



THE ANALYSIS OF EXPRESSIVE ACTS USED IN *THE BIG BANG*

***THEORY* TELEVISION SERIES**

THESIS

BY

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**THE ANALYSIS OF THE EXPRESSIVE ACTS USED IN THE BIG BANG
THEORY TELEVISION SERIES**

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ABSTRACT

Karina. 2017. **The Analysis of Expressive Acts Used in The Big Bang Theory Television Series.** Study Program of English, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Indah Winarni.

Keywords: Pragmatics, Illocutionary Acts, Expressive Acts, *The Big Bang Theory*, Context.

Language also has its function to express feelings and emotions. Every individual has his/her own distinctive way to express his/her own feelings, idea and mind. Expressive speech acts are one of the five basic categories of speech acts identified by Searle (1976). The aim of this thesis is to study how the expressive acts function upon the characters in *The Big Bang Theory Television Series* as it is rich of expressive acts.

This study used descriptive-qualitative approach to determine the problem of study. The writer used the dialog transcript as the main data and then analyzed it based on Norrick's theory in expressive acts. Context was involved as the part of analyzing the data. Nine distinct subcategories of expressive speech acts are identified in this study. They are (1) acts of deploring, (2) acts of lamenting, (3) acts of congratulating, and (4) acts of apologizing (5) the act of thanking (6) the act of boasting (7) the act of condoling (8) the act of welcoming (9) the act of forgiving.

The findings of the study are that the characters performed different expressive acts in delivering their psychological state in different situations which were influenced by their personalities and backgrounds. The writer found that the act of deploring and lamenting which were performed by the characters gave dynamics of the tension on each scene; those acts also influenced the humor and comicality on each scene. The act of congratulating and condoling influenced the emotion on each scene.

This act of boasting caused some weird tension and awkwardness among the characters. The last acts, forgiving and thanking didn't seem to influence the dynamics of comicality or even emotion into the scenes where it was found. Each of them was found once and each of them was spoken in private.



ABSTRAK

Karina. 2017. **The Analysis of Expressive Acts Used in The Big Bang Theory Television Series**. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Dosen Pembimbing: Indah Winarni.

Kata Kunci: Pragmatika, Tindak Ilokusi, Tindak Ekspresif, *The Big Bang Theory*, Konteks.

Bahasa juga memiliki fungsi untuk mengekspresikan perasaan dan emosi.

Setiap individu memiliki ciri khas ketika mengungkapkan perasaannya, idenya dan pikirannya. Tindak tutur ekspresif adalah satu dari lima kategori dasar yang diidentifikasi oleh Searle (1976). Tujuan dari skripsi ini adalah untuk mempelajari fungsi tindak ekspresif dari karakter di seri televisi *The Big Bang Theory* sebagaimana seri tersebut kaya akan tindak ekspresi.

Studi ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif-deskriptif untuk menentukan masalah studi. Penulis menggunakan transkrip dialog sebagai data utama kemudian menganalisisnya berdasarkan teori tindak ekspresifnya Norrick. Konteks dilibatkan sebagai salah satu alat untuk menganalisa data. Sembilan subkategori tindak ekspresif teridentifikasi dalam studi ini. Mereka adalah (1) tindak menyesali (2) tindak meratapi (3) tindak menyelamati (4) tindak meminta maaf (5) tindak berterimakasih (6) tindak membual (7) tindak mengasihani (8) tindak menyambut (9) tindak memaafkan.

Temuan dari studi ini adalah para karakter melakukan tindak ekspresif yang berbeda dalam menyatakan keadaan psikologis mereka disetiap situasi yang berbeda yang dimana dipengaruhi oleh personality dan latar belakang masing-masing. Penulis menemukan tindak menyesalkan dan meratapi yang dilakukan oleh para karakter memberikan tensi yang dinamik pada setiap adegan; tindak-tindak tersebut juga memengaruhi humor dan kelucuan disetiap adegan. Tindak menyelamati dan mengasihani memengaruhi emosi setiap adegan. Tindak membual menyebabkan tensi yang aneh dan kecanggungan diantara para karakter. Yang terakhir, tindak memaafkan dan berterimakasih tidak menunjukkan pengaruh terhadap dinamika kelucuan atau emosi disetiap adegan.



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of explanation of background of the study, the problems of the study, the objectives of the study and definition of key terms of this thesis.

1.1 Background of the Study

Every human uses language primarily in daily life. It is used to communicate with others. Language also has its function to express feelings and emotions.

According to Saussure (1966, p. 16), “language is a system of signs that express ideas, and is therefore comparable to a system of writing, the alphabet of deaf mutes, symbolic rites, polite formulas, military signals, etc.” Language serves its purpose to connect individual to other individual, individual to a group and even group to other group. That is why it is safe to conclude that language has a crucial role for human being.

As a human, we frequently communicate with others orally. Speaking activity is considered as basic need to socialize. Human is a social creature, which leads to the fact that speaking is almost the main activity for us. To support this stand point, Saussure (1966, p. 19), again, stated, “language and speaking are then interdependent; the former is both the instrument and the product latter.” It means that both language and speaking are scientifically connected to each other. However, Saussure also adds



that no matter how much those two are connected, they both can still stand distinctively.

Speech is the primary product of speaking. In other words it is understood that speech is a form of oral communication which is happened in a speaking activity. A speech is not necessarily defined as a formal long talk in front of public. However, we can also define a conversation between some people as a sequence of speeches. People usually utter what is on their mind through their speech. According to Brinton (2000, p. 303), "the expressed psychological state of a speaker of a speech act, also known as the sincerity condition of a speech act, consists of the beliefs and attitudes of the speaker, the psychological state of the speaker towards the propositional content of the speech act." Thus, it is common to find some form of speech acts during daily conversations, since it is really prevalent for an individual to communicate their feelings to others.

Since this research is scrutinizing about speech act, this area of study is covered by Pragmatics, which deals with the 'invisible' meaning. This means that, this study deals with the intended meaning that lies beneath the utterance which is produced by the speaker. Yule (1996, p. 3) states, "this type of study necessarily involves in the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how the context influence what is said." In the most simple words, we can understand that pragmatics analyzes the way of language is being used. Thus, it is aligned with Levinson (1983, p. 5), who defines pragmatics as the study of the language usage.



Speech act serves a function in a communication through the utterances that we make. It flows as daily basis in human life which happens unwittingly. Since every individual is unique, speech act is also influenced by the individual's personality, background, culture and environment. An individual constructs three layers of communication basic when producing utterance, which are: literal meaning, intended meaning and action to create a reaction from the surrounding. It is referred to Austin's three components of linguistic act, which are locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary act. Locutionary acts is defined as the literal meaning delivered by the speaker. Meanwhile, illocutionary act conceives communicative purpose or as Austin frequently mentions as 'performative utterance'. It is divided into five macro classes, they are: Assertives, Directives, Commissive, Expressives and Declarations. The last one is perlocutionary act: it is simply said as the intended sequential effect after the illocution.

This researched is mainly focus on illocutionary act. The writer employs Searle's theory in distinguishing type of illocutionary act. However, the writer specifically chooses expressive acts, as one of the types of illocutionary acts, to be researched. However, apart from Searle's taxonomy of illocutionary act and his definition of expressive acts, the writer finds Norrick's classification of expressive acts is more specific. Thereafter, the writer chooses to employ Norrick's as the basic of identifying the expressive acts, which will be presented in the second chapter of this research.



Pragmatics deals very intense with context. However, discussing context in the field of pragmatics can be very tricky. Understanding the flexibility of the language use which involves a big proportion of interpretation in any kind of situation is the main aim of studying context. According to Roberts (cited by Horn and Ward, 2006), "the context of interpretation contains not only information conveyed by the linguistic text of the discourse, but also information about the physical situation of utterance. It is safe to conclude that, in the activity of interpreting, the physical of utterance determines the result. From the aforementioned statement, the writer concludes that in conducting this research, context plays an important role to help the writer to figure out the utterances of the main characters of The Big Bang Theory Television Series.

This research is conducted to analyze the characters' expressive acts in a television series entitles The Big Bang Theory created by Chuck Lore and Bill Prady. It is an American situation comedy which has aired since 2007. The story revolves around the five main characters (Sheldon Cooper, Leonard Hofstadter, Penny, Howard Wolowitz and Raj Koothrappali) and two supporting characters (Bernadette Rostenjowski and Amy Fowler). Those four male characters are geek scientists at Caltech University, California, who have their own distinguished personalities and different backgrounds but have one particular favorite thing, which is Star Wars. Meanwhile, Penny is Leonard's girlfriend who lives next door. The two supporting actresses are also scientists. Bernadette is Howard's wife and Amy is Sheldon's girlfriend.



The aim of this research is to figure out the expressive acts used by the characters of The Big Bang Theory Television Series. The writer was triggered by the uniqueness of each character in this sitcom when they were expressing their mind or feelings. Since the four of the main characters are in fact geeks whose daily work are revolving in scientific fields (physicist, aerospace engineer and astrophysicist), they have distinctive way in revealing their emotion, in talking in public and even in their casual conversation. Based on Sapir (1912)'s statement which explains that there are various forces in the society which can shape each individual's thought, those main forces are religion, ethical standards, form of political organization and art. It is basically known as social environment, which he believes that it can influence and is reflected in an individual's language. The writer finds that it is scientifically relatable, thus, the writer decided to conduct a research entitled "The Analysis of Expressive Acts used by The Main Characters of The Big Bang Theory Television Series"

1.2 Problems of the Study

The problems of the study related to the case observed by the writer. There are two problems of the study:

1. What are the types of expressive acts used by the characters of The Big Bang Theory Television Series?
2. How do the expressive acts differ among the scenes?



1.3 Objectives of the Study

Objectives of the study related to the writer's aim in conducting this research.

There are two main objectives of conducting this research:

1. To analyze the types of expressive acts used by the characters of The Big Bang Theory Television Series
2. To find out the expressive acts difference among the scenes

1.4 Definition of Key Terms

1. **Speech Act** is the act performance through words (Robinson, 2006)
2. **Illocutionary Act** is the act of performing some particular acts within the utterance (Austin, 1975).
3. **Expressive Acts** are the speech acts that express the speaker's feelings about themselves or the world (Searle 1976: 12)
4. **Television Series** is a group of episodes of a television program broadcast in regular intervals with a long break between each group, usually with one year between the beginnings of each.
5. **Situation Comedy** a funny television or radio show in which the same characters appear in each program in a different story
6. **The Big Bang Theory Television Series** is an American situation comedy (sitcom) which has aired since 2007. This television series is primarily centered on five main characters; Sheldon Cooper and Leonard Hofstadter (physicists of California Institute of Technology) who are roommates, Penny



(Leonard's fiancée, waitress and pharmaceutical representative) who lives across the hall, Howard Wolowitz (an aerospace engineer) and Raj Koothrappali (an astrophysicist). The story basically revolves around their daily work as scientists and geek activities which involve scientific joke.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter exposes some review of related literature used to conduct the analysis; pragmatics, speech acts, Illocutionary acts, expressive acts, context and previous studies.

2.1 Theoretical Frameworks

2.1.1 Pragmatics

Pragmatic is one of the branches of linguistics. Yule (1963, p. 3) states Pragmatic is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (writer) and interpreted by a listener (reader). It is more related to analysis of what people mean by their utterance than what the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves. To put it simple, it studies about speaker's meaning

It is concentrated on the dynamic aspect of meaning in context. Pragmatics deals with the aspects of meaning and language use which also depend on some features, such as: speaker and addressee. In his *Pragmatics*, Yule (1996, p. 3) states, "this type of study necessarily involves in the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how the context influence what is said." Furthermore, still in the same book, Yule (1996, p. 4) also states, "the advantage of studying language via pragmatics is that one can talk about people's intended meanings, their assumptions, their purposes or goals and the kind of action (for example: request) that they are performing." Based on Yule's statement, Pragmatics is strongly connected with what



we call as ‘context’, which is interesting since a context may change the meaning of a sentence or an utterance as context determines it.

According to Stalnaker (1972, cited in Horn and Ward, 2006), “Pragmatics seeks to ‘characterize the features of the speech context which help determine which proposition is expressed by a given sentence.’” It is aligned with the statement of Brinton (2000, p. 11) who defines Pragmatics as the study of the functions of language and its use in context. What have been aforementioned can be concluded that pragmatics is a multidimensional study because it covers not only the meaning of the utterance itself but also the circumstances which support the interpretation of the utterances.

2.1.2 Speech Acts

As stated by Yule (1996, p. 47) pragmatics is defined as the study of language use and linguistics communications, and the central concern of pragmatics is the study of speech acts. When people convey their expression, they do not only make utterance containing grammatical structures and words, they do actions by way of those utterance. Still according to Yule (2010, p. 133), “we can usually recognize the type of ‘action’ performed by a speaker with the utterance.” The term that defines ‘action’ is speech act. The actions include requesting, commanding, questioning or informing. As an example, when a speaker says, “I will come to your party,” the speaker is not only speaking, he is performing the speech act of promising. So it is safe to conclude that actions which are performed via utterances are called speech acts.



The three components of linguistic act which divided by Austin (1962) are locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary act. These acts can be easily recognized as sequentially connected activities. For example, “Don’t sleep on the couch!” (a locutionary act with distinct phonetic, syntactic and semantic features) considers as the warning to the interlocutor not to sleep on the couch (an illocutionary act), if the interlocutor hears it, that means the speech act has succeeded to make interlocutor not to sleep on the couch (perlocutionary act).

In the other hand, a British philosopher, J.L Austin gave argument earlier in his book called *How to Do Things with Words*. “To utter the sentence is not to describe my doing, of what I should be said in so uttering to be doing or to state that I am doing it: it is to do it.” Austin (1962, p. 6) argued. In conclusion, based on the aforementioned statement, it is true that an utterance which looks like a sentence must have an intention that lies beneath. Austin breaks down the explanation as follows:

1. Locutionary Act

This is the first deed of the sequential acts. It is simply defined as the performance of the utterance. The act of ‘saying something’ which involves the activity to produce a meaningful linguistic expression. This first act stands with three sub-acts, Austin explained (1962, p. 95), and they are: phonetic, phatic and rhetic acts. Hence, this act is the basic which is analyzed by its obvious meaning, conceiving phonetic also syntactic and semantic aspects of any meaningful utterance.

2. Illocutionary Act



The performance of an act in saying something as opposed to the performance of an act of saying something is a brief definition of illocutionary act. It is actually understood as the given force behind an utterance. In his book, Austin divides illocutionary act in verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitive, and expositives. Unfortunately, his classification is considered as not complete. Later, his student, Searle revised his classification.

3. Perlocutionary Act

It can be understood as the effect that appears on the interlocutor after he/she hears the utterance(s) produced by the speaker. Austin (1962, p. 102) claims, "the consequential effects of perlocutions are really consequences." In addition apart from Austin's definition of perlocutionary acts, Renkema (2004, p. 13) defines it as the production of an effect through locution and illocution.

To gain more insight about this multi-dimensional act, Austin (1962, p.101):

Act (A) or Locution

He said to me, 'Shoot her!' meaning by 'shoot' shoot and 'her' to her.

Act (B) or Illocution

He urged (or advised, ordered, &c) me to shoot her

Act (C.a) or Perlocution

He persuaded me to shoot her

Act (C.b)

He got me to (or made me, &c) shoot her.



2.1.3 Illocutionary Act

According to Yule (1996) illocutionary act is performed via the communicative force of an utterance. He describes it as the second dimension. It utters to make statement, explanation, an offer, or for some other communicative purposes.

The communicative purpose which we may attempt is called illocutionary force of utterance. In addition, Renkema (2004, p. 13) simplifies illocution as the act that is committed by producing an utterance.

“To determine what illocutionary act is so performed we must determine in what way we are using the locution,” Austin stated (1962, p. 98). He frequently mentioned about it in his book as is and part of performative utterances. Moreover, Austine created five macro classes of illocutionary act, however, his classification was considered as incomplete. Later, his student, Searle (1979) revised Austin’s taxonomy of illocutionary acts into Assertives, Directives, Commissive, Expressives and Declarations. The explanations as follow:

1. Assertives

Searle introduce the terms of “representatives” at first, he then realized that any speech act with proportional content was in some sense a representation, later he changed the term into ‘assertive. Assertive is defined as the speech acts that commit a speaker to the truth of the expressed proportion. Type of assertives are arguing, asserting, claiming, complaining, criticizing, denying, describing, informing, insisting, reporting, suggesting and swearing. For example, “I believe that you still have my shoes,” the speaker could possibly mean to inform that



his/her friend still keeps his/her shoes or he/she wants his/hers back indirectly. It can be concluded that the speaker means what he/she utters or he/she means something more than he/she has stated. In the other words, assertive utterance is considered as an indirect directive.

2. Directives

This type of illocutionary act concerns with the attempt of the speaker to get the listener to perform something. Directive is the speech acts that cause the interlocutor to take a particular action. The acts of directives are advising, asking, begging, challenging, daring demanding, forbidding, insisting, inviting, ordering, permitting, recommending, requesting and suggesting. As Searle (1979) gives two examples: "I order you to leave" and "I command you to stand at attention."

3. Commissives

Austin (1962) says that "commissives are that commit a speaker to a course of action." It deals with the attempting of the speaker to perform certain action in the future and in the proportional content. For example, "I refuse to sign the petition." It means that commissive gives a refusal to the speaker and the interlocutor in future action. The acts of commissives are committing, guaranteeing, offering, promising, refusing, threatening, volunteering and vowing.

4. Expressives

Expressive is the speech acts that expresses the speaker's attitude and emotion towards the proposition. It expresses psychological states and emotional states of the speaker. An expressive act is not used because the thing is happened and meant



to say it literally, whether to be said for the feeling that is expressed in reflex.

Moreover, Norrick (1978, p. 279) describes expressive acts as the expression of psychological conditions, and thus not beliefs or intentions, which arise to be given states of affairs. However, Norrick specified the kind of expressive acts into nine, such as; apologizing, thanking, congratulating, condoling, deploring, lamenting, welcoming, forgiving and boasting.

5: Declarations

According to Yule (1996, p. 53), “declaration are those kinds of speech acts that change the world via their utterance.” It means that this kind of illocutionary act that performs immediate change such as; appointing, blessing, declaring, dismissing, excommunicating, proclaiming independence and resigning. As the example from Searle (1979, p. 27) “I excommunicate you” and “I declare your job is terminated.”

2.1.4 Expressive Acts

Yule (1996) defines expressive acts as a kind of speech acts that states what the speaker feels. As cited by Ronan (2015), expressive acts are speech acts that express the speaker’s feelings about themselves or the world (Searle 1976, p. 12). As later in page 15 he added expressive as “the illocutionary point of this class is to express the psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about a state of affairs specified in the proportional content.” What Searle has described about expressive acts is close to (Guiraud *et al* 2011, p. 6), which explains that the sincerity



condition of expressives is that the speaker has the psychological states that he/she expresses when he/she performs an expressive act. The psychological states which are referred here can be the statements of pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy or sorrow, *etc.*

Norrick (1978, p. 279) narrows down that expressive speech acts express psychological conditions, and thus not beliefs or intentions, which arise to be given states of affairs. According to this formula, he specified nine different kinds of expressive acts. They are:

1. Apologizing, where an agent-speaker expresses negative feelings towards a patient-addressee to appease them. For example:

X: Hey, do you bring my book I left at your place last night?

Y: No, I am sorry. I completely forgot about that.

Y is performing the act of apologizing.

2. Thanking, where the speaker expresses positive feelings to the addressee, who has done a service to the speaker. For example:

A: My mother said that your cake was the best thing she had ever eaten.

B: Really? Thank you!

B is performing the act of thanking.

3. Congratulating, where the speaker has observed that the addressee has either benefitted from or carried out a positively valued event. For example:

Sara: I got a job at Thomson Reuters!

Malik: That is great! Congratulations, girl!

Malik is performing act of congratulating.



4. Condoling, in which resembles congratulating, except that the experienced event is negatively valued. For example:

X: My grandfather passed away last night.

Y: I am really sorry to hear that. May his soul rest in peace.

Y is performing act of condoling.

5. Deploring, or censoring, in which the addressee is criticized for an event which had a negative impact on the speaker or a third person. For example:

A: I think I accidentally threw your book to the junk. I am very sorry.

B: Are you kidding me? That book is seriously expensive and rare!

B is performing the act of deploring.

6. Lamenting, where the speaker expresses his or her own misfortune, either at their own or somebody else's doing, the speaker is also the main observer. For example:

Rachel: Hey, why do you look so sad?

Ross: Someone ate my sandwich at the office, my one last good thing was gone. I think I am miserable.

Ross is performing the act of lamenting.

7. Welcoming, where the speaker expresses positive feelings towards the arrival of the addressee. Norrick points to the conceptual similarity with thanking. For example:

Oriega: Honey, I am home. Sorry I am late, the traffic was crazy.

Alexa: Hey, welcome home. I made you dinner!



Alexa is performing the act of welcoming.

8. Forgiving, it is found to have a similar conceptual set-up as deploring, except for the fact that the speaker does not resent the addressee's action. For example:

Ghina: I am truly sorry for taking you for granted.

Dodi: That is fine. I forgive you.

Dodi is performing the act of forgiving.

9. Boasting, where the speaker expresses positive feelings about his or her own actions towards and addressee. For example:

X: How was your gig last night?

Y: It was amazing the crowd was crazy about me and my performance. They loved me so much!

Y is performing the act of boasting.

2.1.5 Context

Since this research mainly deals with utterances, therefore it is necessary to understand the utterance itself first by interpreting. In order to interpret an utterance, context plays its prominent role to determine the meaning which speaker produces.

Context is influenced by some relevant features apart from the language itself, those influences consist of: culture, circumstances, people who get involved also the speaker's background knowledge. The aforementioned component will distinguish the meaning that the speaker conveys.



In realm of linguistics, context has been discussed by Yule in his books entitled *The Study of Language* (2010) and *Pragmatics* (1996). Linguistic context is also recognized as co-text. As stated by Yule (2010, p. 129), "The co-text of a word is the set of phrase words used in the same phrase or sentence. The surrounding co-text has a strong effect on what we think the word probably means." In conclusion, to understand co-text will help people to stand in the same 'frequency' on their communication basis.

Meanwhile, the second book serves about the role of co-text. According to him, co-text plays its role to construct the ability to understand the intended referents of referring expression. It is to provide the range of reference. Indeed, where a referring expression is functioned, co-text is just as a linguistic part of the environment. In addition, Yule (1996, p. 21) also states that context is a physical environment which is identified to have a significant power to create the impact on how to interpret the referring expression.

According to Brinton (2000, p. 11), "pragmatics is the study of the functions of the language and its use in context." Pragmatics strongly deals with context. Since this research is in Pragmatics field, context is a crucial element to find out the answer of the research question. Context is also functioned to help the writer to find out the meaning and to distinguish the type of expressive acts along the script of the series. To conclude, the write see the importance of context in order to understand subsequently interpret the meaning of the appearing utterances.



2.2 The Big Bang Theory Characters Analysis

The Big Bang Theory television series popularizes nerd and geek culture into the pop one. McCain in 2015 states, “as early as the 1950’s, the term ‘geek’ and the similar term ‘nerd’ had been used to denote social outcasts in grade schools. Nerds were considered to be socially awkward and overly intellectual, whereas geeks were prone to obsessive interest in marginalized or obscure hobbies such as the *Dungeons and Dragons* game, comic books, and personal computing.” As history spoken in the series, four of the main characters (except Penny) and 3 of the supporting characters are the social outcasts during their time in school. Four of the main characters (except Penny) have their own time to play *Dungeons and Dragons*, also spend many times at comic book store. Although they grow out of it later in this series, they display extreme awkwardness when they are interacting with women.

There are five main characters and three supporting ones. They are Sheldon Cooper and Leonard Hofstadter who are roommates, a theoretical physicist and experimental physicist respectively. There is Howard Wolowitz, a Jewish Aerospace Engineer who is best friends with Raj Koothrappali, an Indian-born astrophysicist. Four of them work at Caltech (California Institute of Technology), Pasadena. Moreover, there is Penny, a struggling actress, who is Leonard’s fiancée living across the hall. As follows is their analysis of the main characters:

1. Sheldon Cooper:



Sheldon is known for his brilliant mind but also his quirky behavior and idiosyncrasies. “Because there is a big gap between his IQ and EQ, Sheldon is the funny person in the drama. At the start, his jokes are from his frankness and audiences feel the happy in the deep of their heart and make people laugh. However, his words began to mean, arrogant and annoying,” Shi (2018, p. 152).

2. Leonard Hofstadter

Leonard has a more normal EQ compared to Sheldon, and also has a high IQ of 173. “Leonard has many geeky interests and hobbies, he was the most willing of the guys to try and socialize with other people,” Shi (2018, p. 153). He still can be angry for Sheldon’s mistake or annoyingness but still can be kind to him.

3. Howard Wolowitz

Howard's personality has changed over the years from an inappropriate, would-be ladies' man to being the first of the guys to get married, settle down and start a family. He describes himself as ‘bad Jew’ who sometimes enjoys eating pork. “Laced between irreverent jokes and absurd pick-up lines (as demonstrated in “The Terminator Decoupling,” Episode 34, 2009), Howard’s Judaism serves as a marker of his external identity while noticeably absent as the fabric of his convictions,” Lewis (2015, p. 95).

4. Raj Koothrappali



For a long time, Raj was unable to talk to women due to a case of selective-mutism. Raj usually needed a beer in his hand before he could even talk to women, including his close friends. He is best friends with Howard for a long time. “Raj’s repressed gay tendencies, preferences for traditionally feminine activities, and ersatz homosexual marriage to Howard (The Maternal Capacitance (2.15)) are all running jokes on the show and a major focus in multiple episodes,” Harbour (2015, p. 5).

5. Penny

Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, Penny moved to California with dreams of becoming a Hollywood actress. Penny's lack of formal education sets her apart from the guys and her friends, Amy and Bernadette, although she has street smarts and social skills which many of the others lack. “Penny is introduced as Sheldon and Leonard’s neighbour. She portrays the pretty blonde stereotype and stands in contrast to the male characters on a social and intellectual level,” van Zyl (2016, p. 1).

The sitcom also displays three supporting characters. Bernadette Rostenkowski, a microbiologist, who is Howard’s wife. She has a high-pitched voice and high-paying job at pharmaceutical. Although Bernadette is generally nice and good-natured, she has shown a dark side and admits she is a very vengeful person.

Amy Farrah Fowler, a Neurobiologist, who is Sheldon’s girlfriend. Amy was also more open to a physical relationship in the earlier years of her relationship with



Sheldon, although she understood his difficulties with intimacy. Stuart Bloom, a comic book owner, who sometimes hangs out with the group. Stuart is a talented artist and graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design.

2.3 Previous Studies

The writer recognized two previous studies to support the research. The first one was a study done by Vurkana (2016), it was called *Illocutionary Acts in Ridwan Kamil's Speech Entitled 'Creativity and Design for Social Change in Cities' 2010* used by Mr. Ridwan Kamil in his speech at the event then tried to dig deeper to find how they realized syntactically. The study showed the result that Mr. Ridwan Kamil produced all types of illocutionary acts during his speech, those are: assertive; directive commissive; expressive and declarative.

The second previous study was conducted by Latumaelissa (2015), the title was *Expressive Acts Used by the Main Character in 'The Life of Pi' Film*. This research focuses on identifying the expressive acts used by the movie's main characters. He found 20 utterances which contained expressive acts. Then, he analyzed those data by describing and detailing each utterance to find the types of expressive acts and its function spoken by the main character in Life of Pi film. The four types of expressive acts which he found are acts of apologizing, acts of thanking, acts of congratulating and acts of welcoming.

In comparing both previous studies and the relevancy of the present research, writer finds out that the first research by Vurkana has accomplished two actions of



Austin's theory about speech act, locutionary and illocutionary act. While the second one by Latumaelissa focuses on a specific illocutionary acts type, which is expressive, and analyzing the context built in the utterances. Both studies are intersecting in illocutionary acts as the topic, but use different scope to analyze the data. Furthermore, their objects are completely different since the first one transcribed from a youtube video and the second one got the original script of the movie. In conclusion, as applied on this research, writer attempts to use both of the studies as the material supports in conducting the analysis of the main characters of The Big Bang Theory television series' expressive acts.



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This shows a chain of research method which concludes research design, data source, data collection and data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

This study was aimed to investigate the types of expressive acts found in the main characters of The Big Bang Theory Television Series. The writer used the theory of Norrick for identifying the classification of expressive acts.

The writer applied qualitative research since quantitative measures and statistical analyses do not fit for the type of problem in this study, this is linear with Creswell's (2007) statement. Moreover, he added that qualitative research can be conducted when a complex understanding of the issue is needed. In this research, the writer become the key instrument, as Creswell (2007, p. 38) clearly stated, "The qualitative researchers collect data themselves through examining documents, examining behavior, and interviewing participants." For further support, Moleong (2007) also describes qualitative research as a research conducted to know the whole phenomena of words and language in detail in scientific context using a certain scientific method.

In conducting research, the writer chose document analysis as the research design. According to Ary et al. (2010, p. 442) document analysis can be written or



text-based artifacts, such as; text book, novels, announcements, transcripts, or non written records, such as; photographs, televised political speeches, YouTube videos, virtual worlds settings and many more. The writer applied document analysis as the research design since the research analyzed transcription of The Big Bang Theory television series to answer the problem of the study.

The research was categorized into descriptive method which means the data were found by using words according to its actual condition without any supplementary expressions, sentiment, opinion or judgments which are personally expressed by the writer. To clarify this research, the writer described the results of the study to the readers in the form of words or phrases not in the form of numbers or statistical data.

3.2 Data Source

The Source of data of this research was a script from The Big Bang Theory television series, while the data are the utterance produced by the characters which contained expressive acts. The writer chose season seven and episode twenty four specifically. Compared to among the 233 episodes, this particular episode was the one which contained intensive drama and conflicts among the characters. Therefore, the amounts of emotional characters on each scene were supposed to be the highest. The Big Bang Theory is a television series which has been running since 2007 until present. It is produced by Chuck Lore and Bill Prady. Until now, it has aired eleven seasons which the story revolves around Sheldon Cooper portrayed by Jim Parsons, Leonard Hofstadter



portrayed by John Galecki, Penny portrayed by Kaley Cuoco, Howard Wolowitz portrayed by Simon Helberg and Raj Koothrappali portrayed by Kunal Nayyar. There are also some Supporting Actor and Actresses: Stuart Bloom portrayed by Kevin Sussman, Amy Farah Fowler portrayed Mayim Bialik, Bernadette Rostenkowski portrayed by Melissa Rauch. In addition, in this episode that the writer chose to be analyzed, there was also an appearance of additional character, which was A Nurse. The basic storyline of this television series is about the main characters' daily life as five male scientists and one Leonard's love interest, Penny which also involves some other supporting characters.

This situation comedy has actually won 54 awards and been nominated for 216 times. Some of them are Favorite TV Comedy on People's Choice Awards 2010, Choice TV: Comedy Show on Teen's Choice Awards 2014, and Outstanding Multi-Camera Picture Editing For A Comedy Series on Primetime Emmy Awards 2016

This research aimed to understand the expressive acts used by the characters in this television series. The writer perceived distinctive manners were used to express psychological state of each character that made them look significant since each character had different background and cultural. Furthermore, the geek culture which the series was presenting, was claimed as a breakthrough by the entertainment industry since the western pop culture had never accentuated it before The Big Bang Theory.

Most characters are the geek and the nerd which were usually invisible in the mainstream society, they were the bullied, the misunderstood, the underdog and less popular ones. Hence, the writer saw the importance to understand the perspective of the particular geek and nerd culture.



3.3 Data Collection

Data collection was a method used to gather or collect the data. Since television series was the object of this study, the writer herself was the main instrument who collects the data. According to Ary, et al. (2010, p. 424) the primary instrument for gathering and analyzing the data in qualitative research is the human investigator. Then, writer followed several steps in collecting data, they were:

1. Watching The Big Bang Theory television series from season 1 to season 11
2. Determining one episode
3. Using google search engine with 'The Big Bang Theory season 7 episode 24 script'
4. Downloading the script from <https://bigbangtrans.wordpress.com/series-7-episode-24-the-status-quo-combustion/>
5. Noting the utterances which contained expressive acts

3.4 Data Analysis

After the data were collected, the writer analyzed the data in order to answer the research problems. In analyzing the data, the writer used some steps, they were:

1. Describing the revolving context and situation of the characters' utterances in order to interpret them
2. Identifying the type of expressive acts
3. Analyzing each scene which contained expressive acts
4. Figuring out the differences which influenced the dynamics of the scene
5. Drawing the conclusion



CHAPTER IV

This chapter scrutinizes the findings and discussion of this research.

4.1 Findings

In this subchapter, writer presents the data which have been analyzed. The writer found utterances from the script of The Big Bang Theory episode 24 of the 7th season. In processing data, the writer analyzed those data by describing and scrutinizing each utterance, which were spoken by the main characters, to acknowledge the details. The writer presents the context of each utterance to determine what type of expressive acts that each main character is performing. There are 8 types of expressive acts found in the script. They are acts of apologizing, acts of thanking, acts of congratulating acts of condoling, acts of deploring, acts of lamenting, acts of forgiving and acts of boasting.

The title of this episode is “Status Quo Combustion”. The highlight of this episode is about Sheldon Cooper is leaving because he can’t deal with the change that Leonard proposed to him, which is to switch apartment with Penny who lives across the hall since she is marrying Leonard. Each of the character delivers unique style of expressing their thoughts which influence the presentation of the context and the dynamics of emotion in each scene. Each set changing marks the new scene. The settings are The Apartment (general setting), The Cafeteria, Mrs. Wolowitz’s House, Amy’s Apartment, Penny’s Apartment, Comic Book Store and Train Station. Whereas



The Apartment, Penny's Apartment, Amy's Apartment and Mrs. Wolowitz's House are private places meanwhile The Cafeteria, Comic Book Store and Train Station are categorized as Public Places. The writer found that generally the characters are behaving and expressing their minds more considerably. In the other hand, in the private places, the characters are more open in expressing their psychological state.

However, Raj who is infamous for being consistently incorrect in both behavior and expressing his mind, so he is often spotted saying wrong things in the wrong place even the wrong time. In this episode it is proved when he boasts about his sex life in the cafeteria in front of Sheldon who is being devastated. "When I'm feeling low, I have sex with a girl. But that's just me," (Page 12, Line 13, Scene: The Cafeteria).

As to how the expressive acts differ among the scene, here are the findings. The writer found that the act of deploring and lamenting which were performed by the characters gave dynamics of the tension on each scene. Meanwhile, the act of congratulating and condoling influenced the emotion on each scene. The act of boasting which were performed by Raj caused awkwardness on the scenes. However, the act of thanking did not seem to influence the dynamics of comicality or even emotion into the scenes where it was found.



4.1.1 Types of Expressive Acts and Their Functions

Scene: The Apartment

(first scene)

Leonard: How's your mom holding up?

Howard: She's doing okay, but we just lost another nurse.

Amy: How many was that now?

Howard: Two, and I know what you're thinking, she's eating them. (utterance 1)

Bernadette: She's just so impossible, they keep quitting. (utterance 2)

Sheldon: So, who's watching her now?

Howard: A bowl full of M&M's with a few Ambien tossed in. (utterance 3)

Utterance 1

Howard: Two, and I know what you're thinking, she's eating them.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded as act of lamenting because Howard was sincerely expressing his misfortune how he lost two nurses for taking care of his sick mother.

Context:

Bernadette and Howard are married couple who temporarily lived with Howard's mother. In this situation, her mother was very sick and was a handful person. Through this utterance, Howard was joking about his mother who made two nurses quit because they just gave up. Throughout the series, Howard was prominent for his sarcasm. He was indirectly saying, "I know it's awful to lose two nurses in such a short period of time."

Utterance 2

Bernadette: She's just so impossible, they keep quitting.



Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It is concluded as lamenting because Bernadette was expressing her misfortune

regarding how the nurses keep quitting because her mother in-law was very hard to be taken care of.

Context:

Bernadette and Howard were married couple who temporarily lived with Howard's mother. In this situation, her mother was very sick and was a handful person. She already made two nurses quitting their job for taking care of her.

Utterance 3

Howard: A bowl full of M&M's with a few Ambien tossed in.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It is concluded as lamenting because Howard was expressing his misfortune indirectly.

Context:

Throughout the series Howard's character was prominent with his sarcasm, whether for joking or simply commenting. Since her mother was very sick and too handful to

be taken care of, he hired two nurses before her mother drove them to quit. In the previous comment from Bernadette who also perform act of lamenting about her

mother in-law, Howard corroborated about it by throwing a joke about slipping

Ambien (zolpidem to treat insomnia) to her M&Ms candy. Therefore, she was

sleeping all time and was becoming less handful than she actually was. However, the

fact that it was not possible, Howard was only implying how handful her mother was,

the only way to take care of her was by treating her with zolpidem.



Scene: The Apartment

(first scene)

Leonard: Okay. Well, now that everyone's here, Penny and I have some big news.
We're engaged.

General cheering and congratulations.

Raj: And I thought me having sex with Emily was gonna be the big news.

General cheering and congratulations.

Leonard: Hey, hey, what the hell? (utterance 4)

Bernadette: You guys propose all the time. This never happens.

Penny: You're right! Yay! (utterance 5)

Utterance 4

Leonard: Hey, hey, what the hell?

Type of expressive act: Deploring.

It was concluded act of deploring because Leonard was showing his strong disagreement toward the rest of the characters (except Penny), who cheered out for Raj's news. He believed that his engagement news deserved more attention compared to Raj's newly had sex news.

Context:

Leonard and Penny had had an on and off relationship for more than four years. They had proposed to each other, but turned each other down by rejecting each other every time. This time Leonard disagreed with the attention that Raj received after Raj



declared his news because he thought that his news was more important since marriage was holy union meanwhile sex was everyone can do without any commitment.

Utterance 5

Penny: You're right! Yay!

Type of expressive act: Congratulating.

It was concluded as congratulating because Penny was agreeing to Bernadette's defense on Raj's news then was genuinely happy for Raj.

Context:

The utterance was declarative which stated about Penny's agreeing with Bernadette's statement. Right referred to the fact that Leonard and Penny had proposed each other couple times and this rarely happened. This referred to Raj finally had sex. This fact made Bernadette and the crowd to cheer for Raj because he finally had sex was definitely rare news. It was also influenced by Raj's past who couldn't speak to a woman unless he was under the influence of alcohol. So, for Raj, it was such a mile stone to finally had sex with the woman who seriously interested on him.

Scene: The Cafeteria

(second scene)

Raj: Boy, I'm so hungry today. I wonder why? (utterance 6)

Howard: Because you had sex the other night?

Raj: You know what? That may be it. By the way, it isn't like riding a bike. Like, I fell off a few times. (utterance 7)



Utterance 6

Raj: Boy, I'm so hungry today. I wonder why?

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded that it was the act of lamenting because Raj was expressing his misfortune about being very hungry.

Context:

Raj had sex passionately with Emily last night. He was talking to the other character (Leonard and Howard) at the cafeteria during lunch break. In fact, sex burnt 150 calories of human's body. In his next utterances, Raj also stated that he fell off few times meant that he did it more than once which meant that he burnt more than 150 calories, so it explained why he was very hungry. Considering that Raj was the only character who had different values compared to other characters since he was Indian, he constantly made unpleasant or even awkward sentence throughout the series.

Therefore, even though it sounded that he was boasting, he was actually being honest that he was hungry all the time without knowing why. It was also based on the fact that he was lacked of experience with girls that made him did not understand why he was hungry all the time after having sex.

Utterance 7

Raj: You know what? That may be it. By the way, it isn't like riding a bike. Like, I fell off a few times.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

Context:



Raj was agreeing to Howard who answered his awkward question. It referred to the fact that he was hungry because had sex the other night. Furthermore, he was also complaining about his inability to stay steady during his sex with his girlfriend. For some people riding bike may be easy but for Raj he was also describing that he could also ride a bike. So, he used bike as a metaphor to describe his struggle to cope with the sex activity that he had.

Scene: The Cafeteria

(second scene)

Sheldon: Hello.

Leonard: You okay?

Sheldon: I just got called into President Siebert's office. The university won't let me switch my field of study to inflationary cosmology. They're forcing me to continue with string theory.

Howard: Why?

Sheldon: He said it's why they hired me, it's, it's what my grant was designated for, and that everybody has to do things they don't want to do. He then gave an example of something he had to do, even though he did not want to, which was look at my stupid face.

Leonard: That's a rude thing to say, out loud. (utterance 8)

Sheldon: It's an outrage. Honestly, I'm tempted to leave the university. (utterance 9)

Howard: You know, if you're really serious about that, I hear there are some exciting opportunities in home care for the old and fat.

Leonard: Whatever you do, just don't make any rash decisions.

Sheldon: I don't know. I am really aggravated. (utterance 9)

Raj: When I'm feeling low, I have sex with a girl. But that's just me. (utterance 10)

Utterance 8

Leonard: That's a rude thing to say, out loud.

Type of expressive act: Condoling.

It was concluded as act of condoling because this act showed Leonard's mercy to

Sheldon in an indirect way.



Context:

Leonard was actually joking when he was saying this utterance because he lowered his tone as he was saying "...out loud," then smiling at Howard. As Sheldon's roommate, throughout the series Leonard had shown Sheldon some brotherly compassion in spite of how annoying Sheldon could be. He was declaring that what President Siebert said about 'Sheldon's stupid face' was inappropriate even though he secretly agreed by smiling when he was saying this utterance. He understood Sheldon's traits, so through this utterance he was indirectly saying, "I am sorry for you."

Utterance 9

It's an outrage. Honestly, I'm tempted to leave the university.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded as act of lamenting because Sheldon was expressing his misfortune indirectly.

Context:

Sheldon was disappointed because he couldn't switch his field since his proposal was rejected by President Siebert. He was tempted to leave the university because he thought that working on string theory was going to take him nowhere near a noble price. He was very passionate about winning the noble price for science. His declarative sentence was actually implying, "I am tempted to leave the university to find somewhere I could find an opportunity to win noble price."



Utterance 10

Sheldon: I don't know. I am really aggravated.

Types of expressive act: Deploing.

It was concluded as act of deploring because Sheldon was showing his disagreement toward Leonard's advice. The act of deploring was considered as one if the addressee is criticized for making negative impact to the speaker.

Context:

Sheldon was attempted to leave Caltech because he couldn't work on string theory anymore and wanted to make breakthrough in science by pursuing Inflationary Cosmology. That is why he did not agree with Leonard's advice to stay in Caltech because if he did he wouldn't be able to win a noble price for his science breakthrough. In addition, he was still angry at the final decision from President Siebert. However, Leonard's advice was also to encourage Sheldon to make wiser decision, he was indirectly implying that leaving Caltech is not one.

Utterance 11

Raj: When I'm feeling low, I have sex with a girl. But that's just me.

Type of expressive act: Boasting.

It was concluded as boasting because Raj was bragging about sex life.

Context:

It probably sounded that Raj was genuinely giving advice to Sheldon so he could calm down. However, everyone understood that Sheldon had a physical intimacy issue. Raj understood that perfectly since he knew Sheldon for seven years. So, for him bringing



up about this topic was just going to be useless. In addition, he had no right to claim what he said, because this was he just started this kind of experience.

Scene: Mrs Wolowitz's house.

Howard: Oh, come on, give her a chance.

Nurse: No. Life, it is too short. (utterance 12)

Bernadette: I know you've only been here a day and a half, but you're like part of the family. I don't think the service is gonna send any more people.

Howard: Yeah, maybe it's time we just release Ma back into the sea. (utterance 13)

Bernadette: That's not helpful. (utterance 14)

Howard: Well, then, we may need to get used to the idea that we're gonna be living here the next few months.

Bernadette: But we have jobs. We can't baby-sit her 24 hours a day. (utterance 15)

Howard: Well, what if we use our vacation time?

Bernadette: I wanted to go to Hawaii, not hell. (utterance 16)

Howard: I don't know what else we can do.

Bernadette: Howie, I love you, and as your wife, your mother is every bit as much my problem as she is yours, so, I want a divorce. (utterance 17)

Utterance 12

Nurse: No. Life, it is too short.

Type of expressive act: Deploring.

It was concluded as deploring because the nurse showed her strong disagreement towards Howard who begged her to stay.

Context:



Howard and Bernadette finally found a nurse. However, she quitted right away after a day taking care Mrs. Wolowitz. She just gave up by saying the utterance. It was indirectly meant, "I still want to live my life instead of living in hell."

Utterance 13

Howard: Yeah, maybe it's time we just release Ma back into the sea.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded as lamenting because Howard was expressing his misfortune on how he had to take care of his handful sick mother.

Context:

Since his last nurse quitted again, Howard had to accept the fact that he had to take care of his mother with his wife and had to stay longer at his mother's house. His sarcastic joke was referring her mother as a whale, since she was big and no one was strong enough to take care of her.

Utterance 14

Bernadette: That's not helpful. (utterance 14)

Type of expressive act: Deploring.



It was concluded as an act of deploring because Bernadette was expressing her strong disagreement towards Howard's previous utterance.

Context:

The nurse quitted on Howard and Bernadette, leaving them to accept the fact that they had to take care of Mrs. Wolowitz. Previously, Howard joked about releasing her mother back to the sea, which was also an expressive act of lamenting. However, Bernadette got irritated because of his statement which was not helping at all to solve the problem that they were having. Instead of joking, she expected her husband to give real solution.

Utterance 15

Bernadette: But we have jobs. We can't baby-sit her 24 hours a day.

Type of expressive act: Deploring

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Bernadette was showing a strong disagreement towards Howard's previous statement.

Context:

When the nurse quitted on them, it meant that no one could take care of Mrs. Wolowitz except them. So Howard stated that both of them had to get used to the fact that they had to take care of her. However, Bernadette was against the idea because



both of them couldn't leave their jobs and couldn't bear themselves to deal with her mother in law.

Utterance 16

Bernadette: I wanted to go to Hawaii, not hell.

Type of expressive act: Deploing.

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Bernadette was strongly disagree towards Howard's idea to use up their vacation time for taking care of his sick mother.

Context:

When the nurse quitted on them, it meant that they had to take care of Mrs. Wolowitz.

However, since they had jobs they couldn't do that so Howard suggested using their allotment of vacation time. However, Bernadette was against this idea. She stated that she wanted to use her vacation time for going to Hawaii. She then referred taking care of her mother in law as 'hell'. She was indirectly saying, "no way am I doing that (using vacation time) for this (taking care of Mrs. Wolowitz)."

Utterance 17

Bernadette: Howie, I love you, and as your wife, your mother is every bit as much my problem as she is yours, so, I want a divorce.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.



It was concluded as an act of lamenting because Bernadette was expressing her misfortune for being Howard's wife.

Context:

Since the nurse quitted on them, they realized that they really had to take care of Mrs. Wolowitz. Meanwhile, both of them could not deal with her. Bernadette had had it enough, so she said that she wanted to divorce from Howard. It was a joke actually, expressing how stressful she was dealing with the fact that she could not accept.

Scene: Penny's apartment.

Penny (*on phone*): No, Mom, it's the same guy I've been going out with for the past two years. Yeah, the scientist. Well, it's complicated. I mean, he works with lasers and atomic magnets. No, I did not see it coming. No, we did not set a date. No, I am not pregnant. Yeah, this is a first for our family. All right, tell Dad I love him. I gotta go. All right, bye.

Amy: Atomic magnets?

Penny: Shut up.

Bernadette: Sorry I'm late. (a) The leaf blower broke, so I had to hand-dry my mother-in-law. (b) (utterance 18)

Penny: You want some wine?

Bernadette: Thanks. Little warning before you jump into this marriage business. You're not just marrying him, you're marrying his family. (utterance 19)

Penny: I think Leonard's mom's okay with me.

Bernadette: It doesn't matter if she's okay with you. The question is, can she go to the bathroom by herself? Hit me again. (utterance 20)



Utterance 18

Bernadette: Sorry I'm late. (a)

Bernadette: The leaf blower broke, so I had to hand-dry my mother-in-law. (b)

(a) Type of expressive act: Apologizing

It was concluded as an act of apologizing because Bernadette was sincerely asking for apology for being late on the girls' night with Amy and Penny at Penny's apartment.

Context:

They were having a girls' night to celebrate Penny's engagement with Leonard. However, Bernadette came as the latest since she had to deal with her mother in law first.

(b) Type of expressive act: Lamenting

It was concluded as an act of lamenting because Bernadette was expressing her misfortune for taking care of her mother in law.

Context:

Mrs. Wolowitz was always described as a giant woman. Throughout the series, she was never seen full bodied, only her bottom from the distance. Bernadette was seen very mad when she entered Penny's apartment. It was implied that she was helping her sick mother in law to take a shower then she had to dry her



with towel which took a very long time. She was indirectly saying, “if the leaf blower was fixed, it would be easier to dry her.”

Utterance 19

Bernadette: Thanks. Little warning before you jump into this marriage business.

You're not just marrying him, you're marrying his family.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded as an act of lamenting because Bernadette was indirectly expressing her misfortune for marrying Howard while she was giving an advice to Penny about marriage.

Context:

This girls' night was intended to celebrate Penny's engagement with Leonard. Since it was about marriage, Bernadette managed to give an advice along with her complaint in taking care of her sick mother in law. She was implying that she did not see this coming. This referred to dealing with her sick handful mother in law. She was indirectly saying, “you are not going to live with your man only, but also your man's family.” This in her case is Howard's mother, since Howard's father left him when he was teenager.



Utterance 20

Bernadette: It doesn't matter if she's okay with you. The question is, can she go to the bathroom by herself? Hit me again.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded as an act of lamenting because Bernadette was indirectly expressing misfortune on how her mother in law could not go to the bathroom on her own.

Context:

This was the girls' night of Penny, Amy and Bernadette who were celebrating Penny's engagement with Leonard. Bernadette was replying to Penny's previous statement, which mentioned about Leonard's mother is fine with her. However, Bernadette managed again to spill out her complaint by bringing up about Mrs. Wolowitz. She was coming late to this event because she was helping her mother in law taking a shower, she could not go to the bathroom on her own. Hit me again referred to Bernadette was asking more wine from Amy to imply how stressful her life was.

Scene: Mrs Wolowitz's house.

Penny: No, keep your money. (utterance 21)

Bernadette: I could've ridden a bull longer than that. (utterance 22)



Utterance 21

Penny: No, keep your money.

Type of expressive act: Deploing.

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Penny was disagreeing to stay longer at Mrs. Wolowitz house.

Context:

Previously, on the girls' night Penny was offered a job to be Mrs. Wolowitz nurse.

Bernadette agreed to pay as much as Penny wanted since Bernadette is a successful microbiologist. In this scene, it was seen that Penny, Leonard and Bernadette were having some arguments to make Penny stay as their nurse. However, Penny seemed taking off her gloves and left while she was performing the utterance. She refused to stay longer as the nurse because she could not take the demanding Mrs. Wolowitz. She did not take Bernadette's money no matter how much it was.

Utterance 22

Bernadette: I could've ridden a bull longer than that.

Type of expressive act: Deploing.

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Bernadette was disagreeing with Penny's leaving.



Context:

When Penny left the house disagreeing with Howard and Bernadette to stay taking care of Mrs. Wolowitz, Bernadette was irritated. By saying this utterance, Bernadette was implying that Penny gave up too quick on Mrs. Wolowitz. Bernadette (the speaker) got criticized Penny (the addressee) for causing her a negative impact, which was left to deal with her handful mother in law again.

Scene: The Apartment

Leonard: I don't know. We just started to think about this. Maybe I'll move in with Penny, or maybe she and I'll take this place, and you can move across the hall.

Sheldon: Move across the hall? Did you take a marijuana? (utterance 23)

Leonard: No, I did not.

Sheldon: Did you get hit on the head with a coconut? (utterance 24)

Leonard: No.

Sheldon: Well, then, I'm all out of guesses. What? Me move across the hall. Why would you even suggest such a thing? (utterance 25)

Leonard: Because I love Penny, and want to give her the life she deserves.

Sheldon: I see. You're putting your future bride's happiness above mine.

Leonard: Well, yeah.

Sheldon: Wow.

Utterance 23

Sheldon: Move across the hall? Did you take a marijuana?

Type of expressive act: Deploring.

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Sheldon was strongly disagreed towards Leonard's idea to move across the hall, which was Penny's apartment.

Context:



Since Leonard and Penny are engaged, they intended to live together. Currently,

Leonard was living with Sheldon and Penny lived several steps away from their door.

Leonard suggested Sheldon to live in Penny's while Penny lived with Leonard.

Sheldon did not accept this very well. Since Sheldon had a high level of IQ which was

187, he had a distinct way in expressing his idea. Furthermore, he had a Centrophobia

which meant that he had an issue with changes. So, he made a point about his

disagreement by theorizing that Leonard smoked marijuana. Someone who consumed

marijuana would have a derealization (DR) effect. Sheldon was considering Leonard

was unrealistic since he knew that Leonard understood his issue.

Utterance 24

Sheldon: Did you get hit on the head with a coconut?

Type of expressive act: Deploring.

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Sheldon strongly disagreed with

Leonard's idea of moving to Penny's apartment.

Context:

Sheldon did not agree with Leonard's idea so he sarcastically theorized that Leonard

had marijuana previously. Leonard then declined it. Through this utterance Sheldon,

still showed his disagreement by theorizing that Leonard got his head hit by a coconut

because when someone got the head hit by a coconut, someone might get concussion

which meant that someone would not be able to think clearly. Therefore, Sheldon was

referring Leonard as someone who could not think clearly.



Scene: Amy's apartment.

Sheldon: How dare the university force me to go back to string theory?

(utterance 26)

Amy: They just don't appreciate you.

Sheldon: Yeah, and on top of that, Leonard has the audacity to suggest that now that he and Penny are engaged, he may not want to live with me any more.

(utterance 27)

Amy: Here, I made you some Strawberry Quik.

Sheldon: I have real problems here, Amy. I can't be mollified with a beverage designed for children. Mmm, yummy. (utterance 28)

Amy: You know, this might work out for the best. I mean, you're always complaining about what a terrible roommate Leonard is. Like how he turns up the thermostat when you're not there.

Sheldon: Ugh, it's like walking into the Amazon. And not the good Amazon with one-day shipping. The awful one with birds and snakes. (utterance 29)

Amy: You hate the sound of all those keys on his key chain.

Sheldon: Four keys! Who does he think he is, a warden? (utterance 30)

Amy: See? Maybe you'll love living alone.

Sheldon: I don't know. Perhaps.

Amy: And if it turns out you don't, you and I could live together.

Sheldon: You and... oh, sure, and while we're at it, why don't we get engaged, too? Why don't we get a little house, start a family? Enjoy our sunset years together? Do you hear yourself, woman? (utterance 31)

Amy: Sheldon, it was just a thought.

Sheldon: No. Here's a thought. You're not moving in, Leonard's not moving out, everything stays exactly the way it is. And by the way, I saw you make this Strawberry Quik with syrup, you're supposed to use the powder. (utterance 32)

Amy: It tastes the same.

Sheldon: No. The syrup tastes better and I don't like it. (utterance 33)

Utterance 26

Sheldon: How dare the university force me to go back to string theory?

(utterance 26)

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded as lamenting because Sheldon was expressing his misfortune to Amy on his proposal rejection.

Context:



After Leonard and Sheldon had a fight in their apartment, Sheldon was seeking comfort to Amy, his girlfriend. This utterance marked the beginning of this scene. He was telling Amy that he could not accept the fact that the university did not agree with his proposal on switching his field to inflationary cosmology. Another reason why Sheldon went to Amy was also because Amy understood Sheldon's struggle to work on the proposal for seven days straight without sleeping in the previous episodes.

Utterance 27

Sheldon: Yeah, and on top of that, Leonard has the audacity to suggest that now that he and Penny are engaged, he may not want to live with me any more.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded as an act of lamenting because Sheldon was expressing his misfortune for having a roommate suggested him moving out.

Context:

Sheldon was seeking comfort to Amy at her apartment. Sheldon was expressing his affliction for having a roommate asking him to move out from their apartment.

Utterance 28

Sheldon: I have real problems here, Amy. I can't be mollified with a beverage designed for children. Mmm, yummy.

Type of expressive act: Deploing.

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Sheldon was rejecting Amy's Strawberry Quik that she made for him.

Context:



Sheldon was seeking comfort to Amy after having fight with Leonard. Then Amy tried to calm him down by making Sheldon his favorite drink, Strawberry Quik. However, Sheldon rejected it because he thought that his problem was serious and Strawberry Quik was not going to help him anyway by referring it as a drink for children.

Utterance 29

Sheldon: Ugh, it's like walking into the Amazon. And not the good Amazon with one-day shipping. The awful one with birds and snakes.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded as an act of lamenting because Sheldon was expressing his misfortune on how Leonard was annoying for changing the apartment temperature.

Context:

It was seen Amy had an agenda to make Sheldon move in with her. They had a weird relationship which was kissing was the furthest they could go. This was due to Sheldon's issue for having physical intimacy with other people, including his girlfriend. Meanwhile Amy craved for more physical relationship. She brought up a topic about Leonard's being terrible roommate so she could swoop in. As she expected, Sheldon fell for her trap, describing how awful Leonard could be. Sheldon had an exact scientific reason for setting a room temperature 72 degrees Fahrenheit.

However, it was always too cold for Leonard and he kept changing that. Apparently, it was too warm for Sheldon. Through this utterance, Sheldon was comparing his apartment as a jungle, Amazon, not Amazon on-line market.

Utterance 30



Sheldon: Four keys! Who does he think he is, a warden?

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded as an act of lamenting because Sheldon was expressing his misfortune for having Leonard as his roommate. It was almost considered as an act of deploring since Sheldon was showing his disagreement, however, he was disagreeing with a third party, not the speaker.

Context:

It was seen Amy had an agenda to make Sheldon move in with her. They had a weird relationship which was kissing was the furthest they could go. This was due to Sheldon's issue for having physical intimacy with other people, including his girlfriend. Meanwhile Amy craved for more physical relationship. She brought up a topic about Leonard's being terrible roommate so she could swoop in. As she expected, Sheldon fell for her trap, describing how awful Leonard could be. Sheldon had been annoyed by Leonard's key set for entire seven seasons. He teased Leonard as a warden who had dozens of keys to open jail cells.

Utterance 31

Sheldon: You and... oh, sure, and while we're at it, why don't we get engaged, too? Why don't we get a little house, start a family? Enjoy our sunset years together? Do you hear yourself, woman?

Type of expressive act: Deploring.



It was concluded as an act of deploring because Sheldon was showing a strong disagreement towards Amy's idea of living together. Sheldon (the speaker) criticized Amy (the addressee) for making him shocked of her suggestion.

Context:

Sheldon rejected Amy's idea to live together since the issues that he had; Centrophobia and physical intimacy. He was being sarcastic by mentioning the things that were impossible for him, such as: got engaged, live together and other romantic thing. By the end of his interrogative sarcastic sentences, he made a point by asking if Amy even hear what she was saying to Sheldon.

Utterance 32

Sheldon: No. Here's a thought. You're not moving in, Leonard's not moving out, everything stays exactly the way it is. And by the way, I saw you make this Strawberry Quik with syrup, you're supposed to use the powder.

Type of expressive act: Deploring.

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Sheldon was showing his strong disagreement towards Amy's idea to live together. Sheldon (the speaker) criticized Amy (the addressee) for making him shocked of her suggestion.

Context:

Sheldon could not accept Amy's idea to live together because of the issues he had. In contrary to his previous statement, he declared the straight one that mention everything he wanted; Amy stayed in her own apartment, Leonard stayed as his



roommate and everything should stay the way it was. In addition, he criticized Amy's Strawberry Quik because she used strawberry syrup instead of powder.

Utterance 33

Sheldon: No. The syrup tastes better and I don't like it.

Type of expressive act: Deploing.

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Sheldon did not agree with Amy's way of making Strawberry Quik which caused Sheldon not to like it.

Context:

Since Sheldon had a Centophobia, which caused him to want everything in its way and never changed. He criticized Amy's Strawberry Quik for being tasted better because Amy used syrup. Sheldon disagree because it was not the way he usually had a

Stawberry Quik Therefore, as weird as it sounds, he did not like the Strawberry Quik which tasted better that he usually had.

Scene: The apartment.

Penny: This is so sweet. You never cook for me. (utterance 34)

Leonard: Well, you cook for me all the time and, ugh. (utterance 35)

Penny: If you don't like my cooking, why haven't you ever said anything?

Leonard: It's hard to talk with so much heavy chewing to do.

Penny: Sorry. I'll get better. (utterance 36)

Utterance 34

Penny: This is so sweet. You never cook for me.

Type of expressive act: Thanking.

It was concluded as an act of thanking because Penny was showing her appreciation to Leonard.



Context:

This utterance marked the beginning of the scene. Penny walked out of Leonard's room then found Leonard was cooking lunch for them. She was genuinely showing appreciation by saying, "this is so sweet." Which, this referred to the cooking activity that Leonard did. She was amazed for the thing that never Leonard did before.

Utterance 35

Leonard: Well, you cook for me all the time and, ugh.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was considered as lamenting because Leonard was expressing his misfortune for eating Penny's bad cooking.

Context:

Penny and Leonard were often to have dinner together at Penny's apartment. Since she was the host she always cooked. However, by saying this utterance, Leonard was being honest that he never really liked Penny's cooking. Here, he used ugh as a gesture to express his disliking.

Utterance 36

Penny: Sorry. I'll get better.

Type of expressive act: Apologizing.

It was concluded as an act of apologizing because Penny was showing her regret to Leonard for making bad cooking.

Context:



Since Leonard made lunch for Penny, she showed her appreciation. However, it was followed by Leonard confession on him disliking Penny's food. Hence, Penny was apologizing to Leonard and she promised him to get better at cooking.

Scene: The comic book store.

Sheldon: So when will you reopen?

Stuart: Um, I don't know. I'm waiting to hear back from the insurance company.

Sheldon: So, tomorrow?

Stuart: I don't mean to be rude, Sheldon, but, uh, my life is kind of falling apart right now. (utterance 37)

Sheldon: Your life? The university is making me do string theory and my girlfriend loves me so much she wants to live with me. And now, the place I need to go when I'm sad is damp and smells funny. (utterance 38)

Stuart: Well, sorry I let you down. (utterance 39)

Utterance 37

Stuart: I don't mean to be rude, Sheldon, but, uh, my life is kind of falling apart right now.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded as an act of lamenting because Stuart was genuinely expressing his misfortune about his falling-apart-life.

Context:

Stuart's comic book store which the place Sheldon, Leonard, Howard and Raj usually hung out was accidentally burnt down. Stuart could not put it down. When Sheldon arrived at the comic book store, he found Stuart was there alone cleaning up after the fire fighters killed the fire. Sheldon, asked Stuart to open as soon as possible.

However, Stuart could only reply Sheldon by explaining that his life was falling apart.

He implied that to re-open the store would not be that fast.



Utterance 38

Sheldon: Your life? The university is making me do string theory and my girlfriend loves me so much she wants to live with me. And now, the place I need to go when I'm sad is damp and smells funny.

Type of expressive act: Lamenting.

It was concluded as an act of lamenting because Sheldon was describing his recent series of unfortunate events in his life.

Context:

Sheldon arrived at Stuart's comic book store and was demanding Stuart to re-open.

However, Stuart was implying it wouldn't be that soon. Sheldon was complaining that his favorite place to hang out was damp and smelled funny. He was implying that his world was also falling apart.

As weird as it sounds, Sheldon who had a Centophobia, was having an issue for his girlfriend who wanted to live together with him.

Utterance 39

Stuart: Well, sorry I let you down.

Type of expressive act: Apologizing.

It was concluded as an act of apologizing because Stuart was asking for apology to Sheldon.

Context:

When Sheldon saw his favorite place to hang out was burnt down he was stating that his life was also falling apart because he had nothing else to run to. Then Stuart who



was always intimidated by Sheldon was asking for apology even though his life was also falling apart. However, the way he was saying was not really sure because he toned down the tone when he was saying “down.”

Scene: The comic book store.

Raj: Dude, I'm so sorry. (utterance 40)

Howard: Don't take this the wrong way, but did you do this for the insurance money?

Stuart: No. God, you sound like the police, the firemen, my parents, my therapist and the insurance company. (utterance 41)

Utterance 40

Raj: Dude, I'm so sorry. (utterance 40)

Type of expressive act: Condoling.

It was concluded as an act of condoling because Raj was expressing his condolence to

Stuarts' s loss.

Context:

This utterance marked the beginning of this scene. Stuart was still cleaning up his store when Raj and Howard came. Raj was feeling sorry that Stuart had to lose his comic book store by fire. Raj was sincerely showing Stuart his sympathy through this utterance.

Utterance 41

Stuart: No. God, you sound like the police, the firemen, my parents, my therapist and the insurance company. (utterance 41)



Type of expressive act: Deploring.

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Stuart strongly disagree toward Howard's statement.

Context:

Stuart lost his comic book store by fire. Raj and Leonard came to see him. However, Leonard was accusing Stuart did burn his store for insurance money. Stuart obviously disagreed because it was not true. Therefore, he was criticizing Howard for his statement because the accusation caused Stuart to be uncomfortable.

Scene: Train Station

Penny: We were worried about you.

Sheldon: Don't be melodramatic. I'm just getting on a train and leaving forever. (utterance 42)

Leonard: Seriously? You don't even have a change of clothes or a toothbrush.

Sheldon: My plan is to stop at malls and buy what I need. It's called living off the land.

Leonard: Okay, I know you're upset and there's a lot of stuff going on, but it's nothing we can't work out. Come on, let's get you home.

Sheldon: No. I've reached my breaking point. I need to leave. Now. (utterance 43)

Utterance 42

Sheldon: Don't be melodramatic. I'm just getting on a train and leaving forever.

Type of expressive act: Deploring.

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Sheldon was expressing his disagreement towards Penny's concern.

Context:

Sheldon was trying to leave because his world did not go as he planned. Since he was obsessed about train he was planning to live like a hobo from train to station to



another train. He was mad to Penny which sincerely stated that Howard and she are worried about Sheldon.

Utterance 43

Sheldon: No. I've reached my breaking point. I need to leave. Now.

Type of expressive act: Deploing.

It was concluded as an act of deploring because Sheldon was showing his disagreement toward Leonard's request for staying.

Context:

Sheldon was very mad that his world did not go as he planned and he planned to live like a hobo from station to trains to another station. Penny had let him knew that they were worried about him. Then Leonard tried to convince him to stay. Sheldon refused the idea.

4.2 Discussion

The writer found the act of deploring as the most prominent to appear in the dialogue of the characters in this episode. There are 13 utterances which are spoken in the private places by Sheldon (most prominent), Leonard and Penny. The act of lamenting is also prominently spoken in the private places, however, Raj, performed it once in the public place (the cafeteria) which caused other characters to get disturbed because he was lamenting about his sex life inappropriately. The writer found that the act of deploring and lamenting which were performed by the characters gave



dynamics of the tension on each scene. Since it is a comedy show, those acts also influenced the humor and comicality on each scene. Sheldon delivered his act of deploring in his own unique and eccentric manner, meanwhile Leonard and Penny delivered their act of deploring also in their own manner but not as distinctive as Sheldon.

The act of condoling and congratulating were found in both private and public places. The act of congratulating was found in the Apartment. Furthermore, the act of condoling was found in The Cafeteria (indirectly, by Leonard and Sheldon) and Comic Book Store (directly, by Raj and Sheldon). Meanwhile, the act of congratulating was found once on The Apartment scene by Penny. The writer found that the act of congratulating and condoling influenced the emotion on each scene. For example, when Penny said, "You're right! Yay!" the writer found a genuine emotion that she was happy for Raj for finally having sex with Emily even when earlier she showed disappointed expression when the other characters made Raj's announcement more exciting than her engagement with Leonard. It is not a direct congratulating, whether an indirect one which can be concluded from her gesture and facial expression in joining group's crowd in hugging Raj. In the other hand, when Raj was showing his grief for Stuart who lost his Comic Book Store for fire, the writer found that Raj's act of condoling was genuine also influence the dynamics of emotion on this scene. As simple as, "Dude, I'm so sorry," (Page 10, Line 12, Scene: The Comic Book Store),



which also came with his genuine facial expression and followed by the kind gesture to offer a place to stay temporary for Stuart.

The next expressive act is boasting. It is only spoken by Raj in both private and public places. The main topic that he kept bringing up was about his new sex experience with Emily, his new girlfriend. It was welcome by other characters when he first brought that topic up but the next one in public place (the cafeteria), the other characters started to find it annoying. Even though they understood how Raj never knew when to keep his mouth shut. When this particular act was performed in public,

it successfully added awkwardness on the scene. However, when it was spoken in the private place, the other characters did not find it awkward. The sex topic that Raj brought up for the first time also became the factor why it was not awkward even though Raj used it to seek some attention from the other characters. For example,

“And I thought me having sex with Emily was gonna be the big news.” (Page 1, Line 13, Scene: The Apartment). Meanwhile, the act of thanking was found in 2 utterances,

spoken by Leonard and Penny in private place (The Apartment). This particular act did not seem to influence the dynamics of comicality or even emotion into the scenes where it was found. The last two acts are act of apologizing and forgiving. The writer

found that these two acts did not influence dynamic of the scenes where they were found. The act of thanking was spoken by Leonard and Penny, both were spoken in private place. In the other hand, the act of forgiving was found once, spoken by Leonard in a private place (The Apartment).



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusion of this research and suggestion for future research which relates to the issue that is discussed here.

5.1 Conclusion

This research is conducted to identify the type of expressive acts used by the main characters of The Big Bang Theory Television Series in 24th episode of season 7, then followed by analyzing how the expressive acts differ among the scenes. The characters are Leonard Hofstadter, Sheldon Cooper, Penny, Howard Wolowitz and Raj Koothrappali, Amy Farrah Fowler, Bernadette Rostenkowski and Stewart Bloom, they all speak the utterances in various scenes which each scene is set in different places and situations. The expressive acts which are identified in this research are; apologizing, boasting, condoling, congratulating, deploring, forgiving, lamenting and thanking.

These characters have their own style in performing the expressive acts which were influenced by their personalities and backgrounds. Sheldon Cooper performed the act of deploring most of the time in this episode. However, apart from the act of deploring that he frequently did, he also performed act of lamenting and condoling. He has his own unique and eccentric manner in delivering his psychological state. Howard performed the act of lamenting in with his sarcastic style. Raj performed act



of boasting, lamenting and condoling. When he performed the act of boasting and lamenting he caused some awkward situations because he kept bringing up the same topic. Penny delivered the act of congratulating, deploring, thanking and apologizing. She did it in a regular manner as she is a typical 'blonde girl' which distinct her from other main characters, which are nerds. Leonard delivered the act of deploring, condoling, thanking and forgiving. Since he is the less 'nerd' in his group, his manner obviously also distinct him from other characters.

Tension and humor were the results which were brought by the act of deploring and lamenting. These acts were found in both and private and public place settings. Meanwhile, the act of condoling and congratulating brought emotions into the scenes where they were performed by the main characters. These two acts were performed by the main characters in both private and public place settings. Raj, the main character who performed the act of boasting twice caused different influence in each scene he did it. The rest of the acts, which are: act of thanking, forgiving and apologizing didn't not influence significantly to the scenes where they were performed by the main characters.

5.2 Suggestion

Here is the part where the writer provides some suggestion for future writers/researchers who are interested in digging expressive acts and pragmatics.

Based on this research that the writer has been done, she believes that context plays significant role in building up the result of the research. To involve context is what the



writer tries to advise the future researchers. Also, since the writer has accomplished exploring one Searle's taxonomy of illocutionary acts, she hopes there will be more researches which specify each of them. Furthermore, the writer also suggests the future researcher to pick an object (novel/television series/movie) which contains more diverse characters in it, because she believes that diversity is a current topic that is being intensely scrutinized by every media nowadays.



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