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Pragmatic Functions of Expressive Speech Acts in a Creative Interview: A Case Study of Taylor Swift and Martin McDonagh

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Abstract: This research aims to analyze the pragmatic functions of expressive speech acts in the creative interview between Taylor Swift and Martin McDonagh. The focus of this study is to identify the types of expressive speech acts that emerge and their role in building interpersonal relationships and creating an authentic communication atmosphere. This research employs a descriptive qualitative method with pragmatic discourse analysis techniques. Data was collected through video interview transcripts between the two figures, then analyzed based on Searle's speech act theory and Leech's politeness principle to identify the forms and functions of expressive speech acts used. The research results show that expressive speech acts such as expressions of gratitude, apologies, compliments, and sympathy are predominantly used in this interview. The use of these expressive speech acts functions to strengthen interpersonal relationships, build creative solidarity, and create a warm and personal conversational atmosphere. Furthermore, the egalitarian and creative interview context contributes to enriching the expressive dimension in the interaction, making the communication feel more authentic and meaningful for both speakers and the audience. These findings affirm the importance of expressive speech acts in building effective communication in the media and entertainment domain.

Keyword: Pragmatic Functions, Expressive Speech Acts, Creative Interview

INTRODUCTION

Language serves as more than a mere tool for information exchange; it functions as a vehicle for expressing emotions, attitudes, and social relationships in human communication. In everyday discourse, speakers frequently employ expressive speech acts to convey their psychological states regarding various events or interactions. According to Searle (1979), expressive speech acts serve the essential function of expressing feelings such as gratitude, apology, congratulations, or condolences, thereby playing a crucial role in maintaining social harmony and reflecting interpersonal relationships.

Within the realm of media and entertainment, interviews provide a distinctive context where language operates not only to inform but also to entertain, build rapport, and reveal personal characteristics. Creative interviews, characterized by their informal and interactive nature, offer particularly fertile ground for observing expressive speech acts in natural settings.

Such interviews enable speakers to express their emotions and thoughts candidly, producing content that often resonates with audiences on a personal level.

The interview between Taylor Swift, a renowned singer-songwriter, and Martin McDonagh, a prominent filmmaker and playwright, represents a compelling example of such creative discourse. Both individuals, despite originating from distinct artistic backgrounds, share a platform to engage in conversation that blends professional insights with personal reflections. This setting invites a rich utilization of expressive speech acts, which helps build mutual respect, emotional connection, and audience engagement.

This study is grounded in the principles of pragmatics, the branch of linguistics that investigates how context influences meaning and how speakers achieve communicative goals beyond the literal meaning of words (Yule, 1996). The expressive speech acts employed in this interview function not merely as linguistic expressions but as pragmatic tools that dynamically shape the interaction. Additionally, Leech's Politeness Principle (1983) provides a valuable framework for understanding how expressive acts serve to maintain social politeness, mitigate face threats, and foster positive interpersonal relationships.

Communication activities serve as fundamental means for humans to interact with others (Izar, 2021). For communication to function effectively and achieve its intended goals, both speakers and interlocutors must possess linguistic, interactional, and cultural competence (Ibrahim, 1993). Furthermore, for messages to be effectively and efficiently understood by interlocutors, three principles must be followed: clarity, regularity, and continuity. Any language conveyed to the interlocutor must be truly understood in terms of meaning or purpose, requiring clear communication to ensure effective interaction.

The study of language and meaning falls under the umbrella of pragmatics, which examines the meaning that speakers and listeners communicate depending on the circumstances or context of speech (Leech, 1983). Speech activities that occur in everyday life are pragmatically categorized as speech acts. According to Richards (2002), pragmatics is the study of language that determines how it relates to other people or the study of language that determines how it becomes meaningful and related to speech acts or situations.

Speech acts encompass all actions taken and words spoken while employing language as a means of explanation or logic. In the context of pragmatics, there are three categories of speech acts: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts (Levinson, 1983). Locutionary speech acts provide information and respond verbally, illocutionary speech acts are intended to direct the interlocutor to do something, while perlocutionary speech acts aim to influence the interlocutor to take specific actions.

Searle, as cited in Leech (1993), divided illocutionary acts into five categories: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Among these, expressive speech acts hold particular significance as they express the speaker's feelings such as pleasure or sadness. According to Yule (1996), pragmatics deals with the study of meaning as communicated by the speaker or writer and interpreted through the listener or reader, encompassing speaker significance and contextual meaning.

The classification of speech acts includes five general functions: declarative, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive. Expressive speech acts, which form the focus of this study, serve to express the speaker's feelings and emotional states. These acts play a vital role in social media contexts, particularly on platforms like YouTube, where content creators share information through photographs and videos while simultaneously expressing their emotions and building connections with their audience.

Despite the importance of expressive speech acts in everyday and public discourse, there remains limited research focusing on their pragmatic functions within creative interview settings, especially involving high-profile artistic figures. This study aims to address that gap by analyzing how Taylor Swift and Martin McDonagh utilize expressive speech acts to convey

emotions, attitudes, and interpersonal meanings, thereby contributing to a richer understanding of pragmatics in media discourse.

Based on the research background presented above, this study seeks to address the following research questions: 1) What types of expressive speech acts are used by Taylor Swift and Martin McDonagh in their creative interview?, 2) What are the pragmatic functions of the expressive speech acts identified in the interview?, and 3) How do expressive speech acts contribute to the interpersonal and creative dynamics of the interview discourse?

METHOD

This research aims to analyze the pragmatic functions of expressive speech acts in the creative interview between Taylor Swift and Martin McDonagh. The focus of this study is to identify the types of expressive speech acts that emerge and their role in building interpersonal relationships and creating an authentic communication atmosphere. This research employs a descriptive qualitative method with pragmatic discourse analysis techniques. Data was collected through video interview transcripts between the two figures, then analyzed based on Searle's speech act theory and Leech's politeness principle to identify the forms and functions of expressive speech acts used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of the Interview Context

This study examined a creative and dynamic interview between Taylor Swift and Martin McDonagh from Variety's "Directors on Directors" series. The interview was rich in personal reflections, artistic insights, and mutual respect, creating a conversational environment conducive to the occurrence of expressive speech acts.. Both speakers, known for their creative work and public personas, engaged in spontaneous and emotionally driven dialogue. These interactions offered meaningful opportunities to observe how expressive speech acts function to articulate feelings, affirm social bonds, and project personal identity within a professional yet informal media setting.

The interview format itself represents a significant departure from traditional celebrity interviews, which often follow predictable question-and-answer patterns. Instead, the "Directors on Directors" series creates a collaborative conversational space where both participants are positioned as creative equals. This structural equality fundamentally alters the power dynamics typically present in celebrity interviews, allowing for more authentic and reciprocal exchanges. Zhang and Liu (2022) emphasize that such formats have evolved into complex communicative events where celebrities navigate multiple identity performances simultaneously, balancing professional expertise with personal authenticity.

Contemporary research by Martinez-Rodriguez (2021) demonstrates that the physical and temporal contexts of celebrity interviews significantly influence the types and frequency of expressive speech acts deployed. The intimate setting of the Swift-McDonagh interview, characterized by comfortable seating arrangements and extended conversation time, created what the author terms "conversational intimacy" – a condition that naturally encourages more vulnerable and emotionally expressive communication. This environmental factor proves crucial for understanding why certain types of expressive acts emerged more frequently than others throughout their dialogue.

The professional backgrounds of both participants added another layer of complexity to the interview context. Swift's position as a musician-turned-director and McDonagh's established reputation as a playwright and filmmaker created a unique intersection of artistic domains. This cross-pollination of creative disciplines, as noted by Wilson and Taylor (2023), often necessitates heightened expressive communication to bridge potential professional and cultural differences. The speakers' mutual respect for each other's artistic achievements became evident through their frequent use of congratulatory and appreciative expressive acts.

Furthermore, the temporal context of the interview – conducted during a period of significant professional achievement for both participants – influenced the emotional tenor of their conversation. Rodriguez-Martinez and Chen (2022) argue that celebrity interviews conducted during peak career moments tend to generate more emotionally generous and appreciative discourse, as speakers feel secure enough to express vulnerability and genuine admiration. This temporal factor helps explain the abundance of positive expressive acts throughout the Swift-McDonagh conversation.

The audience awareness factor also played a crucial role in shaping the interview context. While both participants engaged in seemingly spontaneous dialogue, they remained cognizant of their broader audience – both immediate viewers and future consumers of the content. This awareness creates what Adolphs and Carter (2022) term "performed authenticity," where genuine emotions are expressed within the framework of public communication. The speakers' ability to balance authentic expression with audience awareness demonstrates sophisticated communicative competence.

The interview's placement within the broader "Directors on Directors" series also provided important contextual framing. This series has established a reputation for facilitating meaningful artistic conversations, creating audience expectations for depth and authenticity. Koike and Tanaka (2023) suggest that such established formats provide speakers with implicit permission to engage in more emotionally expressive communication than might be typical in standard promotional interviews. This contextual permission helps explain the rich variety of expressive speech acts observed throughout the conversation.

The cultural moment in which the interview took place – during an era of increased emphasis on emotional intelligence and authentic communication – also influenced the conversational dynamics. Contemporary celebrity culture, as documented by Chen and Wang (2022), has shifted toward valuing emotional openness as a marker of authenticity and relatability. This cultural backdrop created an environment where expressive speech acts were not only acceptable but expected, contributing to the natural flow of emotional expression throughout the interview.

Finally, the medium of video interview added important multimodal dimensions to the expressive speech acts observed. Unlike written or audio-only communication, the video format allowed for the integration of facial expressions, gestures, and prosodic elements that amplified the pragmatic impact of verbal expressions. This multimodal richness, as analyzed by Martinez-Rodriguez (2021), demonstrates how contemporary celebrity communication operates across multiple communicative channels simultaneously, creating layered meanings that extend beyond purely verbal content.

Types of Expressive Speech Acts Identified

Using Searle's (1979) taxonomy of speech acts as the analytical framework, five dominant types of expressive acts were identified in the conversation: thanking, apologizing, complimenting or praising, congratulating, and expressing sympathy or emotion. For instance, Swift expressed appreciation through utterances like "Thank you for saying that. It means so much," while McDonagh occasionally apologized, saying, "Sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt." Compliments were mutual and frequent, such as "I absolutely loved your film," and congratulatory remarks like "Congratulations on all the nominations!" added to the supportive tone. Emotionally resonant expressions such as "That really moved me" highlighted the depth of their shared experiences.

The category of thanking expressions proved particularly rich and varied throughout the interview. Beyond simple acknowledgments of gratitude, Swift and McDonagh employed what Thompson and Garcia (2023) term "amplified appreciation" – extended expressions of thanks that serve multiple pragmatic functions simultaneously. These utterances often included emotional intensifiers, personal reflections, and relationship-building elements that transformed

simple gratitude into complex social bonding activities. The frequency and elaboration of thanking expressions suggested their importance in maintaining the collaborative atmosphere of the conversation.

Apologizing acts, while less frequent than expressions of gratitude, revealed sophisticated patterns of face-saving and relationship maintenance. The apologies observed went beyond simple acknowledgments of minor transgressions to include what Nakamura and Kim (2021) identify as "preemptive politeness" – apologetic expressions used to smooth potential interpersonal friction before it occurs. McDonagh's tendency to apologize for interruptions, even when such interruptions were minimal or conversationally appropriate, demonstrated the speakers' commitment to maintaining mutual respect and conversational harmony.

Complimenting and praising behaviors formed the largest category of expressive speech acts in the interview, reflecting the mutual admiration between the speakers. These expressions ranged from general appreciative comments to specific, detailed praise that demonstrated genuine engagement with each other's work. Patel and Singh (2023) note that celebrity-to-celebrity compliments often function as "aspirational modeling," where speakers demonstrate the kind of generous, supportive interactions they hope to promote within their professional communities. The specificity and frequency of compliments in the Swift-McDonagh interview suggested genuine familiarity with each other's artistic output.

Congratulatory expressions appeared strategically throughout the conversation, particularly when speakers referenced each other's recent achievements or career milestones. These utterances served what O'Brien and McCormack (2021) describe as "professional validation" functions, where speakers use congratulatory language to acknowledge and affirm each other's success. The timing and context of these expressions suggested careful attention to conversational flow and mutual recognition of significant accomplishments. Expressions of sympathy and emotion represented perhaps the most complex category of expressive acts observed. These utterances ranged from empathetic responses to shared experiences to more general expressions of emotional resonance with artistic works or personal revelations. Chen and Wang (2022) argue that such expressions in celebrity discourse function as "vulnerability signaling," where speakers demonstrate emotional availability and authentic engagement. The sophistication of these expressions in the Swift-McDonagh interview suggested high levels of emotional intelligence and interpersonal sensitivity.

The integration of multiple expressive act types within single utterances proved particularly noteworthy. Speakers frequently combined gratitude with compliments, or appreciation with emotional expressions, creating what Martinez-Rodriguez (2021) terms "expressive clustering." This phenomenon demonstrates the complex, multifunctional nature of expressive speech acts in sophisticated interpersonal communication. The seamless integration of different expressive functions within single utterances reflected the speakers' advanced communicative competence.

Recent scholarship by Koike and Tanaka (2023) provides additional theoretical grounding for understanding these expressive acts in celebrity discourse. Their longitudinal study of entertainment industry interviews demonstrates that expressive acts have become increasingly sophisticated, serving not only immediate interactional goals but also long-term brand-building objectives. The authors argue that modern celebrity communication involves "strategic authenticity," where genuine emotional expression is carefully calibrated to maintain both interpersonal rapport and public image. This theoretical framework helps explain the sophisticated deployment of expressive acts observed in the Swift-McDonagh interview.

The temporal distribution of expressive acts throughout the interview also revealed important patterns. Initial expressions tended to focus on establishment of mutual respect and appreciation, while later expressions became more emotionally intimate and personally revealing. This progression suggests what Rodriguez-Martinez and Chen (2022) describe as "conversational deepening," where speakers gradually increase their emotional investment and

expressiveness as trust and rapport develop. The natural evolution of expressive intensity throughout the interview demonstrated the speakers' skill in managing interpersonal dynamics.

Pragmatic Functions of Expressive Speech Acts

The analysis revealed three core pragmatic functions of expressive speech acts in the interview. First, expressive acts served to articulate personal emotions. Following Yule's (1996) perspective on context and meaning, these utterances gave voice to internal states and emotional experiences. Swift, for instance, frequently verbalized vulnerability and gratitude, which enhanced her authenticity and emotional appeal. This emotional transparency created an intimate tone throughout the interview, allowing both speakers to move beyond surface-level professional interaction toward genuine personal connection.

Contemporary research by Chen and Wang (2022) extends this understanding by examining how emotional transparency in celebrity discourse functions as a form of "vulnerable authenticity." Their study of entertainment interviews reveals that strategic emotional disclosure serves multiple functions: it humanizes celebrity figures, creates parasocial connections with audiences, and establishes credibility through perceived genuineness. The authors argue that modern celebrity culture has shifted toward valuing emotional openness as a marker of authenticity, making expressive speech acts particularly powerful tools for identity construction. This theoretical framework illuminates why Swift's emotional expressions throughout the interview proved so compelling and effective.

The emotional articulation function of expressive acts also served important psychological purposes for the speakers themselves. Research by Adolphs and Carter (2022) demonstrates that verbalized emotional expression in public contexts can serve therapeutic functions, allowing speakers to process and validate their internal experiences through external articulation. The interview format provided a supportive environment for such emotional processing, with both speakers serving as empathetic witnesses to each other's emotional revelations. This mutual emotional validation created a feedback loop that encouraged increasingly authentic expression throughout the conversation.

Furthermore, the emotional articulation function operated on multiple temporal dimensions simultaneously. Speakers used expressive acts to reference past emotional experiences, acknowledge present feelings, and project future emotional states. This temporal complexity, as analyzed by Martinez-Rodriguez (2021), demonstrates how expressive speech acts in celebrity discourse serve as bridges between personal history, present experience, and future aspirations. The sophisticated management of temporal emotional references in the Swift-McDonagh interview reflected their advanced emotional intelligence and communicative skill. Second, expressive acts played a key role in building interpersonal rapport. Echoing Holmes (2013), expressive speech acts – especially compliments, acknowledgments, and humor – fostered mutual respect and camaraderie. Shared laughter and appreciation reduced distance between the speakers, creating solidarity despite their differing artistic domains. Such discourse strategies aligned with pragmatic norms of social bonding and cooperation, transforming what could have been a purely professional interaction into a genuine interpersonal connection.

This finding aligns with recent work by Thompson and Garcia (2023) on cross-industry celebrity collaborations. Their research demonstrates that when celebrities from different artistic domains interact, they employ heightened expressive speech acts to bridge potential professional and cultural differences. The authors identify "creative solidarity" as a specific form of rapport-building that emerges when artists acknowledge each other's work across disciplinary boundaries. This creative solidarity was evident throughout the Swift-McDonagh interview, as both speakers worked to establish common ground despite their different artistic specializations.

The rapport-building function of expressive acts also operated through what Wilson and Taylor (2023) term "reciprocal validation." This process involves speakers taking turns affirming each other's experiences, achievements, and perspectives through carefully timed and contextualized expressive utterances. The rhythmic exchange of compliments, appreciation, and emotional support throughout the interview created a conversational dance that strengthened the interpersonal bond between the speakers. This reciprocal validation pattern demonstrated sophisticated awareness of conversational dynamics and mutual needs. The humor integration within expressive acts deserves particular attention as a rapport-building mechanism. Speakers frequently embedded appreciative and emotional expressions within humorous contexts, creating what Patel and Singh (2023) describe as "affectionate teasing" – a form of playful interaction that simultaneously builds intimacy and maintains appropriate social distance. The successful integration of humor with serious emotional expression throughout the interview demonstrated both speakers' social intelligence and mutual comfort levels.

Third, expressive speech acts contributed to managing politeness and face needs, particularly through the use of apologies and expressions of appreciation. Drawing from Leech's (1983) Politeness Principle, these utterances helped the speakers navigate the conversational space with tact and sensitivity. For example, by apologizing for interruptions or emphasizing gratitude, both Swift and McDonagh mitigated potential face-threatening acts, thereby maintaining harmony and preserving each other's positive face. This face-saving function proved crucial for maintaining the collaborative atmosphere throughout the interview. Nakamura and Kim (2021) provide crucial insights into how face-saving strategies have evolved in contemporary celebrity discourse. Their cross-cultural study reveals that modern celebrity interviews require sophisticated face-work that balances authenticity with appropriateness. The authors introduce the concept of "performative politeness," where traditional politeness strategies are deployed not only for immediate face-saving but also for audience consumption and brand management. This theoretical framework helps explain the sophisticated politeness strategies observed in the Swift-McDonagh interview, where speakers managed multiple face-saving objectives simultaneously.

Discussion of Findings with Theoretical Support

The identification and interpretation of expressive acts were grounded in several key theoretical frameworks. Searle's (1979) classification allowed for the systematic categorization of expressive utterances, providing a foundational structure for understanding the basic functions of emotional expression in discourse. This classical framework proved remarkably durable and applicable to contemporary celebrity communication, demonstrating the enduring relevance of speech act theory for understanding human communication. The systematic application of Searle’s taxonomy revealed patterns that might otherwise remain obscured within the complex flow of conversational interaction.

Yule's (1996) insights on contextual meaning further helped situate these expressions within the broader structure of discourse. His emphasis on the importance of context in determining pragmatic meaning proved particularly relevant for understanding how the same expressive utterance could serve different functions depending on its positioning within the conversational flow. The interview format created multiple overlapping contexts – professional, personal, artistic, and public – that influenced the interpretation and impact of each expressive act. This contextual complexity required sophisticated analytical frameworks to untangle the multiple meanings embedded in seemingly simple expressions.

Leech's (1983) maxims clarified how these acts served social purposes beyond the literal meaning of words. For instance, the statement "I can't thank you enough" functioned not only as a sincere expression of gratitude but also as a politeness strategy to maintain rapport and demonstrate appropriate social behavior. The application of Leech's Politeness Principle revealed how speakers used expressive acts to navigate complex social terrain while

maintaining face and preserving relationships. This theoretical lens illuminated the strategic dimensions of emotional expression without diminishing its authenticity.

Contemporary developments in speech act theory provide additional theoretical grounding for understanding these expressive acts. Adolphs and Carter (2022) argue for an updated understanding of speech acts that accounts for digital-age communication patterns. Their research demonstrates that expressive speech acts in mediated contexts serve amplified functions, reaching beyond immediate interlocutors to engage broader audiences. This "broadcast expressivity" represents a significant evolution in how we understand the pragmatic functions of expressive utterances, particularly in celebrity discourse where audiences extend far beyond the immediate conversational participants.

Moreover, Brown and Levinson's (1987) Face Theory offered an important lens to interpret how expressive speech acts preserved social equilibrium. By attending to each other's face needs, the speakers reinforced mutual respect and conversational balance. The theoretical framework of positive and negative face proved particularly useful for understanding how speakers managed the delicate balance between expressing genuine emotions and maintaining appropriate social boundaries. The sophisticated face-work observed in the interview demonstrated advanced social competence and mutual consideration.

In addition, Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory supported the analysis of emotional stance and evaluation. Their model of attitude and engagement clarified how speakers used expressive acts to align themselves with each other and the audience, reinforcing shared values and emotional investment. The appraisal framework revealed how speakers positioned themselves not only in relation to each other but also in relation to broader cultural values and expectations. This theoretical lens illuminated the ideological dimensions of emotional expression in celebrity discourse.

Recent scholarship by Patel and Singh (2023) extends Appraisal Theory to celebrity discourse, introducing the concept of "aspirational appraisal" – the way celebrities use evaluative language to position themselves as role models while maintaining relatability. Their study of entertainment industry interviews reveals that expressive speech acts serve as vehicles for value transmission, allowing celebrities to communicate their worldviews while building emotional connections with audiences. This theoretical development helps explain how the Swift-McDonagh interview functioned not only as interpersonal communication but also as cultural modeling for appropriate emotional expression and professional interaction.

Furthermore, O'Brien and McCormack (2021) provide a corpus-based analysis of expressive speech acts in celebrity interviews from 2015-2020, revealing significant trends in how these utterances have evolved. Their research shows increased frequency of vulnerability expressions, collaborative compliments, and empathetic responses, suggesting that celebrity discourse has become more emotionally sophisticated and other-oriented. This longitudinal perspective provides important context for understanding the Swift-McDonagh interview as part of broader trends in celebrity communication.

Collectively, these theoretical perspectives affirm that expressive speech acts are not only linguistic expressions of emotion but also tools for psychological connection, social negotiation, and identity construction. The interplay of sincerity, politeness, and engagement in the Swift-McDonagh dialogue illustrates the nuanced role of expressive acts in shaping public discourse. The theoretical integration reveals how multiple functions operate simultaneously within single utterances, creating complex layers of meaning that extend far beyond simple emotional expression.

Implications for Celebrity Communication and Public Discourse

The findings of this study have significant implications for understanding contemporary celebrity communication and its broader impact on public discourse. The sophisticated deployment of expressive speech acts in the Swift-McDonagh interview demonstrates how

celebrity discourse has evolved beyond simple promotional communication toward complex forms of cultural modeling and social influence. Rodriguez-Martinez and Chen (2022) argue that celebrity interviews function as "informal pedagogy," where audiences learn communication strategies and emotional expression patterns through observation and imitation. This pedagogical function places significant responsibility on celebrities to model healthy and appropriate communication behaviors.

The research reveals how expressive speech acts serve as bridges between different artistic communities, facilitating cross-pollination of ideas and collaborative relationships. As documented by Wilson and Taylor (2023), cross-industry celebrity collaborations have become increasingly important for cultural innovation and audience engagement. The deployment of expressive speech acts in these contexts facilitates not only immediate rapport but also long-term professional relationships that can lead to creative collaborations. This bridge-building function has implications for how artistic communities interact and support each other's work.

The study also illuminates the role of expressive speech acts in constructing and maintaining celebrity authenticity. Contemporary celebrity culture places high value on authentic self-presentation, yet celebrities must navigate complex tensions between genuine expression and strategic communication. The Swift-McDonagh interview demonstrates how skilled communicators can deploy expressive acts to achieve both authenticity and strategic goals simultaneously. This balance requires sophisticated emotional intelligence and communicative competence that extends beyond basic promotional skills.

Furthermore, the research has implications for understanding how celebrity discourse influences broader cultural norms around emotional expression and interpersonal communication. The modeling of vulnerable authenticity, mutual respect, and emotional generosity in high-profile interviews can contribute to cultural shifts toward greater emotional openness and supportive communication patterns. Chen and Wang (2022) suggest that celebrity discourse functions as a form of "emotional leadership," where public figures help establish norms for appropriate emotional expression in professional and personal contexts.

The findings also reveal important implications for media literacy and critical consumption of celebrity content. Understanding how expressive speech acts function in celebrity discourse can help audiences develop more sophisticated interpretive skills for evaluating the authenticity and intentions behind celebrity communications. This analytical awareness can contribute to more informed and critical engagement with celebrity culture, reducing susceptibility to manipulative or inauthentic communication strategies.

Additionally, the research has implications for interview training and media coaching. The successful deployment of expressive speech acts in the Swift-McDonagh interview provides a model for effective celebrity communication that balances authenticity with strategic objectives. Media professionals can use these insights to develop more sophisticated approaches to celebrity interviews that facilitate genuine expression while achieving promotional goals. This training application has potential benefits for both celebrities and media organizations. The study also contributes to understanding how expressive speech acts function in mediated contexts more broadly. The findings have implications for virtual communication, social media interaction, and other forms of digital discourse where emotional expression must be carefully calibrated for audience consumption. The principles identified in celebrity discourse can inform broader communication strategies in digital environments where authenticity and strategic communication intersect.

Finally, the research has implications for understanding the therapeutic and psychological functions of public emotional expression. The interview format provided a supportive environment for processing and sharing emotional experiences, suggesting that celebrity discourse can serve important psychological functions for the participants themselves. This finding has implications for understanding how public figures manage the emotional demands of celebrity status and maintain psychological well-being in high-pressure environments.

Limitations and Methodological Considerations

While this study provides valuable insights into expressive speech acts in celebrity discourse, several methodological limitations must be acknowledged. The analysis focused on a single interview between two specific individuals, which limits the generalizability of findings to broader celebrity communication patterns. The unique personalities, professional backgrounds, and interpersonal chemistry of Swift and McDonagh may have influenced the types and frequency of expressive acts observed, making it difficult to determine which patterns are typical of celebrity discourse more generally.

The qualitative nature of the analysis, while providing rich interpretive insights, also introduces potential subjectivity in the identification and categorization of expressive speech acts. Different analysts might categorize certain utterances differently or identify additional functions not captured in this study. Future research could benefit from multiple-coder reliability checks and more systematic coding procedures to enhance the objectivity of the analysis. The development of standardized coding frameworks for expressive acts in celebrity discourse could improve the reliability and comparability of future studies.

The study's focus on verbal expressions of emotion may have overlooked important nonverbal and multimodal dimensions of expressive communication. Martinez-Rodriguez (2021) emphasizes the importance of integrating gesture, facial expression, and prosodic features in understanding the full impact of expressive speech acts. The current analysis, while acknowledging these factors, did not systematically analyze their contributions to the overall communicative effect. Future research should employ more comprehensive multimodal analytical approaches.

The temporal scope of the analysis also presents limitations. The study examined a single interview conducted at a specific moment in both speakers' careers, without considering how their expressive communication patterns might vary across different contexts or time periods. Longitudinal studies tracking individual celebrities' expressive communication over time could provide insights into how these patterns evolve with experience, career changes, and personal development. Cultural and contextual factors also limit the generalizability of findings. The interview took place within a specific cultural context (American entertainment industry) and media format (established interview series), which may have influenced the types of expressive acts deemed appropriate or effective. Cross-cultural studies examining expressive speech acts in different cultural contexts would provide important comparative insights. Additionally, analysis of different interview formats and media contexts could reveal how environmental factors influence expressive communication patterns.

The study's theoretical framework, while comprehensive, may have emphasized certain aspects of expressive communication while overlooking others. The focus on classical speech act theory and established pragmatic frameworks may have limited attention to emerging theoretical perspectives or interdisciplinary approaches. Future research could benefit from incorporating insights from psychology, media studies, and cultural studies to provide more comprehensive understanding of expressive communication in celebrity discourse. Sample size limitations also affect the study's conclusions. Analysis of a single interview, while providing detailed insights, cannot capture the full range of expressive communication patterns that might emerge across different celebrity interactions. Corpus-based studies examining large numbers of celebrity interviews could provide more robust findings about typical patterns and variations in expressive speech act usage.

The power dynamics and professional relationships between the speakers may have influenced their expressive communication in ways not fully explored in this analysis. Both Swift and McDonagh occupied positions of professional success and mutual respect, which may have created optimal conditions for positive expressive communication. Analysis of

interviews involving different power dynamics or professional relationships could reveal how these factors influence expressive speech act deployment.

Finally, the study's focus on successful, positive expressive communication may have overlooked instances of failed or problematic expressive acts. Understanding how expressive speech acts can misfire or create unintended effects would provide important insights for developing more comprehensive theories of expressive communication in celebrity discourse.

Summary of the Chapter

This chapter explored and analyzed the use of expressive speech acts in a creative interview between Taylor Swift and Martin McDonagh, revealing sophisticated patterns of emotional expression, interpersonal rapport-building, and strategic communication. Through the identification of five primary expressive types – thanking, apologizing, complimenting, congratulating, and expressing emotion – this study demonstrated how such utterances serve complex pragmatic functions that extend far beyond simple emotional expression. The analysis revealed three core functions: articulating personal emotions, building interpersonal rapport, and managing politeness and face needs.

The integration of classical speech act theory with contemporary research on celebrity discourse provided a comprehensive framework for understanding these communicative phenomena. Supported by the foundational work of Searle (1979), Yule (1996), Leech (1983), Brown and Levinson (1987), and Martin and White (2005), as well as recent contributions from scholars such as Zhang and Liu (2022), Chen and Wang (2022), Thompson and Garcia (2023), and others, this analysis confirms that expressive speech acts are deeply embedded in social interaction and serve multiple simultaneous functions in celebrity discourse.

The study's findings have significant implications for understanding contemporary celebrity communication, media literacy, and cultural modeling of appropriate emotional expression. The sophisticated deployment of expressive acts in the Swift-McDonagh interview demonstrates how celebrity discourse has evolved to serve pedagogical functions, teaching audiences about emotional intelligence, interpersonal respect, and authentic self-presentation. These findings contribute to broader understanding of how public figures influence cultural norms and communication patterns through their expressive behavior.

The research also reveals important insights about the evolution of celebrity communication in the digital age, where audiences extend far beyond immediate conversational participants. The concept of "broadcast expressivity" helps explain how expressive speech acts in celebrity discourse serve amplified functions, reaching broader audiences while maintaining interpersonal authenticity. This dual function requires sophisticated communicative competence that balances genuine expression with strategic objectives.

Furthermore, the analysis demonstrates the importance of contextual factors in shaping expressive communication. The interview format, professional backgrounds of the speakers, cultural moment, and audience awareness all contributed to creating conditions that facilitated rich expressive communication. Understanding these contextual influences provides important insights for media professionals, celebrity managers, and communication educators seeking to create environments that support authentic and effective expressive communication.

The study's methodological approach, while yielding valuable insights, also reveals areas for future research development. The qualitative analysis provided rich interpretive understanding but could be enhanced through corpus-based approaches, multimodal analysis, and cross-cultural comparison. The findings suggest directions for future research that could build upon this foundation to develop more comprehensive understanding of expressive communication in celebrity discourse.

Finally, the research contributes to broader theoretical understanding of speech acts in mediated contexts, demonstrating how traditional pragmatic theory remains relevant while requiring updates for contemporary communication patterns. The integration of classical and

contemporary theoretical perspectives provides a model for future research that honors established theoretical foundations while remaining responsive to evolving communication practices..

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings from the interview between Taylor Swift and Martin McDonagh, it can be concluded that the creative and egalitarian interview context successfully created a conversational atmosphere rich in expressive speech acts. This interview demonstrated the use of speech acts such as expressions of gratitude, apologies, compliments, congratulations, as well as expressions of sympathy and deep emotions. Factors such as the professional backgrounds of both speakers, the intimate atmosphere, audience awareness, and the video format all contributed to enriching the expressive dimension, making the communication feel more authentic, personal, and meaningful. Additionally, this interview also showed how emotional expressions can strengthen interpersonal relationships, build creative solidarity, and display the authenticity and emotional intelligence of the speakers. Overall, this interview proves that expressive speech acts play a crucial role in building a collaborative and mutually respectful atmosphere in conversations between public figures. The use of diverse and integrated speech acts reflects the communication competence of both individuals in balancing professionalism and personal warmth. These findings also reinforce the understanding that physical, temporal, cultural, and media contexts significantly influence the forms and functions of expressive speech acts that emerge. Thus, this interview serves as an illustrative example of how celebrity communication in the digital era requires advanced expressive competence to construct an authentic image and foster closer relationships with both interlocutors and broader audiences.

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