

ABSTRACT

This study examined the use of expressive speech acts and identity representation in the film *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* (Dos Santos et al., 2023) used by Miles Morales. This study was triggered by the importance of language as a medium for emotional expression, social negotiation, and identity construction in modern communication, particularly in popular media such as films to represent social realities, cultural values, and the emotional experiences of the younger generation through dialogue and character interaction.

This study employed a descriptive qualitative method with a pragmatic and sociolinguistic approach. The data were collected through note-taking and documentation of the film script and then were analyzed using Speech Act Theory by John R. Searle and identity representation theory by Mary Bucholtz and Kira Hall.

The findings showed that Miles Morales used several main forms of expressive speech acts, namely frustration, anger, disappointment, fear, and resistance. These utterances appeared when Miles faced family conflicts, social pressure from the Spider Society, as well as interpersonal conflicts with Gwen Stacy and Miguel O'Hara.

The study also found that expressive speech acts did not only function as emotional expressions, but also as tools for representing personal, social, emotional, and modern youth identity. Through language, Miles Morales attempted to maintain his personal freedom, resist social control, and negotiate his identity as both Spider-Man and an Afro-Latino teenager within the multiverse system.

Thus, this study concludes that expressive speech acts are closely related to the process of identity construction in film. Language is not only used as a means of communication, but also as a medium for emotional representation, social resistance, and identity construction in contemporary film discourse.

Keywords: expressive speech acts, identity representation, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*