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Illocutionary act in talk show of “The Tonight Show” by Jimmy Fallon

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ABSTRACT

Illocutionary act is one of the important parts of communication because it conveys the meaning of an utterance, so that it can be understood by the listener, and avoid misunderstanding in communication. This research aims to analyze the types of illocutionary acts used by Jimmy Fallon in his utterance on “The Tonight Show”. This research uses descriptive qualitative method, and for data collection uses note-taking method. The data in this study were analysed using Yule's (1996) theory that addressed to 5 types which are, declarative, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive. The results showed that Jimmy Fallon used 4 types of 5 types of illocutionary act in the seven The Tonight Show videos researched. The data found shows 31 sentences that are; 12 representative utterances, 11 expressive utterances, 7 directive utterances, and 1 commissive utterance. Meanwhile, the types of illocutionary act that is not found is declarative. Based on the results of the study, it could be concluded that the representative act is the most illocutionary act found in Jimmy Fallon's utterances. This study suggested to conduct a broader research on speech acts, not only in terms of illocutionary acts but also from other speech acts. This research contributed to influence how to interact, understand illocutionary acts in utterance, and build good social relationships with other people.

Keywords: illocutionary act; types of illocutionary act; the tonight show starring jimmy fallon.

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RESEARCH & PUBLISHING



1. INTRODUCTION

Pragmatics is a study of language that examines how to interpret the meaning of a statement based on the context and situation in a conversation. Yule (1996) stated that pragmatics studies the meaning expressed by the speaker or writer and understood by the listener or reader. In pragmatics, spoken words are not only viewed based on dictionary definitions but also based on the speaker and the listener, and the context in which the words are spoken.

In pragmatics, there are several branches related to language, one of which is speech acts. Speech acts are actions in conveying something related to intention. According to Erlinda, speech acts are the language used by speakers to achieve their goals or obtain something (Rein & Junaedi, 2022). Speech acts are part of pragmatic that discuss behavior in communication involving the use of spoken language. This term refers not only to the language used by the speaker but also to the attitudes of the speaker and listener during the conversation.

In speech acts, based on Yule (1996) Illocutionary acts are one type of act that understood meaning in an utterance. This study chooses illocutionary acts as the subject of study. Illocutionary acts are acts that convey meaning and have additional purposes by performing specific functions in communication. Austin (1962) stated that the speaker's purpose in communicating is to create sentences with specific references and meanings. In other words, the goal is to create sentences that have specific meanings and purposes that can show what the speaker actually wants to achieve when speaking, not just the words that are spoken. Illocutionary acts have several types, Yule (1996) classifies illocutionary acts into five types: declarative, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive.

Declarative speech acts are utterances that express a fact which is to change the world through utterances. Representative acts explain what the speaker believes, such as explaining a fact, describing a certain past or present situation, etc. Expressive speech acts are actions that are carried out in accordance with what the speaker feels. Then, there is a Directive speech act which is a type of illocutionary acts used by the speaker to make others perform an action. The last type of Illocutionary act, Commissive is a type of speech act that is used to bind the speaker to something in the future.

Understanding illocutionary acts is important because they reveal the intentions behind spoken language. In many cases, the intended meaning of an utterance cannot be fully understood without considering its illocutionary force. Misinterpretations often occur when listeners fail to recognize the speaker's intended action. Therefore, studying illocutionary acts helps people better understand communicative intentions and avoid misunderstandings in social interaction. Moreover, the analysis of speech acts is particularly relevant in media discourse, where hosts often guide conversations, influence audience reactions, and maintain engagement through specific communicative strategies.

Knowledge of illocutionary acts can help individuals navigate social situations more effectively, enabling them to maintain polite and respectful communication. By recognizing illocutionary acts in their speech, individuals can become more aware of the consequences of their words and actions, resulting in more responsible communication. It can be concluded that studying illocutionary acts is important because it helps us understand the meaning and purpose behind speech, the context in which it occurs, and the role it plays in various forms of communication. In analyzing the meaning of an utterance, the researcher chose the talk show *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* as the object of illocutionary act analysis. Conversations between the host and guest stars on this show often feature speech acts, particularly illocutionary ones. This study focuses on Jimmy Fallon's utterances that contain illocutionary acts.

There are several studies related to this research topic. The first journal focuses on illocutionary act research written by Prameswari & Putri (2024) entitled "An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts Found in Daebak Show Season 2 Episode 1." The purpose of this study is to identify types of illocutionary acts based on conversations between the host and guests on the Daebak Show. This study focuses on analyzed the illocutionary acts found in Daebak Show Season 2 Episode 1. The results of this study show that assertive acts are the most dominant. Then, journal that the researcher found was by Nazrah & Rosida (2024), entitled *Analyzing Expressive Speech Acts in The Late Late Show with James Corden*. The purpose of this study analyzes the types of expressive speech acts performed by James Corden in *The Late Late*

Show with James Corden, focusing on expressive acts using the theory of Searle and Vanderveken. The last journal article found by the researcher from [Malasari & Rosdiana \(2021\)](#) is titled Expressive Speech Act in Ellen's Talk Show "Ellen Taught This Fan How to Speak English." This study aims to classify and examine the linguistic function of expressive speech acts as a conversational strategy in Ellen's talk show entitled "Ellen Taught This Fan How to Speak English" This study focuses only on one type of illocutionary act that is expressive acts used in Ellen's talk show conversations.

However, research specifically examining the types of illocutionary acts used by talk show hosts during spontaneous interactions with guests and the audience remains limited, particularly in the program "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon." Furthermore, previous studies have tended to focus more on specific categories of illocutionary acts rather than examining the broader range of illocutionary acts used by hosts to steer the conversation. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by analyzing the types of illocutionary acts used by Jimmy Fallon in his talk show.

This research focuses on analyzing Jimmy Fallon's utterances that contain illocutionary acts in selected segments of The Tonight Show. One example can be found in the episode featuring Ana de Armas, where Jimmy Fallon introduces a film clip and says, "Take a look!" This utterance can be categorized as a directive illocutionary act in the form of a command, because the speaker intends to instruct the listener to watch the video currently being shown. Directive acts encourage the listener to do something in accordance with what the speaker says. Through such examples, this study examines how various types of illocutionary acts function in the conversational context of a talk show

The researcher chose The Tonight Show as the object of this study because the conversations are spontaneous, interactive, and rich in communicative functions. Jimmy Fallon is known for his active and expressive hosting style, which often involves directing the audience, responding to guests, and expressing emotions during the conversation. These characteristics make the talk show an appropriate source of data for analyzing illocutionary acts in natural conversational settings. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to analyze the types of illocutionary acts used by Jimmy Fallon in The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.

2. METHODOLOGY

This study used descriptive qualitative research method. This is because the data obtained in the research consists of descriptive speech acts found in talk shows that contain illocutionary acts. Qualitative research methods are used to understand the meaning of speech directly in the context of conversation. ([Denscombe, 2010](#)) stated that qualitative data obtained consists of written or spoken words in real situations. Qualitative research focuses on meaning, experience, and how people interact in real situations. According the researcher view, observing or analyzing a conversation or text using qualitative methods helps to find out what actually happened and how to interpret it. This study uses qualitative methods to carefully describe Jimmy Fallon's speech as a host containing types of illocutionary acts and to determine the meaning of Jimmy Fallon's speech.

2.1. Data and Source of Data

The data analyzed in this study consists of Jimmy Fallon's utterances containing illocutionary acts from the talk show "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," hosted by Jimmy Fallon. The research data comprises words, phrases, and sentences spoken by the host during conversations with guest stars. These utterances were analyzed to identify the types and meanings of illocutionary acts used in the communication process.

The data source for this research is The Tonight Show hosted by Jimmy Fallon which airs on YouTube. Researcher collected data by accessing the official YouTube of The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon and watching talk show videos when Jimmy Fallon was with guest stars. The researcher chose seven videos from the tonight show that have a lot of viewers and conversations that can provide information to the audience.

2.2. Data Collection

In the data collection process, this research used indirect observation with talk show videos as the data source. The observed data was then collected systematically using the note-taking method because this method provides a simple, systematic, and effective way to record data. First, the researcher watched the video that had been determined as the data source. Then, the researcher observed and listened to Jimmy Fallon's speech to pay attention to illocutionary acts. Every utterance containing illocutionary acts was noted along with the time. The data found was categorized according to the type of illocutionary act based on Yule (1996). Finally, the researcher analyzed the data by paying attention to the context of the conversation in the talk show.

2.3. Data Analysis

In this research, the researcher identified the types of illocutionary acts used by Jimmy Fallon in The Tonight Show and analyzed the meaning of his statements. Data analysis was conducted systematically and objectively. First, selecting data that was relevant to the research focus. Second, identifying and classifying the types of illocutionary acts based on Yule (1996). Then, the data was neatly arranged in a table for easy analysis. Finally, the researcher explained the results of the data analysis in detail, considering the context of the conversation and the reasons for using the utterances, and then drawing conclusions based on the analyzed data.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Result

The result in this study showed that there are 4 types of illocutionary acts used by Jimmy Fallon in communication with guest stars, which are representative acts (statement of fact, suggestion, conclusion, and description), expressive acts (joy, pleasure, like, surprise), directive acts (command and request), and the last one is commissive act (promise).

3.2. Representative

Representative acts are utterances used to convey information and opinions believed by the speaker. Based on Yule (1996) in Jimmy Fallon's utterances, the researcher found 4 types of representative acts: statements of fact, suggestions, conclusions, and descriptions.

3.3. Statement of Fact

A statement of fact is a statement that does not contain personal opinion or subjectivity and is based on existing facts. According to Sidik et al. (2022), this function is usually used by speakers to convey information to listeners about something factual or something that the speaker believes to be true.

Taylor Swift : Hey, guys! (Audience cheers and applause)

Jimmy Fallon : *I know*

Taylor Swift : Wow

Jimmy Fallon : We are so great to see you.

The researcher classified this sentence as a statement of fact because Fallon told the audience that he acknowledged the facts and was aware of the situation and conditions at that time. Fallon said, "*I know*." Mr. Fallon's statement referred to the audience's enthusiastic reaction, showing that he understood their excitement about Taylor Swift as a guest star.

3.4. Suggestion

A suggestion can be considered a representative act if it has an element of judgement or opinion from the speaker about the situation, with the aim of influencing the interlocutor to consider the suggestion and act in accordance with the suggestion.

Jimmy Fallon : But this is ... Have you ever tried stand up at all? ever thought about that?

Demi Lovato : Hell no! Did you see how I just freaked out? I don't want people not laughing at my jokes. That would be mortifying.

Jimmy Fallon : No, *you get used to it, trust me.* (Laughter)

Fallon's utterance, "*you get used to it, trust me*" is classified as a representative act of suggestion, because it can be interpreted that the things that make Demi Lovato nervous when speaking will disappear over time. Fallon reassures Demi Lovato that she will become used to it.

3.5. Conclusion

Conclusion in a representative act is a statement that describes accurate information or arguments from a discussion. The conclusion is a summary of the main points, relating to the subject under discussion, and is supported by evidence or data presented during the discussion.

Jimmy Fallon : Here you are in full armor right here. (while showing a picture of Fabien in costume).

Fabien Frankel : Yeah.

Jimmy Fallon : *It looks Heavy, Is it heavy?*

Fabien Frankel : It's quite heavy

Jimmy Fallon discussed the costume worn by Fabien Frankel in the movie House of the Dragon, which looked big and heavy. Fallon said, "*It looks heavy. Is it heavy?*" Fallon's statement shows that he drew a conclusion based on what he saw visually through the image, that the costume was heavy. Then he questioned whether his conclusion was correct.

3.6. Description

Descriptions in representative acts are statements used to create mental images. It not only provides information about an object, but also invites the listener or reader to feel, see or hear what the speaker describes.

Jimmy Fallon : Yeah, it was fantastic. *You have a great reputation by the way, in Hollywood of being a very nice guy and I will say you always have been nice* (Cheers and applause) *Always have been a cool guy with me.*

Keanu Reeves : Fix my shirt. Fix my tie

As the host, Fallon described Reeves image or reputation in the eyes of the Hollywood public, because he knew Reeves well and recognized his achievements in the world of film, as well as his kindness. Fallon's statement is a representative sub-description used when the speaker describes or explains the nature, condition, or character of a person based on actual observations.

3.7. Expressive Act

Expressive acts are a type of illocutionary act used to express the speaker's feelings. Based on Yule (1996), the researcher found several types of expressive acts in Jimmy Fallon's utterances, which are joy, pleasure, like, and surprise.

3.8. Joy

Joy in expressive behavior is spontaneous, in other words, it tends to express feelings of joy without much consideration. In addition, the words, intonation and body language used show positive things.

Jimmy Fallon : *We are so...It's so great to see you. You look fantastic. Thanks for coming back.*

Taylor Swift : Thank you so much, that was really nice, guys, by the way

Fallon said, "*We are very... It's great to see you. You look fantastic. Thank you for coming back.*" This sentence was used when welcoming Taylor Swift as a guest star on The Tonight Show. Fallon's words are a type of expressive illocutionary act because Fallon expressed his joy at Swift's arrival. Fallon showed how happy he was to see Swift again, so his words contained praise that described a warm situation full of joy.

3.9. Pleasure

Pleasure can be defined as a means of conveying feelings of pleasure, satisfaction, and enjoyment.

Jimmy Fallon : We have to talk about "John Wick: Chapter 4." *Buddy, you did it again. It's unbelievable! This one's the best.*

Keanu Reeves : What?

Jimmy Fallon : This one is the best on

Jimmy Fallon said, "*Buddy, you did it again.*" Fallon's statement expresses his pleasure at Keanu Reeves' success in playing the character John Wick for the fourth time. This sentence shows an expressive act of pleasure because it contains an expression of happiness and satisfaction at someone's success

3.10. Like

Like is an action that shows a feeling of liking the content, idea or person. An action that shows agreement with an opinion or view.

Jimmy Fallon : We made the commercial and aired it. Here's clip from Crypto Bismol. (While showing the clip of commercial)

Jimmy Fallon : There you go. That's it (Cheers and applause)
We love it. It was a good bit.

John Mayer : Thank you.

Jimmy Fallon said, "*We love it. It's great,*" which means Fallon likes the commercial created by John Mayer and praises it through his words. This sentence shows an expressive act that conveys liking and interest in something.

3.11. Surprise

Surprise is part of expressive illocutionary acts, expressing something that happens unexpectedly or suddenly, is subjective and personal, and contains emotional expression marked by rising intonation or changes in facial expression.

Jimmy Fallon : It's been a big week

Demi Lovato : Yeah, and it's my 30th birthday

Jimmy Fallon : *What!!* (applause)

Jimmy Fallon said, "*What!!*" indicating that he was surprised and reacted spontaneously to Demi Lovato's announcement that she would release a new album the day before her 30th birthday. The surprise expressed by Fallon here is that he did not know that Demi Lovato would be turning 30. Fallon's statement is an expressive illocutionary act because Fallon's words and expressions show surprise.

3.12. Directive

Directive acts are utterances used to get someone else to do something. This type of speech act is part of illocutionary acts based on Yule (1996). In this research, Jimmy Fallon uses two types of directive acts, which are command and request.

3.13. Command

Command refers to a statement that aims to prompt others to perform certain acts in accordance with the utterances conveyed.

Jimmy Fallon : Well, we were actually thinking, can you name ... see how many cats you *can name in 30 seconds and just do it?* I mean, we have the time, right? We have a clock.

Talor Swift : Yeah, Let's do it.

Fallon said "*can name in 30 seconds and just do it?*" Fallon commanded Taylor to name as many cats as possible in 30 seconds to see how well Taylor Swift could complete the challenge. The phrase '*just do it?*' is a polite command. Taylor Swift then reinforces Fallon's statement by saying, "Yes, let's do it." which shows that Fallon's statement is a command.

3.14. Request

According to Yule (1996), directive acts are expressions used by speakers to ask others to do something. Therefore, requests are considered directive acts because the statements used are intended to ask for something or request others to perform certain actions.

- Sylvester Stallone : You know, you can't take my punch. You can't take my fake punch. How's that?
Jimmy Fallon : *Can you give me a tip on how I could take a fake punch?*
Sylvester Stallone : You actually want to do this?
Jimmy Fallon : I would love – Yeah.

Fallon was interested in Sylvester Stallone's movie scene, so Jimmy Fallon said, "*Can you give me a tip on how I could take a fake punch?*" This sentence can be interpreted as Fallon requesting Sylvester to teach him the technique of taking a fake punch. Fallon used a polite sentence to convey his request.

3.15. Commissive

Commissive acts are utterances used to indicate the speaker's commitment to an action in the future. In Jimmy Fallon's utterances, the researcher found one type of commissive act, which is promise. This type of speech act is part of illocutionary acts based on Yule (1996).

3.16. Promise

According to Yule (1996), commissive acts are used to make commitments for the future. This type of speech act includes actions that lead to promises. A promise is a statement that refers to a concrete action that someone will take to keep a promise made in the future.

- Jimmy Fallon : And is it tough to have all these episodes with spoilers and not telling anyone what's going on?
Fabien Frankel : There's HBO people outside right now.
Jimmy Fallon : Yeah, I met them all. Yeah, Dangerous people.
Fabien Frankel : You don't want to mess with them.
Jimmy Fallon : No, not at all. Yeah, *I'm not going to spoil anything tonight.*
Fabien Frankel : No, no, no, don't.

When Fallon said, "*I'm not going to spoil anything tonight.*" this statement can be interpreted as Fallon promising Fabien Frankel to keep the information provided by Fabien Frankel secret. In terms of sentence structure, there is the sentence "*I'm not going to,*" which grammatically refers to a promise.

3.17. Discussion

First data on representative acts; the researcher classified this as a statement of fact because Fallon told the audience that he acknowledged the fact and that he was aware of the situation and conditions at that time by saying, "*I know.*" The situation referred to was the high level of enthusiasm from the audience when Taylor arrived. Based on the intensity of the audience's voices and cheers, Fallon realized what was happening, why there were such cheers, and who was causing them. This finding is in line with Diffani & Hikmah (2023), which shows a similar pattern in terms of statements of fact. The similarity can be seen in the same function, which is to state or confirm facts that are true according to the speaker.

The second type of representative act is speech that leads to suggestions. Fallon said, "*You'll get used to it.*" Fallon's statement suggests that Lovato will get used to it and no longer be afraid. He also tried to boost Lovato's confidence by giving advice that he believed to be true based on his experience as a host. This is in line with the opinion expressed by Sidik et al (2022) that representative acts bind the speaker to statements that are believed to be true. In addition, Fallon uses words that are reassuring and calming, not in the form of commands, but as a form of emotional support. This type of suggestion is difficult to find in previous studies because it is not explained specifically; previous studies only explain representative acts in general terms.

The next representative data is conclusion. In the conversation between Jimmy Fallon and Fabien Frankel, Fallon said, "*It looks heavy,*" which showed that Fallon concluded that the costume worn by Frankel in the movie House of Dragon looked heavy based on her appearance in the photo. The term "looks" in this statement can be interpreted as meaning that his judgment was based purely on external appearance, making his statement a temporary conclusion. This is followed by a question to confirm that his conclusion is correct. Fallon asked, "*Is it heavy?*" This question is not just an expression of interest; it reinforces what he has said and shows that his conclusion is correct. Therefore, these two sentences are connected. This conclusion data is in line with Fitriani (2022), who provides the same definition as the research, stating

that a conclusion is a speaker's statement about decision-making based on personal observations or thoughts.

The last representative illocutionary act is description. Fallon uses this type of act to describe how Keanu Reeves is known in his work environment, which is the Hollywood film industry. Fallon said, "*You have a great reputation by the way, in Hollywood of being a very nice guy, and I will say, you have always been nice.*" From this statement, Fallon described Reeves' image or reputation in the eyes of the Hollywood public, because he knew Reeves well and recognized his achievements in the film world, as well as his kindness. Fallon not only described Keanu's reputation from the public's point of view, but also from his own experiences and interactions with Reeves. The data in this research aligns with the study conducted by [Ramadhani & Mustikawati \(2023\)](#), which also employs descriptive acts to explain something based on what the speaker believes to be true.

In the expressive act, the first data found was the utterance of joy. Fallon said, "*We are so... It's so great to see you. You look fantastic. Thanks for coming back,*" which indicates that Fallon was joyful and excited when welcoming Taylor Swift as a guest star for the umpteenth time. Fallon's words of praise also reveal his joy. Fallon shows his joy to his guest by saying, "You look great," which is a compliment on Taylor's appearance. This compliment makes the interview feel more friendly and positive. The data in this research is in line with [Ngasini \(2021\)](#), which also indicates that expressive acts in terms of joy are used by speakers to express feelings of happiness and enthusiasm towards their conversation partners.

The second data in the expressive act is the utterance of pleasure. Jimmy Fallon said, "*Buddy, you did it again. It's unbelievable!*" This sentence shows his admiration and appreciation for Keanu Reeves, who successfully played the character of John Wick for the fourth time. Fallon expressed his pleasure and admiration by praising Reeves. The sentence Fallon uttered with admiration and pleasure showed that Fallon truly enjoyed Reeves' performance in the film. This expression explained the inner satisfaction that arises when someone sees good things happening to people they respect or like. This expression can also create a warm and pleasant situation, as the audience can feel the positive energy that arises from the conversation. This research aligns with [Nazrah & Rosida \(2024\)](#), which also indicates that expressive acts in terms of pleasure are used to convey happiness through positive statements, which can be in the form of praise for other people's achievements as a form of appreciation.

The next data in expressive action is the utterance of like. Jimmy Fallon said, "*We love it. It was good,*" indicates that Fallon liked the parody advertisement made by John Mayer. Fallon used the word "love" to express his feelings of liking and interest in something. This indicates that he really liked the advertisement made with Mayer. Through his words, Fallon successfully expressed his happiness and appreciation for the work, guest stars, and audience using humorous, cheerful, and enthusiastic language. This research data was not found in previous studies because previous studies only discussed expressive actions related to joy and pleasure. The expressive act of liking is rarely discussed specifically.

The last data shows that Fallon's utterance of "*What!!*" is classified as an expressive act of surprise. This utterance shows Fallon's emotional reaction of surprise and delight at Demi Lovato's plan to release a new album to coincide with her 30th birthday. Fallon reacted spontaneously to the information provided by Lovato without thinking twice and uttered the word "*What!!*", which showed that he was truly surprised. In general, the word "what" is often used when asking for information about a person or object. However, the word "what" can also be used to express feelings about new information, such as surprise. Previous studies have never discussed this type of expressive act. However, this finding is supported by Searle's theory, which states that speech acts that express the speaker's emotions and psychological attitudes are known as expressive acts. This is also supported by the theory of Paul Ekman, a psychologist of emotions and micro-expressions, who said that "surprise" is described as a feeling or emotional attitude caused by a sudden or unexpected incident. Therefore, the researcher classified surprise as part of expressive acts because it arises from factors that influence the speaker's feelings, emotions, and attitudes towards a situation.

In directive acts, the first data found is the command utterance. Fallon's utterance, "... *how many cats can you name in 30 seconds, and just do it?*" is a command addressed to Taylor to prove his ability to quickly name cats. In this statement, there is the phrase, "*Just do it?*" The question used by Fallon is a subtle and

polite command for Taylor to immediately do the game without hesitation. Fallon's style of language is light and friendly, which makes the conversation between Fallon and his guest feel relaxed and not offensive and still serves its main function, which is to ask someone else to do something. Then, Fallon's utterance was reinforced by Taylor Swift's statement, "Yes, let's do it," which means that Swift is willing to carry out Fallon's command. This research aligns with a study conducted by Dania (2025), which has the same objective, which is to command or direct the listener to perform a certain action according to the speaker's wishes.

The last data found in the directive action is a request. Fallon talks about the fight scene in Stallone's movie and is interested in trying it out. Fallon said, "*Can you give me some tips on how to take a fake punch?*" Fallon's utterance is a type of directive in terms of requests because it contains a request sentence where he asks Sylvester Stallone to teach him how to take a fake punch. Although Fallon's sentence looked like a question, actually, it was more a polite statement of curiosity than an order to Stallone. Fallon used the sentence, "*Can you give me*", which is a polite and friendly request to the guest star. Fallon showed his respect for Stallone as someone who is experienced in the field. This also made the conversation between Fallon and Stallone harmonious and enjoyable. This data is in line with research conducted by Dania (2025), which also shows Fallon's efforts in directing the speaker to perform actions in accordance with his request.

The last type of illocutionary act found by the researcher is the commissive act of promise. Fallon said, "*I'm not going to spoil anything tonight*," when talking about the movie starring Fabien Frankel, House of Dragon. Fallon's statement shows that he hopes to be given spoilers about the film and promises not to reveal the spoilers given by Frankel. In this situation, Fallon showed his commitment to act in the future by keeping the information about the film from being revealed during the show. This statement also shows a responsible approach, respecting the confidentiality of the movie starring his guest. In Fallon's statement, the word "going to" indicates his commitment not to do anything outside of his commitment and this word can be considered a promise. This data is in line with the study conducted by Prameswari & Putri (2024), which also serves to show the speaker's commitment to maintaining future actions.

Based on the result and discussion, the illocutionary acts found by researchers were only 4 of the 5 types of illocutionary acts, and each type of illocutionary act had several parts. The 4 types of illocutionary acts are representative (statements of fact, suggestions, conclusions, and descriptions), expressive (joy, pleasure, like, and surprise), directive (commands and requests), and commissive (promises). Representative acts are most often used in Jimmy Fallon's utterances because they relate to facts about guest stars that Jimmy Fallon knows to be true. In this research, one type of utterance that was not found is declarative, because Fallon's utterances do not indicate that he can change the situation through his words. This study then identifies *suggestion*, *like*, and *surprise* as significant illocutionary acts in Jimmy Fallon's utterances, which were not observed in previous studies.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis using the theory of illocutionary acts proposed by George Yule, this study found that Jimmy Fallon uses four types of illocutionary acts when interacting with guests on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. These types include representative, expressive, directive, and commissive acts. Among these categories, representative acts were the most dominant, indicating that Fallon frequently provides information, comments on guests, and introduces discussion topics during interviews. Expressive acts were also widely used to create a warm and engaging atmosphere in the conversation. Directive acts were mainly used to guide interactive segments, while commissive acts appeared in situations where Fallon expressed commitment to future actions.

These findings contribute to pragmatic studies by demonstrating how illocutionary acts function in talk show discourse. The results also show that the communication style of a talk show host involves multiple speech act strategies to maintain audience engagement and facilitate smooth interaction with guests.

However, this study has several limitations. First, the data were limited to seven videos from the talk show, which may not fully represent all episodes. Second, the analysis focused only on Jimmy Fallon's utterances and did not include speech acts produced by guest stars. Future research may analyze larger datasets, include multiple talk shows, or compare different hosts to gain a broader understanding of speech act usage in media communication.

Ethical Approval

Ethical Approval was not required for this study

Informed Consent Statement

Informed consent was not obtained for this study

Author's Contributions

Conceptualization, SMG and RTD; Methodology SMG., RTD., and HD, Validation RTD., and HD; Formal Analysis, SMG., RTD., and HD; Resources, SMG; Writing-Original Draft, SMG and RTD; Writing-review and Editing, SMG, RTD and HD.

Disclosure Statement

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Data Availability Statement

The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author due to privacy reasons.

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Notes on Contributors

Sri Meiyandi Giasi

Sri Meiyandi Giasi is an undergraduate at Universitas Negeri Gorontalo. She is studying English language education at the Faculty of Letters and Culture. She is interested in linguistics, pragmatics, and English language teaching. She is particularly interested in how language is used and spoken in everyday situations involving speech acts and communication.

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