

A Pragmatic Analysis of Judge Frank Caprio's Interviews in the program of *Caught In Providence*

Ruba Neamah Selbi

Asst. Prof. Ghanim Jwaid Idan Al-Sieedy (Ph.D)

University of Karbala - College of Education

Abstract:

Speech act is a significant part of pragmatics. It is concerned with the communicational relationship among the interlocutors. This study shows the distribution and frequency of speech acts categories as well as the contribution to the overall communication dynamics. It presents an overview of the field of pragmatics and speech acts theory. Furthermore, the analysis of 10 selected interviews of the Judge's program reveals some outcomes that serve the research questions.

1.1 Research Questions:

- 1- What is the distribution and frequency of different speech act categories employed by Judge Frank Caprio during his interviews?
- 2- How do these patterns contribute to the overall communication dynamics?

1.2 Aims of the Study:

- 1- To analyse the distribution and frequency of different speech act categories employed by Judge Frank Caprio during his interviews.
- 2- To examine how these patterns contribute to the overall communication dynamics in the courtroom context.

2. Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a field of linguistics that is " concerned with meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). It is the study of speaker meaning." (Yule, 1996, p.3). It deals with the implied meaning of utterances. It also deals with the suggestions that go around in the listeners' minds. This depends on how they interpret all the language signs such as sounds, shapes, pictures, and texts.

According to Crystal, (2008) Pragmatics is " A term traditionally used to label one of the three major divisions of semiotics (along with semantics and syntactic)." (p.379)

According to Griffiths, (2006) "Pragmatics is about the interaction of semantic knowledge with our knowledge of the world, taking into account contexts of use." (P.1)

However, pragmatics functions in a place higher than syntax and semantics. It is the study of meaning but not the literal one. This means that it deals with the use of words and utterances in the context of the situation. Yule, (1996) adds, "Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning". (p.3)

In this study, the focus is on analysing some interviews of Judge Frank Caprio who has captured too many hearts around the world. The analysis is going to be according to the principles of pragmatic stylistic analysis. This will be found in the dialogues between the judge and the individuals who have road violations.

2.1 Speech Act Theory

Speech Act refers to the communicative process which includes the context of utterance. This means that all parts of communication including the setting in which the discourse takes place, the interlocutors and verbal or physical communication (Black, 2006, P.17)

Apparently, the function of language is to describe things and communicate ideas. However, Dascal (2003, P.502-520) and Armstrong and Fogelin (2013, P.22) explain that language can be used for performing actions not only saying words. The idea is explained in the following example:

I promise I will visit them next week.

The speaker here gives the idea of visiting as well as he gives a promise of doing such action next week.

In Austin's book "*How to do Things with Words*", he summarizes the idea that "the uttering of a sentence is an action within the frame work of social institution and convention" (Jacob, 2009,P. 1000) . This point is supported by Niazi and Gautam (2010,P.196) that "when people use language among them, they regularly and normally perform actions with their words.

Mey (2001, P. 96) states that speech acts are verbal actions that occur in the world rather than being only spoken words. By uttering speech acts, one does an action by using words. For instance, "collect all these" is regarded as a directive speech act whereas the interlocutor directs the addressee to perform an act (Fought, 2006, P. 225).

If the addressee receives this utterance as a question, this means that there is no communication between them, because the purpose of the addresser is to require the addressee to pass the salt. (Bayley & Lucas, 2007, P. 142)

2.2 Searle and Vanderveken's Classification of Speech Acts

The following is the classification of speech acts (1985, P.182) :

- 1) **Declaratives** are those kinds of speech acts that change the world via their utterance. By uttering a sentence with a declarative speech act, the addresser tries to declare a new social status(Benjamins, 2004,P.151-152)
- 2) **Representatives** are those kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker believes to be the case or not. This type of speech act is used to make the addressee feels what the addresser believes. The intention is to convey the addresser's assertions. According to Marianne (2000,P.25)
- 3) **Expressives** are those kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker feels, (Siemund, 2018, P.270)
- 4) **Directives** are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something. For example, ordering, commanding, requesting, insisting, pleading, begging, inviting, suggesting, challenging and the like.(J. Briton, 2000,P.303)

- 5) **Commissives** are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to commit themselves to some future actions. Searle (2002,P.5) states that promising is the most important example of commissives speech acts.

2.3 Frank Caprio

Frank Caprio, a former social studies teacher, has established himself as an esteemed municipal judge, earning a reputation in his field. Additionally, he has gained popularity as a television personality, making him a notable figure. Born on November 23, 1936, in Providence, Rhode Island, Caprio's parents immigrated from Italy in 1912. He faced early hardships and assumed responsibilities at a young age ("Frank Caprio: The Former Teacher," 2018). In order to support his family, his parents sold fruit from a pushcart on Providence's Federal Hill. During his school years, Caprio contributed to the family income by washing dishes and shining shoes. Throughout his childhood, his parents instilled the values of hard work, the importance of education, and a commitment to service.

Caprio gained international fame when videos of his traffic court cases went viral on social media, accumulating over 1.7 billion views. What distinguishes him is his reputation for kindness and compassion. As a compassionate judge, he considers all circumstances when making decisions on presented cases ("Judge Frank Caprio Wants Justice for All," 2019).

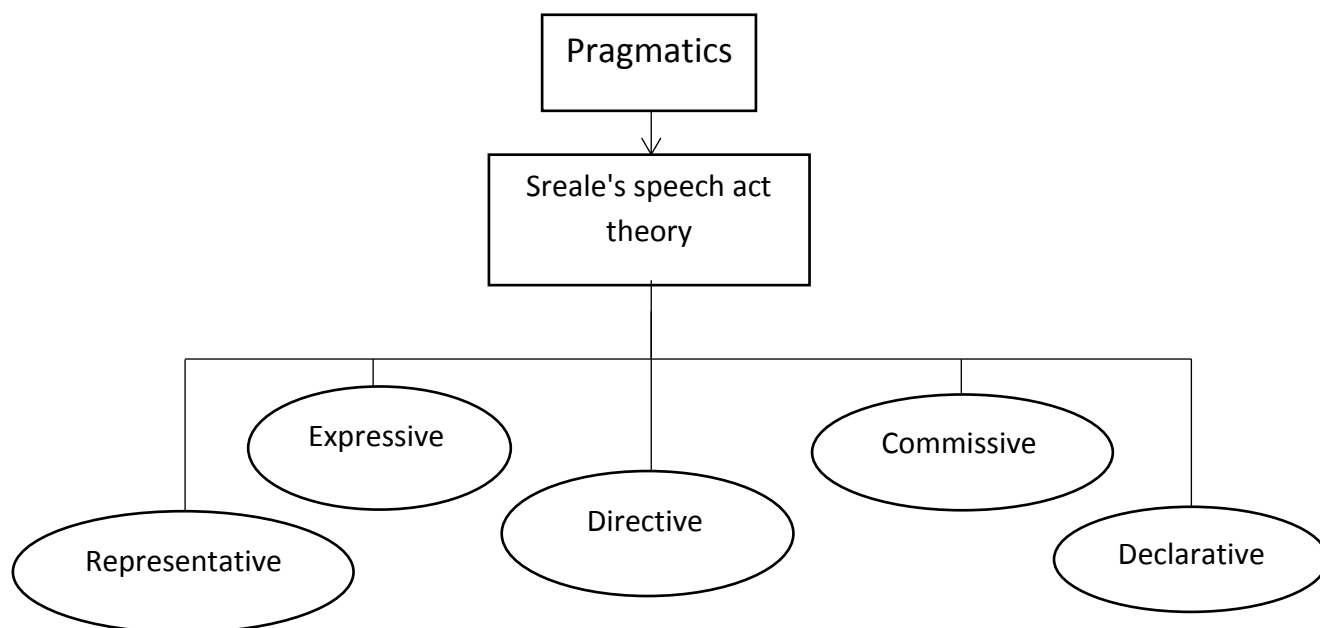
2.4 Caught In Providence

As came in("Caught in Providence Back on ABC 6," n.d.) "Produced and Directed by Joseph Caprio, Caught in Providence captures real people as they have their cases heard in Providence Municipal Court. "Expect the unexpected, from a real good laugh to tears, it's live on tape and anything can happen. "It's a Rhode Island favourite, the unscripted proceedings of the Providence Municipal Court," stated Joseph. The cases include traffic, parking, and arraignments for criminal offenses. "We've had people wear company logos looking for free promotion... I guess it's worth the \$15 parking ticket" according to Caprio."

3. Data collection and Method of Analysis

The data are 10 interviews of Judge Frank Caprio with people who come to the courtroom in Providence because of their traffic violations. This study is oriented towards the judges turns in speech.

In addition, the present study adopts a pragmatic model of analysis basing on Searle's and Vanderveken's (1985) speech act classification. The following diagram shows the model of analysis:



4. Analysis of the Data

The data is analysed qualitatively according to speech acts theory and this analysis is supported by the statistical analysis.

4.1 The Qualitative Analysis

Interview (1)

Judge: Katie Batchelder (1).

Miss Batchelder: Good morning, your honor.

Judge: Good morning, Miss Batchelder(2). This better be a good story because you're wasting all morning for 30 bucks(3).

(Katie laughing): I know.

Judge: You're charged with parking in a prohibited area on Westminster Street(4).

Miss Batchelder: Yes.

Judge: What do you do for a living(5)?

Miss Batchelder: I'm a hospice nurse.

Judge: You are(6)? Did you take time outta work this morning(7)?

Miss Batchelder: I did, yes.

Judge: For 30 bucks you took time outta work(8)?

Miss Batchelder: Yes, I did.

Judge: You're doing God's work by being a hospice nurse(9). So, first of all, I want to thank you for your service(10). What's it like being a hospice nurse(11)? I often wonder, you know, that people who do that, they're very special(12). So, you're very special person to cater to people you know, when they're in that situation(13). Please, tell me(14).

Miss Batchelder: I really love being a hospice nurse. I get to be with people at a time of life when a lot of other people don't get to share that and I get to be a part of it. And, you know, death is something that is a part of all of our lives. And so to be able to sit with people in those moments and support family members, it's an honor to do the work.

Judge: We often talk about, or think about some people, like what they would do if they knew they were dying(15). And what they would tell the people that they love the most, or close friends, you know(16). What they really, really want them to know(17). So the advice would be the best possible advice they could give(18). Has anyone in their final moments given you any real great advice on life(19)?

Miss Batchelder: It's gonna sound very basic, because it's something we all know.

Judge: Nothing is basic(20).

Miss Batchelder: But, I think we forget because we live so much in our heads. But it's just to really love people and experience joy through your life and really be there in your body, loving others. Because that's what, when you're facing your death, what you're facing losing.

Judge: I've had occasion to speak to people who are terminal, not when they're in hospice(21). And it's amazing, they almost all say the same thing(22). And what they say is, to me is, "Enjoy every minute of life 'cause it's a precious gift."(23)

Miss Batchelder: Yeah.

Judge: And I think, in your situation you really see that(24).

Miss Batchelder: Yes.

Judge: You know(25). Well, I wanna thank you-

Miss Batchelder: Thank you, your honor.

Judge: For what you do in life(26). You're doing God's work(27).

Miss Batchelder: Thank you.

Judge: Case is dismissed(28).

Miss Batchelder: Thanks

Judge: Good luck(29).

Speech Acts Analysis

Judge Frank Caprio's speech acts can be categorized into various types. He begins by greeting the individual involved in the case, employing an expressive speech act to set a respectful tone. As the conversation unfolds, the judge uses representative speech acts to inform the listener about the specific charges and details of the case. Through directive speech acts in the form of questions, he engages in a dialogue to gather information and understand the circumstances better.

Throughout the interaction, the judge also employs expressive speech acts to convey his emotions and sentiments. He expresses astonishment at certain aspects of the case, emphasizing his surprise and engaging the listener's attention. Moreover, he utilizes expressive speech acts such as praise and gratitude to acknowledge the listener's profession and the valuable work they do. The judge's speech acts also include representative acts of describing and reporting. He describes certain situations and experiences, providing context and sharing insights. Additionally, he employs representative speech acts of expectation, expressing his belief in the listener's ability to appreciate certain aspects or values due to their profession.

Towards the end of the dialogue, the judge utilizes directive speech acts to request the listener's input and thoughts on specific matters. He seeks to engage them actively in the conversation and elicit their perspectives. Finally, he concludes the case with a declarative speech act, providing a resolution or decision.

Interview (2)

Judge: Donna Wheaton(1).

Donna: Hello.

Judge: Good afternoon Donna(2).

Donna: How are you?

Judge: Well, I think I'm trying(3).

Donna: Me too.

Judge: You too(4)? What do you do when you work(5)?

Donna: So I just went back to work, but I've been going back and forth to the hospital for 22 years.

Judge: 22 years(6)?

Donna: And I had a kidney transplant 20 years ago. And then I just got a new one. And it's just a long story of my health. And I had a mini-stroke. But anyway, my point

is, and I have pictures too. So when I came out of 2 Dudley Street, and I looked, and everyone had tickets, everyone. And honestly, I'm not a stupid woman. So if I knew that that was a tow-zone, I would've never parked there. So I go a couple of other times and, obviously, I parked in the parking lot, right? 'Cause, I mean, I got some common sense here. So I took pictures of when I went again, no one had tickets. So that's why I always park there, 'cause I didn't even know it was a tow-zone. So I don't know if you have it up on the camera, but if you put it up, you don't even know if it's a tow-zone because I didn't see the sign way up there, or I don't know. Yes, I'm guilty for parking there, being ignorant, like the two sense of ignorance. I had no idea it was a tow-zone. But now that I do know that it's a tow-zone, I would not park there again. I park in the garage.

Judge: She gave me three messages(7). Number one, she's very smart(8).

Inspector Carignan: Yes.

Judge: Right(9)?

Inspector Carignan: Yes.

Judge: Number two, she knows she's guilty(10).

Inspector Carignan: Yes.

Judge: And number three, she's not gonna park there anymore(11).

Donna: I'm honest.

Judge: And the before, she's honest(12).

Inspector Carignan: I'll agree with all four, Your Honor. (Judge laughs)

Judge: Inspector Carignan agrees with everything you're saying(13).

Donna: Well, thank you.

Inspector Carignan: Especially the guilty part.

Donna: Well, I'm not gonna lie.

Judge: You must be a very special person if you were able to get two people to give you a kidney transplant(14). You're very special person(15).

Donna: yep.

Judge: I think you've had enough hardship in your life to worry about this parking at the hospital, with you having two kidney transplants(16). The case is dismissed(17). Good luck to you(18).

Donna: Thank you, thank you.

Judge: Good luck(19).

Speech Acts Analysis

Judge Caprio's speech acts in the analysed dialogue encompass a variety of functions. He begins with an expressive greeting and employs a representative speech act of expectation to convey his state indirectly. Through directive speech acts of questioning, he inquires about the addressee's occupation and highlights the duration of her suffering with an expressive speech act of astonishment. Moreover, the judge proceeds with a series of representative speech acts to convey messages. He describes the addressee as smart, emphasizes her guilt, warns her not to park there anymore, and reminds her of her honesty. These messages serve as implicit warnings and reminders. Additionally, he utilizes representative speech acts to assert that she is a special person for obtaining two kidney transplants and encourages her by describing her as special. Before concluding the case, the judge expresses sympathy for the addressee's hardships and dismisses the case with a declarative speech act. Finally, he conveys well-wishes twice using expressive speech acts.

To summarize, this analysis highlights several points. Firstly, the contextual appropriateness of Judge Caprio's speech acts demonstrates his understanding of the courtroom setting and the interaction. Secondly, the different functions of speech acts are observed, including greetings, conveying astonishment, questioning, warning, describing, asserting, encouraging, declaring, and expressing well-wishes. Thirdly, the judge's intentions behind his speech acts encompass establishing rapport, expressing empathy, gathering information, conveying messages, providing encouragement, and concluding the case with sympathy. Lastly, listeners can infer the judge's values of honesty, resilience, and appreciation for the addressee's challenging experiences.

Interview (3)

Judge: Lori Apt(1). Lori(2).

Lori: Good morning, Your Honor.

Judge: Good morning(3). You came all the way in from Warwick Lori(4).

Lori: Yes.

Judge: Lori, you have a speeding ticket(5). You're one mile over what I've been dismissing(6). One mile(7). I'm gonna give a break on it(8).

Lori: Thank you.

Judge: You also have a parking ticket(9). Parking meter on Darren Street(10). What do you wanna tell me about that(11)?

Lori: Well, I wasn't even going for myself. I was going for my brother. I went on guardianship of him. It was kind of a last minute thing. The legal, whatever you call

those, legal aid lawyers called me up and said well can you appear for him because he was the VA hospital. He has a brain injury. So I said okay. And you know, I went for him and I went to go to the meter and I didn't have any quarters, but I put my ATM card in and I'm waiting and nothing happened. I was pushing buttons and still nothing happened. So I said I gotta get into the court. And I looked at a couple other meters and they were expired. So I went.

Judge: You had to file-

Lori: And when I come back I had a ticket.

Judge: You had to file guardianship on behalf of your brother(12).

Lori: I have the guardianship paper right here.

Judge: It's all right, it's all right(13). Your brother was in the service(14)?

Lori: Yes.

Judge: What did he(15)—

Lori: He has a brain injury. He has a—

Judge: Was it related to the service(16)?

Lori: I'm sorry. He has what they call aphasia. It's left frontal lobe. He doesn't understand too much. So he, I did take him to court one time but then he started drinking and he got a DUI and I had to go get legal guardianship.

Judge: We are all mindful of the fact that some people have a problem with alcohol and unfortunately, you know, there's some people are able to overcome it(17). It's like an addiction that some people are able to beat and some people can't(18). But nevertheless, it's not only affects them, but it affects the lives of people around them(19). So you want to just talk about that for a minute, how it's affected your life(20)?

Lori: It's affected a lot of people in my family.

Judge: Yeah, how was that(21)?

Lori: Well, I mean alcohol and drugs, I had a sister die at 41 years old with drugs overdose. This brother, you know, the brain injury. I had another brother that was in trouble. (Lori chuckles uncomfortably) It's been a hard road with alcohol and drugs in my family, unfortunately.

Judge: Well, I want to congratulate you for being helpful to your brother in his moment of need, his time of need and not being judgmental(22). I noticed you weren't judgmental at all(23). So I want to tell you that just as a fellow human being, I appreciate what you're doing-

Lori: Thank you.

Judge: for your family 'cause the family is the basic unit of society(24). So I know at the same time you love your brother and sometimes you hate him for what he's doing(25). You don't hate him, but for what he's doing, you hate what he's doing(26).

Lori: Right.

Judge: But you love him and you're doing everything you can to help him(27). Here you are now today on his behalf(28). The case is dismissed(29).

Lori: Thank you very much, judge.

Judge: Good luck to you(30).

Lori: Thank you.

Speech Acts Analysis

In this interview, Judge Frank Caprio utilizes a range of speech acts to engage with the addressee and address the case. He begins with an expressive greeting and expresses astonishment at the distance travelled. The judge employs representative speech acts to inform the addressee of the speeding and parking tickets, state his leniency regarding the speed limit, and question her about the parking violation.

As the interview progresses, Judge Caprio uses representative speech acts to acknowledge the addressee's role as a guardian for her brother. He demonstrates understanding, asks about her brother's military service, and inquires about the cause of his injury. The judge then employs a series of speech acts, including stating facts about alcohol addiction, describing its effects, and using directive speech acts to inquire about its impact on her life.

Furthermore, the judge congratulates the addressee for her support and lack of judgment towards her brother. He expresses appreciation for her actions as a fellow human being. Judge Caprio emphasizes the importance of the family as the basic unit of society and asserts the addressee's love and dedication to her brother. Finally, he dismisses the case and extends well-wishes to the addressee.

Interview (4)

Judge: Mia Calagary(1). Good morning, good afternoon rather(2).

Mia: Good afternoon.

Judge: So Mia, you're charged with a school zone violation on Only Street(3). Do you remember this(4)?

Mia: I actually don't remember it happening, but I bet it did, because I drive—

Judge: Who was with you(5)?

Mia: Huh?

Judge: Who was with you(6)?

Mia: My best friend from college. She's gonna be my roommate next year.

Judge: Get her up here, see if she can help you out(7).

(Laughing)

Judge: Go to that mic(8).

Amanda: Hello.

Judge: What is your name(9)?

Amanda: Amanda.

Judge: Amanda(10)?

Amanda: Caesario.

Judge: Caesario, okay, and you guys are friends(11).

Amanda&Mia: Yeah.

Judge: You're gonna be roommates next year(12)?

Amanda&Mia: Yeah.

Mia: Our senior year.

Amanda: Yeah, we've known each other since freshman year.

Judge: Yeah, what college(13)?

Mia: Bryant University.

Judge: oh, good for you(14). So you are here to vouch her character(15)?

Amanda: Yes, I am, I guess. I'm also---

Mia: I think she was even there too.

Amanda: Yeah, I might've been there. I don't remember it, either.

Mia: We always come into Providence to Wong's kitchen. So it's like our go-to place to eat.

Judge: Oh, yeah(16)? Wong's kitchen(17)?

Mia: Yeah, it's on Thayer Street.

Judge: is that a Chinese restaurant(18)?

Mia: Yeah, it's really good. And then we get Boba after.

Judge: You get what(19)?

Mia: Boba after.

Judge: What's Boba(20)?

Amanda: Well, it's like bubble tea. Some people call it bubble tea here. It's good.

Inspector: I've seen the signs. I've yet to try one.

Judge: Life is passing us by(21).

Inspector: it is. I'm a water and milk kind of guy.

Judge: Why didn't you just pay this(22)? It's only 50 bucks(23).

Mia: Well, I know, I mean, I am a student, and I do have an internship now that I'm doing, but it's been very part time.

Judge: All right, Mia, we're gonna fine you \$50, but it's gonna be paid from the Filomena Fund, which is a fund to help people who are broke(24).

Mia: Oh, okay.

Judge: Basically, basically, it's usually unwed mothers, single moms, people who are suffering financial hardship(25). So you're a struggling college student right now, and you can't afford 50 bucks, right(26)? So we're gonna pay this from the Filomena Fund, and it won't go on your record(27).

Mia: Okay, thank you.

Judge: Okay guys, you're all set(28).

Mia: Thank you.

Amanda: Thank you, your honor.

Mia: Have a good one.

Speech Acts Analysis

In this interview, Judge Frank Caprio employs a range of speech acts to engage with the addressee and address the case. He begins with an expressive greeting and adjusts the salutation based on the time of day. The judge informs the addressee of the

violation and uses directive speech acts to question her about the incident and the presence of a witness.

As the interview progresses, the judge engages in a series of questions, including inquiries about the college the addressee attends and her knowledge of certain establishments. He expresses surprise and seeks clarification on certain terms. The judge then focuses on the case, questioning why the addressee did not pay the fine and belittling the amount. He commits to paying the fine from the Filomena Fund, explaining its purpose and how it assists individuals in need. Towards the end, the judge clarifies the role of the Filomena Fund and reiterates the commitment to pay the fine, ensuring it won't affect the addressee's record. Finally, he closes the case and assures the individuals involved that everything is settled.

Interview . (5)

Judge: Barbara Antonucci(1). Who was driving the car Barbara(2)?

Barbara: I was.

Judge: And who's this guy(3)?

Barbara: My husband.

Barbara's husband: I'm her husband, just giving her a little moral support.

Judge: Get close to the mic(4). Get close to the mic(5). You brought some moral support(6). What's that(7)?

Barbara's husband: Her oxygen.

Judge: Oh, I thought it was like J&B scotch(8). I didn't know what it was(9). (all laugh) All right, well, I don't want to make light of it(10). You know, if you have to use that just(11)-

Barbara: No, I'm fine.

Judge: You're fine(12)? All right(13). Barbara Antonucci, you are charged speeding on Charles Street(14). Your first violation ever(15). I don't know what's going on with you(16). You're not making a bad turn in life, are you(17)?

Barbara: No, no.

Judge: Mr. Antonucci, you better watch her, now(18). She's getting-

Barbara's husband: After 57 years, I watch her every day.

Judge: She's getting a little reckless driving the car, now(19). You better be careful(20). What do you want to tell me about this(21)?

Barbara: I'd like you to look at this, please.

Judge: Let me see it(22). Barbara Antonucci, the city has sent you a summons(23). Official summons that indicates you were doing 35 miles an hour in a 32-mile-an-hour speed zone(24). Now, there's no such thing as a 32-mile-an-hour speed zone in Rhode Island(25). So somehow or other, these summonses came out, you know, defective(26). This bothers me(27). It really bothers me that you have to be here with a defective summons(28). So they're charging you with doing 35 miles an hour in a 32-mile-an-hour zone(29). Three miles over the limit, there's no such thing(30). Then what they tried to do was send a new notice correcting this(31). And I'm saying, "No, you're not doing it," right(32)? You had to get it right the first time, you're getting paid enough money, right(33). Do your job and do it right(34). So I'm dismissing the case(35).

Barbara: Thank you.

Judge: And don't be too tough on her when she leaves(36). I don't want to hear yelling out in the car with her, "Stop, stop, stop," right(37)? (both laugh). So you're married 57 years(38).

Barbara's husband: Yes, your honor.

Judge: Not bad(39). How many years you've been married(40)?

Barbara: 57.

Judge: 57(41)? You know my wife and I have been married 50 years(42). We're out quite often and people, my wife looks very young(43). You know, obviously she's been living in the cradle of luxury(44). So she looks very young(45). But she looks very young, is a very attractive woman(46). And people will say to her often, they'll say, "Oh my goodness. So how long have you been married(47)? And my response is always the same(48). I say, we've been happily married for five years(49). And they say, "Oh, that's wonderful," right(50)? And they, "So is this your second"(51)? I say, "No, no, no, no, no(52). We've been married 50 years(53). We're happily married for five.(54)" And then my wife gets all upset and I say, "It's the last five."(55) (all laugh) Anyway, congratulations, we don't see many people that are married over 50 years, so(56).

Barbara: I know. It says a great deal about you. And this matter is dismissed and good luck to you.

Barbara's husband: And 57 good years.

Judge: 57 good years(57). Here's a real man for you, right(58)? (all laugh) Good luck(59).

Barbara: Thank you very much, your honor.

Speech Acts Analysis

The judge begins by questioning the addressee about the driver of the car, employing directive speech acts. He continues to question and assert when addressing the addressee's husband. The judge expresses surprise and humor regarding the presence of oxygen, using expressive speech acts. He then informs the addressee of the speeding violation and questions her about her driving behavior, using representative and directive speech acts. The judge offers a recommendation to the husband to watch his wife's driving and advises caution to the addressee. He asks for an explanation regarding the violation and suggests examining the summons, using directive and representative speech acts. The judge rebuts the 32-mile-an-hour speed zone rule, expresses annoyance, and commands the responsible party to do their job correctly. He ultimately dismisses the case, employing a declarative speech act.

To lighten the mood, the judge makes a humorous remark and engages in a conversation about the couple's long marriage, using directive and representative speech acts. He shares a personal story and congratulates the couple, employing expressive speech acts. Finally, he concludes the case with a wish for good luck.

Interview (6)

Judge: James Kaminski(1).

James: Good morning, your honor.

Judge: Morning sir, you have one ticket(2). It's an expired meter on Blackstone Street(3).

James: Yes. Your honor, there's no row of parking meters on Blackstone Street where I was parked.

Judge: Yeah, you know why(4)?

James: No, I have no idea. I'd never come to the city. I only came up to have my bandages taken off my arms for a second degree burns. And I come out-

Judge: They can't-(5)

James: and I got ticket.

Judge: But they're bandages(6). You just go like this(7). You rip 'em off(8).

James: No, I had second degree burns.

Judge: Oh, okay(9).

James: I wasn't allowed-

Judge: Little bit different(10).

James: I was already in enough pain. (chuckling) I come out, there was a parkin' ticket and I looked at it, says "Expired meter" I looked, there's no parkin' meters. Oh, I have no idea why.

Judge: I'm gonna tell you why(11).

James: All right.

Judge: There's one meter for the entire block(12). It's called a multi space meter, right(13)? It's like big square block(14). And you go there and you put in either a credit card or coins and then a little receipt comes out and tells you how much time you have(15).

James: All right.

Judge: And then you get that receipt and you put it on your dashboard(16).

James: All right.

Judge: That's why you got the ticket(17).

James: Oh, I had no idea about that.

Judge: Where'd you go to(18)? The hospital(19)?

James: Yeah, I went to Dudley Street, 170 Dudley Street, to the burn unit.

Judge: Well, it's your first parking ticket here(20). Based on the explanation, I think you suffered enough pain(21).

James: Oh, yeah.

Judge: How you doin' now(22)?

James: Healed up pretty good.

Judge: Look at that, looks...(23)

James: I had first degree burns on my face, second degree on my arm and first degree on my legs.

Judge: Well, you have great recuperative powers(24).

James: I got lucky.

Judge: You're lucky(25).

James: Just luck, just a lucky Irishman.

Inspector Quinn: He's the only one. (laughing)

Judge: Are you lucky(26)?

Inspector Quinn: Oh, stop. I could be surrounded by horse shoes and still get struck by lightning. (laughing)

He continues: No, I'm not lucky, judge.

Judge: Matter's dismissed(27).

James: Thank you your honor. Have a nice day.

Speech Acts Analysis

In this case, the judge begins by greeting the addressee and informing him of his violation. He listens to the addressee's explanation and agrees with him. The judge then asks a question to clarify why there are no parking meters on Blackstone Street. Moreover, as the addressee explains his physical condition, the judge understands and describes how to remove the bandages, reducing their significance. The judge promises to explain the parking situation and clarifies that the ticket was issued because there was no meter on the dashboard. The judge asks the addressee where he went, mentioning it is his first parking ticket. He expresses an expectation based on the addressee's explanation, suggesting that he may dismiss the case or reduce the fine.

The judge shows concern for the addressee's well-being and encourages him, noting his recuperative powers and expressing that he is lucky. The judge then asks Inspector Quinn if he is lucky, expecting a humorous response. Finally, the judge dismisses the case with a declaration.

Interview (7)

Judge: Emma Goulding(1). Good morning Emma Goulding(2).

Emma: Hi, how are you?

Judge: How am I(3)? I'm all good(4). Something wrong(5)?

Emma: Good.

Judge: Inspector Quinn, am I sick(6)?

Inspector Quinn: I don't know, you look pretty good to me. I don't know what Emma's saying. (judge and Emma chuckling)

Judge: All right(7). Emma, you have a one parking ticket on West Fountain Street(8).

Emma: Yes.

Judge: That's right here(9).

Emma: Yeah.

Judge: Tell me about it(10).

Emma: I was going there after work with my office. So, there's like a new beer hall there, so we're going there. But I parked in front of where we were headed and I didn't see a sign up. I took a picture. (laughs)

Judge: You have a photo(11)? Would you show it to inspector Quinn(12)?

Emma: Yeah. Here you go. That black car is my car.

Judge: speak to the mic(13).

Emma: Oh, the black car is my car.

Judge: It says parking in a prohibited area(14). And you, you have a .. you've submitted the photograph that indicates that there was not a sign in this photograph(15).

Emma: Right.

Judge: So, how long did it take you to get a vantage point where there was not a sign showing in the photo(16)?

Emma: I didn't try very hard. Just took a step back. (laughs)

Inspector Quinn: Your Honor, if you look closer at that violation, it could be- -

Judge: It's a violation driveway(17).

Inspector Quinn: You beat me to the punch, judge.

Judge: But she's not charged with blocking a driveway(18).

Inspector Quinn: Well, that could be described as prohibited, judge.

Emma: Yeah, the driveway didn't go anywhere. It was just a dip in the thing.

Inspector Quinn: You can't do that.

Judge: Based on the photographic evidence, the matter is dismissed(19).

Emma: Thank you.

Judge: Good luck(20).

Emma: Thank you.

Speech Acts Analysis

In this case, Judge Caprio greets the addressee and responds to her question about his well-being. He uses directive speech acts to engage with his assistant and break the

tension. Moving to the case, the judge informs the addressee about her parking ticket and commands her to explain the situation. The addressee mentions having a photo as evidence, prompting the judge to request her to show it to his assistant. The judge commands the addressee to speak into the microphone for clarity. He reiterates that she parked in a prohibited area and accuses her of intentionally taking a photo without the no-parking sign visible. He questions her about the effort she put into finding a location without the sign. As a result, the judge dismisses the case and wishes the addressee good luck.

Interview (8)

Judge: Anne Gong(1). Anne you're charged with parking in a prohibited area on North Main Street(2).

Anne: On July 31st, I took my kids to RISD museum. I'm a new driver. And I saw the little white lines, and I even sent an apology note, with my ticket, with my payment. I put the payment in the mail next day. I got this today in the mail and I called and they said I could come today. I do everything right when I get the stuff, whenever I get a bill, and I, they say that the ticket was \$90 and I got scared because I, the original ticket was \$30. And they told me it was a late fee but I did put the thing right in the mail. And you could even see my checkbook that I never like lied or anything like that. I didn't go back and like change the date or anything. I put it the next day in the mail.

Judge: immediately upon you discovering that you had a ticket, you put \$30 in the mail(3)?

Anne: Yes.

Judge: And then you received a notice saying you owe us another \$60(4)?

Anne: Yes.

Judge: So, I have to make a decision whether or not I assess the penalty(5)?

Anne: And it's my first parking ticket. And I even was like, really sorry for doing that 'cause I didn't see the sign fully. I even wrote an apology note.

Judge: Anne, do me a favor, take a deep breath(6). Seriously, take a deep breath(7). This is a parking ticket(8).

Anne: I know.

Judge: You're all nerved up(9). (laughs)

Anne: But I'm going through a lot, so.

Judge: All right, I'm gonna make you feel better(10). Okay(11)? I understand everything you're telling me(12). I'm impressed with the fact that you paid the ticket(13). I'm impressed that you came here tonight and you're not making up this big long excuse(14). So I'm gonna dismiss it(15).

Anne: Thank you.

Judge: I'm gonna dismiss it because it's the right thing to do(16). Okay(17)? And, are those tears of happiness, I hope(18)?

Anne: Yes they are.

Judge: They are(19)?

Anne: I was scared at first, but yes, now they are.

Judge: All right, I know you come to court, you're apprehensive(20). Courts are very intimidating experience(21). You know, it's not me, it's inspector Quinn, he's the intimidating person(22).

Anne: Thank you.

Judge: All right, Anne, the matter is dismissed(23). Good luck to you(24).

Anne: Okay. Do I have to go somewhere and sign - -

Judge: No, you have to just go home and enjoy yourself(25).

Anne: Thank you so much.

Judge: You did everything right(26).

Speech Acts Analysis

In this case, Judge Caprio informs the addressee Anne Gong about a parking violation. He expresses surprise at the additional penalty and contemplates whether to assess it. The judge notices that Anne is stressed and tries to calm her down, using a directive speech act to request her to take a deep breath. He reassures her that it's just a parking ticket and laughs to ease the tension.

The judge expresses understanding and impresses upon Anne that he will dismiss the case, promising to make her feel better. He demonstrates his understanding of her situation and commits to doing the right thing. He shifts the focus by asking if her tears are tears of happiness. He acknowledges that courts can be intimidating and tries to redirect the blame to his assistant, cooling down the situation. As promised, he dismisses the case and wishes Anne good luck. When Anne asks if there's anything else to do, the judge advises her to go home and enjoy herself. He praises her for doing everything right.

Interview (9)

Judge: Michelle Julie Fed(1).

Michelle: Good morning, your honor.

Judge: Inspector Quinn(2).

Inspector Quinn: Judge.

Judge: Inspector Karrigan(3). I don't wanna you saying anything that's going to upset Michelle, you understand(4)? You be very tender, all right(5)? Very understanding, very kind because I noticed Michelle, that you are expecting a blessed event(6).

Michelle: Yes, your honor.

Judge: And when is this blessed event scheduled to happen(7)?

Michelle: July 30th.

Judge: Oh, which is very close(8).

Michelle: Yes.

Judge: Are you having a boy or a girl(9)?

Michelle: A boy.

Judge: Oh! Have you decided on a name yet(10)?

Michelle: Yes.

Judge: Oh, what is the name(11)?

Michelle: Francesco Jr. (laughing)

Inspector Quinn: You got yours, now I got to work on a Ziggy. (laughing)

Judge: For those of you who are not familiar with the court proceedings I have been trying for 25 years to get someone to name a baby Francesco because that's my name and I have not been successful yet(12). And I know Michelle that you're joking, but(13).

Michelle: I'm not joking.

Judge: You were going to name the baby, Francesco(14)?

Michelle: Yeah, Jr. Michelle.

Judge: Wow, how did you decide to name the baby Francesco(15)?

Michelle: I've heard about a judge named Francesco and he's a very nice man and I want my son to be like- -

Judge: It's all true, it's all true, everything you hear is true(16). He's a very nice man(17). (laughing)

Inspector Quinn: But unfortunately, that's the one in Italy. That's not the one here in Rhode Island. (laughing)

Judge: Let's take a look at the red light(18). I saw her stopped, did you see a stop Inspector Quinn(19)?

Inspector Quinn: That was very, very close judge.

Judge: Oh, I saw a stop(20). She definitely stopped(21).

Inspector Quinn: I blinked, I blinked, so I might have missed it, I might have missed it, but.

Judge: Were you going to the hospital(22)?

Michelle: Yes, I had my daughter, she was in the hospital. I have the record of the emergency call that I made on that day if you wanna check?

Judge: No, we don't need that, we don't need that(23).

Michelle: Yeah, she was bullied at school and the school called to pick her up and then I, after we got home, she almost jumped from her room to the window, so I called 911, they came and pick her up. So, I was at the hospital with her but I didn't have my car so I had to go back home and get my car because we were there for a long time.

Judge: Okay, I'm gonna dismiss the case(24).

Michelle: Thank you so much.

Judge: Now you have to tell me, what are you really gonna name the baby(25)?

Michelle: Francesco Jr.

Judge: You are(26)?

Michelle: Yes.

Judge: Good luck to you(27).

Michelle: Thank you so much.

Judge: Let's know when the baby's born(28).

Michelle: I will.

Speech Acts Analysis

In this case, Judge Caprio starts by calling his assistants and giving a series of strong recommendations. He expresses surprise when he learns about the addressee's upcoming blessed event and asks questions to learn more details. The judge shares his excitement and laughs when discussing the baby's name. He explains to the audience the reason for his laughter, relating it to his own name and his many years as a judge. He questions the addressee about naming the baby Francesco, expressing amazement and asking for the story behind it. The judge makes a joke about himself and uses directive speech acts to suggest viewing a video of the violation.

He insists that the car stopped at the red light and questions the addressee about her destination. The judge refuses any additional evidence, listens to the justifications, and promises to dismiss the case. He ends the case but continues the conversation about the baby's name, showing his interest and asking for confirmation. The judge wishes the addressee good luck and suggests informing him when the baby is born.

Interview (10)

Judge: Rockwell Deluca(1). Morning, sir(2).

Mr. Deluca: Good morning, your honor.

Judge: Mr. Deluca you were charged with speeding on Douglas avenue(3). So you got two choices(4). You can come back and have a trial, or pay 50 bucks today(5).

Mr. Deluca: I guess you have to pay the 50 even though I don't think it's fair.

Judge: Well, that's why you should come back and have a trial(6).

Mr. Deluca: When do I come back and have a trial?

Judge: April of 2019(7).

Mr. Deluca: I'll pay the \$50.

Judge: If I were you I'd come back and have a trial(8).

Mr. Deluca: I might not be here next April. (crowd laughing) I come in because I just don't want this to go on my record. I've never had a parking ticket, nothing in my life. I was on my way to the VA that morning. And there was a Cox truck parked where I couldn't even see the camera, nothing. That's why I came in here this morning. I just think the ticket was unfair, that's all.

Judge: Everybody sees things in a light most favorable to themselves(9).

Mr. Deluca: Sure, I understand that, your honor.

Judge: All right, now, Mr. Deluca, I know when you said you don't think you're gonna be here(10). It's because you live Florida in the winter, right(11)?

Mr. Deluca: Yes, yes.

Judge: He didn't mean, he's gonna be here a long time(12). He's a pretty healthy guy(13).

Inspector Quinn: I don't, I don't know what that-

(Mr. Deluca laughing)

Judge: I got to tell you something else, Mr. Deluca(14).

Mr. Deluca: Okay.

Judge: Somebody has been driving your car because you just made a statement, and I know you have an honest face, right(15)? But you just made a statement that you never had a parking ticket(16) . Somebody got four parking tickets on your car(17). Cause I got your record right here(18).

Mr. Deluca: No.

Judge: You better check your wife(19).

Mr. Deluca: Your honor, I don't have one blemish on my record, on my life-

Judge: Until today(20).

Mr. Deluca: And I've been driving over 70 years.

Judge: Until today(21). (Mr. Deluca laughing) All right, see the clerk(22).

Speech Acts Analysis

In this case, the judge begins by informing the addressee about the speeding charge and offers him the choice to come back for a trial. The judge emphasizes the benefits of having a trial but the addressee chooses to pay the fine. The judge advises him to reconsider and mentions that people often see things in their favour. The judge deduces that the addressee will be staying for a while based on his plans to go to Florida. He then reveals that there are four parking tickets recorded on the addressee's car and accuses his wife of being responsible. The addressee denies having any blemishes on his record, leading to a light-hearted exchange. Finally, the judge instructs the addressee to see the clerk to proceed with the payment.

4.2 The Statistical Analysis

The following table illustrates the frequencies and percentages of the five speech acts:

Table speech acts categories

Speech Acts Categories	Total	Percentage
Representative	92	42.79%
Expressive	43	20.00%
Directive	65	30.23%
Commissive	8	3.72%
Declarative	7	3.26%
Total	215	100%

This table shows the following :

- 1- Representative speech acts comprise the largest portion, representing 42.79% of the total number of speech acts. They are used to convey information, thoughts, opinions, or beliefs.
- 2- Expressive speech acts account for 20% of the total number of speech acts. They are used to express emotions, attitudes, or personal feelings, offering insights into the speaker's subjective experience.
- 3- Directive speech acts represent 30.32% of the total number of speech acts. They play a significant role in influencing the behaviour and actions of the listener through instructions, requests, and guidance.
- 4- Commissive speech acts make up 3.72% of the total number of speech acts. They involve commitments, promises, and commitments to future actions, albeit in a relatively lower number compared to other types.
- 5- Declarative speech acts constitute 3.26% of the total number of speech acts. They are focused on making statements and declarations about facts and events in the courtroom.

5. Conclusion

1. The distribution and frequency of speech act categories used by Judge Frank Caprio during his interviews reveal interesting patterns. The data indicates that Judge Caprio predominantly employed representative speech acts, accounting for 42.79% of the total speech acts. Expressive speech acts followed, comprising 20% of the total. Directive speech acts constituted 30.23% of the total. Commissive and declarative speech acts had lower frequencies, with commissive speech acts accounting for 3.72% and declarative speech acts for 3.26% of the total.

2. These patterns contribute to the overall communication dynamics by showcasing Judge Caprio's focus on conveying information, establishing rapport, engaging in dialogue, and demonstrating authority. The significant use of representative speech acts indicates his emphasis on sharing information, thoughts, and beliefs. Expressive speech acts allow him to convey emotions and personal feelings, adding depth to the communication. Directive speech acts demonstrate his ability to guide and influence others. The lower frequencies of commissive and declarative speech acts suggest that

Judge Caprio's communication style primarily revolves around sharing information, engaging in dialogue, and establishing a rapport with the individuals he interacts with. Overall, these patterns highlight the effectiveness of his communication style in the courtroom setting.

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المستخلص:

افعال الكلام تعتبر جزء مهم من الدلالة في اللغة. تهتم بالعلاقة التواصلية بين افراد المجتمع. هذه الدراسة تعرض توزيع وتردد خصائص اقسام الكلام وكذلك مساهمتها في ديناميكية التواصل العام. تقدم نظرة عامة لموضوع الدلالة و نظرية اقسام الكلام. اضافة الى ذلك، التحليل يقوم على اختيار عشر من المقابلات في البرنامج والذي يكشف بعض النتائج التي تخدم اسئلة البحث.