



## An Analysis of Expressive Speech Acts in Two of Hemingway's Short Stories

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### Abstract

The ability to communicate is vital to human existence. Since communication is the primary purpose of language, people need a language to express their ideas and feelings. People can communicate by speaking, which enables them to share their ideas, information, and feelings. The goal and significance of that sound are just as important as the sound itself. Expressives are speech acts whose illocutionary goal is "to express the psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about a state of affairs specified in the propositional content," according to Searle's 1976 refinement of this category in his breakthrough taxonomy of speech acts. This study examines expressive speech acts in two of Earnest Hemingway's short stories "Hills Like White Elephants" and "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place". This research is qualitative and descriptive. Searle's (1976) theory of expressive speech acts will be applied to the analysis of these statements. By analyzing these two stories, the study shows how Hemingway's spare writing style employs speech to portray nuanced emotional states. The study determines how characters use expressive speech to convey desire, regret, and existential misery by examining significant interactions. The findings of the research demonstrate that in Heming's two short stories, "Hill Like White Elephants" and "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place," not every type of expressive speech acts is used in the conversation of the characters. In "Hill Like White Elephants", Hemingway employs some expressive speech acts like apologizing, thanking, greeting, and attitude explicitly in some situations and implicitly in others. In addition, the speech acts of congratulating and wishing are not used in this story. Also, in "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place," Hemingway does not use all the expressive speech acts. He utilized apologizing, thanking, wishing, and attitude. There are no obvious use for the expressive speech act of congratulating and greeting.

**Keywords:** Expressive speech acts, speech acts, Earnest Hemingway's two short stories

تحليل أفعال الكلام التعبيرية في قصتين قصيرتين لهيمنجواي

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### الخلاصة

إن القدرة على التواصل أمر حيوي للوجود الإنساني. ولأن التواصل هو الغرض الأساسي للغة، فإن الناس يحتاجون إلى لغة للتعبير عن أفكارهم ومشاعرهم. ويمكن للناس التواصل بالكلام، مما يمكنهم من مشاركة أفكارهم ومعلوماتهم ومشاعرهم. والهدف والأهمية التي يحملها هذا الصوت لا يقلان أهمية عن الصوت



نفسه. إن الأفعال التعبيرية هي أفعال كلامية يكون هدفها الإلقاءي "التعبير عن الحالة النفسية المحددة في شرط الإخلاص بشأن حالة من الشؤون المحددة في المحتوى الاقتراحي"، وذلك وفقاً لتتقيد سيرل لهذه الفئة في عام 1976 في تصنيفه الرائد للأفعال الكلامية. وتدرس هذه الدراسة الأفعال الكلامية التعبيرية في قصتين قصيرتين من تأليف إيرنست هيمنجواي بعنوان "تلال كالأفيال البيضاء" و"مكان نظيف جيد الإضاءة". وهذا البحث نوعي ووصفي. وسوف يتم تطبيق نظرية سيرل (1976) للأفعال الكلامية التعبيرية على تحليل هذه العبارات. من خلال تحليل هاتين القصتين، تظهر الدراسة كيف يستخدم أسلوب الكتابة البسيط لدى همنجواي الكلام لتصوير الحالات العاطفية الدقيقة. تحدد الدراسة كيف تستخدم الشخصيات الكلام المعبر للتعبير عن الرغبة والندم والبؤس الوجودي من خلال فحص التفاعلات المهمة. تثبت نتائج البحث أنه في قصتي هيمنجواي القصيرتين "تل كالفيلة البيضاء" و"مكان نظيف جيد الإضاءة"، لا يتم استخدام كل نوع من أنواع الأفعال الكلامية التعبيرية في محادثة الشخصيات. في "تل كالفيلة البيضاء"، يستخدم هيمنجواي بعض الأفعال الكلامية التعبيرية مثل الاعتذار والشكر والتحية والموقف صراحة في بعض المواقف وضمنياً في مواقف أخرى. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، لا يتم استخدام الأفعال الكلامية مثل التهنة والتمني في هذه القصة. أيضاً، في "مكان نظيف جيد الإضاءة"، لا يستخدم هيمنجواي كل الأفعال الكلامية التعبيرية. لقد استخدم الاعتذار والشكر والتمني والموقف. لا يوجد استخدام واضح لفعل الكلام التعبيري المتمثل في التهنة والتحية.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** أفعال الكلام التعبيرية، أفعال الكلام، قصتان قصيرتان لأرنست هيمنجواي

## 1. Introduction

Individuals communicate their thoughts in different ways. Language is one of the ways. People can communicate with others by using language to express their unique ideas, thoughts, and emotions. Language and its usage will always be a part of human existence. Languages are employed in a wide range of sectors, including scientific, education, social, cultural, economic, and political. Every one of their actions, like the interview, uses language for a specific purpose. If the goal of the interview is well understood, then the interview is effective. It indicates that the hearer and the speaker perceive the subject matter in the same way. When people don't understand what the speakers are trying to say, it can even lead to misunderstandings.

Furthermore, the speakers have a certain expectation of the listeners, but sometimes that expectation differs from what the listeners actually understand. Yule (1996, p. 3) states that pragmatics is the study of meaning as it is conveyed by a speaker and understood by a listener. The study looks at both the internal structure and the hearer's ability to understand the communication. Additionally, most people use facial expressions to convey their ideas and help the audience understand what they are trying to say. It is referred to as a speech act when they create the utterances and use them to carry out activities. According to Searle, speech acts could be categorized into broad groups. It focused on the relationship between "the words" and "the world" and who is in charge of ensuring that relationship works rather than performatives. (Peccei, 1999, p. 5).

Yule (1996, p. 47) asserts that speech functions as actions performed by utterances. Act is an action, and speech is an utterance, as it is known. According to Austin, the speaker is not only expressing something; they are also taking action. It is



therefore more than just a verbal description. In addition to being utilized for communication and information transfer, it also facilitates reciprocal behavior between the speaker and the listener.

Five kinds of illocutionary acts are distinguished by Searle's (1976, p. 8) theory: directive, expressive, declarative, representational, and commissive. A representative speech act expresses what the speaker considers to be true or false, according to Searle (1976, p. 3). Predicting, urging, and asserting are a few examples. Yule (1996, p. 54) states that a directive speech act is one in which the speaker employs an order, command, request, or suggestion to persuade another person to do something. Yule (1996, p. 54) asserts that commissive speech acts, which include pledges, threats, refusals, accomplishments, and promises, bind the speaker to carry out a future action. Yule (1996, p. 54) claimed that a proclamation A speech act is any action that causes an object's status or condition to change. Yule (1996, p. 53) claims an expressive speech act is a state of the speaker's feelings. Pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, or sorrow are examples of psychological feelings that it can convey.

## 2. Literature Review

The study of meaning as conveyed by a speaker (or writer) and understood by a listener (or reader) is the focus of pragmatics. It concerns the significance of the exchange between the hearer and the speaker. The hearer must comprehend the utterance, not just the words and phrases, in order to arrive at the speaker's interpretation. It involves not just comprehending the speaker but also figuring out what they are trying to say. Furthermore, the speaker's meaning is influenced by the setting. To assist the hearer understand what the speaker is trying to say, context—such as when, where, what situation, who they are speaking to, and under what circumstances—is essential.

### 2.1 Expressive Speech Acts

According to Searle (1969), verbal utterances are typically used to describe the world around us, but they can also inspire people to take action or even be actions in and of themselves. For example, when a speaker who is authorized by his office performs a marriage ceremony or names a ship during a ship-naming ceremony. Searle (1976) makes a detailed distinction between five categories of speech acts in his later work. These include directives, declarations, expressives, representations, and commissives.

The classification of expressives appears to be more challenging than that of other speech acts, such as directives. Austin (1975) classified all of these acts pertaining to social behavior and attitudes as " (e.g. apologies). But he also acknowledged that they were a "troublesome" and "miscellaneous" group (Austin, 1975, p. 152).

Expressives are speech acts whose illocutionary goal is to convey the psychological status indicated in the sincere condition about a situation defined by the prop



ositional content. according to Searle's 1976 revision of this category in his groundbreaking taxonomy of speech acts (Searle, 1976, p. 12). Because the speaker refers to her "inner" world rather than her "ex-ternal," expressives are distinguished from the other speech acts in Searle's taxonomy by their absence of directions of fit, or the incompatibility of the words with the reality. Despite their problematic nature, it appears that expressives address the speaker's "inner" world. This is supported by various definitions that additionally focus on the speaker's "psychological attitudes" (Guiraud et al., 2011), "state of mind, attitudes, and feelings" (Taavitsainen and Jucker, 2010), or "underlying emotions" (Norrick, 1978). Searle (1976) in his theory of speech acts classifies expressives into six types: apologizing, thanking, congratulating, wishing, greeting, and attitude.

#### **a. Apologizing**

Apologies: Expressions of sadness or remorse for an error or transgression, such "I'm sorry." To apologize is to convey regret. Admitting faults, pleading for forgiveness, telling the truth, showing regret, and so on are some examples of what it means to apologize (Smith, 2021).

#### **b. Thanking**

One of the universals of interpersonal communication, especially in the application of the kindness principle, is the expression of thanking (Syahida, 2023, p. 15). An expression of gratitude is a type of speech made by someone to convey their appreciation for anything they have done (Searle, 1976, p. 14). It indicates that the speaker frequently expresses gratitude by using an expression of thanks.

#### **c. Congratulating**

Congratulatory expressions are used when the speaker is pleased or sympathetic about something that is occurring. This term is frequently used to celebrate a wonderful occasion or to congratulate someone who has accomplished something. Phrases such as "Congratulations on your promotion!" convey happiness or admiration for someone's accomplishments (Pishghadam, 2011).

#### **d. Wishing**

Rosaldo (19820) stated that the expressive of wishing is the act of expressing what the speaker hopes will one day come to pass. When someone celebrates their birthday, wedding, or other important occasion, this expression is frequently used.

#### **e. Greeting**

Greeting is a way to say "welcome." At the start of a conversation, the speaker typically greets the listener.

### **6. Attitude**





When a speaker disagrees, their expression is an attitude statement. It critiques the hearer's viewpoint, complains, and is hated. Two categories of attitude utterances are present in this word. For example, "complaints" and "criticism." A complaint is a way of saying that something is making you unhappy, ill, or uncomfortable, etc. The majority of those who complain say that they are unhappy about something. On the other hand, criticism is the act of voicing your disapproval of someone or something or discussing their shortcomings (Syahida, 2023, p. 15).

### 3. Data and Methodology

The researchers employed descriptive qualitative research in this study.. The data for this study are derived from the conversation between the characters in Hemingway's two short stories "Hills Like White Elephants" and "A Clean, Well-Lighted place". These two short stories served as the study's source data. The writer carried out an analysis by identifying the expressive phrases that were utilized in speech of the characters in Hemingway's two short stories. Searle's (1976) theory of expressive speech acts is applied to the analysis of these statements.

### 4. Data Analysis and Discussions

The characters in Hemingway's two short stories "Hill Like White Elephants" and " A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" employ some kinds of expressive speech acts, as determined in this study. The analysis of the expressive speech acts is presented in the discussion below.

#### 4.1 Apologizing

The expressive speech act of apologizing is used in Hemingway's short story 'Hills Like White Elephants'. However, it is sometimes implicit and sometimes explicit. The following instances show the way the expressive speech act of apologizing is delivered Hemingway's short story 'Hills Like White Elephants':

1. *"I'm sorry about yesterday," he said awkwardly. "It wasn't true. I was just drunk."*

In excerpt (1), the American apologizes in a straightforward but ungainly manner, emphasizing how uncomfortable their conversation was. "I'm sorry about yesterday", he says, admitting that he made a mistake or miscommunicated, but "it wasn't true". *"I was just a drunk"*, tries to avoid accountability by blaming his actions on his inebriation. This illustrates a recurring topic in "Hills Like White Elephants": the difficulty in expressing true emotions and the influence of outside forces on their relationships.

2. *"I don't want you to do it if you don't want to."*

In excerpt (2), the American attempts to assure Jig about the choice they have to make during their speech. The speech act of apologizing is achieved implicitly no explicitly for placing her in such challenging situation.

3. *"Would you please please please please please please stop talking ."*

The above excerpt conveys Jig's emotional suffering and frustration. This appeal may be read as a request for comprehension, suggesting an implicit apology.

The expressive speech act of apology is waved into the conversation and the interactions between the characters in Hemingway's story "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place", rather than being explicitly expressed. Examples that illustrates this concepts include:

4. *" It is not just a place to drink"*

In excerpt (4) above the older waiter subtly apologizes for the shallowness of the younger waiter's viewpoint. He is aware that the café serves as a heaven for people in need to comfort.

These instances show how, rather of being spoken directly, the stories' portrayal of apologizing is done through the conversations and emotional exchanges between the characters. Their conversation is shaped by implied apologies, which are complicatedly framed by the tension and unsaid emotions.

## 4.2 Thanking

In Hemingway's short story "Hills Like White Elephants", the expressive speech act of thanking is implied in most of the cases through the interactions between the characters rather than being explicitly proclaimed. Here is an illustration that embodies this idea:

5. *"The girl smiled brightly at the woman, to thank her".,*

Excerpt (5) from the story exemplifies a nonverbal way to express gratitude that does not require the use of words. Despite the tense nature of their conversation, this smile expresses recognition and gratitude for the woman's presence and support. This illustration draws attention to the story's subtleties of interaction, since acts of thanking and gratitude are expressed by actions (behaviors) rather than by direct words.

6. *"You know what's right.,"*

In excerpt (6), even though not a direct thanking, here the man acknowledges jig's feelings by saying this sentence that might as an indirect manner of thanking her for her kindness and compassion even though it is not a direct thank you.

7. *"It's lovely," the girl said."*

Excerpt (7) represent a grateful speech act by Jig. In spite of the conflict in her relationship, she is expressing her appreciation for the beautiful things of her environment in this statement.

In Hemingway's short story "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place", the expressive speech act of thanking is achieved by using the word "thank". Here are the examples of the expressive speech act of thanking in this story:

8. *"Thank you," the old man said."*

Excerpt (8) is a direct way for expressing the speech act of thanking. Here the old man shows his gratitude for the café's service and ambience. This instance emphasizes how crucial the café is to him as a haven. His acknowledgement of the solace the café provides in the depths of being alone is evident in the thanking act.

9. *"No, thank you," said the waiter and went out".*

In excerpt (9), the words of the waiter are shown as an example of the expressive speech act of thanking express both politeness and rejection. In this instance, the waiter says "thank you" softens the rejection and makes it seem more kind.

### 4.3 Congratulating

In Ernest Hemingway's short story "Hills Like White Elephants" there are no obvious examples of the expressive speech act of congratulating. There are no happy moments or words of congratulations during the interaction between Jig and the man. Instead, it is centered on a somber and stressful debate regarding an abortion. Rather than offering congratulating, the conversation focuses on their mixed feelings and the consequences of their decision. The seriousness of their circumstances and the tension in their relation are shown by the lack of the expressive speech act of congratulating.

As in Ernest Hemingway's short story "Hills Like White Elephants", there are no obvious examples of the expressive speech act of congratulating in his story "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place". Instead of highlighting happy moments, this story concentrates on concepts of existential hopelessness and isolation. The elderly waiter reflects on the value of a tidy, well-lit space for those who feel alone in the conversation, which mostly centers on the older man and the young waiter. The story's solemn tone and the characters' sufferings are emphasized by the lack of the expressive speech act of congratulating.

### 4.4 Wishing

In Ernest Hemingway's short story "Hills Like White Elephants" there are no obvious examples of the expressive speech act of wishing. Instead of addressing their desires or intentions, the protagonists communicate the sentiments and anxieties via the discourse, which mostly centered on the stressed around the abortion choice. Nevertheless, it is possible to see Jig's desire for an entirely new existence as a kind of wishing. She expresses her wish for greater intimacy and different result in their relationship, for example, when she describes the hills as

being such as white elephants. However, rather than being explicit wishes, her utterances reveal more about her emotions. In general, the story places more emphasis on struggle and ambiguity than on overt instances of wishing.

In Hemingway's short story "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place", the expressive speech act of wishing is achieved using the word 'wish'. Here is the only example of the expressive speech act of wishing in this story:

10. *"I wish he would go home I never get to bed before three o'clock. What kind of hour is that to go to bed?"*

In this excerpt, the old waiter wishes for the old man to return home. The waiter's need for solitude in the setting he appreciates for his brightness is highlighted by this wish. Additionally, it shows the conflict between the waiter's need for privacy and his sympathy towards the old man.

#### 4.5 Greeting

In Earnest Hemingway's short story "Hills Like White Elephants" the expressive speech act of greeting is not used very often. Jig and the old man discussions are primarily centered on pregnancy and the choice they must make. Nevertheless, Jig's question, *"would you like an ice cold beer"* constitutes a greeting in the first conversation. This could be interpreted as a lighthearted approach to greet the American and start the speech. Although it might not be a conversational welcome such as the expression "hello", it establishes a friendly tone as they discuss the more serious subjects. In general, the story's greetings are not overtly formal; instead, they are woven into the continuous conversations of the characters.

In the second short story by Hemingway "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place", there is no use for the expressive speech act of greeting because the main emphasis is on the conversations and thoughts of the characters rather than on greeting. In general, even though there are no examples of formal greeting in this short story, the characters' recognition of one another and their conversation foster an understanding, which contributes to the story's investigation into connection and isolation.

#### 4.6 Attitude

In Earnest Hemingway's short story "Hills Like White Elephants" the expressive speech act of attitude appears to be present in many situations.

11. *"I don't care about me. I care about you,"*

In excerpt (11), Jig's expression of her sentiment over the pregnancy and the consequences is one noteworthy example of the speech act of attitude. Her inner condition and her preference for the American man sentiment above her own are made clear by the statement, "I care about you".

12. *"They look like white elephants"*





In excerpt (12) Jig's speech captures her mixed emotions and the weight she attaches to the pregnancy. This imagery expresses her sentimental attitude toward the event.

13. *"I want to feel that I am not going to be left"*

In the second short story by Hemingway "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place", the use of the expressive speech act of attitude is explicit in the conversation of the characters. The following excerpts show how Hemingway employs the use of this speech act:

14. *"I am of those who like to stay late at the cafe," the older waiter said."*

In excerpt (14), the waiter shows the attitude of sympathy for the old man. This illustrates his comprehension regarding the needs of the old man for respect and pleasure in his isolation. The instances show how the attitudes and feelings of the characters are conveyed through their conversation.

## Conclusions

The findings of this study show that not all kinds of expressive speech acts are used in Hemingway's two short stories "Hills Like White Elephants" and "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place". In "Hills Like White Elephants", some of the expressive speech acts are used and others are not. The use of the expressive speech act of apologizing is sometimes implicit by the use of the word 'sorry' and sometimes explicit. The speech act of thanking is implied through the interactions between the characters rather than being explicitly proclaimed. No clear-cut instances of the speech act of congratulating exist. Throughout their exchange, Jig and the old man do not share any joyful moments or congrats. Rather, it revolves around a serious and difficult discussion about abortion. The expressive speech act of wishing has no obvious instances. The protagonists express their feelings and concerns through the conversation, which mostly focused on the stressed-out abortion choice, rather than by addressing their goals or wants. The expressive speech act of greeting is not used very often. Jig and the old man discussions are primarily centered on pregnancy and the choice they must make.

In Hemingway's story "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place", like in "Hills like White Elephants", some of the expressive speech acts are used and others are not. The expressive speech act of apology is woven into the conversation and the interactions between the characters rather than being explicitly expressed. The speech act of thanking is achieved by using the word 'thank'. There are no obvious instances of the speech act of congratulating exist. Rather than emphasizing joyful moments, this story focuses on existential loneliness and despair. The word 'wish' is used to accomplish the expressive speech act of wishing. Since the primary focus is on the characters' thoughts and conversations rather than greetings, the expressive speech act of greeting is useless.

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