



# Expressive Speech Acts Analysis of “Sonic the Hedgehog 2” Movie

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Received: 2023-03-17 Accepted: 2023-07-09  
DOI: 10.24256/ideas.v11i1.3694

## Abstract

This study aims to find expressive speech acts and the meaning presented based on its categories is in accordance with the actual context in Sonic The Hedgehog 2 movie script. This research was designed using descriptive qualitative method. In this research, the researcher used himself (human instrument) as a research instrument, because of the position of the researcher as a planner, implementer of data collection, implementer of data analysis, interpretation, and becomes a reporter for the findings. By using Searle's theory (illocutionary act), the research results showed that of 963 utterances uttered by all actors in the Sonic The Hedgehog 2 movie, the researcher took 10 samples representing all utterances that included in the expressive speech acts with data divided into 7 types of speech acts according to Searle (illocutionary act) in Leech (1983), with the distribution of data as follows: reproach consists of 2 data (20%); liking of 1 data (10%); disliking of 2 data (20%); blaming of 1 data (10%); greeting of 2 data (20%); congratulating of 1 data (10%); and welcoming as many as 1 data (10%).

**Keywords:** *discourse Analysis; expressive speech acts; movie; pragmatics; speech acts*

## Introduction

Research on speech acts delivered by a speaker has become something interesting. It is because knowledge of the meanings that are clearly stated or implied by one speaker to another can build a very good communication relationship between the two or more. People try to express themselves by creating speech. Not only does speech contain grammatical structures and words, but people act on speech. The actions taken by the speech can be in the form of expressions of pleasure, displeasure, thanks, expressions of surprise, and so on. For example, a judge said: "The defendant is condemned to death for the murder of Mike Howard in accordance with the law.". It can be used to end someone's life, not just an expression. When producing an utterance, the speaker regularly expects the listener to recognize their intention. Speech situations, called speech events, usually help the speaker and speech partner to identify their meaning. Determine the meaning of the utterance. For example, "Miami is hot". When spoken in the summer in Miami, it may mean the weather is hot there. In other situations, it can also mean that Miami (name

of person) is a beautiful and sexy woman. This speech phenomenon is called the speech act.

People sometimes use utterances that have implicit meanings in life communication to conclude what they need to know, where, when, or contextually, to achieve the purpose of the utterance itself. What the speaker really wants from the other side. Context is also important to help the greeting interpret the meaning of speech. Context can stimulate and help listeners interpret meaning.

Speech acts are defined by Austin (Cutting, 2002) as "actions performed in saying something" (p. 16). It implies that speech contains not only grammatical structures and words, but also actions. According to Searle (1969), examples of speech acts include making statements, giving orders, asking questions, making promises, and so on. In carrying out actions through speech, there are three related actions. Illocutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and illocutionary acts are all examples. Austin (Levinson, 1983), defines locational action as the utterance of a sentence with a specific meaning and reference. It is a fundamental speech act, which makes it a significant speech act. When uttering a sentence, the illocutionary act refers to the function or purpose that the speaker has in mind. In fact, perlocutionary passes language and meaning tests to monitor the outcome or effectiveness of the speech.

Searle stated that there are 5 basic types of illocutions that can be performed on speech. They are representative, directive, commissive, expressive & declarative. Representative serious in what the speaker believes to be the case or not, directive attention to the speaker wanting the listener or others to do something, commissive concern in the speaker's commitment to future action, expressive convention using self-actualization or the speaker's feelings, declarative regarding using immediate action changed.

In a previous study conducted by Kumala (2018) with the research title: *An Analysis of Speech Acts in The Croods Movie*. This research used qualitative method. It demonstrated that all types of speech acts occur in the film *The Croods*. The locutionary act in this study is the actor's utterances. The most common illocutionary acts in *The Croods Movie* are asking and commanding. The term "perlocutionary act" is frequently used in a non-literal sense.

Next research was conducted by Rahayu et al. (2019) with the research title: *Speech Act Analysis of "Frozen" The Movie Script*. The results revealed that the majority of speech acts in *Frozen the Movie* are representatives (38 sentences), directives (32 sentences), expressives (10 sentences), and commissives (3 sentences). It demonstrates that the movie's character represents a situation. Given that this is a comedy and animated film. While directives are the most common type of speech act used in the film. As the movie is about the kingdom, and the related character is a Princess of the kingdom, the sentences that appear in the related character's conversation are mostly about commands and requests.

Another previous research conducted by Rahmawati (2021) with the research title: *An Analysis of Expressive Speech Acts Used in Crazy Rich Asian Movie*. This research investigates expressive speech acts in the film *Crazy Rich Asians*. The aims of the research are to describe (1) the type of expressive speech act found in *Crazy Rich Asians* and (2) the S-P-E-A-K-I-N-G model employed in *Crazy Rich Asians*. In assessing the data, this study applied theory from Searle (1985) and Hymes (1974). Searle mentions twelve expressive speech acts: apologize, thank you, condole,

congratulate, complain, grieve, protest, bemoan, boast, praise, greet, and welcome. The descriptive qualitative approach was employed in this study. The researcher gathered expressive speech act utterances as data to be studied; the data was analyzed using the S-P-E-A-K-I-N-G model.

Then, the next research was conducted by Kurniasih & Mulatsih (2022) with the research title : *Expressive speech acts used by the main character in Encanto movie script*. This research aims to find types of expressive speech acts and to describe the utterances which performed by the main character from the movie entitled 'Encanto'. The researcher uses qualitative method and the data analyzed descriptively. The researcher uncovered some utterances containing the sorts of expressive speech acted by Searle's theory from the data (1976). According to Searle (1976), there are six types of expressive speech acts: Expressive of Congratulating, Expressive of Apologizing, Expressive of Thanking, Expressive of Wishing, Expressive of Attitudes, and Expressive of Greetings.

There are various possibilities in this study, but not all of them are realized. First and foremost, it is desired that further data on the analysis of expressive speech acts in this study will be discovered. Second, it is desired that the meaning supplied by its categories corresponds to the real context. As a consequence of this research study, there are two predicted outcomes. Whatever the outcome, this research will be greatly appreciated. The author believes that this research may be utilized as reference material in the field of pragmatics, particularly speech acts and that it can also educate readers about speech acts.

## Literature review

### Pragmatics

Language study is closely related to two areas of linguistics: semantics and pragmatics. Both sciences are related to language, but have different aspects. Semantics refers to the construction of meaning in language, and pragmatics refers to the construction of meaning in a particular interaction context.

Pragmatics is the study of the interaction between language forms and their users. According to Yule (1996, p. 3), "In its research, pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning, contextual meaning, how more may be transmitted than expressed, and the expression of relative distances." This form of research must understand what individuals mean in a specific setting and how that context effects what they say. This strategy is stated to inevitably lead to the speaker's interpretation of the speaker's intended meaning, thus it is said that how the listener can make conclusions is not mentioned. Find out how it is acknowledged as part of what you are doing. Leech (1983, p. 6) states that " the study of meaning in relation to speech acts is known as pragmatics". Crystal (Silalahi, 2016) defines that "pragmatics studies the elements that influence language choice in social interactions, as well as the effects our choices have on others." Stalnaker (Searle et al., 1980) defines it as follows: There are two main types of problems that need to be solved in pragmatics. First, the type of speech act and the definition of the language product of interest. Second, characterizing the function of language context to help determine which prepositions are represented in certain sentences.

Based on the description above, pragmatics may be defined as the study of the speaker's meaning, the research of contextual meaning, the study of how more is said than spoken, and the study of the expression of relative distances that can be done. In other words, pragmatics studies how language is used and how it fits into the context of communication.

### **Speech Acts**

The concept of speech acts is one of the most important pragmatic meanings. According to Nuramila (Izar et al., 2022) Speech acts are one of the components of pragmatic studies that pertain to the use of language in context, and pragmatics itself is one of the outcomes. The term indicates that language is not only a carrier of meaning, but also understands what it does, or acts, in a very realistic way. Speech acts were originally developed by the philosopher Austin (1962) in the book "*How to Do Things in Words*" and developed by John R. Saar. Austin describes speech actions as what we do when we speak something.

According to Yule (Putri, 2021), "The study of how speakers and listeners utilize language is known as a speech act." Speech Act is an action that performs through utterances. In addition, Searle et al. (1980) states: " The smallest unit of human communication, according to speech act theory, is not a phrase or another word, but the execution of specific sorts of acts such as greetings, inquiries, commands, explanations, explanations, apologies, gratitude, salvation, and etc."

From the above definition, it can be concluded that a speech act is a statement that includes behavior as a communication functional unit that pays attention to aspects of the speech situation. According to Austin in Kumala (2018), speech acts can be divided into three types:

a. *Locutionary Act*

The act of locution is to say a statement with certain opinions and preferences. "It's dark in here," for instance. This remark is intended to tell the receiver about the recipient's room conditions and hot weather without doing anything or influencing the recipient. The core of the above example is "I" as the subject, "dark" as the predicate, and "in here" as the object. This speaking act just indicates utterance and does not necessitate knowing the speaker's intent.

b. *Illocutionary Act*

These actions are speaking, offering, and making promises through the pronunciation of sentences based on the conventional power involved (or which has been commonly done/heard/interpreted by the speaker and listener). This action is also known as the act of doing something by saying something. Example: "It's almost half past eight". It was a phrase that parents uttered to their school-age son/daughter in the morning, not only uttering the words, but also reminding him/her that he/she had to go to school now. A speech act is a speech that helps people do something, not just say it.

c. *Perlocutionary Act*

Perlocutionary action is the effect caused by several utterances from the speaker to the speech partner. This behavior can be said to affect a person. Example: "There is a car behind you!", When you say this to someone, this utterance will have several effects. After hearing these words, listeners can try to avoid the direction of the car so as not to get hit.

On the other hand, J.R. Searle (Putri, 2021) also gave his statement about speech acts theory. According to him, there are five general types of functions performed by speech acts: declarative, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive.

*a. Representative*

Representative is a type of speech act that states whether the speaker is true or not (Yule, p. 3). When using expressions, the speaker arranges the words according to the world (beliefs).

*b. Declarative*

Declarative is a type of speech act that adjusts the content of the proposition with facts. In this case, the action is usually carried out by someone who is specifically authorized to carry out the action within the framework of certain instructions.

*c. Expressive*

The expressive function clarifies or informs the speaker's psychological stance toward the situation. In this type of speech act, the speaker adapts the words to the situation. This includes emotions.

*d. Directive*

Directives are intended to have an influence on the listener through actions: commanding, requesting, advising, and recommending are examples of how the speakers convey their wish (Leech, p. 106).

*e. Commissive*

Commissive is a type of speech act that speakers use to commit to future actions (Yule, p. 54). Commissive conveys the speaker's intention. Commissive can be performed by the speaker himself/herself or as a member of the group. The speaker attempts to adjust the world (through the speaker) to the utterance by employing the commissive.

### **Expressive Speech Acts**

According to Yule (1996) "Expressive speech acts are ones in which the speaker expresses how he or she feels. They can represent psychological emotions such as pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, or sadness. They can be caused by something either the speaker or the listener does, but they are about the speaker's experience." This indicates that expressive speech acts are those that are utilized to convey the speaker's emotions. Sub-category of expressive speech acts: blessing, forgiveness, reproaching, condolences, praising, greeting, thanking, welcoming,

liking, disliking, congratulating, apologizing, lamentation, exclamation, blaming, etc. (related to the speaker's feelings/emotions). (Leech, p. 106).

Hornby (Widyowati, 2019) explains some of the meanings of the classification of expressive speech acts, namely as follows :

- a. Thanking is a term used by someone to convey thanks to another person for what they have done.
- b. Like is a word used to indicate enjoyment or approval of something or someone.
- c. Dislike is an expression used by someone to express their dislike for someone or something.
- d. Welcome is a statement used by someone to greet someone who has come to her/his home.
- e. Praising is a term used to convey appreciation for someone's performance or looks.
- a. Greeting is a kind word or gesture of welcome or recognition. A greeting is anything you say or do to greet someone, as well as a message of well wishes for their health and happiness.

## Method

This research was designed using descriptive qualitative method. According to Saryono (2010), qualitative research is used to examine, discover, describe, and explain the quality or privilege of social factors that cannot be explained quantified, or described quantitatively. Bryman (Oktavia et al., 2020) states that in qualitative research, data is presented in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. So, in this study, the researcher will describe it in the form of words, phrases, or sentences based on film transcripts.

This method helps the writer in finding expressive speech acts categories of Searle's speech acts in the Sonic The Hedgehog 2 movie script. This study uses several steps to collect data. First of all, watch Sonic The Hedgehog 2 and read the full script from website: [https://sonic.fandom.com/wiki/Sonic\\_the\\_Hedgehog\\_2\\_\(movie\)/Transcript](https://sonic.fandom.com/wiki/Sonic_the_Hedgehog_2_(movie)/Transcript). Then mark and make a list of words according to the author according to the expressive speech acts categories of speech acts. It also categorizes the data into speech act categories: reproaching, liking, disliking, blaming, greeting, congratulating, welcoming.

In this research, the researched used the himself (human instrument) as a research instrument. Hasanah (Suputra et al., 2022) states that researchers are also human instruments, namely as the main data collection tool. It is due to the researcher's role as a planner, implementer of data collection, implementer of data analysis, interpretation, and reporter for the findings. (Sugiyono, 2014:59).

## Technique of Data Collection

The technique of gathering the data applied in this research by using several types:

1. The researcher watched the video to attempt to comprehend it, seeking for any crucial aspects that supported this research and looked for all of the utterances.
2. Searching for transcription of the dialogues through internet site (*Sonic the Hedgehog 2 (movie)/Transcript*, 2022).

3. Identified the dialogue spoken by actors in the movie into the expressive speech acts.
4. Classified the actor's utterances found in the movie.
5. Classified the meaning of each category in expressive speech acts (reproaching, liking, disliking, blaming, greeting, congratulating, welcoming) in Sonic The Hedgehog 2 movie.

### ***Technique of Data Analysis***

The techniques of data analysis are as follows:

1. Determined the actors' utterances by speech acts.
2. Sorted the data of expressive speech acts utilized in the *Sonic The Hedgehog 2* movie.
3. Explained the meaning of each category in *Sonic The Hedgehog 2's* expressive speech acts (reproaching, liking, disliking, blaming, greeting, congratulating, welcoming).
4. Based on the data analysis, reached a conclusion and made suggestions.

### **Findings and Discussion**

#### ***Findings***

Speech acts can be seen not only in everyday conversation but also in movies. Therefore, this study tried to analyze the expressive speech acts proposed by Searle in Sonic The Hedgehog 2 script. The script is from a website (*Sonic the Hedgehog 2 (movie)/Transcript, 2022*) created by Patrick Casey, Josh Miller, and John Whittington. The movie itself was a hit in theaters worldwide in 2022. The movie is directed by Jeff Fowler and features an ensemble cast that includes Ben Schwartz (as Sonic the Hedgehog voice cast), Colleen O'Shaughnessey (as Miles "Tails" Prower voice cast), Idris Elba (as Knuckles the Echidna voice cast), Donna J. Fulks (as Longclaw voice cast), Jim Carrey (as Doctor Robotnik / Eggman), James Marsden (as Tom Wachowski / Donutlord), Tika Sumpter (as Maddie Wachowski), Natasha Rothwell (as Rachel), Adam Pally (as Wade Whipple), Shemar Moore (as Randall Handel), etc. In this movie, As a continuation of the sequel to the previous Sonic film with the same antagonist, Dr. Robotnik who has returned to Earth with his new ally Knuckles with the goal of taking back control of Earth. So, Sonic and his new friend, Tails will fight them.

After conducting this research, the researcher found that of 963 utterances uttered by all actors in the Sonic The Hedgehog 2 movie, the researcher took 10 samples representing all utterances that included in the category of expressive speech acts with data divided into 7 types of expressive speech acts according to Searle (illocutionary act) in Leech (p. 106), with the distribution of data as follows: reproach consists of 2 data (20%); liking of 1 data (10%); disliking of 2 data (20%); blaming of 1 data (10%); greeting of 2 data (20%); congratulating of 1 data (10%); and welcoming as many as 1 data (10%).

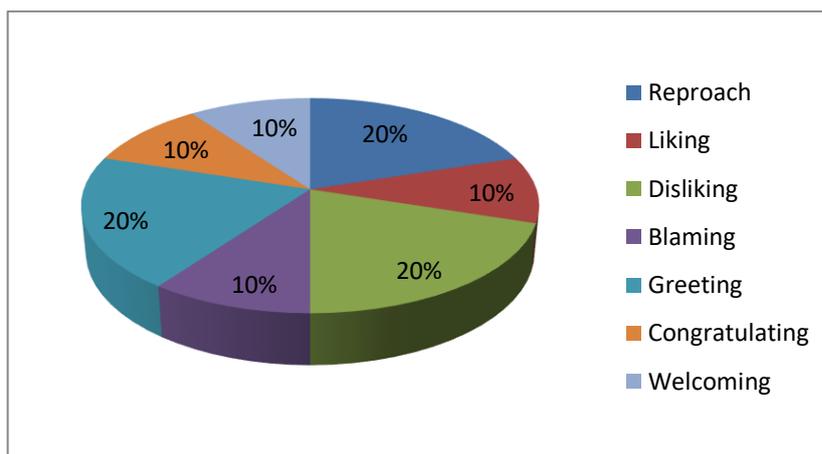


Figure 1. Percentage of Expressive Speech Acts in Sonic The Hedgehog 2 Movie

### Discussion

The following are some analysis of conversational dialogues between characters that are sampled in the analysis speech acts *Sonic The Hedgehog 2* :

#### 1. The Expression of Reproaching

##### Extract 1:

Robotnik : Hey, Stone! It's time to say goodbye to this, [*Inhales*]  
**PIECE OF SHIITAKE PLANET!!!**

This scene took place on a mushroom planet that is not inhabited by humans at all, and for Robotnik that planet is a bad place. So he insulted the planet by saying "**PIECE OF SHIITAKE PLANET!!!**"

##### Extract 2:

Sonic : Oh, I'm sorry, **I don't speak duct tape.**  
 Armored Truck Security Guard : What the heck are you?!

In the sentence "**I don't speak duct tape**", here it is clear that Sonic is making fun of the Armored Truck Security Guard who was being held hostage by the robbers, as a result his voice sounded unclear because it was covered with duct tape, and became a joke for Sonic.

#### 2. The Expression of Liking

##### Extract 3:

Sonic : And now this way!  
 Sonic : **Woo-hoo!**

This scene occurs when Sonic is trying to stop the bank robbers, in the armored truck, there is a fierce dispute between Sonic and the robbers. Sonic then makes another turn, causing the bank robbers to crash into the opposite

wall and all of the money they took to fly out of the truck. As the hunt continues, Sonic laughs. So he really liked the helplessness of the robbers and said "**Woo-hoo!**" as an expression of joy.

3. The Expression of Disliking

**Extract 4:**

Sonic : Ahh, ohh. Hot, hot, hot, hot, hot!  
Armored Truck Security Guard : **Why don't you let the police handle this?!**

This scenario took place as Sonic attempts to use the brakes but is unable to do so since they are blocked by the corpse of one of the unconscious bank robbers. Sonic uses his foot to pick up the bag of dynamite, which is quite hot. So, the Armored Truck Security didn't like Sonic's handling of the problems they were facing and advised him to leave everything to the police.

**Extract 5:**

Tom : Sonic, [*Holds up the newspaper paper*] you destroyed an entire city block!  
Sonic : **The block was already messed up! Who cares? Look, I stopped a robbery! I was a hero!**

This scene occurs when Sonic and Tom are talking about the problems experienced by Sonic. Tom advised Sonic not to always be reckless in acting to want to be a hero, but Sonic refused and did not like to be blamed for the previous incident when there was chaos when he wanted to drive away bank robbers and caused the people around to blame him.

4. The Expression of Blaming

**Extract 6:**

Armored Truck Security Guard: **You are terrible at this!**  
Sonic : *You know what?* **Your negative attitude is not helping anyone!**

This scenario occurs when Sonic and the Armored Truck Security Guard try to stop the explosion of a bomb that has been attached to the car they are traveling in by a group of robbers, but both of them instead blame each other because of a misunderstanding in acting according to what the interlocutor wants.

5. The Expression of Greeting

**Extract 7:**

Sonic: **Good morning, Green Hills!**

The scene occurs as Sonic runs up the mountain and stops on a small rocky ledge overlooking the Green Hills. Then, he greeted all residents in Green Hills at once by saying "**Good morning, Green Hills!**". Because it was impossible for him to greet everyone in the entire City of Green Hills.

**Extract 8:**

Rachel : **Hey!**  
Tom : **Hey!**  
Rachel : **Good to see you. Thanks for coming, Tom. Really glad you came!**

The scene occurs when Tom and Maddie come to Hawaii to attend Rachel and Randall's wedding. And when they got there, Tom and Rachel met and greeted each other, and Rachel also expressed her gratitude because Tom had come to attend her wedding.

6. The Expression of Congratulating

**Extract 9:**

Tom : Really? Well, great! Great to see you too.  
**Congratulations. You guys seem, like, really happy together.**

The scene took place when Tom and Maddie come to Hawaii to attend Rachel and Randall's wedding. And when they got there, Tom and Rachel met and greeted each other, and Tom congratulated her on getting married soon.

7. The Expression of Welcoming

**Extract 10:**

Stone : **Doctor. It's really you. You look different.**  
Robotnik : Papa's got a brand new 'stache.

The scene took place in Mean Bean Coffee Café at night, Agent Stone is finally reunited with his master, Robotnik after being separated for a long time because Sonic defeated Robotnik, causing him to move to another planet. And he's welcoming his master by saying "**Doctor. It's really you. You look different.**"

## Conclusion

As described in the findings and discussion above, it is clear that this study tries to analyze the expressive speech acts proposed by Searle in the Sonic The

Hedgehog 2 script. From the 963 utterances uttered by all actors in the Sonic The Hedgehog 2 movie, the researcher took 10 samples representing all utterances that included in the expressive speech acts with data divided into 7 types of speech acts according to Searle (illocutionary act) (Leech, p. 106), with the distribution of data as follows: reproach consists of 2 data (20%); liking of 1 data (10%); disliking of 2 data (20%); blaming of 1 data (10%); greeting of 2 data (20%); congratulating of 1 data (10%); and welcoming as many as 1 data (10%).

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