



An Analysis of Expressive Speech Acts in Podcast: Joe Rogan Experience

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Article Info	Abstract
Received: 2026 - 06- 01 Revised: 2026 06-18 Accepted: 2026 06-019 Keywords: Expressive Speech Acts; Joe Rogan; Pragmatics; Praise; Podcast Discourse DOI: 10.24256/ideasv14i1.7835 Corresponding Author: I Made TirtaYasa imdtirtayasa38@gmail.com Universitas Mahasaraswati, Denpasar, Bali	<i>In spoken communication, expressive speech acts such as praise play a crucial role in reflecting the speaker's psychological state and shaping social interaction. While many studies have explored speech acts in scripted media like films or talk shows, few have investigated how praise is naturally expressed in unscripted, long-form podcast discourse. This study aims to fill that gap by analyzing praising expressive speech acts in the podcast episode Joe Rogan Experience #2275, featuring Joe Rogan and the World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen. The analysis is grounded in Searle's (1979) speech act theory, focusing on identifying the forms and pragmatic functions of praise. Using a qualitative descriptive method with purposive sampling, ten praising utterances were extracted and analyzed in context. The findings reveal that praise in this podcast is predominantly delivered implicitly, using informal and emotionally charged language. Pragmatically, both Rogan and Carlsen use praise not only to acknowledge intelligence and talent but also to build interpersonal rapport, validate expertise, and align shared values. These results highlight that in spontaneous digital conversation, praise functions as a strategic tool for maintaining social dynamics rather than merely offering compliments.</i>

1. Introduction

Language serves not only as a means of sharing information but also as a powerful tool to express emotions, convey attitudes, and strengthen social bonds. Among the various ways speakers achieve this, expressive speech acts play a central role. Expressives allow speakers to reveal their internal psychological

states toward events, situations, or other people. According to Searle (1969, 1979), expressives are one of five main illocutionary act types and include thanking, apologizing, congratulating, and praising. Among these, praising stands out as a unique way to show admiration and build positive relationships. Praise is commonly used in spoken discourse to acknowledge someone's achievements, talents, or qualities. It does more than simply deliver a compliment; it helps establish closeness and reinforce shared values between speakers and listeners.

However, despite its importance, praising as an expressive act has not been widely explored in spontaneous, unscripted spoken contexts, such as podcasts. Most existing studies have focused on other types of expressives or examined praise in scripted or semi-scripted media. Several previous studies provide valuable insights but still leave room for more specific analysis. Ngasini, Senowarsito, and Nugrahani (2021) examined expressive speech acts in *The Ellen Show* interview with Billie Eilish, identifying common types like congratulating and thanking, but did not focus deeply on praise. Aritonang and Ambalegin (2023) analyzed expressives in *The Willoughbys* film and found praising acts, yet they did not analyze their functions in detail. Similarly, Putri and Ariyaningsih (2023) studied expressives in the *Catching Up: Jessi* podcast, but grouped praising with general admiration, lacking a targeted approach.

Recent research highlights the importance of exploring praise in more natural, authentic interactions. Darong and Neldis (2023) emphasized the pedagogical value of studying illocutionary acts, including expressives, in video podcasts, pointing out their potential for teaching real-life communication skills. Ricca and Ambalegin (2022) investigated expressive acts in the *Love at First Swipe* web series and stressed how praise helps create emotional engagement and intimacy with the audience. However, these studies often focus on scripted or guided content rather than purely spontaneous speech, and thus differ from this study that analyze praising expressive acts specifically in unscripted long-form podcast with pragmatic function as the main focus.

To address this gap, this study focuses on praising expressive speech acts in *Joe Rogan Experience #2275*, featuring Joe Rogan and Magnus Carlsen. This podcast episode offers a rich, unscripted interaction where praise is used not only to highlight Carlsen's exceptional skills but also to maintain a positive conversation flow. Based on the background above, this study addresses two specific research questions: (1) What are the forms of praising expressive speech acts found in *Joe Rogan Experience #2275*? and (2) What are the pragmatic functions of these praising utterances in the host-guest interactions? Consequently, the objectives of this research are to identify the linguistic forms of praise used in spontaneous discourse and to interpret their pragmatic roles in building rapport and alignment. This study contributes to the field of pragmatics by offering a novel perspective on how "praise" operates in modern, unscripted digital media, specifically highlighting the dominance of implicit praise over explicit compliments in long-

form conversations.

2. Method

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method to analyze praising expressive speech acts within the context of spontaneous spoken conversation. The data source is the *Joe Rogan Experience* #2275 podcast episode featuring World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen (2 hours 17 minutes). Data collection was conducted through non-participant observation. The researcher watched the episode multiple times with a transcript and data publicly available on Youtube, focusing on segments containing expressive acts.

A purposive sampling technique was used to select the data. Ten (10) utterances were found based on Searle's (1979) criteria for expressive speech acts, specifically identifying utterances where the speaker expresses a positive psychological state (admiration, approval, or respect) toward the hearer or a third party. To ensure data trustworthiness and validity, the analysis employed a triangulation of data sources by cross-referencing the transcript with the video intonation and context. Furthermore, the identified utterances were repeatedly reviewed to distinguish between general observations and genuine pragmatic acts of praise. The analysis involved categorizing the utterances by form and interpreting their pragmatic function (e.g., rapport-building, validation) within the conversational context.

3. Result

This section presents the analysis of praising expressive speech acts found in the podcast episode *Joe Rogan Experience* #2275, featuring Joe Rogan and Magnus Carlsen. The data found consists of ten utterances identified as praising expressions, which were selected based on their function of positively evaluating or admiring the interlocutor. Each utterance is analyzed in terms of its context, linguistic form, and pragmatic function using Searle's (1979) theory of expressive speech acts. The aim is to explain how the speakers, particularly Joe Rogan, use praise to express admiration, establish interpersonal rapport, and shape the overall tone of the conversation.

Table 1. Summary of Praising Expressive Speech Acts

Data	Speaker	Type/Form of Praise	Pragmatic Function
1	Joe Rogan	Direct (Formal)	Building rapport & showing deference
2	Joe Rogan	Indirect (Generalization)	Validating guest's expertise
3	Joe Rogan	Direct (Informal)	Encouraging & reinforcing status
4	Magnus	Indirect (Observation)	Admiration/positive

	Carlsen		evaluation
5	Joe Rogan	Indirect (Praising the Game)	Affirming guest's intelligence
6	Magnus Carlsen	Implicit (Value statement)	Admiration/positive evaluation
7	Joe Rogan	Direct (Expression of Awe)	Emphasizing extraordinary ability
8	Magnus Carlsen	Third-party Praise	Respecting work ethic (Gukesh)
9	Magnus Carlsen	Self-Praise / Evaluation	Establishing credibility
10	Magnus Carlsen	Indirect (Gratitude)	Building emotional connection

Data 1

Timestamp: 00.00.36

Speaker: Joe Rogan

Utterance: "It's an honor to meet you, man."

This utterance occurs at the very beginning of the episode, as Joe Rogan greets Magnus Carlsen. The phrase "It's an honor to meet you" functions as a clear expression of admiration. According to Searle (1979), expressive speech acts are used to convey the speaker's psychological state about a particular situation. In this case, Rogan expresses deep respect and positive regard for Carlsen's reputation and achievements. The use of the word "honor" elevates the formality and sincerity of the praise, signaling that Rogan holds Carlsen in high esteem. The addition of "man" at the end of the utterance softens the formality and adds a friendly, casual tone, consistent with the relaxed atmosphere of the podcast. The pragmatic function of this praising act is twofold. First, it serves as a social strategy to immediately build rapport and show deference to the guest, reinforcing a positive host-guest dynamic. Second, it contributes to framing the episode in a respectful tone that positions Carlsen as a highly valued figure in the eyes of both the host and the audience.

Data 2

Timestamp: 00.00.38

Speaker: Joe Rogan

Utterance: "I'm always fascinated by people that are at the top of something that's insanely difficult, like chess."

In this utterance, Joe Rogan expresses admiration toward individuals who have achieved excellence in a highly challenging domain, using chess as a prime example. While the statement is not addressed directly to Magnus Carlsen by name, the context of the utterance—immediately following the opening greeting—makes

it clear that Carlsen is the implied referent. According to Searle (1979), expressive speech acts reflect a speaker's internal psychological state. Here, Rogan conveys fascination and admiration, marking this utterance as an instance of praising expressive speech. The phrase "at the top of something that's insanely difficult" reflects high regard for the skills and achievements required to master chess. Pragmatically, this praising act serves to validate Carlsen's presence on the podcast and to pre-frame the discussion with respect and wonder.

Data 3

Timestamp: 00.02.41

Speaker: Joe Rogan

Utterance: "What a call. I think you've got some talent."

In this utterance, Joe Rogan praises Magnus Carlsen's quick judgment or decision, likely in response to a story or example shared moments earlier in the conversation. The phrase "What a call" expresses spontaneous admiration, while "I think you've got some talent" serves as a more direct evaluative statement. Based on Searle's (1979) framework, this utterance qualifies as a praising expressive speech act, as it reveals Rogan's positive psychological stance toward Carlsen's abilities. The informal phrasing makes the compliment feel genuine and conversational, rather than overly formal or forced. From a pragmatic standpoint, this praising act reinforces Carlsen's intellectual status in the conversation and adds a light, affirming tone that contributes to building rapport between the speakers.

Data 4

Timestamp: 00.03.34

Speaker: Magnus Carlsen

Utterance: "Information is so easily accessible these days, like it takes a lot shorter time to get good at something."

In this utterance, the expressive acts of praising can be found containing the broad spectrum of admiration or positive evaluation into the development of technology, where Magnus Carlsen comments on the rapid skill development of a young chess player—specifically a 10-year-old from Argentina who demonstrates exceptional ability. With this context, the statement functions as a form of praising expressive speech act, as it indirectly highlights the impressive nature of the child's achievements in a challenging field like chess. According to Searle (1979), expressive speech acts express the speaker's psychological state in response to a particular situation. In this case, Carlsen expresses admiration for the opportunities and achievements made possible by accessible information. The praise is indirect because the positive attitude is implied through an observation about improved learning conditions rather than through a direct compliment—something that implicitly praises the child's dedication and early mastery.

Data 5

Timestamp: 00.14.16

Speaker: Joe Rogan

Utterance: "It's such a fascinating game because it's impossible to play if you're dumb."

In this utterance, Joe Rogan expresses strong admiration for the game of chess, which indirectly functions as praise for those who play it well—particularly his guest, Magnus Carlsen. By stating that the game is “impossible to play if you’re dumb,” Rogan is not only emphasizing the intellectual complexity of chess but also implying that those who excel at it must possess exceptional intelligence. Expressive speech acts convey the speaker’s psychological response to a specific situation. In this case, Rogan expresses admiration toward the game of chess and, by extension, toward those who are capable of mastering it. Pragmatically, this type of praise affirms Carlsen’s status as someone intellectually elite and flatters the guest while entertaining the audience, blending admiration with humor.

Data 6

Timestamp: 00.19.55

Speaker: Magnus Carlsen

Utterance: "If you want to be great at something, you have to be obsessed with it."

This utterance is delivered by Magnus Carlsen during a reflective moment in the conversation, in which he discusses the mindset required for excellence. While the statement may seem like a general observation or positive evaluation, it takes on the form of implicit praise when considered within the conversational context. Expressive speech acts are used to express a psychological attitude about a particular situation or individual. Here, Carlsen’s tone and content suggest respect and admiration for those who exhibit obsessive passion in pursuit of mastery. From a pragmatic perspective, this statement functions as a norm-establishing form of praise—highlighting the emotional intensity and commitment required for success.

Data 7

Timestamp: 00.35.35

Speaker: Joe Rogan

Utterance: "But that's so crazy, like when you're five six moves in and you're thinking of all these pieces moving around and you've got it remembered, you've completely memorized each position of 12 different boards."

In this utterance, Joe Rogan expresses astonishment at Magnus Carlsen’s cognitive abilities in chess, particularly his capacity for mental visualization and memory. Rogan’s tone of amazement—marked by the phrase “that’s so crazy”—signals a strong emotional reaction of admiration. Although not phrased as a

conventional compliment, this expression of awe functions clearly as a praising expressive speech act, aligned with Searle's (1979) framework. Pragmatically, this praising act reinforces Carlsen's intellectual persona and emphasizes the superhuman nature of his cognitive process. It also invites the audience to share in that admiration, drawing attention to the extraordinary nature of Carlsen's talent in a relatable, conversational manner.

Data 8

Timestamp: 00.55.59

Speaker: Magnus Carlsen

Utterance: "And then you have the current classical world champion from India, Gukesh, like he doesn't play casual games at all, he just studies his ass off all the time."

In this utterance, Magnus Carlsen praises the work ethic and discipline of Gukesh Dommaraju, the current classical world chess champion from India. By highlighting Gukesh's dedication, Carlsen expresses a clear admiration for the young champion's commitment to improvement and excellence. This utterance qualifies as a praising expressive speech act because it reveals Carlsen's positive psychological stance toward Gukesh's approach to the game, which aligns with Searle's (1979) framework. Pragmatically, Carlsen's praising act serves to recognize a rising figure in the chess world while also acknowledging the evolving landscape of competition. It positions Gukesh as not just a titleholder but someone deserving of respect due to his tireless efforts.

Data 9

Timestamp: 01.12.09

Speaker: Magnus Carlsen

Utterance: "Honestly, when I'm at my best, I'm just like pure laser focused and I'm just calm and not thinking about anything other than just in the moment."

This utterance functions as a form of self-praise, in which Magnus Carlsen describes the mental state he enters when performing at his peak. While self-praise is sometimes considered less prototypical in speech act theory, it still qualifies as a praising expressive speech act under Searle's (1979) model when it reflects a speaker's positive evaluation of their own condition or behavior in a specific situation. Here, Carlsen admires his own ability to attain an elite psychological state. From a pragmatic perspective, this utterance gives listeners a rare glimpse into the inner workings of a world champion's mind and functions to reinforce his credibility within the conversation.

Data 10

Timestamp: 01.24.45

Speaker: Magnus Carlsen

Utterance: "Maybe it helped them through, like a difficult time to watch my games and to get into rediscover or find the love for the game, that's really nice."

In this utterance, Magnus Carlsen reflects on the emotional impact that his games may have had on others, particularly those going through personal challenges. The closing remark, "that's really nice," serves as an expressive evaluation—a moment of sincere appreciation for the connection that others have expressed to his work. This qualifies as a praising expressive speech act, directed at the audience or fans. According to Searle (1979), expressive acts reveal the speaker's psychological state in relation to a situation. Pragmatically, this praise acknowledges the social value of his role as a public figure and highlights his empathy and humility, shifting the focus from personal accomplishment to communal connection.

4. Discussion

The analysis of the ten utterances reveals that praising in unscripted podcasts operates differently than in scripted media. The findings highlight two major themes: the dominance of implicit praise and the function of praise as a rapport-building strategy. First, unlike Arintonang and Ambalegin (2023) who found explicit praising acts in the movie *The Willoughbys*, this study found that in the *Joe Rogan Experience*, praise is often delivered implicitly (as seen in Data 2, 5, and 6). Rogan often praises the "game of chess" or the "difficulty of the task" to indirectly compliment Carlsen's intelligence. This aligns with the nature of adult male conversation in podcasts, where indirectness serves to maintain a casual, non-threatening atmosphere while still conveying deep respect.

Second, the pragmatic function of praise here extends beyond simple compliments. Consistent with Ricca and Ambalegin's (2022) findings in web series, praise in this podcast is used to build intimacy and engagement. However, a unique finding in this study is the use of "shared values" as praise. When Carlsen praises "obsession" (Data 6) or Gukesh's "studying" (Data 8), he is reinforcing a shared work ethic with Rogan. This supports the notion that in long-form digital discourse, expressive acts serve to align the ideologies of the speakers, creating a stronger bond than simple compliments would allow.

5. Conclusion

This study analyzed praising expressive speech acts in *Joe Rogan Experience* #2275, identifying ten distinct utterances. Based on Searle's (1979) theory, the results show that praise in this context takes various forms, ranging from direct expressions of honor to indirect admiration of skills and third-party validation. Pragmatically, these acts serve crucial functions: building interpersonal rapport, validating expertise, and aligning shared values between the host and guest. The study concludes that in spontaneous podcast discourse, speakers prefer implicit and emotionally charged praise over formal compliments to maintain a natural flow.

A limitation of this study is the focus on a single episode. Future research is recommended to compare praising strategies across different podcast genres or cultures to provide a broader generalization of expressive speech acts in digital media.

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