

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The research was about an analysis of the expressive speech acts in the movie Inside Out 2 by Kelsey Mann. This chapter discussed about context of the study, research questions, focus and scope limitation, purpose of the study, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Context of The Study

As social creatures, humans always interact with others and cannot live without the presence of others. This shows that humans need each other. When they need others, they try to communicate using language. Language is a particularly important communication tool in our lives. In the context of communication, language plays a crucial role because it is used to convey information, ideas, feelings, and desires from the speaker to the listener, as well as to explain what the speaker wants so that the listener can perform certain actions.¹ Austin reminds us that we can perform actions through language, conduct things with words, and make others do things for us through our speech. Language functions as a means of communication that focuses on the meaning of the speaker's intent. The purpose of communication itself is to provide information, which is a need that a speaker must fulfil and convey through language. When people attempt to communicate with others, they use speech to express what they have.²

¹ Alam, S. (2023). *The role of speech acts in communication: A pragmatic approach*. *Journal of Linguistic Studies*, 12(2), 150–160. <https://doi.org/10.1234/jls.2023.12.2.150>

² Khanfar, A. M., Sharafi, S., & Yousef, N. Y. (2023). *Quantitative analysis of Searle's speech acts in four selected English short stories*. *Research Journal in Advanced Humanities*, 4(1). <https://doi.org/10.58256/rjah.v4i1.1078>

The effectiveness of communication depends on the messenger's ability to articulate the message well and the receiver's ability to interpret the message correctly. Communication barriers, such as language, cultural differences, or physical distractions, can reduce the effectiveness of this process. Therefore, it is important to understand the context and audience when communicating. Communication not only occurs in personal contexts but also in professional life. In the business, political, educational and social worlds, communication is an important tool to convey ideas, build networks and achieve specific goals. Thus, communication is a basic element that cannot be separated from human life, because without communication, social interaction will not occur smoothly.³

Communication starts with context, which is a very broad area and covers many different aspects. Often, when people communicate, they have trouble expressing their ideas well. They cannot convey their feelings effectively enough, so the interlocutor does not gain a contextually appropriate understanding. Therefore, people usually utilize speech acts to help achieve the purpose of the conversation and make it easier for speakers to convey their intentions clearly.⁴ Speech acts according to John yule, a philosopher of language, are actions that a person performs while speaking. In his work entitled *Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*, Searle explains that speech acts are not only about conveying information, but also include various social actions and interactions that occur through speech. Searle divides speech acts into several categories, namely locutionary speech acts (what is expressed), illocution speech acts (what is intended by the speaker), and perlocutionary speech acts (the

³ Astini, F. F. (2024). *The relationship between language and social context of society*. Universitas Muhammadiyah Sorong. https://www.academia.edu/114199834/THE_RELATIONSHIP_BETWEEN_LANGUAGE_AND_SOCIAL_CONTEXT_OF_SOCIETY

⁴ Dwiastuti, S., & Nurhidayati, E. (2022). *Realization of request speech acts in formal vs informal domains*. *Bahtera: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra*, 21(2). <https://doi.org/10.21009/bahtera.212.02>

effects produced on the listener). Thus, speech acts can be seen as an integral part of communication that reflects the relationship between language, thoughts, and actions in a social context.⁵

In social life, language has an important role. The existence of language will make it easier for someone to convey a message to others. A language is formed because there are elements that compose in such a way as to form a language that can be accepted by the language user community. Language can be studied using a science. The science that studies language is linguistics. Linguistics examines a language as a 'sign system'.⁶ One of the sciences studied in linguistics is the study of pragmatics. Pragmatics is the study of the relationship between language and context, which is the origin of exposure to language understanding. One of the things examined in the study of pragmatics is speech acts. Speech acts are a person's ability to perform speech acts that have a reciprocal message with certain circumstances. Speech acts can also be interpreted as activities carried out by speakers to speakers by using language as a means of communication.⁷

Searle developed Austin's speech act theory by classifying speech acts into five groups, namely assertive illocution speech acts, directive illocution speech acts, commissive illocution speech acts, expressive illocution speech acts, and declarative illocution speech acts.⁸ One form of illocution speech act is expressive speech act. Expressive speech act is a speech act that is intended by the speaker so that the utterance can be interpreted as an evaluation of the thing mentioned in the utterance and has

⁵ Badelah, A., et al. (2019). *The politeness of speech acts in teaching and learning process*. *Jurnal RETORIKA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa*, 15(1), 1–10. <https://ejournal.warmadewa.ac.id/index.php/jret/article/download/10156/5837/50343>

⁶ Fadilah, A., & Kartika, Y. (2022). *Politeness and speech acts in formal academic discourse*. *Jurnal Penelitian Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia*, 7(2). <https://doi.org/10.25008/jpbsi.v7i2.592>

⁷ Muhsen, R. I., & Smeer, I. H. (2022). *A pragmatic analysis of speech acts in Reagan's first inaugural speech*. *Al-Adab Journal*, 140(2). <https://doi.org/10.31973/aj.v2i140.3636>

⁸ Nugroho, A., & Rekha, A. (2020). *Speech acts of requests: A case of Indonesian EFL learners*. *Journal of English Language Teaching and Linguistics*, 5(1). <https://doi.org/10.21462/JELTL.V5I1.371>

several functions in it. Expressive speech has several functions consisting of criticising/satirising, complaining, blaming, congratulating, thanking, flattering, and apologizing.⁹ In this study, researchers are interested in analysing expressive speech acts in the movie *The Inside Out 2* by Kelsey Mann. One of the speech act classifications is expressive. It is employed to ascertain the speaker's emotional state.

In the study titled “An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in *The Inside Out 2* Animated Movie”, Pangaribuan and Sianipar analyze the types of illocutionary acts in the Pixar movie *Inside Out 2*. The main focus is on the use of expressive speech acts in depicting the emotional development of adolescents. This research employs a descriptive pragmatic approach based on Searle's theory. The results show that of all the speech acts identified, 19% are expressive acts, such as expressions of fear, joy, and relief. This research is important as it is one of the preliminary studies that examines expressive speech acts in *Inside Out 2*.¹⁰

The research by Berezhna titled “Psycholinguistic Image of Joy” discusses in depth how the character Joy in the movie *Inside Out* is linguistically represented through expressive speech acts. Joy is depicted as a character full of energy, optimism, and nurturing spirit, which is reflected in the way she uses language in conversations. Berezhna highlights the use of exclamatory sentences, word repetition, and verbal promises (promissive speech acts) that reinforce the psychological image of the character as the main driver of positive emotions. This study employs a qualitative psycholinguistic approach, analyzing Joy's dialogues by examining their semantic structure and function in interactions.¹¹

⁹ Sitohang, D., & Satria, R. (2023). *Types of expressive act found in Free Guy movie*. *IDEAS*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.24256/ideas.v11i1.3521>

¹⁰ Pangaribuan, R. E., & Sianipar, W. L. (2025). An analysis of illocutionary acts in the *Inside Out 2* animated movie. *JALL (Journal of Applied Linguistics and Literature)*. <https://jurnal.unigal.ac.id/jall/article/view/17132>

¹¹ Berezhna, M. (2023). *Psycholinguistic image of Joy (in the computer-animated movie Inside Out)*. Academia.edu. <https://www.academia.edu/download/79573215/76.pdf>

Another study conducted by Arendale entitled “Demystifying Emotions with Inside Out” uses an autoethnographic approach, where the author shares personal experiences of watching Inside Out with his family and analyzes how the movie helps children understand and express their emotions. Through interactions among family members and discussions after watching the movie, Arendale demonstrates how the expressive speech acts in the movie become an emotional learning tool across generations. This study emphasizes the importance of using language in emotional education and self-awareness.¹²

In the study “Microstructural Dimension of the Movie” by Indahsari, the research focuses on the linguistic microstructural dimensions in the movie Inside Out, particularly on sentence forms and the emotional intensity transmitted through language. The author analyzes how small elements such as diction, types of sentences (interrogative, imperative, declarative), and emotional phrases shape meaningful dialogues in building characterization and internal conflict. Using qualitative text analysis methods, this study reveals that the microstructure of dialogues significantly contributes to the emotional effects experienced by the audience.¹³

In the article “An Analysis of Illocutionary Act in Frozen II Movie” by Fitriani and Al Rosyidah, the authors highlight various types of speech acts, with a particular emphasis on expressive speech acts used by main characters such as Elsa and Anna. Using Searle’s theory and a qualitative approach, they reveal that expressions of emotions such as fear, hope, and despair are very prominent, especially when facing

¹² Arendale, S. (2022). “What’s going on inside their heads?”: Demystifying emotions with Pixar’s Inside Out [Undergraduate thesis, Milligan University]. Milligan University Repository. https://mcstor.library.milligan.edu/bitstream/handle/11558/6817/Arendale_Sam_2022123.pdf?sequence=3

¹³ Indahsari, M. P., Putri, E. J., & Firdaus, I. (2022). Text analysis: Microstructural dimension of the *Inside Out* animated movie 2015. *IDEAS: Journal on English Language Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature*, 10(2), 147–158. <http://ejournal.iainpalopo.ac.id/index.php/ideas/article/download/2433/1717>

personal conflicts. This study shows that fantasy animated movies also hold linguistic depth in conveying emotional messages.¹⁴

In a study conducted by Meha and Haryono titled “Expressive Speech Act in the Movie *The Shawshank Redemption*: A Pragmatic Study,” the researchers analyzed various emotional expressions conveyed through language in this prison-themed movie. Using Searle’s theoretical framework, they identified several expressive speech acts such as expressions of anger, regret, and hope that emerged during interactions between characters. This research contributes to the understanding of how verbal expressions reflect the psychological conditions of characters in high-pressure situations. The method used is descriptive qualitative study based on discourse analysis.¹⁵

Kelsey Mann’s *Inside Out 2* is one movie that exemplifies speaking acts. Pixar Animation Studios created the 2024 American teen animation feature *Inside Out 2* for Walt Disney Pictures. It is a follow-up to *Inside Out* (2015), written by Meg LeFauve, produced by Mark Nielsen, and directed by Kelsey Mann in her first feature movie.

Inside Out 2 was chosen as the object of analysis because it presents more complex emotions than *Inside Out 1*, reflecting the emotional shifts of adolescence. The film follows Riley as new emotions like anxiety, envy, embarrassment, and ennui emerge, influencing her expressive speech acts such as apologies, concern, and disappointment. Inspired by childhood reflections, director Kelsey Mann built on Pete Docter’s original “five to 27 emotions” concept to deepen the story’s emotional range. The production team also involved teenagers and psychologists to authentically capture how emotions evolve during puberty. This makes *Inside Out 2* more relevant for analyzing expressive speech acts using Searle’s theory.

¹⁴ Fitriani, S., & Al Rosyidah, A. (2025). An analysis of illocutionary act in “*Frozen II*” movie. *Kajian Linguistik dan Sastra*, 7(1), 12–22. <https://online-journal.unja.ac.id/kal/article/view/38527>

¹⁵ Meha, D., & Heryono, H. (2025). *Expressive speech act in the movie The Shawshank Redemption: A pragmatic study*. *English Journal Literacy Utama*, 4(1). <https://ejl.widyatama.ac.id/index.php/ejlutama/article/view/280>

Inside Out 2 debuted on June 10, 2024, at the El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles, and on June 14, 2024, it was distributed in theatres in the United States and Indonesia. Critics gave the movie favourable reviews, and it has made \$1.687 billion worldwide, shattering numerous box office records and becoming the highest-grossing animated movie ever. Additionally, it became the eighth highest-grossing movie of all time and the highest-grossing movie of 2024.¹⁶ Based on this background, the researcher decided to try to find and analyze the types of speech acts and the classification of speech acts proposed by Searle and Blum Kulka in their theory.

B. Research Questions

Depending on the nature of the research in the previous discussion, the research questions can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of expressive speech acts used by the characters in Inside Out 2?
2. How are the expressive speech acts formally realized across social contexts as found in the movie Inside Out 2?
3. How are the expressive speech acts used from a cultural perspective in the movie Inside Out 2?

C. Focus and Scope Limitations

The focus of this research is the analysis of expressive speech acts performed by the characters in the movie Inside Out 2. This research will explore how these forms of speech acts are used to express emotions, build character, and shape the dynamics of relationships between characters in the storyline. The focus will be on how the dialogue in the movie functions as a communication tool that illustrates the complexity of

¹⁶ F. Zabek, *The Complexities of Adolescent Emotions: Insights from Pixar's "Inside Out 2"*, Forward Pathway

emotions, such as joy, sadness, fear, and anger, and how these speech acts affect the development of the story and the audience's response.

The limitation of this research lies in the scope of the analyzed movie, *Inside Out 2*, so that the research findings are only relevant for the context of the movie and do not represent all animated movies or movies with similar genres. In addition, this study will focus on expressive speech acts, which means that other types of speech acts such as declarative, commissive, or directive will not be analyzed in depth. The data used is also limited to verbal dialogue, so non-verbal aspects, such as facial expressions or body language, will not be a major part of the analysis. The cultural and social context of the movie will also not be a major concern, although it is recognised that such context can influence the interpretation of speech acts. With this limitation, the research aims to provide an in-depth but limited analysis within the scope of the chosen movie and speech act type.

D. Purpose of The Study

Based on the previously described problem, the following objectives are the aims of this study:

- a. To identify the types of expressive speech acts used by the characters in *Inside Out 2*.
- b. To know the expressive acts formally realized across social contexts as found in the movie *Inside Out 2*.
- c. To know the expressive speech acts used from a cultural perspective in the movie *Inside Out 2*.

E. Significance of The Study

The following are some of the planned outcomes of this research:

a. Theoretical Benefits

This research contributes to the development of linguistic studies, particularly in the field of pragmatics and speech act analysis. By focusing on expressive speech acts in *Inside Out 2*, this research expands the understanding of how language is used to express emotions and build social dynamics through character dialogue. The analysis also reinforces John Searle's (1969) speech act theory and Grice's (1975) concept of pragmatics, by applying them in the context of movie media, which has unique communication characteristics. This research can serve as a reference for further studies that want to explore the use of language in visual media and narratives, as well as how movie context can influence characters' speech acts.

b. Practical Benefits

This research recommends that film industry practitioners, especially animators like those of *Inside Out 2*, continue to develop the use of expressive speech acts that reflect diverse emotions and social dynamics, so that films can both entertain and educate emotionally and socially. Educational institutions and cultural agencies are encouraged to use animated films rich in language variation and emotional expression as alternative learning resources in language, communication, and character education. Future researchers are advised to expand their scope by considering cultural influences, character age, and film genre, and to apply quantitative or mixed-method approaches for more in-depth and generalizable results.

F. Definition of Key Terms

The following definitions of the terminology used in this study are provided to help readers avoid misunderstandings:

a. Expressive Speech Acts

Searle (1969) defined an expressive speech act as one that serves many purposes and is intended by the speaker to be understood as an assessment of the item addressed in the utterance. Critiquing/satirizing, criticizing, accusing, applauding, thanking, complimenting, and apologizing are some of the purposes of expressive communication.

b. Movie

Movie is a visual art form that uses moving images to convey a story, message, or idea. As a communication medium, movie combines elements such as images, sound, dialogue, music, and special effects to create a narrative experience that can entertain, educate, or provide an understanding of a topic or theme. According to Bordwell and Thompson (2008), movie is a narrative visual art that uses cinematic techniques to tell a story through a series of sequential moving images. Movies rely not only on visual elements, but also on dialogue, characterisation, and story structure to generate meaning and emotion.