

ANALYZING EXPRESSIVE SPEECH ACTS IN THE LATE LATE SHOW WITH JAMES CORDEN

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Abstract

The Late Late program with James Corden, a prominent late-night talk program, is a great resource for studying expressive speech acts. This study aims to analyze the types of expressive speech acts performed by James Corden in The Late Late Show with James Corden. In this study, the researchers used a qualitative descriptive research method using the Searle and Vanderveken (1985) theory to analyze a total of 32 utterances from the last episode of the show, which are included in the types of expressive speech acts, such as 1 data of Apologize, 4 data of Thank, 1 data of Condole, 3 data of Complain, 4 data of Lament, 5 data of Protest, 1 data of Deplore, 1 data of Boast, 5 data of Compliment, 4 data of Welcome and 3 data of Greet. The results show that, James Corden uses various expressive speech acts to interact with the audience and guests, so as to create a lively and fun atmosphere. The findings contribute to the understanding of expressive speech acts in the context of talk shows and show the importance of language in shaping social interactions and relationships.

Keywords: *Expressive, James Corden, Speech Acts, Searle & Vanderveken (1985)*

Introduction

Language is a sophisticated and dynamic system of communication that enables humans to express their thoughts, feelings, and information. It is made up of grammatically controlled, structured sounds, gestures, and symbols that allow people to comprehend and be understood in their social and cultural situations. In addition to helping with fundamental communication, language is essential for forming identity, social interaction, and human cognition (Adawiah et al., 2023).

Within the larger context of language, speech actions are a key idea that emphasizes the performative nature of linguistic articulation (Hilmiyah & Rauf, 2018). Speech act theory, first by J.L. Austin and later expanded by John Searle, holds that

when people speak, they are doing actions as well as transmitting information. Speech acts can be divided into three distinct classifications: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary (Searle, 1969). These classifications aid in breaking down the roles that language plays in various contexts and provide a framework for comprehending the performative aspect of communication (Siemund, 2018).

Locutionary acts include the act of saying something with a particular meaning, whereas illocutionary acts relate to the deliberate behind the articulation (Harris et al., 2018). Perlocutionary acts, on the other hand, concern the impact the utterance has on the listener (Austin, 1962). By analyzing these measurements, analysts can reveal the understood eagerly and social capacities inserted in speech (Senft, 2014). This expository approach uncovers how language works as a instrument for accomplishing different communicative objectives, from impacting others to communicating feelings (Mahowald et al., 2024).

The Late Late Show with James Corden, a prominent late-night talk program, is a great resource for studying expressive speech acts. This show, known for its funny and often poignant encounters, features multiple examples of hosts and guests engaging in expressive speech. Corden's engaging hosting style, paired with the show's laid-back ambiance, fosters spontaneous and real discussions, making it a great subject for speech act study.

James Corden, an excellent actor, writer, and comedian, has made a huge impact on the entertainment business. His career began on British television, with roles in sitcoms such as "Gavin & Stacey," which he co-wrote and starred in. Corden's success in the UK laid the groundwork for his move to American television, where he took over *The Late Late Show* in 2015. His distinct blend of comedy, musical talent, and accessible personality has earned him global praise and a devoted fan following.

Since taking over as host of *The Late Late Show*, Corden has launched several unique segments, including "Carpool Karaoke" and "Drop the Mic," both of which have gone viral. These segments not only demonstrate Corden's ability as a performer, but also allow for actual connection between him and his guests. The show's format and Corden's approach create a setting in which expressive speech behaviors are naturally prompted, providing ample material for analysis.

There are several previous studies that are related to analysis of speech acts, and the researchers tried to compare the similarities and differences each of them.

First, (Sidabutar, 2020) wrote a study entitled "An Analysis of Expressive Acts in 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon': Pragmatic Approach". The similarities in the first previous study is both analyzing expressive speech acts on a talk show, which distinguishes the research conducted by researchers are the aim and object of the study. This study aims to determine the types of expressive acts and describe the functions of expressive acts through utterances spoken by the speaker, Jimmy Fallon, in the transcript of a talk show entitled The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. In addition, the theory used is also different.

Second research has been investigated by (Sembiring & Ambalegin, 2022) entitled "Directive Illocutionary Acts of James Corden's Utterances 'The Host'". In the second research, the similarity is in the data source where the previous study also used The Late Late Show with James Corden as the data source, what distinguishes it is the selected episode and the theory used. The most striking difference in the second previous study, is the analysis conducted where the previous study analyzed The Late Late Show with James Corden to find directive speech acts using the theory of Searle & Vanderveken (1985). Therefore, the research conducted by the researcher is more detailed on different types of speech acts, namely expressive speech acts.

Last research conducted by (Marheni et al., 2022) entitled "An Analysis of Language Style Used in The Late-Late Show with James Corden". The similarity is that both analyzed the show hosted by James Corden, The Late Late Show. The differences are from the theory, aim and object of the study. The theories used in this research are Joos (1967) and Holmes (2013), and the purpose of this research is to identify and describe the types of language style and also the social context in the selected videos using qualitative methods.

In this study, the researchers discovered different thing among all of the previous studies above. This research intends to analyze the types of expressive speech acts performed by James Corden in The Late Late Show with James Corden. The show was taken on April 28th, 2023 aired in YouTube channel. The guests were Harry Styles and Will Farrell which duration time was 39 minutes and 58 seconds.

Method

This research uses a qualitative descriptive research design. Descriptive research is a type of research that seeks to find new meaning by documenting the existence of something and drawing features from a particular situation, individual, group, or society. Something denotes things, events, or traits (Dulock, 1993). Qualitative research tries to explain the human phenomenon by seeing what happens in its natural environment.

This method employs a wide range of empirical sources, such as case studies, life stories, personal experiences, historical, introspective, interactional, and visual text to explain human problems. The researchers use descriptive qualitative since expressive speech is used as data in this research (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). The researchers use descriptive qualitative because this research employs the expressive speech acts as the data. Expressive speech act includes sentence, clause, phrase, and word uttered by the host. This research examines the types of expressive speech acts performed by James Corden, the host of The Late Late Show with James Corden, in a video entitled The Final Episode-Full, which aired on the official YouTube channel of The Late Late Show with James Corden.

Theory used in this research is theory by Searle & Vanderveken (1985). Searle & Vanderveken (1985) classified that there are 12 types of expressive speech acts, there are apologize, thank, condole, congratulate, complain, lament, protest, deplore, boast, compliment, welcome, and greet.

Results

Based on the analysis, the researchers discovered 25 types of expressive speech acts shown in table 1. There are 32 total data of James Corden utterances, such as 1 data of Apologize, 4 data of Thank, 1 data of Condole, 3 data of Complain, 4 data of Lament, 5 data of Protest, 1 data of Deplore, 1 data of Boast, 5 data of Compliment, 4 data of Welcome and 3 data of Greet.

Table 1. Result of Expressive Speech Act Types

No.	Type	Frequency
1.	Apologize	1

2.	Thank	4
3.	Condole	1
4.	Congratulate	-
5.	Complain	3
6.	Lament	4
7.	Protest	5
8.	Deplore	1
9.	Boast	1
10.	Compliment	5
11.	Welcome	4
12.	Greet	3
Total		32

Data 1 (Apologize)

James : "Sorry!!"

In the final episode there is only one sentence of apology where the speaker utters an apology that shows a expressive action. James Corden expressed responsibility and regret and apologized to the audience.

Data 2 (Thank)

James : "Thank you everyone for coming tonight..."

James : "Thank you so much..."

James : "Thank you for listening to me, thank you for being here..."

James : "Thank you harry..."

In the program the late-late show, the final episode The speaker produces an expression of gratitude, the speaker's speech shows a expressive action. In this section, James Corden expressed his gratitude and showed his appreciation to the audience, guests, and co-hosts for their presence and participation.

Data 3 (Condole)

James : "a truck overturned, but don't worry no injuries were reported but the road will be unusable for 24 hours"

In the late-late show program, the last episode, the speaker expressed his condolences for the overturned truck, where the speaker's speech showed a expressive action. The speaker's statement is classified as expressive because the speaker's goal to the listeners is to convey or inform that there is a truck that has overturned on the road so that the road cannot operate for 24 hours.

Data 4 (Congratulate)

In the late-late show program, the last episode, the speaker never said a congratulatory sentence so it can be said that it was not expressive.

Data 5 (Complain)

James : "What happened i can't log in?"

James : "Okay i can do it just tell me what the password is ..."

James : "I've struggled at times, I've struggled to find the words to sum up what this past eight years has meant to me ..."

In the late-late show program, the last episode, the speaker complained because the door could not be opened so he was late to open the event, James expressed dissatisfaction and frustration, often in a humorous tone, to engage with his audience and create a lighthearted atmosphere. The speaker's statement is classified as complain which is one of the expressive types.

Data 6 (Lament)

James : "Oh my God"

James : "God I can't believe this is okay"

James : "There is still a show"

James : "I'm gonna miss every single one of you so much"

In the late-late show program, the last episode, Often James Corden expresses sadness, disappointment or regret in a humorous or ironic way, in order to stay connected with his audience and create a sense of shared experience. The speaker's statement is classified as Lament.

Data 7 (Protest)

James : "Why is the door locked!!"

James : "No it's not"

James : "Did you just make up the numbers"

James : "I won't do it"

James : "I'm not doing this, it's ridiculous, there's no point doing any of that."

The speaker uses the above utterance because he is protesting his listeners. In this utterance, he wants his listeners to do what he asks. However, James Corden expresses disagreement, objection, or disapproval, often in a humorous or ironic tone, in order to balance the interaction with his audience.

Data 8 (Deplore)

James : "Thank you i don't need anyone to tell me that there is no one more than me".

In the final program of the event, the last episode, the speaker uttered a sentence that was regrettable to hear but it was just a joke to connect with his audience and create a sense of shared experience, the speaker's utterance showed regrettable actions and was a deplore sentence.

Data 9 (Boast)

James : "For me here personally there are no two people i would rather be sitting here the last time i ever did this than you guys"

The speaker's speech is classified as an expressive speech of boast because James Corden utters sentences that express pride or confidence. But still with a humorous or ironic tone in order to create a pleasant interaction.

Data 10 (Compliment)

James : "You are so sweet to come to our studio"

James : "It was amazing"

James : "Harry your show was amazing"

James : "You've been a safe space for me always as a friend, and I'm selfishly very excited that you're coming home"

James : "You've been a safe space for me always as a friend, and I'm selfishly very excited that you're coming home"

The speaker's utterance is classified as a compliment expressive type because James reacts by praising the speaker's request. In addition, James Corden expresses

praise or admiration, often to his guests or co-hosts, to create a sense of appreciation and respect.

Data 11 (Welcome)

James : "Welcome everybody in the late-late show"

James : "Please welcome Mr. Will Ferrel to this show"

James : "Welcome to this show, Mr. Harry Styles"

James : "Welcome back now, it's been such an emotional time, an emotional time having this show come to an end..."

In this speech, it can be seen that the speaker welcomes the listener. The speaker's speech is classified as one of the expressive types because it aims to welcome the listener when they first meet. By way of expressing friendliness and cordiality, often to their guests or listeners, to create a sense of inclusiveness and warmth.

Data 12 (Greet)

James : "Hi everybody, hi mate!"

James : "Hello, my mother and father are here"

James : "Are you okay mom and dad!!!"

In this speech, it can be seen that the speaker is greeting the listener. The speaker's speech is classified as one of the expressive types, namely greet. This type of speech act helps build rapport with the audience and creates a sense of community. James Corden expresses a friendly or informal greeting, often to his guests or audience, to create a sense of familiarity and rapport.

Discussion

This study shows that James Corden consistently uses expressive speech acts on *The Late Late Show* to build strong relationships with viewers and guests. The analysis shows that among the 32 recorded utterances, there are a variety of expressive speech acts such as thank you, apology, protest, and compliment. This shows that Corden not only acts as a host, but also as a facilitator of communication, thus creating a dynamic and memorable interaction. The use of these speech acts effectively supports the purpose of the event to entertain as well as build intimacy between the organizers, guests, and audience.

The type of speech act that Corden used most often in the last episode was “thank you” or saying thank you, four times. This expression of gratitude shows Corden's gratitude to the guests and audience for attending the show. This highlights the important role of *thank you* in strengthening social and emotional connections between the show's participants. In addition, other expressive speech acts such as protest and lament are also often used to convey feelings of frustration or regret, but still in a relaxed and humorous way to keep the atmosphere at the event.

The element of humor in Corden's expressive speech acts is also very important. James revealed various expressions such as complaining, lamenting, protesting, and boasting in a humorous form several times during the show. For example, when Corden complains about the door being locked or expresses his regret at the end of the show, he does so in a light and humorous tone. This not only makes the audience laugh, but also allows Corden to express his personal feelings in a way that the audience can understand or accept. Humor plays an important role in these expressive speech acts to maintain the balance between conveying true emotions and maintaining the fun atmosphere expected from the show.

Interestingly, there were no congratulations in this final episode. The lack of congratulations may reflect the emotional focus of the show, which was more about closure and farewell than celebration. Instead, speech act types such as lament and protest were more prominent and reflected Corden's feelings of sadness and disapproval at the end of the show. This shows how the context of the event and the emotional moment influence the choice of speech acts used.

Corden's use of expressive speech acts also serves to create an atmosphere of engagement and togetherness among the audience in the show. For example, the expressions welcome and greet are often used as a sign of Corden's intention to welcome and treat guests and audience members as part of the show's community. In this case, it can be seen that speech acts can not only be used to build social relationships, but can also strategically create an inclusive environment.

Overall, this research confirms that expressive speech acts play an important role in shaping the dynamics of communication in talk shows. James Corden uses a variety of expressive speech acts to create a warm, humorous and friendly atmosphere

in *The Late Late Show With James Corden*. These results demonstrate the role of language and communication in building and maintaining social relationships in a media context, and how elements of humor and emotion can be effectively incorporated into everyday interactions.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the talk show, the researcher only found 11 types of expressive speech acts with a total of 32 utterances in the event because James Corden did not utter sentences that showed congratulations.. Those are 1 of Apologize, 4 of Thank, 1 of Condole, 3 of Complain, 4 of Lament, 5 of Protest, 1 of Deplore, 1 of Boast, 5 of Compliment, 4 of Welcome and 3 of Greet.

This research contributes to the understanding of expressive speech acts in the context of talk shows, especially *The Late Late Show with James Corden*. The results show that James Corden uses various expressive speech acts to interact with the audience, guests, and presenters. This is very important in creating a festive and fun atmosphere for the continuity of an event.

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