the competition" (blame), "Congratulations, ma'am for your daughter's winning the competition!" (Congratulate). Expressive illocutionary tend to be fun (convivial). Therefore, intrinsically, this illocutionary polite, except for expressive illocutionary "blame." They relate each other as spoken and, written discourses always have connections between individual clauses and utterances. Specifically, discourse analysis is a general term for some approaches to analyze written, vocal, or sign language use, or any significant semiotic event. Although many approaches used in discourse analysis, view language as social interaction and are concerned with the social contexts.

The Ellen talk show is a very famous comedian show which invites the famous, talented even the political people. Ellen DeGeneres hit it big as a stand-up comedian before starring on her sitcom, Ellen. She invited Ed Sheeran in this certain episode as a guest. Ed, he began playing guitar at a young age and soon after started writing his songs, and the song Perfect with Beyonce was very phenomenal in this world. Having critically analyzed the dialogue given by Ellen and Ed Sheeran, writers apply the theory of Searle about expressive speech acts in discourse analysis. The writers collected the expressive they used in their conversation to be analyzed by using Searle's theory.

Therefore, the writers decided this research entitled “Expressive Speech Acts in Ellen Show “An Interview with Ed Sheeran.” Based on the background of the study above, the writers formulate the problem of this research as follows:

1. What is the most dominant expressive speech acts in the interview of Ellen and Ed in Ellen Show and what does it imply?

Theoretical Framework of the study

Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics learning verbal language via utterances to express something from the speaker to the hearer. The intended expressions can be the statement, acknowledge, request, command, suggest, ask, promise, offer, name, declare, etc. Speaker utters those expressions to the hearer to reach speaker’s meaning (Yule, 2008).

The writers also took some of the experts’ opinions about what pragmatics is. Based on the three definitions below, we can see that the context take a big part in learning Pragmatics because it is the study of language use. These are the followings: Pragmatics can be considered to be concerned with aspect of information (in the broadest sense) conveyed through language which are not encoded by generally accepted convention in the linguistic form used but which none the less arise naturally out of and depend on the meaning conventionally encoded in the linguistic form used, taken in conjunction with the context in the ways are used (emphasis added) (Cruse, 2000).

Pragmatics is the study of those relations between language and context that is grammaticalized or encoded in the structure of language. Pragmatic is the study of the relationship between language and meaning that are basic to an account of language understanding (Levinson, 1983). The studies of the condition of human language uses as these are determined by the context of society. Pragmatics is needed if we want a fuller, more in-depth and generally more reasonable account of human language behavior (Mey, 2001).

Speech Acts

In a conversation or dialogue, people use their utterances to express and communicate their feelings and minds to other people. Statements don’t contain grammatical structures and words, but they perform actions. Action execute via utterances are generally called speech acts, and, in English, are commonly given the more specific label, such as the apology, complaint, invitation, promise, or request (Yule, 2008). When conversing, people deliver their ideas intentions, feelings or emotions directly. These descriptive terms of different kinds of speech acts apply to the speakers’ communicative purpose in producing an utterance. The speaker expects typically that the hearer will recognize his/her intention.

When people produce utterances, unconsciously they have created three related acts deal with their statements. Three associated acts are locution, illocution, and perlocution (Austin, 1975). Locution is the basic act of utterance or producing a meaningful linguistic expression. **Illocution** is performed via communicative force of a declaration. It means that the declarations can be the statement, warning, request, command, suggest, etc. **Perlocution** is the recognition if the hearer, so after hearing the utterance, the hearer will do something. In other words, perlocution is the effect after the speaker utters the utterance to the hearer and then the hearer will recognize it by doing something soon. For example, when the expression is: “When will you graduate?” the three dimensions can be explained as follows:

- In its locution, the phrase is a question or interrogative sentence.
- By the expression, what the speaker means, that is, its illocution is might be one of the followings: Asking about the time of graduation, warning, suggesting, motivating, being angry, and showing boredom or even impatience.
- Hearing this expression, that is, its perlocution, the hearer, will do something which is either in line or not in line with what the speaker means. For example, the hearer (the student) will study harder to finish his study. Or another respond, perhaps, the hearer will be offended to what the speaker utters.

Types of Speech Acts

There are five types of speech acts, they are:

i. Assertive

They commit the speaker to something being the case. The different kinds are: suggesting, putting forward, swearing, boasting, and concluding. Example: "No one makes a better cake than me".

ii. Directive

They try to make the addressee act. The different kinds are: asking, ordering, requesting, inviting, advising, and begging. Example: "Could you close the window?".

iii. Commissive

They commit the speaker to doing something in the future. The different kinds are promising, planning, vowing, betting, opposing. Example: "I'm going to Paris tomorrow".

iv. Expressive

They express how the speaker feels about the situation. The different kinds are: thanking, apologizing, welcoming, deploring. Example: "I am sorry that I lied to you".

v. Declarative

They change the state of the world immediately. Examples: "You are fired, I swear, I beg you" (Searle, 1965).

Expressive Speech Acts

As what has been explained in the previous point, the expressive speech acts convey the speaker's attitude and psychological conditions like surprise, happiness, sorrow, anger, whose notions include blame, apologize, congratulate, and thanks (Searle, 1965). In expressive, there is no direction of fit. It means that when the people are uttering expressive, they are neither trying to get the world to match the words nor the words to match the world, rather the truth of the expressed proposition is presupposed. Emphasizing what has been stated previously, expressive includes surprise, happiness, sorrow, anger, which notions including blame, apologize, congratulate, and thanks (Searle, 1976). The writer will explain each expression as follows:

i. Surprise

A Surprise is an event, a piece of news, etc. that is unexpected or happen suddenly (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary). For example: "Oh my God! That house collapses!"

ii. Happiness

Happiness is the state of being happy (English Oxford Living Dictionary). For example: "Finally I got it!"

iii. Sadness or sorrow

Sadness means the condition or quality of being sad, while sorrow implies a feeling of deep distress caused by loss, disappointment, or other misfortune suffered by oneself or others (English Oxford Living Dictionary). For example: "Oh no! I got bad luck today!"

iv. Anger

Anger means a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility (English Oxford Living Dictionary). For example: "How dare you!"

v. Blame

Blame means to feel or declare that (someone or something) is responsible for a fault or wrong (English Oxford Living Dictionary). For example: "It was your entire fault!"

vi. Apologize

Apologize for means to express regret for something that one has done wrong (English Oxford Living Dictionary). For example: "I'm sorry for being late again, Sir!"

vii. Congratulate

Congratulate means to give (someone) one's good wishes when something special or pleasant has happened to them (English Oxford Living Dictionary). For example: "Congratulation for your graduation! I'm happy for you."

viii. Thank

Thank means to express gratitude to (someone), especially by saying 'Thank you' (English Oxford Living Dictionary). For example: "Thanks for your coming, Diana."

Discussion

The Introduction of Ellen Show

The Ellen DeGeneres Show, which is also well-known as The Ellen Show, is the top 20 most-favorite-and-subscribed talk shows in YouTube Channel. Like its name, The Ellen Show is hosted by an actress named Ellen DeGeneres. Moreover, Ellen show's guests are not only the famous people like artists, actors/actresses, young businessmen/women, but also ordinary people with an extraordinary power or talent.

Besides, the first debut of Ellen Show was released on 8 September 2003. Fifteen years passed and this talk show always attracts the audiences with enormous, amazing episodes. Till January 2018, The Ellen show has produced around 2,531 episodes with 15 seasons.

The show combines some aspects, such as comedy, musical guests, celebrities, and also human-interest issues, to be delivered to the audiences. Thus, Ellen started to invite some audiences' favorite artists, actors, musicians, and many more to be interviewed. This was one of the reasons why the Ellen Show got lots of awards, such as 59 awards of Daytime Emmy Awards in 2017 and it has also won four Outstanding Talk Show, six Outstanding Talk Show-Entertainment and also 17 People's Choice Awards.

The Introduction of Ed Sheeran

Edward Christopher Sheeran, MBE or mostly known as Ed Sheeran is a well-known English singer, songwriter, guitarist, actor, and also as a record producer. He was born on 17th February 1991 in Halifax, West Yorkshire and was raised in Framlingham, Suffolk. At the age of 20, he started creating and singing songs. He has produced 3 albums, namely + (read as "plus"), × (read as "multiply"), and ÷ (read as "divide"). Each of three albums has been the most favorite songs in this world, and because of these three albums, he achieved lots of awards, such as Ivor Novello Award, Brit Awards, 2013 Grammy Awards, two Grammy Awards in 2016: Song of the year and Best Pop Solo Performance.

All of his songs didn't give any disappointment to all his fans. Thus, he amazingly made some round-the-world tours. His first tour was done in 2011-2013 where he did for his very first album (+ album). It then followed by the second tour one year after the first one. He performed his second album (× album). Also, his last album (÷ album) is an on-going tour which takes place in 2017 and 2018. However, unfortunately, he had to cancel some of the trips due to his broken arms.

Dialogue for Analysis

On the first day of December 2017, Ellen DeGeneres interviewed with Ed Sheeran. In this dialogue, Ellen showed her disappointment when one of his songs "Shape of You" didn't nominate for album of the year or song of the year. The conversation continued to the issue about his broken arms, his girlfriend, and also his remix with Beyoncé.

[Note: E = EllenEd = Ed Sheeran]

E: I have to say congratulation. You were nominated for two Grammys. And...(Applause)

E: I also... I also have to say, I'm outraged that you are not be nominated for Album of the year or song of the year. That how "Shape" – I cannot believe that that was not nominated for song of the year. I mean...

Ed: I think – you know my outlook on it is, like some years you have your year, some years you don't have your year and maybe this year isn't my year.

E: Well, that song I mean... I mean it did not leave my head.

Ed: So, that's the point. That the way you win. That's where the validation comes from where you actually see people, genuine people enjoying the song and stuff like that...

(Applause)

E: Yeah...Yeah...

Ed: I'd rather have a lifetime of people coming up to me and saying that this song affecting me in this way, in a positive way, this song was my wedding song, and this was my first kiss song and things like that. I think that's where the validation comes from. But, thank you.

E: Well, you are a very well-adjusted person. So, in the "Perfect" song you just did. You said that it's your favorite song.

Ed: Yeah... Yeah, it is

E: Why is that?

Ed: Do you know what? It was the fastest song I've written and it just came out. And it was the first song of the album and I'm still not really sick of it. I'm still listening to it. And I like it. And we are putting out a remix of it with Beyoncé. It's just come out...

E: Oh really? Wow!

Ed: Which is exciting. Which is one of the things – I did it, and the song came out so long ago in the scheme of music now, music kind of goes so fast and I was like, "I want to do as a single". And then I thought of the way of re-launching it, and I was like, "Oh, I love Beyoncé." Shall I ask Beyoncé", and in my head,

I was like, “She’s gonna to say no.” And then I was like, “Well, you might as well ask.” And she said yeah. So, here we are.

E: Wow! That’s gonna be amazing. And is it about your girlfriend?

Ed: Yeah, it is. Yeah.

E: I’m so happy that you are happy. So, you’ve been with your girlfriend for how long now?

Ed: Almost three years.

E: That’s fantastic. I’m so happy for you.

Ed: Yeah, we went to high school together. She’s – I know. Yeah, she is really cool. We live together, we have cats. They are really cool. We just got Christmas tree, put that up.

E: How many cats do you have?

Ed: We’ve got two cats. But, both of them are really, really, really, strange creatures.

E: Why?

Ed: I don’t know. But, it’s kind like they don’t have any – they do have ribs but they kind of sit like humans. Like this, they will sit up like this. With their legs – it’s really strange. Like when you walk in and they look at you like that.

E: That’s really adorable. You need to – are you Instagramming them? Because that’s actually really funny...

Ed: Yeah...Yeah... I have, yeah...

E: They should have their own Instagram account.

Ed: Yeah... Yeah... They should.

E: What are their names?

Ed: Calippo and Dorito.

E: That’s why. You’ve named them –

Ed: Dorito’s got all little orange “Doritos”. Yeah...

E: Uh huh. Yeah...And the other one?

Ed: Oh, man. I don’t know... Well, Calippo in England is an ice cream. Like an iced, iced flavored thing

E: Yeah, Ice pop.

Ed: Yeah. So, yeah, thought I’d call her that.

E: Hey, tell me what happened to you. I saw pictures of you with broken arm and things. What happened?

Ed: I was cycling to the pub. It was my –

E: You were on your way to the pub?

Ed: Yeah... yeah...

E: Or on your way from the pub?

Ed: No, no. This is the weird thing, right.

Ed: I had two days off, I’d just shot the “Perfect” video, which I was skiing in. And I can’t ski, so if any time you’re gonna break your arms, like I assumed it was going to be then. I’d just shot that, and I had two days off in between tour. And I went home and stayed at my girlfriend’s parent’s house, and we both got our bicycles and cycled to the pub. And I was going down a hill and my brakes fell off. Like hit both arms about then was like, “It’s my only day off; I’m going to the pub”. So

(Audience Laughing)

Ed: So cycled to the pub, drank with all my mates, then cycled home. And then in the morning, I was just like in so much pain. Then I drove myself to the hospital. And then they were like, you can’t drive back and the only reason - and what had you done you broke your arm, you broke your wrist, this wrist, my elbow and my rib. Yeah...

E: Oh my god and you lasted night long at the pub without –

Ed: Well because I’m a quite clumsy person, so I kind of thought I was overreacting, I was kind of like oh the pain will go. And then it didn’t go. Yeah.

E: Oh, man, oh man. Well, I’m glad that you are Ok

Ed: Yeah, thank you

E: That’s horrible, that’s and were you wearing a helmet.

Ed: Yes.

(Laughing)

Ed: Do you know what? I’ll be wearing one from now on now, since I’m pressed.

E: You should wear a body suit, like what people wear when they practice dogs attacking them? You should try that.

Ed: It was weird, though, because I mean once the elbow kind of got movement, it was all right. But I couldn't cut my own food, wash, open doors. I was really, really dependent on Cherry for the whole things

E: For how long?

Ed: At least a month

E: Wow. And then – you couldn't play guitar, probably

Ed: No, I had to cancel some tour dates, which I've never done before which wasn't the best thing to do, but – I just finished up the Asia tour, though so I know I can play guitar. And obviously, I'm (Inaudible) today. So I'm good.

E: You are moving around OK.

Ed: Yeah.

General Analysis

The dialogue consists of fifteen (15) expressive speech acts, they are six (6) surprises, two (2) happiness, two (2) sad, 0 anger, 0 blame, 0 apologies, (3) congratulations, and two (2) thank. The total word numbers of this dialogue are 1091 words and the interview/dialogue was 5 minutes 35 seconds long.

Speech Acts Analysis

Expressive speech acts are categorized into eight; surprise, happiness, sorrow, anger, which notions including blame, apologize, congratulate, and thanks (Searle, 1976).

Table 1. Overview of Expressive Speech Acts (Searle, A Classification of Illocutionary Acts, 1976)

EXPRESSIVE SPEECH ACTS	EXAMPLE
Surprise	<i>Oh my God! That house collapses!</i>
Happiness	<i>Finally I got it!</i>
Sad/sorrow	<i>Oh no! I got bad luck today!</i>
Anger	<i>How dare you!</i>
Blame	<i>It was your entire fault!</i>
Apologize	<i>I'm sorry for being late again, Sir!</i>
Congratulate	<i>Congratulation for your graduation! I'm happy for you.</i>
Thanks	<i>Thanks for your coming, Diana.</i>

Table 2. Utterances and Types of Speech Acts in the Dialog

No.	Utterances	Uttered by	Types of Expressive Speech Acts
1.	I have to say congratulation	Ellen	Congratulate
2.	I'm outraged	Ellen	Surprise
3.	I cannot believe	Ellen	Surprise
4.	I think that's where the validation comes from	Ed Sheran	happiness
5.	thank you	Ed Sheran	thank
6.	And we are putting out a remix of it with Beyonce	Ed Sheran	happiness
7.	Wow!	Ellen	Surprise
8.	And she said yeah	Ed Sheran	surprise
9.	I'm so happy that you are happy	Ellen	congratulate
10.	I'm so happy for you	Ellen	congratulate
11.	That's why	Ellen	surprise
12.	you broke your wrist, this wrist, my elbow and my rib	Ed Sheran	sad
13.	Oh my God!	Ellen	surprise
14.	Yeah...	Ed Sheran	sad
15.	Yeah, thank you	Ed Sheran	thank
16.	Wow!	Ellen	surprise

TABLE 3. Expressive Speech Acts in the Dialog

No.	Types of Expressive Acts	Frequency	Percentages (%)
1.	Anger	0	0
2.	Apology	0	0
3.	Blame	0	0
4.	Congratulate	3	18.75
5.	Happiness	2	12.5
6.	Sad	2	12.5
7.	Surprise	7	43.75
8.	Thank	2	12.5
Total		16	100

From table 3, we can see that the most expressive speech acts are the surprise in the dialogue with a percentage of 46.67%. Congratulated ranks the second and then followed by happiness, sad and thank.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis above, we may conclude the kinds of expressive speech acts used in the dialogue of Ellen Show in which Ed Sheeran became the guest star. It can be classified as expressing apology, thanking, sympathy, congratulation, joy, sadness and surprise. The writers found seven (7) expressions of surprise, two (2) expressions of happiness, two (2) expressions of sadness, three (3) expression of congratulating, 2 expression of thanking, and none found in expressing anger, blame and apology in this 5 minutes and 35 seconds talk show with 5091 words. The writers found most of the surprise expressions in the utterances of the interviewer, Ellen. This expression implies that Ellen gained new information that she has never known before about the news and this is even supported by the intonation of Ellen when Ed is conveying the latest information as the answers of Ellen’s questions (Celle & Lansari, 2017).

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