

Illocutionary Speech Acts of Cristiano Ronaldo and Their Influence on His Personality in Football

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Abstract. The purpose of this research is to examine Cristiano Ronaldo's illocutionary speech acts and how they affect his personality in the context of football. The study uses a descriptive qualitative methodology to analyze transcripts of ten interviews and podcasts covering Ronaldo's career, from his early days at Manchester United to his most recent appearances. The analysis employs [Searle's \(1969\)](#) classification of illocutionary acts—representatives, directives, commissives, declarative, and expressive—alongside [Sperber and Wilson's \(1996\)](#) Relevance Theory and [McCrae's \(1999\)](#) Five-Factor Personality Model. The results show that Cristiano Ronaldo used 242 illocutionary speech acts, with 104 representative speech acts accounting for 43% of the total. These acts expressed declarative statements about his abilities and self-confidence, followed by 55 expressives (23%), 40 commissives (16%), 36 directives (15%), and 7 declaratives (3%). These patterns reflect key personality traits: high Openness (articulating beliefs candidly), Conscientiousness (goal-oriented commitments), extraversion (emotional engagement with audiences), moderate Agreeableness (collaborative directives), and low Neuroticism (stable emotional expressions). The study concludes that Cristiano Ronaldo's strategic use of speech acts not only shapes his public persona as a disciplined and inspirational figure but also corresponds to the psychological characteristics that support his professional success and cultural influence. This integration of pragmatic and psycholinguistic frameworks provides new insights into how linguistic behaviour reflects and reinforces personality in high-stakes situations.

Keywords: Cristiano Ronaldo; interviews; illocutionary acts; personality traits; psycho-pragmatics

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INTRODUCTION

Communication is one of the most powerful tools used by humans in their lives, both in conveying ideas, sharing information, and establishing social relationships. One of the fundamental aspects of communication is language, which is an important element in the structure of human culture. Language is not only a means of communication but also one of the seven most important elements of culture. The seven elements of culture include language, knowledge system, social organization, equipment and technology system, livelihood and economic system, religious system, and art ([Adib et al., 2022](#)).

In this context, language occupies the first position in the hierarchy of cultural elements because it has a very significant role in the formation and development of other elements. For example, the knowledge system requires language to explain, document and disseminate various scientific findings and new understandings. Similarly, in social organization, language becomes the main tool for building rules, values and norms that form the basis of interaction between individuals and groups in society.

Language functions not only as a tool but also as a mirror of culture itself. According to [Devianty \(2017\)](#), language reflects the values, worldview, and identity of a society. Language keeps traces of history, traditions, and social changes that occur in a culture. Therefore, understanding language means understanding the culture behind it. Language is not only a means of communication but also a window into the beliefs and customs of a community. By learning a language, one can gain insight into a tapestry rich in cultural heritage and evolution. In essence, language is a key aspect of cultural identity and plays an important role in shaping one's perspective on the world around them. Through language, traditions are passed on, stories are shared, and relationships between generations are built.

Language, which is the main thing in culture, cannot be separated from being studied. There are many discussions about language in education, one of which is pragmatics. Pragmatics studies how other things can affect a person's language. In pragmatics, the most common discussion is about the actions of structuralists who strip sentences of their contextual nature because they are used in communication ([Purwo, 1990: 16](#)). The object studied in pragmatics is speech. Humans communicate through an utterance that has a purpose that produces a speech act product .

Speech acts are one of the topics in pragmatics. Speech acts are speech activities produced as part of social interaction in which speech acts mean a linguistic appearance in pragmatics studies focused on the meaning of speech ([Ramanda, 2017](#)). Speech acts can also look at a person's character when examined in depth, such as what speech acts are often used by that person. As once expressed by Frank Outlaw, "Watch your thoughts, for they become words, watch your words, for they become actions, watch your actions, for they become habits, watch your habits, for they become character, watch your character, for it becomes your destiny, what we think we become" ([Razzetti, 2019](#)). Therefore, if one of the speech acts is used on a large scale, it will make a character in that person.

Even Cristiano Ronaldo's figure must have a speech act pattern that he often uses in interviews and podcasts. Cristiano Ronaldo is known as a figure who inspires

football fans, both football lovers and younger generation players. Portugal-born Cristiano Ronaldo made football the foundation of his life. He was born into the lower class. Even Cristiano Ronaldo was once a sweeper- sweeper at the McDonald's Restaurant in Portugal.

However, his dedication and hard work made Cristiano Ronaldo an extraordinary figure in his football career during his career. He has won many prestigious achievements, both individually and as a team. In fact, in his career, he has recorded 910 goals and is recorded as the player with the most goals of all time. Cristiano Ronaldo also has diverse language skills, reported by the Okebola website, that Cristiano Ronaldo has mastered English, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian (Yusuf, 2023).

There have been many previous studies on Cristiano Ronaldo. Ayodeji and Abiodun (2024) examined how Cristiano Ronaldo dealt with rivalry with Lionel Messi in the world football scene. This study reveals the stability of performance between Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi for 15 years. Some examine the influence of Cristiano Ronaldo when he moved to the Saudi Arabian League, namely the Saudi Pro League (Schreyer & Singleton, 2024). This study discusses the influence of Cristiano Ronaldo in increasing the attractiveness of football in Saudi Arabia when he moved to the Al-Nassr football club.

Meanwhile, researchers from Indonesia, Gunawan and Susilo (2021), discuss the impact of Cristiano Ronaldo on Shopee marketing since Cristiano Ronaldo became Shopee's brand ambassador. In addition to the impact, this study looks at the influence of Cristiano Ronaldo on Shopee on world marketing. As for Cristiano Ronaldo's research in the field of language, Amenorvi (2019) examines how the debate among football fans about who is the best between Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. This research focuses on the use of Figurative Language. Figurative language is used in this research to reveal the emotional and literal language football fans use. There is research on Cristiano Ronaldo, the material of which is pragmatics, namely research on Cristiano Ronaldo's speech. This research focuses on how Cristiano Ronaldo used Interpersonal meaning in his speech when winning the Golden Ball Ballon D'or. There are 3 interpersonal moods used, namely declarative, imperative, and interrogative (Efendi et al., 2022).

From the previous studies above, there are things that have not been explored from Cristiano Ronaldo, namely speech act research. There are three kinds of speech acts, namely locutinary speech acts, illocutionary speech acts, and perlocutionary speech acts. Through illocutionary speech acts, one can reveal communication patterns that reflect traits and personality. In Cristiano Ronaldo, his motivational, optimistic, and self-assured communication patterns not only build his public image but also contribute to his career in football. This study aims to reveal how Ronaldo's illocutionary speech shapes his character and inspires the younger generation. According to Vara Saripalli, Psy.D. (Gillette, 2022), personality is unique patterns of behaviour, preferences and reactions, influenced by both innate (temperament) and environmental factors. Personality shows how a person expresses their character; for example, the character of caring for social justice may be expressed differently by introverts and extroverts.

Several theories are needed to support this research. The writers here need theories related to psycho-pragmatics. The following are details of the theories that will be used in the research:

Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that is developed in the 20th century. This is based on linguists focusing on the field of pragmatics mostly in the 20th century. such as J.L. Austin in 1911-1960 (Longworth, 2021). Pragmatics emphasises on how context affects the meaning of language. Scholars who have discussed pragmatics as a science are Charles Morris followed by J.L. Austin to H.P. Grice who pioneered the development of the basics of pragmatics. Morris (1938) divided semiotics into three parts, namely syntax, semantics, pragmatics, where pragmatics is focused on the relationship between signs and sign users.

The scope of pragmatics in the study of meaning involves the context of language users in social interaction. Aspects discussed in pragmatics include implicature, presupposition, deixis, and speech acts (Yule, 1996). These aspects of pragmatics focus on the speaker's intention, the listener's interpretation, and the way context affects the understanding of an utterance.

Speech acts were developed by J.L. Austin (1962) and continued by John Searle (1969). Speech acts are a very important sub-field of pragmatics. This concept states that language does not only say something but does something as well, such as giving orders, promising, asking, feeling, and others to the listener and the speaker himself.

Speech Acts

As explained earlier, the speech act is part of pragmatics. Speech act is a science that studies how speakers and listeners use language (Widodo, 2023). This means that there is action in the communication process and that it has its meaning. It should be noted that communication is not only about the use of language but also about action. So, a speech act is an utterance which refers to an action. Through speech acts, one can show an action even through words. There are several types of speech acts depending on the condition and meaning. Leech (1983) says that there are three types of speech acts, namely locution, illocution, and perlocution.

Locution is a speech act that refers to the general action of an utterance or speech, better known as linguistic meaning (Yule, 1996). Locution focuses more on words, phrases, clauses, or sentences that depend on grammatical rules and meaning. Illocution is the deep meaning of an utterance as a reflection of the act of locution (Austin, 1962). Illocution also focuses on what the speaker does with his words. Meanwhile, perlocution is a speech act that refers to the effect produced by the speaker on the listener or the listener's reaction to the speaker's speech (Austin, 1962).

Searle (1969) says that illocutionary speech acts are categorized into five parts, namely representatives, directives, commissives, relatives, and expressive. Searle explains the purpose of each illocutionary speech act:

- a. Representatives are illocutionary act that influence the speaker to believe something, true or not true.

- b. Directives are illocutionary act in which the speaker influences the listener to do something.
- c. Commissives are illocutions that influence the speaker to do something in the future (promise or commitment).
- d. Declaratives are illocutionary act that change an order both world and social.
- e. Expressives are illocutions which describe the feelings or state of the speaker's heart (Yule, 1996).

Psycho-Pragmatics

To illustrate this approach, there are two disciplines: Psycholinguistics and Pragmatics. Psycholinguistics is the study of language that focuses on conveying and understanding messages. Psycholinguistics also examines how language relates to the psychology of processing, thinking, and acquiring in language (Chiad & Alyan, 2021). Meanwhile, pragmatics is a language study that focuses on the use of context in language. It can be seen that psycho- pragmatics is a combined field of study that looks at the relationship between language use and the mind. Dascal (1983) said that the term 'psycho-linguistics' was first mentioned in his lectures in Tel Aviv, which related to the use of language with the mental.

Speech Acts in Psycholinguistics

In analyzing a person's personality through Speech Acts, other theoretical approaches are needed in order to find the perfect conclusion. This research takes the Relevance approach offered by Sperber and Wilson (1996) in their book 'Relevance: Communication and Cognition'. The traditional Speech Acts study is criticized in the book, as it is too narrow in its view that language use is only a means of communication (Sperber, 1996). Although it is said that Speech Acts are an important element in pragmatics linguistically, they cannot explain complex variations in communication, such as studying the character of a person's personality fund through speech acts. To understand personality through the speaker's speech acts, a relevance approach is needed that focuses on relevance inference based on context (Sperber, 1996). The use of the relevance approach also makes the research more flexible.

According to Sperber (1996), to analyze Speech Acts in domains outside linguistics, especially psycholinguistics, an inference process based on context can be carried out (Sperber, 1996). In addition, there must be a basic principle that Sperber (1996) offers, namely Cognitive Effectiveness. The following are details of the relevance theory used in this research:

- a. The Cognitive Effectiveness is a person's decision to process existing information and then make it into new information.
- b. The Inference process is a process of inferring the speaker's intentions, mindset, assumptions, interest in certain aspects.
- c. The focussed context is a person's psychological context in understanding an utterance that can provide insight into experiences, beliefs, and emotions through the speaker's utterance.

To infer the Personality of Speech Acts through the Relevance approach, there are several appropriate characters and personalities, namely:

- a. Openness : A person has an open character towards new things
- b. Conscientiousness : A person has a disciplined, ambitious, reliable, and organised nature, and responsibility.
- c. Extraversion : A person who has a high social spirit and has the pleasure of interacting with others.
- d. Agreeableness : A person who is kind, empathetic, and easy to work with.
- e. Neuroticism : A person's emotional stability is either anxious, temperamental, and depressed (high) or calm, optimistic, and good vibes (low).

Examples:

- a. Someone with a neurotic personality will use expressive speech acts more often to reflect emotional stability.
- b. Someone with a high Agreeableness personality will use more directive speech acts that reinforce their interpersonal behaviour.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. This approach is very suitable to discuss the deep meaning of a speech act, especially Cristiano Ronaldo. Actually, there are 3 research designs. As [Cresswell \(2017\)](#) has said, there are qualitative, quantitative, and mixed qualitative and quantitative research designs. This research is qualitative because qualitative is a process of studying the understanding of a human social problem based on the complex and holistic construction of a picture formulated in words, containing detailed informant views and conducted in a natural setting ([Cresswell, 2017](#)).

The qualitative approach in this study adds in-depth insight into the analysis of speech acts used by Cristiano Ronaldo. It describes it by identifying, classifying, and analyzing what types of speech acts Cristiano Ronaldo always uses in speaking. In addition, the qualitative research design was well suited to analyzing the transcripts of 10 video interviews with Cristiano Ronaldo. This is because this analysis is an analysis of words that must be seen in terms of deepening their meaning, not in terms of numbers and quantities.

The source data used are 10 interviews conducted by Cristiano Ronaldo from the beginning of his career at Manchester United (his first career) to when he did a podcast with Rio Ferdinand on his YouTube channel (right now). Here is the complete source data and its title:

- a. "Maybe someone doesn't like me because I'm too good?" - Cristiano Ronaldo on cheating accusations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPgoVDiIOXs> ([Video 1](#))
- b. IT WILL GIVE YOU GOOSEBUMPS - Cristiano Ronaldo Motivational video | Greatest footballer All Time: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvSDbX79orI> ([Video 2](#))
- c. Cristiano Ronaldo Full Interview | On Messi, Mourinho, Top 5 Young Players: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckKTTl5aaOo> ([Video 3](#))
- d. Cristiano Ronaldo: I am better than Lionel Messi - BBC News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86b1wygMpyM> ([Video 4](#))

- e. Cristiano Ronaldo Interview - 'Sir Alex Changed My Life', Talks UCL Record, La Liga vs PL & Future: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nryoan3fuMY> (Video 5)
- f. Cristiano Ronaldo SC interview: 'The best players always follow the best players' | ESPN Archives: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74Z6M7ROPWs> (Video 6)
- g. Cristiano Ronaldo's Life Advice Will Leave You SPEECHLESS (Must Watch): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HvTRg7LCio> (Video 7)
- h. Cristiano Ronaldo, Ruben Dias and Kyle Walker talk at the 18th Dubai International Sports Conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glzwrl-zpso> (Video 8)
- i. Cristiano Ronaldo: The World's Best Footballer Like You've Never Seen Him Before: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbKldiDOgEE> (Video 9)
- j. My thoughts on my 2023/24 season and the truth about my future. Talk with my friend Rio (part 1): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8KHrlhDNIY> (Video 10)

The collection of data is essential in research as it supplies the necessary material for analysis. Creswell (2017) asserts that qualitative research necessitates the precise, thorough, and systematic collection of information through several methodologies, including field notes, sketching, audio recordings, photographs, and similar ways. This study employs a multi-step data collection process. Initially, ten interview videos featuring Cristiano Ronaldo are curated, spanning his career from his tenure at Manchester United in 2007 until he participated in the Podcast with Rio Ferdinand on the U.R. Cristiano YouTube Channel in 2024. Secondly, these videos are meticulously scrutinized to facilitate comprehensive analysis. The films are transcribed and categorized according to the speaking acts commonly employed by Cristiano Ronaldo. Ultimately, all transcripts are consolidated into a singular document to streamline the analytical process.

Miles and Huberman (1994:10) assert that data analysis comprises three interconnected stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drafting or verification. This study employs multiple procedures to examine the data efficiently. The speech actions detected in the transcripts are classified into five categories, as characterized by Austin (1962) and Searle (1969): Representatives, Declarations, Directives, Expressives, and Commissives. The speech acts are categorized by quantifying the frequency of each category within the transcripts, subsequently identifying the speech acts most commonly employed by Cristiano Ronaldo during his career. The categories of speech acts are examined in relation to Ronaldo's personality through the lens of Relevance Theory, investigating how these acts embody the five psychological qualities associated with his character. Finally, the study elucidates how the speech acts commonly utilized by Ronaldo shaped his character, facilitating his countless accomplishments and triumphs during his career.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research's result relates to the classification of Cristiano Ronaldo's articulated illocutionary actions. This work used Cristiano Ronaldo's speeches taken from ten videos as data sources. Searle (1969) separated the classification results into five types of illocutionary speech acts: representatives, directives, commissives, declarative, and expressive. After the classification, Cristiano Ronaldo used 242 illocutionary acts.

The Illocutionary Speech Acts Used by Cristiano Ronaldo and The Sample

Representatives Speech acts are represented as the predominant illocutionary speech acts employed by Cristiano Ronaldo in interviews, accounting for 104 instances, which represents 43% of the overall total. This indicates that, in both personal and professional domains, Cristiano Ronaldo consistently articulates statements or disseminates information regarding himself. This behaviour consequently demonstrates the ability to articulate experiences, perspectives, and one's stance in various contexts during interviews. Showcasing his strong communication skills.

The second category is Expressive Speech Acts, encompassing 55 instances, which constitute 23% of the overall total. This indicates that Cristiano Ronaldo frequently conveyed emotions or sentiments during interviews. This underscores Cristiano Ronaldo's affective dimension in his verbal communication, wherein he conveys not only objective knowledge but also a range of emotions or states, including joy, melancholy, and fervour.

Commissives speech acts contain 40 instances, representing 16% of the total, and further indicate that Ronaldo frequently articulates promises or commitments, particularly concerning future aspirations or ambitions. These spoken remarks illustrate Cristiano Ronaldo's decisions and aspirations concerning both his professional career and personal life.

The Directives speech act, which contains 36 instances (15%), indicates that Cristiano Ronaldo employs language—albeit less frequently than other speech acts—to convey directions or instructions. This illustrates the dimension of authority or leadership that occasionally manifests during interviews as he directs the dialogue or articulates specific requests for consideration.

Finally, there were 7 declarative speech acts, which constituted 3% of the total, indicating that Ronaldo infrequently employed utterances that altered the condition or status of an object. Although it constitutes the smallest category, its significance arises from Cristiano Ronaldo's occasional employment of language to indicate adaptations in specific contexts or situations.

The following work presents a comprehensive analysis of the patterns observed in Cristiano Ronaldo's verbal speech actions throughout his interviews. The variety of speech acts, namely Representatives, Commissives, Directives, Declaratives, and Expressives, underscores the intricacy of his communication style. Here is the sample of data from each Video using a technique to determine the sample either individually or collectively have the same opportunity to be selected as a sample (Zuriah, 2006: 123):

Table 1. The Sample of Cristiano Ronaldo's Illocutionary Speech Acts

Source of Data	Illocutionary Speech Acts				
	Representatives	Directives	Commissives	Declaratives	Expressives
Video 1	"Maybe someone don't like me but because maybe I'm too good, I don't know why."	"You need to see in television."	-	-	"I feel good. I feel confident I feel in a good form."

Source of Data	Illocutionary Speech Acts				
	Representatives	Directives	Commissives	Declaratives	Expressives
Video 2	"In my mind I'm always the best... I'm always the best."	"You have to dedicate yourself 100%."	"I'm always going to say that [I'm the best]."	-	"You will know that I hate to lose."
Video 3	"If you can speak with my coaches, my friends, my teammates everyone see that I was special."	-	I want to win more more things (trophy)."	-	"I'm always disappointed when I'm lost, it's normal."
Video 4	"I respect the opinions. Maybe in your opinion Messi is better than me but in my mind. I'm better than him so it's simple."	-	"Of course, I want to see Manchester United in a level that it was in the past."	"The numbers say everything."	"I'm happy all this happened because the reason is I'm unbelievable inside the pitch."
Video 5	"When I arrived in Manchester, I was a good player, skillful player, but I was always thinking about dribbling."	"Let's see."	"I just want to win."	-	"I miss him a lot because I win many trophies together."
Video 6	"Of course, we fight with everyone, with the Neymar, with the Messi, with Lewandowsky, with Higuain... the top of the best players in the world."	"You cannot rest or sleep because the other one can pass you."	"This is why it's my main point, it's my motivation: to be better than them here after here."	-	"The most important thing... is the family. Keep your family, feel good, and take care of your family because this is the most important thing."
Video 7	"I think I have awards to advice to the club because the trophies that I won individual and collective."	"You have to sell everything and be with your family, take the best decisions."	"I want to improve and I see myself to do it when I'm retired to speak from millions of people advices how to be a professional player, how to maintain your longevity."	"I see football now as a business."	"I feel uncomfortable the way they treat me, especially the Press, they doubt about me the professional that I am."
Video 8	"I like when the people doubt about me and I prove again... I did a fantastic season."	"Listen to the people who know more than you, who they have more experience than you."	<i>"I'm still capable to do it some goals, to help my team, to help the national team, too. So I will carry on."</i>	-	"I'm glad that that thing happened because it makes me feel more strong."
Video 9	"Talent without work is nothing, and work without talent is nothing too. Both have to	"You have to challenge yourself to be consistent... many people want to be	"My biggest motivation is to carry on... I want to still compete at the highest level."	"I'm proud to partner with WHOOP... I'm now an investor and	"It was hard to leave my family in Madeira at 11... the most difficult part of my career."

Source of Data	Illocutionary Speech Acts				
	Representatives	Directives	Commissives	Declaratives	Expressives
	work in the same time."	Cristiano, but you have to follow the map."		Global Ambassador."	
Video 10	"I'm the most goal scorer in the world history... I scored 130."	"We speak about that... you will love it, you and your family, trust me."	"I want to reach 900 goals first, then 1,000"	"I am the pioneer of the country in football"	"I cry the day that I missed the penalty which is I believe"

How the Illocutionary Speech Acts Used by Cristiano Ronaldo Influence on His Personality

To analyze the illocutionary speech acts often used by Cristiano Ronaldo in interviews and deduce his personality, first, one must comprehend [Sperber's Relevance Theory \(1996\)](#). Subsequently, one must identify Cristiano Ronaldo's personality in the Five Big Personality Traits Theory. The combination of the two discusses how Cristiano Ronaldo's verbal communication shows his personality and how he processes and articulates messages to the audience.

[Sperber's Relevance Theory \(1996\)](#) claims that the assessment of an individual's personality through Illocutionary Speech Acts occurs in three distinct stages: Cognitive Effectiveness, Inference Processes, and Focused Context. Cognitive Effectiveness illustrates how Cristiano Ronaldo processes information and converts it into a more relevant and important format. This relates to speech acts that include significant information, including factual details or beliefs regarding Cristiano Ronaldo. This crucial information must be assimilated based on the listener's interests and perspective, leading to numerous assumptions. Nevertheless, in the relevance theory, an inference process is required, indicating that the observer must pay attention to several aspects when processing the information. These elements belong to the focused context under consideration. The focused context of Cristiano Ronaldo's speech refers to his identity as both a personal and professional figure within the realm of football, as well as an exploration of his personality.

These three stages should be analyzed through the lens of the speech acts expressed by Cristiano Ronaldo, informed by his personal experiences and insights within the world of football. The speech acts that address factual information within the world of football, as well as the speaker's beliefs, are classified as Representatives and Commissives, which constitute the most common category, accounting for 43% and 15% of the total 242 speech acts. Meanwhile, the speech acts relating to his personal life are categorized as Directives and Expressives, comprising 16% and 23% of the total, respectively. Declarative statements are excluded from the statements regarding football and his personal life, as these two speech acts constitute merely 3% of the total 242 speech acts analyzed. Furthermore, Declarative Speech Acts—utterances that change social status through verbal expression—are not confined to the realities of the football domain or his situations. So, in observing the three stages of Relevance Theory, two topics were found, namely the beliefs and

personal life of Cristiano Ronaldo. The following is a discussion of the data concerning his beliefs and personal life:

Cristiano Ronaldo's Beliefs

- A. Video 1: "Maybe someone doesn't like me, but **maybe I'm too good**, I don't know why"
- B. Video 2: "In my mind **I'm always the best... I'm always the best**,"

The two data above are factual expressions and beliefs spoken by Cristiano Ronaldo. In Speech Acts, the two data are Representatives. The data represent all the Representatives he expresses because Cristiano Ronaldo, in every Video studied, always expresses them with the same meaning but in different forms. In Video 1, Datum A, he says, '**Maybe I'm too good**', while in Video 2, Datum B, '**I'm always the best**'. This means that Cristiano Ronaldo believes that he is the greatest in football. He says similar things in other videos as well. According to MacCrae's (1999) Five Big Personality Traits, the attitude of expressing facts, self-confidence, and beliefs includes the highly regarded personality traits of **Openness**. Cristiano Ronaldo's interviews are more candid in Openness; he speaks his mind without hesitation.

- C. Video 3: "**I want to win** more things (trophies)"
- D. Video 10: "**I want to reach 900 goals first**, then 1,000"

In addition to the previous two data, which are representative of speech acts, some data shows Cristiano Ronaldo's belief in commitments or promises in his football career. He revealed that commitments and promises are commissive Speech Acts. Cristiano Ronaldo always wants to set new records and achieve victory in every match he plays. In Datum C, Video 3, he reveals his ambition to continue winning trophies, '**I want to win more things (trophies)**'. In Video 10, Datum D, Cristiano Ronaldo also has an ambition in his goal record, '**I want to reach 900 goals first, then 1,000**'. Cristiano Ronaldo has a very **conscientious personality**. Conscientious is a personality full of ambition and achievement targets in a matter. Cristiano Ronaldo's conscientious personality is very high because it is influenced by his high level of Openness in expressing his confidence.

Cristiano Ronaldo's Personal Life

- A. Video 2: "You will know **that I hate to lose**"
- B. Video 9: "**It was hard to leave my family** in Madeira at 11... **the most difficult part of my career**"

The two data above are emotionally charged expressions referring to Cristiano Ronaldo's personal life. The emotional expressions in Speech Acts are Expressives. There are two expressions, both from Cristiano Ronaldo, the first about his personality in matches and the second about his family. In Data A, Video 2, he expresses his unwillingness to lose in a match with the word 'hate', 'You will know **that I hate to lose**'. Apart from the Video, Cristiano Ronaldo also sometimes expresses similar things. A person with high emotional expression in the Five Big Personality Traits includes Neuroticism. Cristiano Ronaldo has low Neuroticism because the emotional expressions he utters are not too focused on detrimental things. This is coupled with his high openness and conscientious personality, which makes Cristiano Ronaldo's emotional level stable.

In Data B, Video 9, Cristiano Ronaldo's emotional disclosure is different from the previous data. He reveals his past life and his family. He expressed his early career flashbacks with the phrase, '**It was hard to leave my family** in Madeira at 11... **the most difficult part of my career**'. So, in his expression, there is always a connector: 'The most important thing... is the family. Keep your family, feel good, and take care of your family because this is the most important thing.' This also demonstrates his prominent **Extraversion** trait - a sociable and exaggerated characteristic that allows Cristiano Ronaldo to communicate with energy, convey his emotions honestly, and engage the audience in his sentiments.

C. Video 2: "**You have to dedicate yourself 100%**"

D. Video 9: "**You have to challenge yourself to be consistent...** many people want to be Cristiano, but **you have to follow the map**"

Cristiano Ronaldo also often gives his audience advice on how to reach peak performance in football. Cristiano Ronaldo seems to motivate what many people want to achieve. In this case, Cristiano Ronaldo often uses illocutionary speech acts that influence his audience, namely directive speech Acts. The use of directives in motivating listeners is high; for example, in Data A, Video 2, '**You have to dedicate yourself 100%**'. Cristiano Ronaldo reveals that the achievement of a goal requires maximum effort, not half-measures. In addition, in Data B, Video 9, '**You have to challenge yourself to be consistent...** many people want to be Cristiano, but **you have to follow the map**', Cristiano Ronaldo gives direction to be consistent in order to achieve big goals. He also gives tips for the younger generation to be like him.

The use of Directive Speech Acts, which aim to motivate or give direction openly, coincides with the personality of **Agreeableness**. He offers direction or advice that conveys authority or influence in the conversation. Cristiano Ronaldo may not be overly dominant, but this communication act shows that he has a moderate level of Agreeableness and the ability to lead and steer conversations cooperatively and sympathetically. He can express himself sympathetically, conveying ideas clearly and cooperatively without coming across as overly rigid or controlling.

Cristiano Ronaldo's expressions in various interviews and speeches reveal key aspects of his personality, which are shaped by his high Openness, Conscientiousness, and extraversion traits while showing moderate Agreeableness and low Neuroticism. This can be seen from the use of illocutionary speech acts, namely Representatives, Commissives, Directives, and Expressives. His belief in his abilities, his commitment to achieving new goals, and his emotional Openness to his family reflect his strong confidence and ambition, which are the keys to his success. In addition, his motivation and advice demonstrate a personality that combines assertiveness with a cooperative and sympathetic communication style.

CONCLUSION

This study analyses Cristiano Ronaldo's illocutionary acts in ten interviews and podcasts to explore their relationship with his personality traits, using Searle's speech act theory, Relevance Theory, and McCrae's Five Big Personality Traits. The findings of this study show that Cristiano Ronaldo uses 242 illocutionary acts, mostly representatives speech acts (43%), such as 'I have always been the best,' which reflects Openness and high self- confidence. These statements underline the honest

articulation of his beliefs and achievements, which is in line with the psychological resilience required in elite sports. Commissive speech acts (16%), such as 'I want to reach 900 goals,' highlight a high level of Conscientiousness, emphasizing discipline and goal-driven ambition. Meanwhile, expressive speech acts (23%) indicate low Neuroticism and high extraversion, balancing emotional honesty ('I don't like to lose') with optimism and openness traits. In comparison, directive speech acts (15%) indicate moderate Agreeableness through collaborative leadership.

The strategic use of this speech act forms Ronaldo's public persona as a disciplined and inspiring figure. It reflects the traits that underlie his success: confidence, hard work, emotional stability, and social engagement. The language not only communicates intent but also reinforces his identity as a top athlete and mentor. For example, motivational directives ('You must dedicate yourself 100%') combine authority with empathy, enhancing his connectivity. This integration of pragmatic and psycholinguistic frameworks describes how linguistic patterns reflect and develop personality in high-pressure contexts, providing insights into the interaction between communication and psychological traits.

Through bridging pragmatics and personality psychology, this research contributes to understanding how elite athletes like Ronaldo use language to navigate reputation and performance. Future research could extend this framework to other athletes, examine cross-cultural communication styles, or use hybrid methods to measure the correlation between language and personality. Ultimately, these findings highlight language as a reflection of character and a tool for shaping professional legacy.

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