

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the elaboration of background of the study, research questions, research purposes, significance of the study, previous study, and definition of the key terms.

1.1. Background of the Research

Language is means of communication and interaction for human beings with their surroundings. In other words, language becomes a tool to convey messages from the speaker to the interlocutor. Since the goal of communication is to express thoughts and feelings, it can be understood as a process of using speech to transmit messages. The communication process is considered successful if the speaking partner correctly understands the message or information the speaker is trying to convey. According to Rabiah (2012), language is a tool for interaction and communication, which is the exchange of ideas, concepts, sentiments, and thoughts. In the same way, Walija (1986) states that the language of communication is the most comprehensive and successful means of communicating intents, ideas, thoughts, sentiments, and opinions to other people. Language can be used both orally and in writing as a communication tool. Speech or spoken communication used in human contact is known as oral or verbal language. On the other hand, in written language, we communicate through written words. People can convey their feelings through utterances that others can read and listen to using either of the communication formats.

Social media allows for indirect and direct communication in the current globalized era. Webster (2022) defines social media as electronic communication where users establish virtual communities to exchange ideas, information, private

messages, and other content like videos. Much communication happens through uploads, captions, and comment columns. Instagram is one of the social media platforms used in this communication.

Instagram is a well-known social media platform. Instagram is a social networking platform that allows users to share photos and short videos online and share them with other users. Users also can leave comments in the comment column of the upload. In addition, Instagram users also share interesting news from around the world. One of them is the @cnn, an Instagram account of CNN, which often shares interesting news from around the world.

CNN is a US cable news channel founded in 1980 by American media conglomerate Ted Turner. CNN was the first television channel to broadcast 24-hour news coverage and the first news television channel in the United States. CNN provides news on television and uses its Instagram account to offer the most recent news via postings that include images and short videos. As of April 2024, the @cnn Instagram account had 15.7 thousand posts and 19.8 million followers and had been active on the platform since September 2012.

On October 9, 2023, the @cnn Instagram account posted a sad news from Afghanistan. A post read, "More than 2000 people killed as earthquake strikes Afghanistan" A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan on Saturday, October 7, 2023. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mojahid put the number killed at 2,053 people, with more than 1,240 people hurt and 1,320 houses entirely or partially destroyed. The post has garnered various comments responding to the sentiments expressed by netizens after seeing it. The following is an example of a comment from a netizen:

@hamzah_boshnaq: May their souls rest in peace.

The comment above comes from a netizen with the username @hamzah_boshnaq. The comment written by the netizen is more than just an ordinary comment.

Behind the word written is the meaning that the netizen wants to convey and the specific goals he wants to achieve. This can include conveying feelings of grief, voicing concern and offering prayers. Understanding the meaning and purpose of these comments is very important and necessary. In connection with this, in pragmatics studies, speech act theory, especially expressive speech act, is used to explore the phenomena that occur in the netizen comment above.

Pragmatics is one of the branches of linguistics and deals with speaker intent manifested in the form of language. Moreover, Leech (1983) argues that pragmatics is a context-bound language study. Understanding the context is critical in interpreting and comprehending a speaker's utterance. According to Yule (1996), a speech act is defined as an action that is performed through utterance/speech. Then, Austin, the pioneer of speech act theory, divided speech acts into three categories: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. The locutionary act is the act of informing or stating something (the act of saying something). In contrast, the illocutionary act is an act of wanting the speech partner to do something (the act of doing something). The perlocutionary act is an action that affects the speech partner or requires specific reactions, effects, or results from the speech partner (the act of influencing someone). During its development, Searle (1979) developed a theory of speech acts centred on the illocutionary. Furthermore, Searle classified illocutionary acts into five types: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Then, of the five types of illocutionary speech acts mentioned previously, the researcher focused only on expressive speech acts in this research.

According to Yule (1996), an expressive speech act is a type that represents the psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about a situation defined in the propositional content. The psychological state here refers to the speaker's feelings, which include pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, and sorrow. Everyone may have used this form of speech act every day because

everyone has a feeling they want to express to others. The forms of expressive speech include (1) thank you, (2) congratulate, (3) apologize, (4) blame, (5) praise, and (6) condolence.

In this study, the researcher will focus on expressive speech acts in the form of condolences. Condolences are one of the communicative speech acts. They are expressions designed to convey one's sympathy on the occasion of someone's death. The word condolence comes from the Latin, meaning 'to suffer together' (Zunin, 2007). It means acknowledging a loss, showing sympathy, or empathizing with someone. Humans are emotional beings; one can see this emotionality in everyday communication. The death of a loved one can bring with it a state of deep sorrow, grief, shock, and numbness (Parkers, 1997). As a condoler, individuals should express sympathy to a bereaved and help them to accept that a beloved has passed away.

Crucially, the ways to express condolence differ from one culture to another. Generally, culture and convention play an influential role in pragmatics. Besides, one can appropriately express condolences by understanding the bereaved's cultural background and belief system. For example, in one culture, the standard way to condole may be sending flowers or sympathy cards, but in another culture, there may be other ways to console the bereaved. This means we should be aware of cultural factors and beliefs when condoling. In the same vein, Zunin (2007) pointed out that condolence messages convey particular hidden meanings which are different across cultures.

The researcher analyzed the expressive speech acts of condolences based on several arguments. First, the expressive speech act is a linguistic phenomenon that expresses the speaker's feelings. In this case, people pour out all their thoughts through social media to participate in expressing condolences to the earthquake victims on the @cnn Instagram account post. With the sad news, people sympathize and then convey expressions of condolences through the

comment column. Then with the existence of these comments makes the researcher feel that these comments are important to study using the theory of expressive speech acts of condolences. Secondly, people do not know how to express their feelings. They comment on whatever is on their mind and aspirations in communication through internet media. This triggers the spread of expressive condolences that will impact other people's points of view when they want to respond to a disaster, such as the recent disaster that hit Afghanistan. It brings the perception of netizens according to the situation they feel. From the reasons above, it is essential to study the expressive speech acts of condolence to show readers how they become a language phenomenon by studying their types and functions and understanding what speakers express about their feelings before or when commenting on social media.

To learn more about the utterances used in expressing feelings of grief, the researcher examined the expressive speech acts of condolences used in the comment column on the @cnn Instagram account. The problem is the main highlight of this study because, amid a world situation that is not okay, frequent disasters in other parts of the world still make people feel full of sorrow for what has happened to their brothers and sisters in different parts. This fact wraps people's feelings in shock, fear, and full sorrow so that they display various expressive speech acts of response.

This is evidenced by the many expressions of condolences from citizens worldwide conveyed in the comment column, especially in @cnn's post on Instagram. Therefore, this study selected netizens' comments as data, supporting 1,591 comments as of April 2024 with various public responses in the form of expressions of condolences.

From the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the expressive utterances of condolences contained in the Instagram comments of the @cnn account on the post "More than 2000 people killed as earthquake strikes

Afghanistan”. In this study, the researcher wants to discuss the category and function of expressive utterances of condolence. Therefore, the researcher conducted a study titled “Expressive Speech Act of Condolences in the Comment Column of the News “Earthquake Strikes Afghanistan” on @cnn Instagram Account”.

1.2. Research Questions

Based on the background and explanation of the expressive speech acts of condolence that have been explained above, the researcher formulates that the questions that will be the main focus of this research are:

1. What categories of condolences are used in the comment column of the news “Earthquake Strikes Afghanistan” on @cnn Instagram account?
2. What functions of condolences are used in the comment column of the news “Earthquake Strikes Afghanistan” on @cnn Instagram account?

1.3. Research Purposes

1. To categorize the expressive speech acts of condolences used in the comment column of @cnn Instagram account.
2. To find out the function of expressive speech acts of condolences used in the comment column of @cnn Instagram account.

1.4. Research Significances

The researcher hopes that the results of this study will be useful and benefit the theoretical and practical use of language.

1. Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich knowledge and theoretical perspectives in pragmatics, especially on expressive speech acts of condolence.

2. Practically, this research can help readers analyze expressive speech acts of condolence. This research is also expected to be an empirical source for future researchers and readers who have an understanding of expressive speech acts of condolence. The researcher also hopes that this research can be further developed by parties who are interested in pragmatics studies, especially in speech acts of condolence.

1.5. Previous Study

This sub-chapter describes several previous studies on the study of expressive speech acts. Information from similar studies is necessary to conduct studies and evaluate data to answer research questions. The first one is a research by Fitriana Nur Indah Pangestu with the research title “*Tindak Tutur Ekspresif Ucapan Selamat Pernikahan dalam Surat Kabar Daring Mesa Araby Edisi Juli 2016 – Mei 2020: Analisis Pragmatik*”. The research focuses on the variations of expressive speech acts in wedding greetings. The research aims to know and describe variations of the expressive speech acts of wedding greetings in the Mesa Araby online newspaper. The research is based on the pragmatics theory. The data were collected from the wedding greetings in the section of Munasabatun wa Tahāniyyun in Mesa Araby online newspaper issue from July 2016 to May 2020. The method of providing data is referencing using an orthographic note-taking technique. The data analysis uses a descriptive analysis method. Meanwhile, the process of presenting data uses an informal method. Based on the research that has been done, there are three variations of the expressive speech acts of wedding greetings in the section of Munasabatun wa Tahāniyyun in Mesa Araby online newspaper as the expressive speech acts of wedding greetings to express dua, wishes, and gratitude and compliments.

The second is a research from Indah Nur Cahyani (2023) with the research title “*ANALISIS TINDAK TUTUR EKSPRESIF PADA CAPTION AKUN INSTAGRAM @GANJAR_PRANOWO: Kajian Pragmatik*”. This research aims to

delineate the various forms of expressive speech acts included in the Instagram caption of @ganjar_pranowo. Ganjar Pranowo, a political figure and the governor of Central Java, is the focus of this study. All expressive speech on the Instagram account caption @ganjar_pranowo is the subject of this study. This kind of study is qualitative and descriptive. The data-gathering techniques used were observation and note. The intra-lingual matching method was employed in the data processing process. The outcomes demonstrated that the Instagram account caption @ganjar_pranowo contained expressive speaking behaviours. The data on expressive speech behaviours that are praising. Thank you, says the expressive speech 15 speech act data. The data on expected speech acts for expressive speaking 10. The data about controversial speech acts from Expressive Speech 2. Apologies in expressive speech four speech act data. Expressive speech 3 speech act data to express condolences. Expressive speech 2 speech act data congratulate.

The third is research from Fitriyan and Erika Nur (2021) titled “Expressive Speech Acts in Netizens’ Comments on the UK’s First COVID-19 Vaccine Issue on BBC Channel”. This study aims to characterize the various forms of expressive speech acts and their purposes in internet users' commentary on the BBC channel regarding the UK's first COVID-19 vaccine issue. Internet users make many emotive remarks in posts on the BBC channel. This study shows how netizens used expressive speech to express their views, sentiments, and feelings when they commented on the BBC channel about the UK's first COVID-19 vaccine issue. Descriptive qualitative research is used in this study. The study's focus is an article on the BBC channel regarding the UK's First COVID-19 Vaccine Issue. The statements by internet users in their comments involving expressive speech acts make up the study's data. The information is categorized based on the many kinds of expressive speech acts per Searle's hypothesis (1976). Next, using Leech's theory (1983), the purposes of expressive speech acts are categorized. Based on the study's findings, there are five different categories of expressive speech acts: protesting utterances received 10 data or 39%, wishing

utterances received 6 data or 23%, complaining utterances received 5 data or 19%, thanking utterances received 4 data or 15% and congratulating was only once or 4%. Netizens primarily employed the expressive speech act of protesting in their comments on the BBC channel over the UK's first COVID-19 vaccine issue. Netizens' comments on the BBC channel identified four roles of the expressive speech act: the collaborative function 12 times, the convivial function nine times, the competitive function three times, and the conflict functions two times. The cooperative function of expressive speech acts is the one that is utilized most frequently in online users' comments on the UK's first COVID-19 vaccine issue on the BBC channel.

Then, there was research from Vionica Sandra Caresta (2023) titled “Expressive Speech Acts Analysis On The Comment Section Of Prince Ea’s YouTube Channel”. This research was driven by the prevalence of netizens’ comments expressing their feelings on Prince Ea’s YouTube channel, raising concerns about the education system. Netizens’ expressions in the comments section have specific meanings and functions; understanding the meaning and function of netizen comments that contained expressions of their feelings was important because this could avoid misunderstandings and ensure that communication in the comments section ran smoothly. Pragmatics offers insight into this phenomenon through the theory of expressive speech acts. The study focused on three objectives: (1) to find the types of expressive speech acts on the comment section of Prince Ea’s YouTube Channel, (2) to describe the meanings of expressive speech acts used in the comment section of Prince Ea’s YouTube Channel, (3) to know the functions of expressive speech acts used on the comment section of Prince Ea’s YouTube Channel. The research employed descriptive qualitative analysis, using comments from Prince Ea’s videos, “I Just Sued the School System” and “Student Vs Teacher.” The study involved data condensation, display, and conclusion. Moreover, investigator triangulation was employed to enhance the data’s validity. Results revealed 7 out of 8 expressive speech act

types in the comments, including agreement, volition, thanking, exclamations, sorrow, and greetings. Among these, thanking was the most frequent, with 36 occurrences. The reason was that the two Prince Ea videos conveyed inspirational messages that reflected experiences and problems often experienced in educational contexts. Then, to describe the meaning of expressive speech acts in the comment section, the researcher first examines the context, namely the content of two Prince Ea videos. Four distinct functions emerged: competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive. The convivial function was dominated, and it was used 60 times. It happened because of the positive responses from netizens, including their support, praise, and expressions of gratitude in their comments on Prince Ea's videos.

Then, research by Andres C. Cardozo, Rafael S. Raspanti, and Franco Zanfagnini (2020) titled "Condolences on Online Social Networks: A Pragmatic Study Based on the Speech Act Theory". This project focuses on expressive speech acts, specifically condolences, which may, in turn, be classified into eight categories according to the intentionality or function of Kuang (2015). Secondly, given technological advances, communication has acquired new features practically exclusive to online social media language (Berlanga & Martinez, 2010). This article aims to describe how native speakers of English tend to express condolences when they are informed about the real news of a close person's passing on an online social network (Facebook). The analysis considered the semantic functions of the illocutive speech act of condolence, following Kuang (2015) and the specific features described by Berlanga & Martinez (2010).

Finally, another research about expressive speech acts of condolences was conducted by Diah Nurlianingsih and Ernie D. Ayu Imperiani (2019) titled "An Analysis of Condolences Speech Act by Indonesian Adolescents". This study aims to categorize condolence expressions into methods and clarify how power and distance affect the strategies that twenty Indonesian adolescents, ages eleven

to nineteen, choose to employ. The study was employed using a qualitative descriptive method. As a discourse completion task (DCT), the data were analyzed using Elwood's (2004) classification of condolence strategies and Brown and Levinson's (1987) theory of politeness. Based on 20 condolence expressions for each given situation, the findings reveal first, seeking absolution from God and expression of sympathy appears as the dominant strategy used by the respondents with 27.3% and 26.9% occurrences, respectively, followed by future-oriented remarks (18.1%), an offer of assistance (12.3%), expression of concern (7.5%), related question (6.6%), and acknowledgement of the death (1.3%). Moreover, the finding also shows that variation in condolence expression strategies appears to be motivated by relationship factors. In more distant relationships, the respondents use lower-risk strategies, while those involved in a closer relationship would choose strategies of higher risk. The study findings indicate that respondents' collectivistic norms and religious backgrounds can powerfully affect their choice of strategies for expressing condolences.

The studies mentioned above discuss pragmatics as an approach to analyzing discourse. The differences lie in the research objectives, subjects, and theories used. Therefore, researchers in this study are interested in conducting similar pragmatics research to enrich the findings of previous studies. Although the researcher uses the same theory as one of the previous studies, namely Kuang's (2015) theory, to analyze the function of expressive speech acts of condolence, the object used differs. Then, this research will deepen the discussion of the disaster that shocked some parts of the country around the world, namely the earthquake that hit Afghanistan with the function of the use of expressive speech acts of condolence on the response of netizens in the comment column of the @cnn Instagram account, where it affects the formation of netizens perceptions communicated by commenting through the comment column. As a result, the findings will undoubtedly be different, and this research will benefit the use of expressive speech acts of condolence, so it is worth doing.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

The following definitions are used to avoid misunderstanding the terms used in this paper:

- **Speech Acts:** Speech acts can be defined as uttered activities.
- **Expressive Speech acts:** Expressive speech acts express the emotional idea.
- **Condolence:** Condolence means acknowledging a loss, showing sympathy, or empathizing with someone.
- **Netizen:** Netizen describes a person actively involved in online communities or the Internet in general.

