



# Expressive Illocutionary Acts Found in “Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024)” Movie

Ida Bagus Yudi Wardana<sup>1</sup>, I Gede Agoes Caskara Surya Putra<sup>2</sup>

[Yudiwardana666@gmail.com](mailto:Yudiwardana666@gmail.com)

<sup>1,2</sup>English Literature Department, Mahasaraswati University Denpasar

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## Abstract

The goal of the study is to contribute to the solution of research problems by identifying the issues with expressive speech acts through an analysis of emotional expression, relationship building, and self-identity. Particularly in this study that uses data from the Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024) movie, to identify the various types of expressive illocutionary acts in the movie, this study used a descriptive qualitative method, with the data analysis done based on Yule's (1996) theory. 6 types of expressive illocutionary acts are found in the movie, such as; doubting, anger, praise, joy, blaming, and regretting with a total of 96 data which can be classified as follows; 24 doubting, 21 angry, 17 praising, 13 joy, 12 blaming, and 9 regretting. This study reveals important details about the expressive personalities in the movie in addition to speech act types.

**Keywords:** *Speech Act, Expressive Illocutionary Act, Movie*

## Introduction

Communication is a very vital point in our daily lives as a human being. These days, communication has been improving to become easier and easier due to rapid development of the technology. Many people think that communication is now one of life's essential needs. The most vital aspect that facilitates our communication is language. Language serves as a tool for the speaker to communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas to the listener or speech partner. According to Izar (2020), we can learn about the properties of language through speakers with characteristics of language behavior. Humans are social creatures, and one of their needs to interact with others is to communicate. Pragmatic study reveals the phenomenon of language that is used to uphold the goal of communication. Yule (1996:3) states that “pragmatics is the study of meaning as it is communicated by a speaker and understood by a listener, there is an element in pragmatics called speech act”.

Speech act concerned with the utterance's hidden meaning. According to (Tutuarima et al., 2018), intention and message are the most important aspects of a speech act to help the listener to comprehend the meaning. It occurs when people convey words such as greeting, complaint, apology, request, invitation, etc. Yule (1996:48) states there are three types of speech acts: Locutionary act, Illocutionary act, and Perlocutionary act are the kinds of speech acts. Locutionary is the performance of an utterance, Illocutionary act is the aim of the utterance, and the impact of the utterance on the listener is Perlocutionary act. This article will be limited to discussing expressive illocutionary act.

Expressive speech act is a very interesting topic to be analyzed since it's closely related to our daily conversation, and every thoughts and feelings we share through words. All can be studied in the expressive speech act. Expressive speech acts are those in which the speaker expresses their feelings through their words (Anggreni et al., 2020). According to Norrick (1978) as cited in selsibilla et al., (2022), types of expressive speech act namely forgiving, thanking, apologizing, congratulating, condoling, deploring, lamenting, welcoming, boasting.

Many studies have examined expressive speech acts in movies or other data sources. There are three academic studies that analyze expressive speech acts, similar to this one. Handayani (2015) focused on analyzing the types of expressive speech acts from Hannah Montana Season 1. Three methods used to analyze the types of expressive speech acts in this study by using theories from Mahsun (2005). The observation method to seek information from the movie; the noting technique to gather expressive speech acts; and descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. The data source is a film entitled Hannah Montana, Session 1, Episodes 1-2. The findings of the research present ten kinds of expressive speech acts found in Hannah Montana Season 1. There are; apology, thanks, sympathy, attitudes, greetings, wishes, joy, pain, likes, and dislikes. And the researcher found the forms of expressive speech act in this study: direct literal expressive speech act, direct non-literal expressive speech act, and indirect non-literal expressive speech act. The next research is; Ngasini (2021) which focused on The Ellen Show "Interview with Billie Eilish." The researcher, examining the expressive speech act that was conducted in this interview, also described the realization and actual condition used in the Billie Eilish interview on the Ellen show. Searle's (1979) theories were used in this study to analyze the utterances, and the descriptive qualitative method was also used to analyze the dialogue between interviewer and interviewee collected from the interview script of the Ellen Show.

The findings of this study highlighted six types of expressive speech acts: thanking, congratulating, attributing, apologizing, and wishing. The last study is from Ricca & Ambelgian (2022) entitled "Expressive Speech Act Found in Love at First Swipe Web Series." This research focused on identifying expressive speech

acts found in the Love at First Swipe web series by Jinn boy TV YouTube channel from episode one to episode four. Searle (1979) and Ilie & Norrick (2018) used to point out three steps and analyze the data. The first is identifying and classifying the important expressive speech act sentence. Second, expressive speech act types were used to analyze. Third, by presenting the highest and lowest types that conduct this study. Observational methods and non-participatory techniques by Sudaryono (2015) were also used to collect the data and pragmatic equalizing methods to analyze the data. The Love at First Swipe web series contains 15 expressive speech acts. Only two categories of expressive speech acts, regret speech acts and condolence speech acts, were not present from the utterances, though. Other types of expressive speech acts were discovered, including 3 data of gratitude, 2 data of apology, 1 data of congratulations, 8 data of praise, and 1 data of welcome. In order praise is the most common expressive speech act in the Love at First Swipe web series.

Additionally, based on the three earlier studies mentioned above, numerous researchers have examined expressive speech acts, but the data sources and methods were varied. Handayani uses films for data, Ngasini uses talk shows, and Ricca and Ambelgian use YouTube web series. The researchers used a variety of methods to analyze and deliver, and different theories. The researcher in this article analyzed expressive type and data from a movie entitled Kung Fu Panda 4, the delivery, and theory slightly different from previous researchers. This research conducted to give further explanation in types of expressive illocutionary act and how the expressive illocutionary act is used in various situations. Furthermore, this research is expected to provide additional information for other researchers who are interested in conducting further analysis in illocutionary acts, especially expressive illocutionary acts.

## **Method**

This research used a descriptive qualitative method where the collected data were classified into several types of expressive illocutionary act based on the theory proposed by Yule's (1996). The analysis was continued by the meaning analysis of expressive illocutionary acts used by the characters in the movie. The data collection was done through documentation and observation methods. The documentation method was done by downloading and saving the movie from the Internet. The observation method was done through several steps; (1) watched the movie, (2) classified which expressive illocutionary act can be analyzed and understood its context, (3) captured and recorded every scene that can be

potentially chosen as the data. The researcher carefully watched the movie and read transcripts to better understand the plot and expressive sentences. After that, the researcher collected and classified the data into 6 categories of expressive illocutionary acts, such as; doubt, anger, praise, joy, blame, and regret; these specific types were chosen based on the relevance with the theory proposed by Yule (1996).

## Result and Discussion

This article's results of the analysis are in the form of formal and informal format. The formal method was applied by using a table to show the percentage of which types of expressive illocutionary acts that are used the most by the characters in this movie. The informal method was used in presenting the data descriptively with captured scenes in order to present the research clearly. The results include 24 examples of doubt, 21 examples of anger, 17 examples of praising, 13 examples of joy, 12 examples of blaming, and 9 examples of regretting, with a total of 96 examples derived from Yule's (1996) theory. The results that addressed the various types that occurred in the film are shown in the following table.

Table 1. The Occurrence Type of Expressive Speech Act Found in "Kung Fu Panda 4" Movie 2024

No	Type of expressive	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Doubting	24	25.00%
2.	Anger	21	21.88%
3.	Praising	17	17.71%
4.	Joy	13	13.54%
5.	Blaming	12	12.50%
6.	Regretting	9	9.38%
Total	96	100%	100%

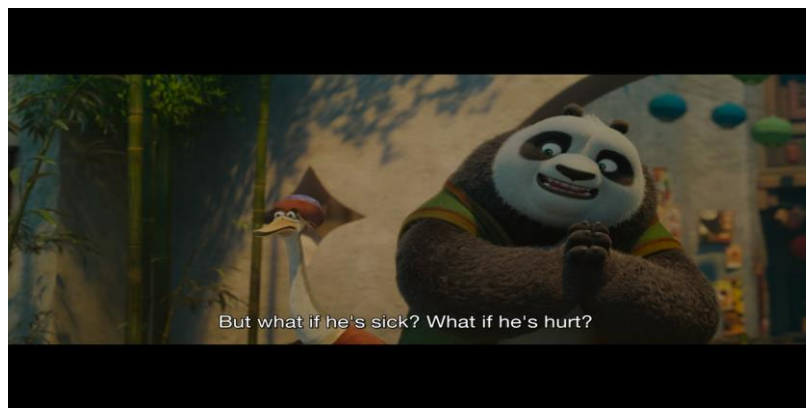
According to the table above, "Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024)" movie contains 96 data points about expressive speech acts. The majority of the study's data or the most found type is "Doubting" which shown 24 times (25.00%), followed by 21 times (21.88%) of "Anger", 17 times (17.71%) of "Praising", 13 times (13.54%) of "Joy", 12 times (12.50%) of "Blaming" and finally the least shown type is "Regretting" which appeared only 9 times (9.38%). The "Doubting" became the most found type because it was affected by the characters in the movie itself, many

characters in this movie hesitate to take action and Panda Po, the main character in the movie, is a doubtful character and often shown as an unreliable being. On the other hand, "Regretting" became the least found type in the movie because the genre of the movie is action-comedy which shows very little flashbacks or past mistakes among the character which makes the dialogue of the characters regretting something are rarely found in the movie. The example of the data analysis can be found in the following and will contain one example of the data per types:

### **Doubting**

The speaker uses this sentence of doubt to express his skepticism about the circumstance or about a particular person. Doubt is a way for a speaker to convey their concern about something. The data of statements containing doubts is as follows:

#### **Data 1**



*Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024). Time: 00:02:58*

*Mr. Ping : Oh, where is Po? He was supposed to be here hours ago.*

*Lil Shan : Ping, would you please just relax?*

*Mr. Ping : I am relaxed!*

*Li Shan : Okay! I'm sure Po is fine.*

*Mr. Ping : **But what if he's sick? What if he's hurt? What if he's hungry?***

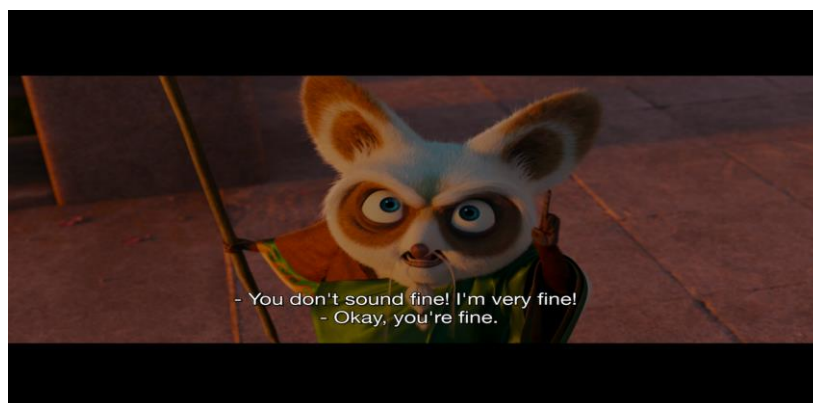
In data 1 there is a conversation between Lil Shan and Mr. Ping in his ramen restaurant, both of them are the father of Po Panda, Mr. Ping is his adoptive dad, and Lil Shan is his real dad. Mr. Ping is extremely concerned based on the conversation above, as he was supposed to arrive a few hours ago. Lil Shan then plans to calm Mr. Ping, but Mr. Ping keeps panicking and doubting by saying " **But**

***what if he's sick? What if he's hurt? What if he's hungry?***", this sentence effectively conveys the kind of doubting expression.

## Anger

Anger is characterized as the strongest emotional reaction, a state of extreme dislike and animosity directed at someone who is thought to have provoked it. Aside from behavioral manifestations like verbal outbursts and physical aggression, this reaction usually entails physiological changes like elevated heart rate and adrenaline levels. The following data shows the statements that raise anger:

### Data 2



*Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024). Time: 00:08:01*

*Master Shifu : Being the next Oogway is not my destiny, which I have accepted and I'm at peace with. Really. It's fine.*

*Po : You don't sound fine.*

*Master Shifu : **(yelling) You don't sound fine! I'm very fine!***

*Po : Okay, okay. You're fine*

Po Panda's teacher, Master Shifu, informs Po that his time as a Dragon Warrior is coming to an end. And will be swapped out; Po will take over as the Valley of Peace's spiritual guide. Po has been given Master Ogway's stick, his great teacher, but Po declines and gives the stick to Master Shifu. This is another reminder from Master Shifu to him since it is not his fate, and master Shifu said he's fine with that title. But then Po replied "*You don't sound fine,*" which is a type of expressive that is included in this conversation, because of the expression, Master Shifu got triggered and expressed his anger by yelling "***You don't sound fine! I'm very fine!***". In that conversation, we can tell that Master Shifu is angry because what Po said is a little offensive to him.

## Blaming

Blaming someone else in an expressive speech is a communicative act in which the speaker expresses disapproval or assigns blame for a perceived wrongdoing or undesirable situation to another person or entity. The information below demonstrates the statements that incite blaming:

### Data 3



*Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024). Time: 00:08:38*

- Po : All I know are two things. kicking butt and taking names. And if I'm being completely honest, I'm not even that good at the name-taking. Like, who was that fire-breathing crocodile? I wanna say Steve...
- Master Shifu : **You were chosen to bring peace to the valley! And there are other ways to bring peace than simply kicking butt!**
- Po : Well, sure, but not any fun once.

During the conversation between Po and Master Shifu, Po presents a very odd impression by claiming that only kicking ass and taking names is the only way to preserve peace. Po seems to undervalue the responsibility of a spiritual expert, which annoys Master Shifu then he argues by saying, "**You were chosen to bring peace to the valley! And there are other ways to bring peace than simply kicking butt!**". In this data, Master Shifu blamed Po due to his lack of ability to see other ways to protect and preserve peace in the valley. We can see that there is an indication of the expressive kind of blaming in the sentence above.

## Praising

An expressive speech act known as praising is when someone expresses admiration, approval, or a positive evaluation of another person or thing, either orally or nonverbally. With this speech act, the praised party's admirable traits,

deeds, accomplishments, or behaviors are acknowledged and commended. Here is the information about the statements that contain praising:

#### Data 4



*Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024). Time: 00.16:49*

Po : *Every step leaves a footprint, no matter how small. **Very clever, fox. You know something.***

Zhen : *Maybe I do, maybe I don't. Okay, I do. I really, really do.*

Zhen is a fox or warrior from the Chameleon, and the Chameleon sent him to steal the jade stuff that Oogway had stolen from Po. Zhen pulled a ruse to look like she was stealing stuff from the dragon temple in the dialogue that was just had. He took that action in order to get close to Po and make it simpler for him to take his stuff. Po was observed complimenting Zhen on his knowledge of the Chameleon's secret. The statement "**Very clever, fox. You know something.**" was used to express the idea. It is an example of praise as one type of expressive illocutionary act.

#### Joy

Joy is a powerfully positive emotional state that is typified by feelings like happiness or pleasure. Joy is usually experienced in reaction to circumstances or occurrences that are thought to be gratifying, fulfilling, or encouraging. The information below demonstrates the statements that incite joy:



## Data 5



*Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024). Time: 00:19:28*

**Zhen** : ***(Cheering) Yeah! It sure is good to be a free fox again. That's a good back scratcher, yoink!***

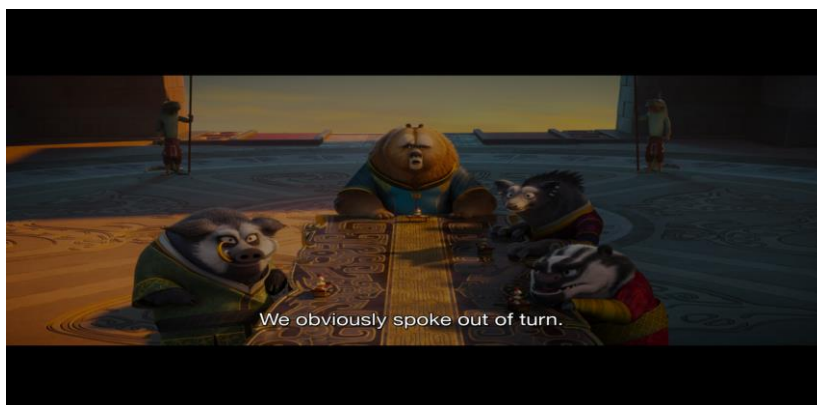
**Po** : ***Hey!***

Zhen had previously been imprisoned after Po discovered him stealing from the Dragon Warrior Temple. But Po decided to set him free because he knew a secret about the Chameleon. Po wanted to stop the Chameleon, but he didn't know anything about it, so he released Zhen and asked him to meet the Chameleon. On the way, Zhen expressed his happiness and joyfulness of being outside the prison, the sentence, "***Yeah! It sure is good to be a free fox again.***" which states joy in the expressive type, furthermore, Zhen said it while jumping around.

### **Regretting**

Regretting refers to a person's feelings regarding a decision or action they made in the past. Sadness, guilt, or disappointment are its hallmark emotions.

## Data 6



*Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024). Time: 00:21:46*

*Badger Boss* : ***We obviously spoke out of turn.***

*Wolf Crime Boss* : *Sorry chameleon*

*Chameleon* : *No no, don't apologize.*

In the above conversation, five mafia bosses discuss the dangers of the Chameleon's power and Badger Boss planning a coup, but it turns out that the Chameleon is sitting in the same table in disguise since he is a shape-shifter. Everyone in that table started to get afraid of the Chameleon's presence, one of whom is the Badger Boss, regretting his sentence of talking about a coup, he said "***We obviously spoke out of turn.***" expressing his regret since he planned to betray Chameleon.

## Conclusion

The analysis of various example Expressive Illocutionary Acts in "Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024)" were done based on the implementation of Yule's (1996) theory. Expressive illocutionary acts are the way to analyze the opinions, feelings, thoughts and mental condition of the speaker. The analysis found that there are six categories of expressive illocutionary acts in the movie with a total of 96 data. The types found were; doubting, anger, praising, joy, blaming, regretting, and the total of the 96 analyzed data contains; Doubting (24), angry (21), praising (17), joyful (13), blame (12), and regret (9). Based on the analysis of the data, the researcher concluded that "Doubting" is the most dominant or the most used expressive speech act because many characters in this movie were hesitating in taking action as well as the main character itself was often found unreliable. On the other hand, "Regretting" was not very used in the movie affected by the action-comedy genre causing very little flashbacks or past mistakes showing among the characters, it made the dialogue of the characters regretting their past and only showing a few times in the entire movie.

The suggestion from the researcher after doing analysis through the movie is, the writer hopes that in the future there will be more movies that contain expressive speech acts to make the reader have a better and further understanding about these topics and could help as an example in analyzing a movie. For future researchers, before doing the analysis, the theory must be understood in order to recognize every expressive illocutionary act type which is mentioned in the theory, and after that a researcher could decide which are the most suitable movies to select based on their genre. The future researchers are expected to be able to understand and make a comparison between the result of this research and the other related studies so that they can present a more valid and further result of study and use it as the learning materials or an additional information.

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