

EXPRESSIVE SPEECH ON GITA WIRJAWAN'S YOUTUBE ACCOUNT: IS IT POSSIBLE TO MERITOCRACY IN THE MIDST OF MEDIOCRACY WITH ROCKY GERUNG AND TOM LEMBONG

Pertiwi Anggraini^{1*}, Fatmawati²

¹² Universitas Islam Riau

pertiwianggraini3@student.uir.ac.id

fatmawati@edu.uir.ac.id

(*) Corresponding Author

pertiwianggraini3@student.uir.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

This research is motivated by the importance of understanding the use of language in political communication in digital media, especially expressive speech that not only conveys information, but also shows the attitude and feelings of the speaker. The problem in this study is how the function of expressive speech is used in political discussions on YouTube and how it plays a role in building meaning and influencing the audience. This study aims to identify and analyze the function of expressive speech in Gita Wirjawan's YouTube video entitled "*Is it possible to have a Meritocracy in the midst of mediocrity*". The novelty of this research lies in the focus of the study that discusses digital political discussions that are open and interactive, and not only identifies the types of speech, but also examines the function and context of its use. This research uses a qualitative approach with a content analysis method. Data in the form of oral speech was obtained through listening and recording techniques, then analyzed through the stages of reduction, classification, and drawing conclusions. The results showed that there were 87 expressive speeches consisting of four main functions, namely criticizing (35 data), praising (28 data), satirizing (20 data), and thanking (4 data). The criticism function is the most dominant because the discussion that takes place is argumentative, while the praise function acts as a counterbalance so that communication continues to run well. The conclusion of this study shows that expressive speech does not only function as an expression of feelings, but also as a strategy in expressing opinions, building arguments, and influencing the audience's perspective in digital political discussions.

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INTRODUCTION

'Human beings as social beings cannot be separated from communication activities in daily life. Each individual constantly conveys ideas, feelings, and information through language as the main medium in interacting. Language not only serves as a means of conveying messages, but also as a means to build social relationships and influence others. In the communication process, the success of message delivery is largely determined by the speaker's ability to compose

speech that can be understood appropriately by the speech partner. If the message conveyed can be received according to the intention of the speaker, then communication can be said to be effective. In this context, every communication activity is basically a form of speech act. Speech is not only related to what is said, but also how it is used in certain situations. Therefore, the existence of context is an inseparable aspect in understanding the meaning of a speech. This is in line with pragmatic studies that focus on the relationship between language and the context of its use. According to Tarigan (2009) in Telaumbanua (2024), pragmatics studies speech in special situations and focuses on various ways that become a forum for social context. Thus, pragmatics can be understood as a branch of linguistics that examines the meaning of language based on the context of its use in social interactions.

In the practice of communication, speech is not only used to convey information, but also to perform certain actions, such as commanding, requesting, rejecting, or expressing feelings. One form of speech that has an important role in communication is expressive speech. Expressive speech is a type of speech that is used to express the speaker's psychological attitude to a situation. According to Tarigan (2015) in Munthe et al. (2025), the function of expressive speech is to convey something that happens under certain conditions by expressing the feelings or emotions of the speaker. In line with that, Wardana et al. (2023) in Munthe et al. (2025) stated that expressive speech includes various forms of expression such as praise, complaint, criticism, gratitude, and other forms of evaluation. The existence of expressive speech is not only found in daily communication, but also in various realms of public communication, including mass media and political communication. In the political context, language serves not only as a means of communication, but also as a strategic instrument to influence public opinion. Speeches delivered by political figures often contain strong emotional content to build an image, show attitudes, and influence public perception of certain issues. According to Pranawukir (2023) in Kumalasari et al. (2024), the style of political communication has an important role in shaping public opinion, influencing political behavior, and determining the direction of public decisions in the context of democracy. The development of digital technology is increasingly expanding the space for political communication, especially through social media platforms such as YouTube. Digital media allows public figures to convey their ideas and views directly to the public without going through conventional media intermediaries. This condition creates more open, interactive, and dynamic communication. However, on the other hand, digital communication also presents challenges, such as the potential for distortion of meaning, manipulation of information, and the misuse of language for certain purposes. Therefore, analysis of the use of language, especially expressive speech in digital media, is important to understand how messages are conveyed and received by the audience. One of the interesting phenomena in political communication in digital media can be found on Gita Wirjawan's YouTube channel, especially in a video titled *"Is it possible to Meritocracy in the Middle of Mediocracy"* which presents resource persons Rocky Gerung and Tom Lembong. This discussion features various forms of speech that are loaded with emotional expressions, such as criticism, sarcasm, praise, and appreciation. As a public figure who is known to be critical, Rocky Gerung often uses expressive speech to convey his views on the political conditions in Indonesia. Meanwhile, Tom Lembong showed a more systematic communication style but still contained an expression of attitude towards the issues discussed. The interaction between the two speakers creates interesting communication dynamics to be analyzed from a pragmatic perspective, especially in the study of expressive speech acts.

Previous studies have examined expressive speech in various contexts, such as everyday conversations, literary works, and mass media. However, studies that specifically highlight the use of expressive speech in political discussions in digital media, especially in the YouTube talk show format, are still relatively limited. Research conducted by Kumalasari et al. (2024) shows that expressive speech in political interviews can affect the way audiences understand the message conveyed. However, the study has not in-depth examined the specific functions of expressive speech in the context of interactive and open digital political discussions. Based on this description, this research has novelty that lies in several aspects. First, this study focuses on the use of expressive speech in the context of digital political discussion on the YouTube platform, which has different characteristics compared to conventional media. Second, this study not only

identifies the types of expressive speech acts, but also examines the function and context of their occurrence in more depth in the interaction between sources. Third, this study connects the use of expressive speech with efforts to form opinions and audience involvement in political discourse, thus providing a new perspective in pragmatic studies, especially in the realm of digital political communication. Thus, this study aims to identify and analyze the function of expressive speech that appears in Gita Wirjawan's YouTube video entitled *"Is it possible to Meritocracy in the midst of mediocrity"* and understand how the speech is used to convey attitudes, build arguments, and influence the audience. This research is expected to make a contribution both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research enriches pragmatic studies, especially in the analysis of expressive speech in digital media. Practically, this research can be a reference for future researchers and provide a deeper understanding to the public about the use of language in political communication in the digital era.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a content analysis method that aims to understand and describe expressive speech in conversation in depth. This approach was chosen because the research focuses on the meaning of speech in the context of communication, not on the calculation of numbers. The analysis is carried out by observing, identifying, and classifying speech that contains expressions of the speaker's attitudes, feelings, and judgments. The research data in the form of oral speech contained in a video on Gita Wirjawan's YouTube channel entitled *"Is it possible to have a Meritocracy in the midst of mediocrity? With Rocky Gerung and Tom Lembong"*. Data collection is carried out through the observation and recording technique to obtain relevant and contextual data. The data in this study is in the form of oral speech that contains expressive speech actions in the form of words, phrases, and sentences. The main data source is a video on Gita Wirjawan's YouTube channel which was published on November 19, 2025 with a duration of 58 minutes and 53 seconds. The data was obtained from conversations between Gita Wirjawan, Rocky Gerung, and Tom Lembong that took place naturally. In addition, the data is also supported by transcription results made by researchers to facilitate the analysis process.

Data collection is carried out through documentation techniques combined with observation and recording techniques. The researcher watched the video thoroughly to understand the context of the conversation, then listened to it more deeply to identify speech that contained expressive speech. Relevant speech is then recorded and transcribed so that it forms a corpus of data that is ready to be analyzed. This process is carefully carried out to keep the data in its original context. Data analysis is carried out in stages through the process of collection, reduction, presentation, and drawing conclusions. The data that has been collected is selected to focus on relevant speech, then presented in the form of descriptions and classifications. Next, the researcher interpreted the data to find patterns of expressive speech use. Conclusions are obtained from the results of a thorough analysis so that it is able to describe the linguistic phenomenon being studied. The validity of the data is maintained through repeated checks between the transcription results and the original source in the form of videos. The researcher also conducted intensive observations by listening to the data repeatedly to understand the context of speech in depth. In addition, consistency in the analysis process is maintained so that the results of the research can be scientifically accounted for.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Based on the results of data analysis on Gita Wirjawan's YouTube show with a duration of 58 minutes and 53 seconds, researchers managed to identify as many as 87 speech data that were classified as expressive speech acts. The identification process is carried out by listening thoroughly to the course of the discussion, then recording each speech that contains the speaker's psychological expression of a situation, either in the form of feelings, judgments, or certain attitudes.

From the results of these observations, it was found that expressive speech does not appear randomly, but has certain

patterns that are closely related to the context of the discussion. Discussions that are intellectual, critical, and open cause the emergence of expressive speech acts to be dominated by forms that contain evaluations, assessments, and responses to the social, political, and economic phenomena being discussed.

In addition, the interesting thing in this study is that one speech does not always contain only one expressive function. In some cases, a single speech can contain more than one function at the same time, such as criticizing and satirizing at the same time, or praising but also containing a sense of irony. This shows that the use of language in such discussions is quite dynamic and complex, not only to convey information, but also to build deeper meaning through word choice and delivery style. Overall, of the 87 data found, there were four main functions of expressive speech that were predominantly used, namely thanks, sarcasm, criticism, and praise. Meanwhile, other functions such as apology, condolences, and congratulations were not found at all in the analyzed data.

The distribution of data based on the function of expressive speech can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. The Function of Expressive Speech

Yes	The Function of Expressive Speech	Amount of Data
1	Saying Thank You	4
2	Insinuation	20
3	Criticizing	35
4	Praise	28
	Total	87

Based on the table, it can be seen that the criticizing function is the most dominant function with a total of 35 data. This indicates that the course of the discussion is more colored by the delivery of evaluations, corrections, and assessments of various phenomena. On the other hand, the praise function is also quite high with a total of 28 data, which shows that in addition to criticism, there is also an appreciation of individuals and ideas that are considered valuable. The satirical function appeared as many as 20 data, which showed that in conveying criticism or disapproval, the speaker did not always use direct methods, but often used indirect language styles that tended to be subtle but still contain sharp meanings. Meanwhile, the thank you function is the least found, i.e. only 4 data, which generally appears in the opening or closing part of the discussion.

1. Expressive Speech Function of Thanking

Based on the results of the analysis that has been carried out, the function of expressive speech in the form of expressions of gratitude is indeed found in a limited number. However, its existence cannot be considered trivial because it has a fairly strategic role in building and maintaining the quality of communication interactions. In the context of discussion, this act of speech generally appears at the beginning and end of the conversation, so it can be understood as an important element that functions to open and close communication in a polite manner. Thus, this function is not only related to the linguistic aspect, but also concerns the social dimension in communication.

In Data 1, namely "Thank you friends, ladies and gentlemen", it is clear that the speaker is trying to show an attitude of appreciation for the audience. This expression is not only a form of routine formality, but also reflects the psychological condition of the speaker who appreciates the presence and participation of the speaking partner. In this case, the speaker is indirectly building a positive initial relationship with the audience. This is important because in a discussion situation, the initial atmosphere greatly determines the direction of the next interaction. If the opening is done with an open and respectful attitude, then the audience is more likely to be comfortable to engage in the communication process.

If analyzed more deeply, the use of gratitude expressions in the beginning can also be understood as a communication strategy that aims to create a more fluid atmosphere. The speaker does not directly enter into the core discussion which may be serious or argumentative, but first builds emotional closeness. With this expression, the audience is placed in a valued position, so that the interaction that occurs becomes more dialogical and not rigid. In this context, the act of thank-you serves as a means to bridge the relationship between the speaker and the speaking partner.

Furthermore, in Data 9 which reads "thank you very much Gita for the invitation", there is a variation in the use of language that shows a shift from formal to semi-formal variety. The use of the phrase "thank you very much" indicates a closer relationship between the speaker and the speaking partner. This shows that expressive speech is greatly influenced by the social context behind it. In more relaxed or familiar situations, speakers tend to use more flexible and less rigid forms of language.

Furthermore, the speech in Data 9 also shows that expressions of gratitude not only serve as a form of appreciation, but also as a strategy to dilute the atmosphere of the discussion. By using more relaxed language, speakers indirectly reduce social distance with speaking partners. This is especially important in discussion situations involving many participants, as an overly formal atmosphere can sometimes hinder smooth communication.

In the closing section, this function reappears as seen in Data 65 ("Thank you") and Data 66 ("Thank you, Tom"). Both data show that the expression of gratitude is used as a form of final affirmation in communication. The speaker not only ends the conversation, but also appreciates the contribution of the speaking partner during the discussion. Closing accompanied by a thank you expression gives the impression that the interaction that has taken place is appreciated and acknowledged.

The use of English in Data 66 also shows variations in communication practices. This can be understood as a form of adjustment to a certain social context or background. Even though they use different languages, the meaning conveyed remains the same, namely as a form of appreciation for speaking partners. This phenomenon shows that in modern communication, the use of more than one language is natural and does not reduce the essence of the speech that is conveyed.

When viewed as a whole, the four data show that the act of saying thank you has a fairly strong pragmatic function. Speakers not only convey information, but also manage social relationships through expressive expressions. With the expression of gratitude, the communication that occurs becomes more polite, harmonious, and respectful of each other. Thus, even though the number of appearances is limited, expressive speech in saying thank you still has a great contribution to building effective communication. This function not only plays a complementary role in interaction, but also becomes an important part of maintaining a balance of relationships between speakers and speech partners.

2. Expressive Speech Acts of Satire Function

The function of sarcasm in expressive speech is one of the forms that is quite dominant in the data of this study. When compared to the function of saying thank you, which tends to appear in a limited way, sarcasm is actually more often used by speakers in various discussion situations. This shows that in communication practices, especially those that are dialogical and argumentative, speakers use more indirect strategies to convey certain intentions. Satire is an option because it is able to convey criticism without having to cause an open confrontation.

In general, sarcasm has different characteristics from direct speech. If speech directly conveys the intention explicitly, then sarcasm actually hides the intention behind a certain form of language, such as humor, comparison, or analogy. Therefore, the meaning of satire is highly dependent on the context of the situation, the background of the speaker and speaking partner, and the common knowledge they have. This is what makes insinuations more complex, but at the same time more interesting to analyze in pragmatic studies.

In Data 25 which reads "Maybe the Ciliwung river is not enough to accommodate its ministers", the speaker uses the hyperbolic language style as a means to convey innuendo. This speech cannot be interpreted literally, but must be understood as a form of criticism of the number of ministers that are considered excessive. By using imaginative

comparisons, the speaker succeeds in conveying criticism without having to directly mention the object being criticized. This shows that satire has a strong expressiveness because it is able to package criticism in a more subtle but still sharp form. If you look deeper, the use of hyperbole in speech also serves to attract the attention of speech partners. Expressions that are exaggerated tend to be easier to remember and have a strong rhetorical effect. Thus, the message conveyed not only reaches the speaking partner, but also has a wider influence in the context of the discussion.

Furthermore, in Data 30 which reads "You see Mr. Tom smiling but not as sweet as sugar", the satire is conveyed through a humorous approach. The speaker gives an assessment of the expression of the speaking partner, but it is packaged in the form of a light and not too serious comparison. The use of humor in satire has a fairly important function, namely to keep the atmosphere relaxed and not tense. In discussion situations, this is an effective strategy so that the criticism conveyed does not cause direct offense.

In Data 31, "It's a hassle to talk to Rocky like this", and Data 32, "always out of the script", sarcasm is used to comment on the communication style of speech partners. These two speeches show that the speaker is actually criticizing the communication pattern that is considered not in accordance with the flow of the discussion. However, because it was delivered indirectly and in a tone that tended to be relaxed, the criticism did not feel like a personal attack. This shows that sarcasm can function as a social control mechanism in communication, without necessarily damaging the relationship between participants.

Furthermore, in Data 39 which reads "the walls are good, inside it is messy", the speaker uses an analogy to convey a broader and deeper insinuation. This speech not only refers to physical conditions, but can also be interpreted as criticism of a certain system, policy, or situation that seems good on the surface, but has many problems in it. The use of analogies like this suggests that sarcasm not only works on an interpersonal level, but can also lead to more complex social criticism. If analyzed as a whole, the high frequency of insinuations in this research data is not without reason. One of the main factors is that the context of the communication analyzed tends to be discussion, where there are many exchanges of opinions, arguments, and even differences of opinion. In situations like this, the speaker needs a communication strategy that is not only effective in conveying the message, but also able to maintain harmonious social relationships. Sarcasm is the right choice because it is able to accommodate both needs.

In addition, sarcasm also appears more often because it provides space for the speaker to remain critical without having to look confrontational. In a communication culture that tends to uphold politeness, criticism delivered directly is sometimes considered unethical or potentially conflicting. Therefore, speakers prefer to use sarcasm as a form of "middle ground" between conveying criticism and maintaining politeness. Another factor that causes satire to be more dominant is because of its flexible and creative nature. Speakers can use various styles of language, such as hyperbole, irony, humor, and analogy, to convey their meaning. This makes insinuations more varied and less monotonous than direct speech. In addition, the use of sarcasm can also increase the attractiveness of communication, because speech partners need to interpret to understand the true meaning.

From a pragmatic perspective, the use of sarcasm also shows the ability of speakers to manage speech strategically. Speakers not only focus on what they want to convey, but also consider how to convey it so that it can be well received by speaking partners. This shows that sarcasm is not just a form of language, but also part of complex communication skills. Thus, it can be concluded that the dominance of expressive speech acts of satirical function in this study is influenced by several factors, including the context of argumentative discussions, the need to maintain politeness, and the flexibility of the form of language used. Innuendo is an effective strategy because it is able to convey criticism subtly, maintain interpersonal relationships, and provide variety in communication practices. Therefore, the existence of sarcasm in interactions not only serves as a tool of criticism, but also as a means to maintain balance and harmony in communication.

3. Expressive Speech Acts of Criticism

The act of expressive speech criticizing was the most dominant form in this study. This dominance shows that the

analyzed discussion is very thick with evaluation, assessment, and testing activities on various phenomena discussed. In this context, criticism is not only present as a form of disagreement, but also as part of the critical thinking process that is indeed the main feature in academic and argumentative discussions. In Data 3, namely "lack of investment in education", the speaker conveyed direct criticism of the education sector. This speech shows that there is concern for conditions that are considered not optimal. Although the form is short, the meaning conveyed is quite broad because it leads to policy evaluation in general. This criticism was then reinforced by Data 4 and Data 5, namely "lack of investment in infrastructure" and "lack of meeting point between power and talent". These three data show a pattern of criticism submission that is not done randomly, but is arranged sequentially.

If you look deeper, the pattern shows that the speaker has a systematic way of thinking. The problems are not presented separately, but are grouped into several interrelated aspects. This makes the criticism delivered easier to understand by the speaking partner, as well as showing that the speaker does not only speak spontaneously, but has a strong foundation of thought. In Data 18, namely "local management is the root of corruption", it can be seen that criticism is conveyed firmly and directly. The speaker does not use intermediaries such as sarcasm, but conveys statements explicitly. This form of speech usually appears when the speaker has high confidence in the argument being conveyed. In addition, direct speech like this also serves to affirm the speaker's position in the discussion.

On the other hand, there are also criticisms that are conveyed in a more constructive way, such as in Data 43, namely "education funds must be increased". In this speech, the speaker not only points out the shortcomings, but also provides the direction of the solution. This shows that the criticism that comes up in the discussion is not always demeaning, but also improving-oriented. With the element of solution, criticism becomes more productive and makes a real contribution to the discussion.

The same thing can also be seen in Data 44 which alludes to the nutritious lunch program. Speakers not only highlighted the concept of the policy, but also criticized its implementation in the field. This shows that the criticism conveyed does not stop at the level of ideas, but also touches on the practical aspect. Thus, criticism becomes more contextual and relevant to the conditions that actually occur. Overall, the high incidence of criticism speech in this study is greatly influenced by the context of argumentative discussions. In situations like this, the speaker tends to actively provide judgments to reinforce the argument being built. Criticism is the main tool to test ideas, compare views, and encourage the emergence of deeper thinking. Thus, the act of expressive speech criticizing in this study not only plays a role as a form of assessment of shortcomings, but also becomes an important part of building reflective, analytical, and improvement-oriented discussions.

4. Expressive Speech Acts of Praise Function

The act of expressive speech praising occupies the second position after the act of criticizing speech in this study. Its existence is very important because it acts as a counterweight in the dynamics of discussions that tend to be dominated by critical judgment. Without praise, the interaction that occurs has the potential to feel too harsh and focus on shortcomings. Therefore, praise is present as a form of positive expression that is able to keep the communication atmosphere conducive, as well as show that the speaker does not only see the side of weaknesses, but is also able to appreciate the advantages.

If viewed more deeply, the act of praising not only serves as an expression of appreciation, but also has a strategic role in building social relations between participants. In discussions, especially those involving differences of opinion, compliments can be a "cooler" that keeps the interaction going in a respectful atmosphere. With praise, the speaker indirectly shows an open attitude and is not completely oriented to criticism.

In Data 2, namely "two very brilliant people", the speaker clearly appreciates the intellectual abilities of the speakers. The use of the word "brilliant" suggests that the praise given is not just a small talk, but actually reflects a high judgment. In this context, praise also has a function to build the credibility of speaking partners in front of the audience. When the resource person is positioned as a "brilliant" figure, the audience will indirectly pay more attention to and

appreciate the opinions conveyed by the interviewer.

In addition, compliments at the beginning of a discussion like this can also be understood as a communication strategy to create a more positive atmosphere from the beginning. The speaker does not directly enter into the debate or criticism, but first builds the foundation of an appreciative interaction. This is important because the initial atmosphere of the discussion will greatly affect the course of subsequent communication.

Furthermore, in Data 11, "extraordinary", and Data 12, "decentralization is extraordinarily important", it can be seen that the praise is directed not only at individuals, but also at concepts or systems. This shows that in intellectual discussions, the object of praise is not limited to humans as actors, but also includes ideas that are considered to have certain value or contributions. Praise for concepts like this indicates that the speaker has the ability to assess ideas objectively, regardless of who is presenting the idea.

Furthermore, praise of concepts also serves to strengthen the argument in the discussion. When the speaker states that a concept is "extraordinarily important", then the speaker is indirectly asserting the position that the concept is worth considering or even applying. Thus, praise is not only expressive, but also has an argumentative function.

In Data 54, which is "fishermen who speak very structured", it can be seen that praise is given to individuals who do not come from the elite. This shows that the speaker has a fairly open perspective in assessing a person's quality. Assessment is not based on social background, but on the ability to think and how to convey ideas. In this context, praise is a form of recognition of the intellectual capacity that arises from anyone.

This is further strengthened by Data 55, "this is a fisherman can talk like that", which contains an element of admiration. This speech shows that the speaker not only gives a positive assessment, but also feels a surprise or interest in the ability displayed. This kind of expression of admiration makes the compliment feel more alive and not just a formality.

In addition, in Data 37 which describes the phenomenon of beggars using barcodes, speakers show a form of appreciation for the development of systems that are considered innovative. Praise in this context no longer focuses on the individual, but on social phenomena that reflect the changing times. This shows that in the discussion, the speaker pays attention not only to the human aspect, but also to the social dynamics that develop in society.

If analyzed more deeply, the diversity of the objects of praise shows that the act of praising has a fairly wide space in communication practice. Speakers can give appreciation to individuals, ideas, or phenomena, depending on the context of the discussion. This makes praise a form of flexible and adaptive speech acts.

Overall, the act of expressive speech praising in this study not only serves as a form of appreciation, but also as a strategy to maintain balance in the discussion. In the midst of the dominance of criticism that is quite strong, praise is present to reduce tension and create a more harmonious atmosphere. In addition, praise also serves to strengthen interpersonal relationships, increase the confidence of speaking partners, and provide recognition for things that are considered valuable.

Thus, the act of praising cannot be seen as an unimportant additional element, but rather as an integral part of building healthy and balanced communication. Its existence is a sign that even in critical discussions, the aspect of appreciation still has significant space.

5. Undiscovered Expressive Speech

Based on the results of the analysis, no expressive speech acts in the form of apology, condolences, and congratulations were found in this research data. The absence of these three forms of speech can be understood if we look at the context of the communication analyzed, namely discussions that are academic, argumentative, and oriented towards public issues.

If you look at several data such as Data 47 which discusses the future of education, Data 60 which highlights the public curriculum, and Data 71 which discusses the political system, it can be seen that the interaction that occurs is more focused on the exchange of ideas and analysis. In situations like these, speakers tend to use language to convey arguments

and opinions, rather than to express personal feelings.

The absence of an act of apology can be caused because in a structured discussion, each participant generally maintains the presentation of his argument quite carefully. Differences of opinion that occur are not considered as mistakes that must be followed by an apology, but as a natural thing in the discussion process. In addition, the focus of the conversation is more directed towards substance, rather than on personal relationships that can trigger the need to apologize.

Meanwhile, the act of expressing condolences was not found because there was no discussion related to the event of grief or loss. The data analyzed mostly discussed policy issues, such as Data 74 which criticized teacher salaries and Data 79 which discussed the education budget. These topics are structural and do not touch the emotional realm, so they do not raise the need to express condolences.

The act of congratulating also did not appear because there was no situation related to certain celebrations or achievements. The discussions analyzed mostly contain criticism, evaluation, and analysis of various problems. Therefore, the space to give congratulations is very limited.

If understood further, the absence of these three speech acts shows that the communication that occurs is more oriented to the cognitive aspect than the affective aspect. Speakers focus more on conveying ideas and arguments, so that forms of speech that are emotionally personal become less relevant in this context.

Thus, the absence of apology, condolences, and congratulations in this study emphasizes that the use of speech is greatly influenced by the communication situation. In academic and argumentative discussions, the dominant speech actions are those related to thinking activities, such as criticizing, praise, and sarcasm, while those that are personal emotional tend not to appear.

DISCUSSION

The discussion in this study emphasizes the interpretation of the findings based on the perspective of speech theory actions, especially expressive speech actions proposed by John R. Searle. In his view, expressive speech is used to show the speaker's psychological attitude towards a certain situation or event. When associated with the results of the study, the variations in functions that emerge such as criticizing, praise, satirism, and thanking show that the speaker not only conveys information, but also actively manages attitudes, emotions, and social relationships in the communication process. This emphasizes that the practice of language in discussions cannot be separated from the pragmatic dimension that involves context, goals, and relationships between participants.

In the context of the function of saying thanks, theoretically this speech is a form of positive psychological expression that reflects a sense of appreciation and recognition for the actions of the speech partner. Helda and Fatmawati (2023) explain that expressions of gratitude appear in response to experiences that are considered enjoyable and valuable for the speaker. This means that this speech does not come by chance, but is influenced by the contribution of other parties who are appreciated. This view is strengthened by Murti et al. (2018) who stated that the act of thanksgiving is related to the actions or kindness of the speech partner that triggers the emergence of an appreciation response. In discussion situations, this function also has a fairly strong social dimension, because according to Pramujiono et al. (2020), expressions of gratitude are able to build and strengthen interpersonal relationships. Thus, although its appearance is limited, pragmatically this function still has an important role as a marker of politeness and as a strategy to open and close interactions in a more harmonious manner. This is also in line with Searle's view that gratitude is a form of positive evaluation of the actions of speech partners.

Meanwhile, the satirical function in pragmatic studies can be understood as a form of expression of displeasure that is conveyed indirectly. Ananda (2024) explained that sarcasm arises when the speaker wants to convey criticism or disapproval without expressing it explicitly. In this case, sarcasm is a fairly effective communication strategy because it is able to maintain politeness while still conveying the message in question. From a pragmatic perspective, sarcasm is closely related to the speaker's efforts to avoid threats to the face of the speaking partner, so that negative messages can still be received without causing direct conflict. In addition, satire also shows the creativity of language, because the speaker uses various rhetorical styles such as hyperbole, irony, and analogy to convey his intentions. Thus, sarcasm not only functions as a tool of criticism, but also as a form of communicative strategy that shows the speaker's pragmatic

skills in managing speech.

The criticizing function that is the most dominant in this study can also be explained through a theoretical perspective. Pratama and Utomo (2020) stated that criticism is a form of speech used to assess a condition that is considered to have shortcomings. Meanwhile, Kusmanto (2019) emphasized that criticism is not always negative, but can function as a means of improvement. In this context, criticism that arises in discussions leads more to constructive criticism that aims to improve or improve the quality of something. This is in line with John R. Searle's view that expressive speech reflects the speaker's attitude to a situation, so criticism can be understood as a form of negative evaluation that still has a clear communicative purpose. The dominance of the criticism function in this study also shows that the analyzed discussions have an argumentative and reflective character. Speakers not only express opinions, but also actively test, compare, and evaluate various ideas. In this case, criticism is an important part of the critical thinking process which is indeed a characteristic of academic communication.

On the other hand, the function of praise is present as a counterweight in the dynamics of communication which tends to be dominated by criticism. Theoretically, Syafendra and Fatmawati (2023) explain that praise is a form of expression of admiration and appreciation for certain qualities or excellence. This opinion is strengthened by Cahya Bening and Asnawi (2025) who state that praise serves as a positive reinforcement in interaction. In the framework of John R. Searle's theory, praise is included in expressive speech that reflects the speaker's positive evaluation of an object. In the context of discussion, praise not only serves as an emotional expression, but also has a strategic role in keeping the communication atmosphere conducive. The presence of praise shows that the speaker not only focuses on the shortcomings, but is also able to appreciate the strengths that exist. In addition, praise can also strengthen the argument, because when the speaker gives a positive assessment of an idea, the speaker is indirectly confirming that the idea is worth considering. Thus, praise has a dual function, namely as a psychological expression as well as an argumentative strategy.

The absence of several functions of expressive speech such as apology, condolences, and congratulations can also be explained through a theoretical perspective. Fatmawati and Ningsih Rika (2024) stated that the act of apologising usually appears when there is a mistake that needs to be corrected. In the context of academic discussion, disagreements are not seen as mistakes, so the need for apologies is minimal. Meanwhile, Utari and Erni (2024) explained that the act of expressing condolences is related to the expression of empathy for grieving events, which in this study is not part of the topic of discussion. The same thing is also conveyed by Indrayanti (2025) who states that congratulations are related to the situation of achievement or celebration, which is also not found in the context of critical and analytical discussions.

Furthermore, these findings suggest that the use of speech acts is strongly influenced by the context of communication. In academic and argumentative discourse, speakers tend to use speech actions that support thinking activities, such as criticizing, praise, and sarcasm. This is in line with the view of Fatmawati (lecturer of Indonesian Language and Literature Education at the Islamic University of Riau) who emphasized that in academic communication, the dominant speech functions are those related to the development of ideas and intellectual interactions, not those that are personal emotional. Thus, it can be understood that the distribution of speech function in this study does not occur by chance, but is a reflection of the characteristics of the analyzed communication context.

Overall, this discussion shows that expressive speech not only serves as a means of expressing emotions, but also as a complex communication strategy. Speakers not only consider what they want to convey, but also how to convey it so that it fits the context and is acceptable to the speaking partner. This shows that pragmatic studies, especially expressive speech acts, have an important role in understanding the dynamics of communication that occur in academic discussions.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that the use of expressive speech in the discussion shows a fairly clear pattern and is influenced by the context of communication that is critical and argumentative. Of the 87 data found, the criticism function was the most dominant, followed by praise, sarcasm, and thanks. The dominance of the criticism function occurs because the course of the discussion emphasizes more on the exchange of ideas, evaluation, and assessment of various issues discussed. In situations like these, speakers tend to actively provide criticism to test arguments, strengthen opinions, and encourage the emergence of deeper thoughts. So, criticism is not just a form of disagreement, but it is indeed an important part of the intellectual discussion process. On the other hand, the praise function remains high enough as a counterweight so that the discussion is not too dominated by negative judgments. Meanwhile, sarcasm is used as a strategy to convey criticism indirectly so that it still feels more subtle. The thank you function appears the least because it is usually only used in the opening and closing sections. The absence of functions such as apology, condolences, and congratulations also suggests that discussions focus more on ideas and arguments,

rather than on personal emotional expressions. Based on this, it is recommended that in discussions, the use of criticism is balanced with praise or other forms of appreciation so that communication continues to run well and does not create too harsh impressions. In addition, researchers can then examine different contexts so that the results of the research can be broader and varied.

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