



ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN THE LANGUAGE OF SELECTED FOOTBALL GOAL COMMENTARIES BY PETER DRURY

Maulani Saskiya¹, Dedi Sulaeman², Fourus Huznatul Abqoriyyah³

^{1,2,3}UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, Indonesia

E-mail: ¹maulanisaskiya15@gmail.com, ²dedi4548@uinsgd.ac.id, ³fourusabqoriyyah@uinsgd.ac.id

Accepted :

29 June 2026

Published :

30 June 2026

Corresponding Author:

Maulani Saskiya

Email Corresponding :

maulanisaskiya15@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Football commentary represents a distinctive form of language that combines factual reporting with emotional expression to enhance audience engagement during sporting events. As one of the most prominent football commentators, Peter Drury is widely recognized for his expressive and impactful language, particularly in goal commentaries. Although previous studies have investigated speech acts in football commentary and the use of figurative language in Peter Drury's narration, limited attention has been given to the analysis of illocutionary acts in the language of football goal commentaries and their communicative functions. Therefore, this study aims to identify the types of illocutionary acts employed in the language of selected football goal commentaries by Peter Drury and to examine the communicative functions reflected in their distribution. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, this study analyzed 113 utterances taken from 32 goal commentary segments compiled in a YouTube video, based on Searle's taxonomy of illocutionary acts. The findings revealed three categories of illocutionary acts: expressive (75.22%), assertive (23.89%), and directive (0.89%), while commissive and declarative acts were not identified. These findings suggest that the language used in Peter Drury's goal commentaries extends beyond reporting match events, serving as a means of expressing emotion, evaluation, and audience engagement. This study contributes to the fields of pragmatics, sports discourse, and media linguistics by offering a focused analysis of illocutionary acts in the language of football goal commentaries.

Keywords: *Illocutionary Acts, Pragmatics, Football Commentary, Peter Drury, Language.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Football is widely recognized as the world's most popular sport, attracting audiences from diverse countries, cultures, and social backgrounds (Ventaja-Cruz et al., 2024; Dawes, 2017). Its global popularity has transformed football into more than a sporting competition, making it an important part of contemporary media and communication. As millions of people follow football through television broadcasts and digital platforms, the language used in football broadcasting has become an essential medium for

conveying information, emotion, and audience engagement.

One of the most distinctive forms of language in football broadcasting is football commentary. Through spoken language, commentators transform on-field events into meaningful narratives by describing, interpreting, and evaluating match situations (Joshua & Udhedhe-oze, 2026; Askhatova, 2020; Zou et al., 2023). Their language enables audiences not only to follow the progression of the game but also to experience the emotions and excitement surrounding important moments. As a naturally occurring form

Vol 9, No 1 (2026): ESTEEM

of discourse, the language of football commentary provides rich linguistic data that reflect both the dynamic nature of football matches and the communicative intentions of commentators (Suglia et al., 2022; Richards, 2016; Mahmud et al., 2023). Consequently, the language used in football commentary plays a crucial role in shaping audience understanding, emotional involvement, and overall viewing experience.

The language of football has increasingly attracted scholarly attention from linguistic researchers. Previous studies have examined football discourse from various linguistic perspectives, demonstrating that football possesses a distinctive linguistic system characterized by specialized vocabulary, expressions, and communicative conventions (Graf et al., 2023; Loewen et al., 2020). This specialized language is employed not only by players, coaches, and supporters but also by commentators, who strategically use language to describe events, express evaluations, and engage audiences (Harisma, 2024; Tuspekova et al., 2020; Febriyanti, 2023). These characteristics make the language of football commentary a valuable object of linguistic investigation, particularly from a pragmatic perspective that focuses on communicative intentions and language use in context.

One important aspect of pragmatic analysis is the study of illocutionary acts, which reveal the speaker's intended meaning beyond the literal interpretation of an utterance (Searle, 2019; Leech, 2016; Afisi, 2020). Illocutionary act analysis is particularly relevant to football goal commentaries because commentators do more than report goals; they express emotions, evaluate performances, emphasize the significance of events, and influence audience interpretation (Bahtiyorovich, 2026). Goal-scoring moments are especially suitable for pragmatic investigation because they represent the most

emotionally intense episodes of football matches, allowing communicative intentions to emerge more explicitly through spontaneous reactions and expressive language (Thonhauser & Wetzels, 2019).

This study specifically investigates the language of selected football goal commentaries by Peter Drury, whose commentary style is widely recognized for its poetic, dramatic, and emotionally expressive language (Sundari, 2023). Rather than merely describing match events, Drury frequently combines vivid narration, figurative expressions, and emotional evaluation, making his goal commentaries particularly rich in illocutionary acts. Examining the language used in these commentaries provides deeper insights into how communicative intentions are conveyed and how language contributes to audience engagement in sports discourse.

A pragmatic approach provides an appropriate framework for examining the language of football goal commentaries because meaning is constructed through both linguistic forms and contextual factors. Pragmatics investigates how speakers communicate intended meanings and how listeners interpret utterances within specific contexts (Yule, 2016; Sapitri et al., 2019). Accordingly, pragmatic analysis considers the relationship between language, speakers, listeners, and situational context in constructing meaning (Al Fachri et al., 2026; Lesiana et al., 2023; Jaya, 2020). This perspective enables researchers to explore how commentators strategically use language to communicate intentions, express evaluations, and create emotional engagement during football matches.

Speech Act Theory, introduced by Austin (2016), serves as one of the principal theoretical foundations of pragmatic analysis. Austin argues that language functions not only to describe reality but also to perform actions. He distinguishes speech acts into locutionary

acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. Among these, illocutionary acts represent the communicative intentions performed through language, making them particularly relevant for analyzing football commentary.

Building upon Austin's theory, Searle (2019) classifies illocutionary acts into five categories: assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. This taxonomy has been extensively applied to examine communicative intentions across various forms of discourse and provides the analytical framework for the present study.

Among contemporary football commentators, Peter Drury has gained international recognition for his distinctive use of language. Previous studies describe him as a commentator whose eloquent narration and creative linguistic style contribute significantly to the dramatic quality of football broadcasts (Harisma, 2024; Utomo & Heriyono, 2025). Unlike conventional commentators who primarily report match events, Drury employs expressive, poetic, and figurative language that transforms football matches into compelling narratives. These characteristics make the language of his goal commentaries particularly suitable for pragmatic analysis.

Previous research has investigated football commentary from several perspectives. Fadillah (2023) and Sanubarianto et al. (2023) analyzed speech acts in football commentary through cross-cultural pragmatic approaches, revealing differences in the distribution and functions of illocutionary acts across different cultural contexts. Other studies have focused on figurative language in Peter Drury's football commentaries and interviews (Harisma, 2024; Utomo & Heriyono, 2025), demonstrating his extensive use of metaphor, hyperbole, and other stylistic

devices. Additionally, Sunendar and Seda (2026) examined illocutionary acts in podcast discourse, highlighting the importance of speech act analysis in revealing communicative intentions across media contexts.

Despite these contributions, limited research has specifically examined illocutionary acts in the language of Peter Drury's football goal commentaries. Most previous studies have emphasized cross-cultural comparisons, stylistic features, or figurative language rather than investigating how communicative intentions are realized through illocutionary acts during goal-scoring moments. Therefore, this study aims to identify the types of illocutionary acts employed in the language of selected football goal commentaries by Peter Drury and to examine the communicative functions reflected in their distribution. The findings are expected to contribute to the fields of pragmatics, sports discourse, and media linguistics by providing a deeper understanding of how language functions to inform, evaluate, express emotion, and engage audiences during significant moments in football matches.

2. METHODS

2.1 Research Design

This study employed a descriptive qualitative research design to analyze illocutionary acts in football commentary discourse. Qualitative research emphasizes the examination and interpretation of observable phenomena within their naturally occurring contexts (Aulawi et al., 2018). This approach is commonly used in studies investigating language use, communicative intentions, and speech acts in authentic discourse settings. Similar approaches have been applied in previous studies on football commentary and illocutionary acts (Sanubarianto et al., 2023) as well as speech acts in digital media discourse (Sunendar & Seda, 2026). This study focused on identifying and interpreting illocutionary acts in selected football goal commentaries delivered by Peter Drury. The analysis was

Vol 9, No 1 (2026): ESTEEM

conducted using Searle (2019) taxonomy of illocutionary acts, which classifies illocutionary acts into assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. In addition, the study examined the communicative functions reflected in the distribution of the identified illocutionary acts within football goal commentaries.

2.2 Data and Data Sources

The data of this study consisted of utterances containing illocutionary acts produced by Peter Drury in football goal commentaries. The data were obtained from a YouTube video entitled *Peter Drury's GREATEST Football Commentary!*, which contains a compilation of football commentary excerpts from various matches and goal-scoring moments.

The compilation consists of 32 goal segments, all of which were included in the analysis. Therefore, this study did not apply additional sampling because the entire available dataset was considered relevant to the research objectives. The unit of analysis in this study was the verbal transcript of each goal commentary segment. The initial transcription of the video produced 207 utterances. After applying relevance criteria, 113 utterances were retained for analysis. Utterances excluded from the dataset included isolated player names, time references, score announcements, and fragmentary expressions that did not perform identifiable illocutionary acts.

The data source was retrieved from a publicly accessible YouTube video available at: <https://youtu.be/nBzukPJ1LTU?si=sQnU89XbqxSOO4E2>

2.3 Data Collection

The data were collected using a documentation technique. First, the researcher repeatedly watched the selected video to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the context of each goal commentary segment. Second, the researcher transcribed Peter Drury's utterances into written form. Third, all utterances produced during the goal commentary segments were identified and compiled into a preliminary dataset. The transcription process aimed to accurately represent the linguistic features of the commentary for subsequent analysis.

2.4 Data Reduction and Coding

After transcription, the data underwent a reduction process to ensure their relevance to the research objectives. Utterances that did not perform identifiable illocutionary acts, such as isolated player names, score updates, time references, and incomplete expressions, were excluded from the dataset. As a result, 113 utterances were retained for analysis.

To facilitate systematic analysis, each retained utterance was assigned a code based on its illocutionary category. The coding system consisted of an abbreviation representing the category of illocutionary act followed by a numerical identifier. The code A referred to assertive acts, E to expressive acts, D to directive acts, C to commissive acts, and DEC to declaration acts. For example, A-01 represented the first assertive utterance, E-01 represented the first expressive utterance, and D-01 represented the first directive utterance. This coding system enabled efficient organization, classification, and retrieval of data throughout the analysis process.

2.5 Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using qualitative content analysis. In qualitative research, data analysis involves the systematic interpretation of observable phenomena in order to understand their meanings within specific contexts (Aulawi et al., 2018). Accordingly, each utterance was examined and classified according to Searle (2019) taxonomy of illocutionary acts. The utterances were then categorized into assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, or declaration acts based on their communicative intentions.

Subsequently, the frequency and distribution of each category were identified to provide supporting quantitative descriptions of the findings. Finally, the researcher interpreted the communicative functions reflected in the distribution of each category within the context of football goal commentaries. The findings were then discussed in relation to previous studies and relevant theories in pragmatics and sports discourse. This analytical procedure allowed the researcher to systematically identify the patterns of illocutionary acts and interpret

Vol 9, No 1 (2026): ESTEEM

their communicative functions within football goal commentaries.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Table 1 presents the distribution of illocutionary acts identified in Peter Drury's selected football goal commentaries.

Table 1. Distribution of Illocutionary Acts

No	Type	Frequency
1.	Assertive	27
2.	Expressive	85
3.	Directive	1
4.	Commissive	0
5.	Declaration	0
Total		113

The analysis identified three categories of illocutionary acts in the data, namely assertive, expressive, and directive acts. Among these categories, expressive acts were the most dominant, accounting for 85 occurrences (75.22%). Assertive acts appeared 27 times (23.89%), while directive acts occurred only once (0.89%). No commissive or declaration acts were identified in the dataset.

The dominance of expressive acts indicates that Peter Drury primarily uses language to express emotions, admiration, excitement, and evaluative reactions during goal-scoring moments. This finding suggests that football goal commentary is not limited to reporting events on the field but also serves as a medium for conveying emotional responses and enhancing audience engagement. The prevalence of expressive acts reflects the highly emotional nature of goal situations, which often represent the climax of a football match.

In contrast, assertive acts appeared less frequently than expressive acts. These utterances were mainly used to provide information, describe events, and confirm significant moments occurring during the match. Meanwhile, the limited occurrence of directive acts indicates that Peter Drury rarely attempts to direct audience actions or responses during goal commentaries.

The absence of commissive and declaration acts can be explained by the communicative role of football commentators.

Unlike institutional speakers who possess the authority to make commitments or alter social realities through language, commentators primarily function as narrators and evaluators of ongoing events. Consequently, their discourse tends to emphasize information and emotional expression rather than commitment or institutional action.

Assertive Acts

Excerpt 1 (A-01)

"It's Carvajal's cross. Rodrygo. Oh, it's gone."

Analyzed utterance: *"It's Carvajal's cross."*

The utterance was classified as an assertive act because it provides factual information about the immediate sequence leading to the goal. By identifying Dani Carvajal as the player who delivered the cross, Drury describes an observable event on the field and commits himself to the truth of the statement. The utterance serves an informative function by helping viewers understand how the goal-scoring opportunity was created. In the context of Real Madrid's dramatic comeback against Manchester City in the 2021/2022 UEFA Champions League semi-final, this utterance contributes to the chronological narration of a decisive attacking move that eventually altered the outcome of the match.

Excerpt 2 (A-13)

"Eriksen. Garnacho. Garnacho hasn't stopped. Garnacho has scored in stoppage time. And Manchester United have nicked it."

Analyzed utterance: *"Garnacho has scored in stoppage time."*

The utterance was categorized as an assertive act because it reports a factual event that occurred during the match. By identifying both the scorer and the timing of the goal, Drury commits himself to the truth of the statement and provides essential information to the audience. The utterance serves an informative function by highlighting the decisive nature of the goal, which secured Manchester United's victory against Fulham. In addition, the reference to stoppage time emphasizes the dramatic context of the match, as the goal was scored in the final moments of play and ultimately determined the outcome of the game.

Excerpt 3 (A-03)

Vol 9, No 1 (2026): ESTEEM

"Bernardo Silva weaving and Mahrez. That is a beautiful goal. And Manchester City may be going back again. Smashed in at Courtois's near post."

Analyzed utterance: *"And Manchester City may be going back again."*

The utterance was categorized as an assertive act because it presents the commentator's interpretation of the possible outcome based on the match situation at that moment. Following Riyad Mahrez's goal, Manchester City strengthened their aggregate advantage and appeared to be on course for another UEFA Champions League final. Through the modal verb "may," Drury signals a degree of uncertainty while expressing a reasonable prediction about the likely development of the match. Rather than merely describing what has happened, the utterance functions as a predictive assertion that helps audiences understand the potential implications of the goal. This example demonstrates that assertive acts in football commentary can serve not only informative purposes but also interpretative and predictive functions.

Excerpt 4 (A-06)

"Aguero staggering. Just staggering. He's won the league with 90 seconds of stoppage time to play. United's game was over. They had it. They've had it stolen back."

Analyzed utterance: *"United's game was over."*

The utterance was classified as an assertive act because it states a factual condition regarding Manchester United's match at that moment. By making this statement, Drury commits himself to the truth of the proposition that Manchester United had already completed their match. Beyond providing information, the utterance also serves an interpretative function within the broader context of the Premier League title race. Since Manchester United had already completed their match and were temporarily in a position to win the league, the statement highlights the dramatic contrast between their apparent success and Manchester City's late title-winning goal. Thus, the utterance contributes to the narrative construction of one of the most dramatic moments in Premier League history by emphasizing the sudden reversal of fortunes experienced by both teams.

Excerpt 5 (A-15)

"There's the name. Remember it. He's now but a kid. Now he is a Premier League man. And it was the winner."

Analyzed utterance: *"Now he is a Premier League man."*

The utterance was categorized as an assertive act because it asserts a proposition about Alejandro Garnacho's status following his decisive goal. Through this statement, Drury presents the player as having achieved a new level of recognition within the competition. Although the utterance contains an evaluative element, it functions primarily as an assertion rather than an expression of emotion. In the context of Garnacho's first Premier League goal, which secured a stoppage-time victory for Manchester United, the utterance highlights the significance of the moment in the player's development. Thus, the statement serves both informative and evaluative functions by presenting the goal as a milestone that transformed Garnacho from a promising youngster into a recognized Premier League player.

Expressive Acts**Excerpt 1 (E-01, E-02, E-03)**

"They prayed for miracles and miracles arrive." "Real Madrid, the team of dreams." "Where has that come from? How did that happen?"

The three utterances were produced immediately after Rodrygo's equalizing goal against Manchester City in the 2021/2022 UEFA Champions League semi-final. Collectively, these expressive acts communicate wonder, admiration, and amazement toward an event perceived as extraordinary. The utterance *"They prayed for miracles and miracles arrive"* expresses awe at Real Madrid's improbable comeback, while *"Real Madrid, the team of dreams"* conveys admiration for the club's ability to overcome seemingly impossible circumstances. Meanwhile, the rhetorical questions *"Where has that come from? How did that happen?"* reflect astonishment and disbelief at the sudden turn of events. Together, these utterances demonstrate how expressive acts enable the commentator to dramatize significant moments and intensify audience engagement.

Excerpt 2 (E-08, E-09)

"Drama of the ultimate type." "Tears of distress turn to tears of unbridled joy."

Vol 9, No 1 (2026): ESTEEM

These utterances were classified as expressive acts because they convey the commentator's emotional evaluation of one of the most dramatic moments in Premier League history. The statements were produced immediately after Sergio Agüero's stoppage-time goal secured Manchester City's first league title in 44 years during the final match of the 2011/2012 season.

The utterance *"Drama of the ultimate type"* expresses excitement and admiration toward the extraordinary nature of the event. Rather than providing factual information about the match, Drury evaluates the moment as an exceptional sporting spectacle. Similarly, the utterance *"Tears of distress turn to tears of unbridled joy"* conveys an emotional reflection on the transformation experienced by Manchester City supporters, whose despair suddenly turned into celebration following Agüero's decisive goal. Through these utterances, Drury emphasizes the emotional significance of the event and highlights football's capacity to generate dramatic and unexpected moments.

This pattern demonstrates that expressive acts in football commentary function not only to communicate excitement but also to construct emotional narratives that allow audiences to experience the significance of sporting events beyond the immediate match result.

Excerpt 3 (E-11)

"Absolutely sensational."

The utterance was categorized as an expressive act because it communicates the commentator's admiration and appreciation toward Mohamed Salah's remarkable goal. The statement was produced immediately after Salah completed an extraordinary solo run against Manchester City's defense before scoring from a difficult angle.

Rather than providing factual information about the event, the utterance expresses a positive evaluation of the player's technical ability and the quality of the goal. The use of the intensifier "absolutely" further strengthens the emotional force of the expression, emphasizing the commentator's sense of astonishment and admiration. In the context of a goal that was later awarded the Premier League Goal of the Season, the utterance reflects how expressive acts enable commentators to acknowledge exceptional sporting achievements and enhance the

audience's emotional engagement with the moment.

This finding indicates that expressive acts in football commentary often function as evaluative responses to displays of outstanding individual performance.

Excerpt 4 (E-35)

"What an extraordinary contribution by the Tottenham Hotspur substitute."

The utterance was categorized as an expressive act because it conveys the commentator's appreciation of Son Heung-min's remarkable impact on the match. The statement was produced after Son, who entered the game as a substitute, scored a hat-trick against Leicester City in the 2022/2023 Premier League season.

Rather than merely reporting the player's achievement, the utterance expresses admiration for the significance of Son's contribution. The adjective "extraordinary" functions as an evaluative marker, highlighting the commentator's positive assessment of the player's performance. In this context, the expression reflects recognition of Son's ability to influence the outcome of the match despite starting on the bench. The utterance therefore serves not only to celebrate the achievement itself but also to emphasize the exceptional nature of the player's contribution.

This finding suggests that expressive acts in football commentary frequently function as a means of acknowledging individual achievements and reinforcing the emotional significance of outstanding performances.

Excerpt 5 (E-36, E-37)

"That is a diamond of a goal." "How that boy glitters now."

The utterances *"That is a diamond of a goal"* and *"How that boy glitters now"* were categorized as expressive acts because they communicate admiration toward both the goal and the player. The first utterance evaluates the goal as valuable and exceptional through the metaphor "diamond," while the second highlights Bukayo Saka's growing prominence as a footballer through the metaphorical expression "glitters." Together, these utterances demonstrate how expressive acts enable commentators to celebrate not only remarkable match events but also the achievements and development of individual players.

Vol 9, No 1 (2026): ESTEEM**Excerpt 6 (E-55)**

"What a boy. What a boy he is."

The utterance was categorized as an expressive act because it conveys admiration toward Alejandro Garnacho following his stoppage-time winning goal against Fulham in the 2022/2023 Premier League season. The statement was produced immediately after Garnacho secured victory for Manchester United with his first Premier League goal.

Rather than describing the event itself, the utterance expresses the commentator's positive evaluation of the young player's achievement. The repetition of the phrase *"What a boy"* intensifies the emotional force of the expression and highlights Drury's admiration for Garnacho's performance under pressure. In the context of a decisive late winner scored by an 18-year-old player, the utterance functions as recognition of emerging talent and future potential.

This finding suggests that expressive acts in football commentary may also serve to celebrate breakthrough performances and construct narratives around rising young players. Through such expressions, commentators contribute to shaping audience perceptions of players who are beginning to establish themselves at the highest level of competition.

Excerpt 7 (E-60)

"A moment for history, for eternity, meant to be, forever."

The utterance was categorized as an expressive act because it conveys the commentator's emotional evaluation of a historically significant football moment. The statement was produced following Everton's victory over Liverpool in the final Merseyside derby held at Goodison Park, a stadium that had served as Everton's home for more than a century.

Rather than merely reporting the match result, the utterance emphasizes the symbolic and historical importance of the occasion. Expressions such as *"for history," "for eternity,"* and *"forever"* function as evaluative language that elevates the event beyond the immediate context of the match. Through these expressions, Drury portrays the moment as one that will remain in the memory of the club and its supporters.

This finding demonstrates that expressive acts in football commentary may

serve to commemorate historically significant events and transform sporting moments into enduring narratives. Such expressions contribute to the construction of football commentary as a form of storytelling that preserves the emotional and cultural significance of the game.

Directive Acts**Excerpt 1 (D-01)**

"There's the name. Remember it. He's now but a kid. Now he is a Premier League man."

Analyzed utterance: *"Remember it."*

The utterance was categorized as a directive act because it implicitly encourages the audience to remember the name of Alejandro Garnacho following his decisive stoppage-time goal for Manchester United. Unlike assertive and expressive acts, which primarily function to describe events and express evaluations, this utterance attempts to influence the audience's future cognitive action.

The directive force of the utterance is realized through the imperative form *"Remember it,"* which functions as an invitation for viewers to pay attention to and retain the player's name in their memory. In the context of Garnacho's breakthrough performance, the statement reflects the commentator's belief that the player may become an important figure in the future. Rather than directing physical action, the utterance encourages a mental response from the audience.

The presence of only one directive act in the dataset suggests that directing audience behavior is not a primary communicative function of football commentary. Instead, commentators predominantly focus on describing events and expressing emotional evaluations. Nevertheless, this isolated occurrence demonstrates that directive acts may emerge when commentators seek to highlight players or moments they consider particularly memorable and significant.

Discussion

The findings indicate that expressive acts constitute the dominant type of illocutionary act in the language of Peter Drury's selected football goal commentaries, representing 75.22% of

Vol 9, No 1 (2026): ESTEEM

the total utterances analyzed. Assertive acts occurred considerably less frequently, while directive acts appeared only once. Neither commissive nor declaration acts were identified in the data. This pattern reflects the communicative nature of the language used during goal-scoring moments, where commentators respond to emotionally charged and decisive events. Because goals often represent the climax of a football match, the language of commentary tends to emphasize emotional expression and evaluative meaning rather than merely conveying factual information.

The predominance of expressive acts contrasts with the findings of Sanubarianto et al. (2023), who reported assertive acts as the most frequent category in football commentary. This difference can be explained by the different scope of the data analyzed. Whereas Sanubarianto et al. examined commentaries covering entire football matches, the present study focuses specifically on the language of goal commentaries. Full-match commentaries require continuous descriptions and factual updates throughout the game, resulting in a higher proportion of assertive acts. In contrast, goal commentaries are linguistically characterized by spontaneous emotional responses, excitement, and evaluation, which naturally increase the occurrence of expressive acts.

The distribution of illocutionary acts also reveals the communicative functions performed through Peter Drury's language during goal-scoring moments. Assertive acts primarily function to report, describe, and confirm significant events occurring on the field. By contrast, expressive acts perform a wider range of communicative functions, including expressing admiration for outstanding performances, dramatizing decisive moments, celebrating remarkable achievements, acknowledging

emerging talent, and commemorating historically significant events. The only directive act identified in the data, "*Remember it,*" functions as an invitation for audiences to recognize and remember a memorable player or moment. These findings demonstrate that the language of football goal commentary serves not only to communicate information but also to construct emotional narratives that strengthen audience engagement.

The present findings also reinforce previous studies on Peter Drury's distinctive language style. Harisma (2024) reported that Drury frequently employs figurative language to produce vivid and memorable descriptions of football events, while Utomo and Heriyono (2025) emphasized the stylistic uniqueness of his sports commentary language. Extending these studies from a pragmatic perspective, the present research demonstrates that the language of Peter Drury's goal commentaries performs significant communicative functions through the realization of illocutionary acts. His language not only narrates events on the football field but also creates emotional and symbolic meanings surrounding goal-scoring moments. Consequently, audiences experience football not merely as a sporting contest but also as a communicative event in which meaning is constructed and shared through language.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study examined the illocutionary acts realized in the language of selected football goal commentaries by Peter Drury. The analysis identified three categories of illocutionary acts: assertive, expressive, and directive. Among these, expressive acts were the most dominant, accounting for 75.22% of the total utterances, followed by assertive acts, while only one directive act was identified. Commissive

and declaration acts were absent from the data. These findings suggest that the language of Peter Drury's goal commentaries is characterized not only by the delivery of match-related information but also by a strong emphasis on emotional evaluation and audience engagement.

The distribution of illocutionary acts further demonstrates the communicative functions embedded in the language of football goal commentaries. Assertive acts primarily function to report, describe, and confirm important events occurring during the match. In contrast, expressive acts serve a wider range of communicative purposes, including expressing admiration for outstanding performances, dramatizing decisive moments, celebrating remarkable achievements, acknowledging emerging talent, and commemorating historically significant occasions. The single directive act identified in the data functions to draw the audience's attention to a memorable player and encourage lasting recognition. Overall, these findings indicate that the language employed by Peter Drury extends beyond simple event narration, functioning as a form of emotionally engaging sports discourse that enhances the audience's experience of football.

This study was limited to the analysis of a single YouTube compilation consisting of selected football goal commentaries by Peter Drury. Future research could expand the scope by examining larger corpora of football commentary language, analyzing complete match commentaries, comparing the language used by different football commentators, or investigating other pragmatic dimensions, such as perlocutionary effects, audience responses, or the interaction between illocutionary acts and figurative language in sports discourse.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author would like to express her sincere gratitude to her academic supervisors, Mr. Dr. Dedi Sulaeman, M.Hum., and Mrs. Fours Huznatul Abqoriyyah, M.A., for their valuable guidance, constructive feedback, and continuous support throughout the process of conducting and completing this research. The author also extends her appreciation to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Supyan, as well as her younger sibling, Salma, for their constant support, understanding, prayers, and encouragement throughout her academic journey. Their support has been an important source of motivation during the completion of this study. Lastly, the author would also like to acknowledge Persib Bandung, whose presence has been a source of inspiration and motivation throughout her undergraduate years. The club's achievement during this period, including its success in securing three consecutive Liga 1 titles, coincided with the author's academic journey and provided meaningful moments of encouragement throughout the completion of this research.

6. REFERENCES

- Afisi, O. T. (2020). The concept of semiotics in Charles Sanders Peirce's pragmatism. *Trends in Semantics and Pragmatics*. ResearchGate.
- Al Fachri, A. M., Abd Hannan, E. F., & Sulaeman, D. (2026). Positive politeness strategies in the 2025 Grammy Awards acceptance speech. *Journal of English Language and Education*, 11(3), 459–470.
- Askhatova, A. (2020). Importance of vocabulary and spoken grammar in teaching spontaneous speaking skill. *Sciences of Europe*, 49(4), 3–6. <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/importance-of-vocabulary-and-spoken-grammar-in-teaching-spontaneous-speaking-skill>
- Aulawi, H., Ramdhani, M. A., & Sulaeman, D. (2018). University writing guidebook for natural, social sciences and humanities. *International Journal of Engineering &*

Vol 9, No 1 (2026): ESTEEM

- Technology (UAE)*, 7(3.21), 464–466.
- Austin, J. L. (2016). Truth. In J. O. Urmson & G. J. Warnock (Eds.), *Philosophical papers* (pp. 85–101). Clarendon Press.
- Bahtiyorovich, X. Z. (2026). The pragmatic load of football-related lexical units in sports commentary language. *Ethiopian International Multidisciplinary Research Conferences*, 1(2), 244–246. <https://ejmr.org/conferences/index.php/eimrc/article/view/1825>
- Dawes, A. C. C. (2017). *The origins and development of association football in Nottinghamshire* (Doctoral dissertation, De Montfort University). <https://dora.dmu.ac.uk/server/api/core/bitstreams/623814c3-8eb6-4a6c-966c-dcfeaa8898ac/content>
- Fadillah, A. (2023). Cross-cultural pragmatics analysis in the speech of European and Indonesian football match commentators. *JLA (Jurnal Lingua Applicata)*, 7(1), 52.
- Febriyanti, E. R. (2023). Language learning strategies of ESP learners: A comparison between during and post-pandemic situation. *Premise: Journal of English Education*, 12(3), 986. <https://doi.org/10.24127/pj.v12i3.8163>
- Graf, E. M., Callies, M., & Fleischhacker, M. (2023). The language and discourse(s) of football: Interdisciplinary and cross-modal perspectives: Introduction to the thematic issue. *Soccer & Society*, 24(7), 921–925. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14660970.2023.2250658>
- Harisma, R. (2024). Figurative language of football commentary by Peter Drury. *Serunai: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Pendidikan*, 10(2). <https://ejournal.stkipbudidaya.ac.id/index.php/ja/article/view/1434>
- Jaya, A. (2020). Approaches and experiences of English teaching in Indonesia. *Edukasi Lingua Sastra*, 8(1), 57–65.
- Joshua, S. F., & Udhedhe-Oze, G. (2026). A pragmatic analysis of the discourse of selected football commentaries. *Journal of Arts and Literature*, 5(1), 1–17.
- Khoirotusyarifah, D., Sulaeman, D., Aminuddin, M., & Sajidin. (2025). Directive illocutionary acts in a child's utterances in *The Sea Beast* movie (2022). *IDEAS: Journal on English Language Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature*, 13(1), 555–568. <https://doi.org/10.24256/ideas.v13i1.6534>
- Leech, G. N. (2016). *Principles of pragmatics*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315835976>
- Lesiana, N., Mulyadi, Jaya, A., & Pratiwi, E. (2023). Classroom interaction in communicative language teaching of secondary school. *Esteem Journal of English Education Study Programme*, 7(1), 61–71. <https://doi.org/10.31851/esteem.v7i1.12661>
- Loewen, S., Isbell, D. R., & Sporn, Z. (2020). The effectiveness of app-based language instruction for developing receptive linguistic knowledge and oral communicative ability. *Foreign Language Annals*, 53(2), 209–233. <https://doi.org/10.1111/flan.12454>
- Mahmud, A. F., Umahuk, S., Fudji, S. R., Noh, S. A., Soleman, F., & Gafar, A. (2023). Building students' communication skills in learning English through lesson study at senior high school. *Journal of Languages and Language Teaching*, 11(1), 72. <https://doi.org/10.33394/joltt.v11i1.6540>
- Richards, J. C. (2016). *Communicative language teaching today*. Cambridge University Press.
- Sanubarianto, S. T., Yanuarsih, S., Letreng, I. W., & Abadi, M. I. (2023). Perbandingan tindak ilokusi dalam

Vol 9, No 1 (2026): ESTEEM

- tuturan komentator sepak bola Liga Inggris dan Liga Indonesia: Kajian pragmatik lintas budaya. *Totobuang*, 11(1).
<https://doi.org/10.26499/totobuang.v11i1.462>
- Sapitri, P. A., Chasanah, A., Putri, A. A., & Paulima, J. (2019). Exploring Brown and Levinson's politeness strategies: An explanation on the nature of the politeness phenomenon. *REiLA: Journal of Research and Innovation in Language*, 1(3), 111–117.
<https://doi.org/10.31849/reila.v1i3.3801>
- Searle, J. R. (2019). *Speech acts: An essay in the philosophy of language*. Cambridge University Press.
- Suglia, A., Lopes, J., Bastianelli, E., Vanzo, A., Agarwal, S., Nikandrou, M., & Rieser, V. (2022). Going for GOAL: A resource for grounded football commentaries. *arXiv*.
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.04534>
- Sundari, W. (2023). Analysis of word formation process in register used by English and Indonesian football commentary. *Culturalistics: Journal of Cultural, Literary, and Linguistic Studies*, 7(1), 13–21.
- Sunendar, N. F., & Seda, K. A. (2026). Pragmatics of speech acts and illocutionary force in YouTube podcasts: A linguistic study of digital media discourse. *Alinea: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra dan Pengajaran*, 6(1), 415–428.
<https://doi.org/10.58218/alinea.v6i1.2923>
- Thonhauser, G., & Wetzels, M. (2019). Emotional sharing in football audiences. *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, 46(2), 224–243.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00948705.2019.1613159>
- Tuspekova, A., Mustafa, R., & Ismail, K. (2020). Understanding English speaking practice in public schools in Kazakhstan: A case study in Almaty. *3L: Language, Linguistics, Literature*, 26(1), 171–185.
<https://doi.org/10.17576/3L-2020-2601-12>
- Utomo, P., & Heriyono, H. (2025). Figurative language in *The Athletic* interview with Peter Drury: A semantic study. *Journal Sampurasun: Interdisciplinary Studies for Cultural Heritage*, 11(2), 127–137.
<https://doi.org/10.23969/sampurasun.v11i2.22760>
- Ventaja-Cruz, J., Rincón, J. M. C., Tejada-Medina, V., Martín-Moya, R., & Sánchez, R. P. (2024). Impact of the motivation, perception and self-concept of girls soccer players in multicultural contexts: A study in Melilla. *Retos: Nuevas Tendencias en Educación Física, Deporte y Recreación*, 60, 632–642.
<https://doi.org/10.47197/retos.v60.108908>
- Yule, G. (2016). *Pragmatik* (Jumadi, Trans.). Penerbit Ombak.
- Zou, B., Guan, X., Shao, Y., & Chen, P. (2023). Supporting speaking practice by social network-based interaction in artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted language learning. *Sustainability*, 15(4).
<https://doi.org/10.3390/su15042872>