

**EXPRESSIVE SPEECH ACTS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER USED IN
THE SERIES *NEVER HAVE I EVER* SEASON 1:
A PRAGMATICS ANALYSIS**



A THESIS

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University in
Partial Fulfilment for the Requirement to Obtain Bachelor's Degree
in English Department*

WRITTEN BY

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MAKASSAR
2024**



LEGITIMATION

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UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

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THE SERIES *NEVER HAVE I EVER* SEASON 1:
A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS**

BY

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Friday, 7 June 2024 and is declare to have fulfilled the requirements.

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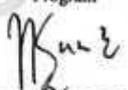

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AGREEMENT

On 7 June 2024, the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **Aurelia Sabrina Putri Purbaya** (F041201117) entitled *Expressive Speech Acts of The Main Character Used in The Series Never Have I Ever Season 1: A Pragmatic Approach* submitted in fulfilment of one of the requirements to obtain Bachelor Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotations and references.

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With reference to the letter of the Dean of Cultural Sciences No.1248/UN4.9.1/KEP/2023 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the thesis draft by **Aurelia Sabrina Putri Purbaya** (F041201117) to be examined at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

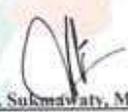
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The writer realizes that the writing of this thesis still has many shortcomings that still needs improvement. Therefore, the writer hopes for suggestions and criticism that will be able to improve the writing of this thesis. The writer hopes that this thesis can provide benefits for readers and all parties in need.

Makassar, 9 May 2024

Aurelia Sabrina Putri Purbaya



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ABSTRACT

AURELIA SABRINA PUTRI PURBAYA. *Expressive Speech Acts of The Main Character Used in The Series Never Have I Ever Season 1: A Pragmatics Analysis*. (Supervised By Karmila Mokoginta dan Sukmawaty)

The aims of the research are to (1) find the types of expressive speech acts used by the main character in the series *Never Have I Ever* season 1 and (2) explain the causes of the expressive speech acts happen in the series *Never Have I Ever* season 1. This research used a descriptive qualitative method to classify and analyze the data of utterances used by the main character, Devi Vishwakumar. The writer applied the nine categories of expressive speech acts which are apologizing, thanking, congratulating, condoling, deploring, or censoring, lamenting, welcoming, forgiving, and boasting. The results of this research show that 39 expressive speech acts data are used by the main character in series *Never Have I Ever* season 1. The types of the expressive speech acts in details are 9 expressive speech acts of apologizing, 9 expressive speech acts of thanking, 2 expressive speech acts of congratulating, 1 expressive speech acts of condoling, 7 expressive speech acts of deploring, 10 expressive speech acts of lamenting, none of expressive speech acts of welcoming, 1 expressive speech acts of forgiving, and 2 expressive speech acts of boasting. It appears that the main character uses expressive speech acts in the series *Never Have I Ever* season 1 because of two reasons. Firstly, Devi Vishwakumar has this limited patience that gets her into difficult situations, and she has an impeccable tendency to escape from her problems by suppressing her emotions all of the time. Secondly, Throughout the series, Devi is portrayed as a strong-willed and sometimes hot-headed character who often finds herself in awkward and humorous situations.

Key words: expressive; speech acts; *Never Have I Ever* series



ABSTRAK

AURELIA SABRINA PUTRI PURBAYA. *Expressive Speech Acts of The Main Character Used in The Series Never Have I Ever Season 1: A Pragmatics Analysis.* (dibimbing oleh Karmila Mokoginta dan Sukmawaty)

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk (1) menemukan jenis-jenis tindak tutur ekspresif yang digunakan oleh karakter utama dalam serial *Never Have I Ever* bagian 1 dan (2) menjelaskan penyebab terjadinya tindak tutur ekspresif dalam serial *Never Have I Ever* bagian 1. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif untuk mengklasifikasikan dan menganalisis data ujaran yang digunakan oleh karakter utama, Devi Vishwakumar. Penulis menggunakan sembilan kategori tindak tutur ekspresif yaitu meminta maaf, berterima kasih, mengucapkan selamat, berbelasungkawa, menyayangkan, atau menyesali, meratapi, menyambut, memaafkan, dan membanggakan. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 39 data tindak tutur ekspresif yang digunakan oleh karakter utama dalam serial *Never Have I Ever* bagian 1. Jenis-jenis tindak tutur ekspresif tersebut ditemukan secara rinci adalah 9 tindak tutur ekspresif meminta maaf, 9 tindak tutur ekspresif berterima kasih, 2 tindak tutur ekspresif mengucapkan selamat, 1 tindak tutur ekspresif berbelasungkawa, 7 tindak tutur ekspresif menyayangkan, 10 tindak tutur ekspresif meratapi, tidak ada tindak tutur ekspresif menyambut, 1 tindak tutur ekspresif memaafkan, dan 2 tindak tutur ekspresif menyombongkan. Tampaknya penyebab terjadinya karakter utama menggunakan tindak tutur ekspresif dalam serial *Never Have I Ever* bagian 1 karena dua alasan. Pertama, Devi Vishwakumar memiliki kesabaran yang terbatas yang membawanya ke dalam situasi yang sulit, dan ia memiliki kecenderungan yang sempurna untuk melarikan diri dari masalahnya dengan menekan emosinya sepanjang waktu. Kedua, Sepanjang serial ini, Devi digambarkan sebagai karakter yang berkemauan keras dan terkadang pemarah yang sering berada dalam situasi yang canggung dan lucu.

Kata kunci: ekspresif; tindak tutur; serial *Never Have I Ever*



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Communication plays a very important role for humans. Effective communication is the key to how a person can receive messages that are trying to be delivered to the recipient. Communication also functions as a basic human skill that allows a person to interact, share ideas, and express emotions to feed their social needs. A person's ability to understand and interpret language is the key to the success of human relations. To understand the spoken words of a speaker, namely with pragmatics. It is supported by Yule (2006), saying that pragmatics is a study of meaning that is conveyed by the speaker or writer and interpreted by the hearer or the reader. The way a person conveys their feelings using words is called an expressive speech act, where this speech act is spoken by a speaker when they feel emotions in their selves. The expressive speech act can be in the form of direct speech acts and can also be indirect but with the same purpose and intent. In order to avoid mistakes in receiving speech, listeners need to understand its meaning not only based on the words used but also consider the context in which the words are spoken. One aspect that makes language interesting through pragmatics is its ability to convey not just the literal meaning of words but also the speaker's intentions, assumptions, goals, and the types of actions they are implying or performing through speech. Studying pragmatics involves more than just understanding how

se language; it also considers the context. This field of study delves into



how the mind functions and facilitates communication, providing insights into human cognition.

To understand the meaning of an utterance said by a speaker, the listener must observe the action of the speaker saying the word. Austin (1962) categorized speech actions into three types: illocutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. A locutionary act involves stating something as it is (the act of saying something). An illocutionary act involves both stating and doing something (the act of doing something). A perlocutionary act involves affecting someone; it is often referred to as the act of influencing someone's feelings or thoughts. Searle (1979) further developed this theory, defining five groups of illocutionary speech acts: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

One of the classifications of speech acts is expressive speech acts. Someone expressing himself already happens in everyday life, it happens because they feel something and want to be expressed. Yule (1996), an expressive act is a type of speech act that communicates the speaker's emotions or feelings. With this, the writer wants to apply speech acts in verbal communication, such as in serials, so that readers can understand the use and function of expressive speech acts by using serials as objects to understand them.

In this research, the writer chose the series *Never Have I Ever* season 1, an American comedy-drama television series that aired on Netflix and was created by Mindy Kaling and Lang Fisher. The reason why the writer choose this series as a

object is because the main character of the series has this short fuse that into difficult situations, and she has an impeccable tendency to escape from



her problems by suppressing her emotions all of the time. Furthermore, the writer wants to know the types and reasons why the expressive speech acts occur in the series. It causes the writer choose to analyze the expressive speech acts of the main character in the series *Never Have I Ever* season 1. Thus, the research will focus on analyzing the types of expressive illocutionary acts used by the main character of the series *Never Have I Ever* season 1 by using Norrick theory (1978) and Ronan & Lausanne study (2015), apologizing, thanking, congratulating, condoling, deploring, or censoring, lamenting, welcoming, forgiving, and boasting.

B. Identification of the Problems

After a brief watch of the object to be studied, the writer identified several issues related to expressive speech acts, such as:

1. There are several different ways to convey expressive speech acts in the series, which can be used as the objects of the research;
2. The different cultural backgrounds can also cause a variety of people to express their feelings.

C. Scope of the Problems

This research focuses on the pattern of expressive speech acts that appear in the series, the types of expressive speech acts, and the reasons why the main character, Devi Vishwakumar and the background of the main character that causes the expressive speech acts of the series *Never Have I Ever* season 1.

D. Research Questions



According to the scope of the problem, the writer formulated the following that need to be resolved:

1. What are the types of expressive speech acts used by the main character in the series *Never Have I Ever* season 1?
2. What are the causes of the expressive speech acts in the series *Never Have I Ever* Season 1?

E. Objective of the Study

in this study, the writer found an objective which is arranged by the writer of this research as follows:

1. To identify the types of expressive speech acts used by the main character in *Never Have I Ever* Season 1.
2. To examine the causes of expressive speech acts used by the main character in *Never Have I Ever* Season 1.

F. Significance of the Research

The writer hopes that the research can be useful and contribute to both academic and practical realms. The benefits that are expected from this research are:

1. This research is expected to enrich the knowledge of discussion of expressive speech acts, which was linguistics, especially in pragmatics fields.
2. This research is expected to impact our skills, experiences, and perspectives, as well as the application of material science research, particularly in enhancing our understanding of expressive illocutionary acts.



his research expected could be a bibliographical resource for the next relevant type of research.

4. This research shows that expressive illocutionary acts are present not only in speech events but also in artwork.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Previous Studies

The writer found several studies related to expressive speech acts that fulfilled this research. The related studies that the writer will use as references are as follows:

1. Perdian Sapta Putra (2020), An Analysis of Expressive Speech Acts of the Main Character in the Film The Greatest Snowman.

This research is a study to describe the types of expressive speech acts used by the main character in the film The Greatest Snowman and the dominant expressive speech acts used by the main character in the movie. The researcher uses the theory from Cruses (2000:342). The data was collected by watching the movie and reading the script to get the utterance that shows expressive speech acts. In this research, the researcher has found 30 utterances of expressive speech acts, and the most used by the movie's main character is the expression of praise.

2. Lalu Banu Sirwan; Yuyun Yulia (2017), An Analysis of Expressive Speech Acts Used by Steve Rogers as the Main Character in Civil War Movie.

This study aims to describe the kinds of expressive speech acts used by Steve Rogers in the Civil War movie and the S-P-E-A-K-I-N-G model used by Steve Rogers in the movie. In this research, the researcher used the S-P-E- A-K-I-N-



odel in a cultural context because, in his interaction, he showed caring, pathy, and empathy to others. The researcher has found 45 utterances of

expressive speech acts, and the most used by Steve Rogers in the movies are expressive speech acts of attitude.

3. Pijar Omar Piscesco (2022), An Analysis of Expressive Illocutionary Acts Found in “Midsommar” Movie: Pragmatics Approach.

This study aims to discover the types of expressive speech acts and to define the function of expressive speech acts. In this research, the researcher uses the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985). The researcher is using a qualitative method. The researcher has found 53 total data in the Midsommar movie, separated into two objectives based on the research questions. For the first objective, 53 data were found in 12 types of expressive acts in the Midsommar movie. For the second objective, 30 data were found in five different functions of the expressive acts in the Midsommar movie.

4. Maria Devi Sidabutar (2020), An Analysis of Expressive Acts in “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon”: Pragmatics Approach.

The research aims to identify the types of expressive speech acts and describe the function based on the utterance in the talk show transcript. The research employs a qualitative method and analyzes the utterances descriptively. In this research, the researcher uses Searle's theory (1968). The researcher found 31 utterances of expressive speech acts that are categorized into six types, and the most used is expressive speech acts of expressing attitudes, with a notable focus on showing gratitude.



5. Royanti (2019), Expressive Speech Acts as Found on La La Land Movie.

The research aims to analyze the utterance of expressive speech acts in the movie La la Land and identify the types of expressive speech acts found in the movie La la Land. The researcher used a la land transcript to collect the data. The researcher uses a qualitative approach based on Searle's (1976) and Norrick's (1978) theories. The researcher found 35 utterances of expressive speech acts, and the most used are the expressive speech acts of apologies and welcoming.

Based on the previous study, the writer found the differences between the writer's research and the previous research, which is lie on the object of the study. All of the studies focus on the type of expressive speech acts that occur and are mostly used in the study, so that the writer not only focused on the types of expressive speech acts that appear in the series but also analysed the reasons of the utterances happened. Furthermore, there are many types of expressive speech acts. The theories that the writer chooses is the theory from Norrick's theory (1978) and Ronan & Lausanne's study (2015), which shows nine different kinds of expressive illocutionary acts; are apologizing, thanking, congratulating, condoling, deploring or censoring, lamenting, welcoming, forgiving, and boasting. The writer considers that the merging of these two theories is more complete.

B. Theoretical background

1. Pragmatics



Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics that studies how context influences interpretation. It focuses on how people use language in real

communication situations, considering factors such as the speaker's intentions, the context of the utterance, and the relationship between the speaker and the listener. Pragmatics examines the meaning of communication in the specific context in which it occurs. According to Leech (2008), understanding pragmatics requires considering the individuals involved and the conversation's timing, location, and subject matter. Yule (2012) similarly defines pragmatics as the study of how meaning is constructed between a speaker and a listener, considering both the words' literal meaning and the broader situational context. Context plays a crucial role in shaping language use and helps to clarify the intended meaning of spoken or written expressions.

The study of pragmatics looks at how listeners and speakers employ language to accomplish particular communication objectives. This involves being aware of the various ways that language can be used to request things, provide instructions, be courteous, and communicate feelings. Pragmatics also takes into account how social and cultural contexts affect how language is used and understood. Studying pragmatics offers insights into the complexities of human expression beyond mere literal interpretations. It also relates to how people navigate various circumstances and conditions. Notably, examining speech acts is a particularly valuable aspect of pragmatics.

Speech acts, or activities carried out by speech, are another crucial component of pragmatics. Making demands, issuing instructions, posing queries, to do something, and expressing feelings are examples of speech acts. The



circumstances in which a speech act is uttered and the speaker's intentions influence its meaning in addition to the words used.

Pragmatics also takes into account the ways in which language users negotiate face-saving and civility in conversation. Pragmatics aims to comprehend the ways in which language use is influenced by norms and expectations related to politeness that vary among cultures and social groupings.

2. Speech Acts

Speech act theory, developed by J.L. Austin and further expanded by John Searle, is a branch of pragmatics that explores how words are used to convey information and perform actions. The theory posits that when people speak, they are not just producing strings of words but are also performing acts, such as making requests, giving orders, or making promises.

Searle (1968) expanded on speech acts, emphasizing that they are a form of human communication expressed through utterances. These acts include making statements, giving commands, asking questions, requesting, congratulating, describing, etc. It is important to note that the content of the utterance may differ from the actual illocutionary act performed or the speaker's intended.

Austin (1962) argued that speech acts involve more than just saying something; they are actions performed through utterances. Uttering words entails performing an act in addition to conveying a message. There are three levels of

sociated with utterances. The first level is the locutionary act, which refers of saying something with meaning. The second level is the Illocutionary



act, which encompasses the actions performed through utterances, such as requesting, denying, or ordering. Lastly, the Perlocutionary act refers to the effect the utterance has on the hearer and their subsequent reaction.

3. Illocutionary Act

According to Searle's theory, Illocutionary acts can be classified into five categories: representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declaration. Representative acts involve utterances that describe a state of affairs and are connected to the truth or falsehood of facts. Examples of representative acts include assertions, drawing conclusions, and providing descriptions. The truth value of these utterances depends on the information conveyed by the speaker, which is generally known.

The illocutionary act of representation, also known as the assertive illocutionary act, is a speech act where the speaker asserts the truth or falsity of a proposition. In other words, the speaker aims to convey information or make a statement about the world. Examples of representative illocutionary acts include stating, claiming, describing, asserting, and informing.

The Illocutionary acts of directive acts are utterances aimed at getting the hearer to perform a specific action. They express the speaker's desires and can be seen as requests, commands, or advice, among other examples. On the other hand, commissive acts involve utterances by the speaker regarding their future actions.

These acts indicate the speaker's intention or commitment to perform a certain

d are often associated with creating obligations or responsibilities.



The illocutionary act of commissive involves committing the speaker to a future course of action. In other words, the speaker is expressing a commitment to perform a certain action in the future. Examples of commissive illocutionary acts include promising, vowing, offering, and volunteering.

The illocutionary acts of expressive acts revolve around the speaker's personal feelings and psychological attitudes towards a given state of affairs. They involve expressing emotions such as pleasure, pain, liking, disliking, joy, sorrow, and other related sentiments. Expressive acts include congratulating, apologizing, wishing, welcoming, thanking, and conveying various attitudes.

Lastly, the Illocutionary acts of declaration are utterances that change the state of affairs through the act of speaking. They have the power to alter the world based on the content of the utterance. Examples of declaration acts include resigning from a position, declaring war, or terminating someone's employment. In the research context, the focus lies on analyzing and describing expressive acts while examining the data from the series.

4. Expressive Speech Acts

Expressive speech involves expressing the speaker's attitudes, emotions, or opinions. These acts primarily focus on the speaker's internal state rather than external reality. This particular type of speech act commonly occurs in conversations between individuals. Expressive speech acts are characterized by the speaker's expressions that stem from their psychological state and are related to

g their emotions to the listener.



According to Norrick's theory (1978) and Ronan & Lausanne's study (2015), there are nine kinds of expressive illocutionary acts. These are:

1. Apologizing, the expressive speech act of apologizing involves expressing regret or remorse for an action or event, acknowledging responsibility, and seeking forgiveness. It is a way to show that the speaker acknowledges that they have caused harm, inconvenience, or offense to someone else. Apologizing can help to repair relationships and restore trust.

For example:

I'm sorry that I missed your birthday party yesterday.

2. Thanking, the expressive speech act of thanking involves expressing gratitude or appreciation for something that has been done or given. It is a way to acknowledge the kindness, help, or generosity of others. Thanking is a fundamental aspect of social interaction, as it helps to build and maintain positive relationships.

For Example:

Thank you for reminding me about the assignment.

3. Congratulating, the expressive speech act of congratulating involves expressing pleasure or joy for someone else's achievement or success. It is a way to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of others and to show support and encouragement. Congratulating is a common social gesture that helps to strengthen relationships and build rapport.



or example:

heers to you for a job well done!

4. Condoling, the expressive speech act of condoling involves expressing sympathy, compassion, and sorrow for someone experiencing grief or loss. It is a way to offer comfort and support to the bereaved and show that you share their pain. Condoling is a gesture of empathy and solidarity during difficult times.

For example:

I'm sorry for your loss.

5. Deploring or censoring, the expressive speech act of deploring involves expressing strong disapproval, regret, or sadness about a situation or event. It is a way to express sorrow or disappointment about something considered wrong, unfortunate, or unacceptable. Deploring is a way to show moral concern and to signal that the speaker is deeply troubled by the situation.

For example:

Moreover, there is an actual terrorist, a killer out there.

6. Lamenting, the expressive speech act of lamenting involves expressing sorrow, grief, or regret, often in a vocal or public manner. It is a way to mourn a loss, express sadness or disappointment, or convey a sense of injustice or unfairness. Lamenting is a deeply emotional act that can serve as a form of catharsis and a way to process and cope with difficult emotions.

For example:

We pray to Allah all victims will be granted shahada, will be granted innah.



C. Conceptual Framework

