

**AN ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTIONARY SPEECH ACTS IN INSTAGRAM POSTS AND
COMMENTS BY THIRD-SEMESTER ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDENTS OF
NOMMENSEN HKBP**

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Abstract

This Research Aimed To See The Analysis Of Illocutial Speech Act On Instagram Posts And Comments Of Third Semester English Education Students At Hkbp Nommensen. After analyzing the illocutionary acts in the Instagram posts and comments of third-semester English Education students at Nommensen HKBP University, the following conclusions can be drawn: The illocutionary speech acts found in the data include assertives, directives, and expressives. The data was collected from the Instagram accounts of third-semester English Education students, that is, @Icaafrianisitorus, @givalentine_, @novia.as.564, and @cristina_nelvana. Each account focused on different topics. For example, one account focused on emotional expression and social identity, while another emphasized self-confidence and self-validation. Students use assertive acts to express their thoughts, present factual information, and share personal perspectives. Directive acts are employed to influence others' behavior, such as offering advice, making invitations, and encouraging participation in activities. Expressive acts reflect the speaker's emotional state and are used to convey feelings such as gratitude, encouragement, congratulations, and welcome. No commissive or declarative speech acts were found in the data. The most dominant type of illocutionary act found in the data is expressive. This type of speech act is used the most frequently, indicating that students primarily use Instagram for emotional expression, maintaining social connections, and strengthening interpersonal relationships. The prevalence of expressive acts emphasizes the affective nature of their digital communication, focusing on emotional support, social bonding, and self-expression. The absence of commissive and declarative speech acts is likely due to Instagram's informal and personal nature as a platform, which does not require formal commitments or declarations. In conclusion, this study demonstrates that social media serves as more than just an information-sharing tool; it is a dynamic space for self-expression, emotional connection, and identity formation. The students' linguistic choices reflect their inclination toward fostering interpersonal relationships, strengthening social bonds, and engaging in meaningful interactions rather than simply exchanging factual content. This highlights the evolving nature of digital communication, where social media platforms facilitate both personal expression and community engagement.

Keywords: Analysis, Illocutionary, Speech Acts, Instagram

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk melihat analisis tindak tutur ilokusi pada unggahan dan komentar Instagram mahasiswa Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris semester tiga di Universitas HKBP Nommensen. Setelah menganalisis tindak tutur ilokusi pada unggahan dan komentar Instagram mahasiswa Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris semester tiga di Universitas HKBP Nommensen, maka dapat ditarik kesimpulan sebagai berikut: Tindak tutur ilokusi yang ditemukan pada data meliputi tindak tutur asertif, direktif, dan ekspresif. Data dikumpulkan dari akun Instagram mahasiswa Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris semester tiga, yaitu @Icaafrianisitorus, @givalentine_, @novia.as.564, dan @cristina_nelvana. Setiap akun berfokus pada topik yang berbeda. Misalnya, satu akun berfokus pada ekspresi emosional dan identitas sosial, sementara akun lainnya menekankan kepercayaan diri dan validasi diri. Mahasiswa menggunakan tindak tutur asertif untuk mengekspresikan pikiran mereka, menyajikan informasi faktual, dan berbagi perspektif pribadi. Tindak tutur direktif digunakan untuk memengaruhi perilaku orang lain, seperti menawarkan nasihat, membuat undangan, dan mendorong partisipasi dalam

kegiatan. Tindakan ekspresif mencerminkan keadaan emosional pembicara dan digunakan untuk menyampaikan perasaan seperti rasa terima kasih, dorongan, ucapan selamat, dan sambutan. Tidak ditemukan tindak tutur komisif atau deklaratif dalam data. Jenis tindak tutur ilokusi yang paling dominan ditemukan dalam data adalah ekspresif. Jenis tindak tutur ini paling sering digunakan, yang menunjukkan bahwa siswa terutama menggunakan Instagram untuk ekspresi emosional, menjaga hubungan sosial, dan memperkuat hubungan interpersonal. Prevalensi tindak tutur ekspresif menekankan sifat afektif komunikasi digital mereka, dengan fokus pada dukungan emosional, ikatan sosial, dan ekspresi diri. Tidak adanya tindak tutur komisif dan deklaratif kemungkinan besar disebabkan oleh sifat Instagram yang informal dan personal sebagai platform, yang tidak memerlukan komitmen atau deklarasi formal. Sebagai kesimpulan, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa media sosial berfungsi lebih dari sekadar alat berbagi informasi; media sosial merupakan ruang dinamis untuk ekspresi diri, hubungan emosional, dan pembentukan identitas. Pilihan bahasa siswa mencerminkan kecenderungan mereka untuk membina hubungan interpersonal, memperkuat ikatan sosial, dan terlibat dalam interaksi yang bermakna daripada sekadar bertukar konten faktual. Hal ini menyoroti sifat komunikasi digital yang terus berkembang, di mana platform media sosial memfasilitasi ekspresi pribadi dan keterlibatan komunitas.

Kata Kunci : Analisis, Ilokusi, Tindak Tutur, Instagram

PENDAHULUAN

Language is among the most important things in the world. People cannot communicate without a language. Without communication, we would be uninformed of what is going on around us, and communication also allows us to communicate our ideas and feelings. When talking with others, we utilise utterances to express what is in our thoughts to the listener. An utterance made by the speaker not only represents the speaker's thoughts but also influences the listener's behaviour. This pertains to pragmatics. Pragmatics has a close association with speech acts. A speech act is defined as any utterance that serves a purpose for communication. We require a partner or listener to understand and respond to what we are saying in order to communicate effectively. Speakers and listeners often utilise the same language to ensure that the message is communicated clearly and successfully (Nabila, 2022).

As Yule (Nofrika, 2019) explains, pragmatics is the study of language in context. It emphasises the importance of understanding the speaker's intended meaning in addition to the literal meaning of words. Yule highlights that effective communication requires mutual comprehension between the speaker and the hearer to ensure that the intended message is successfully conveyed. This aligns with the idea that communication is not just about exchanging words but also about interpreting context and intent, which enables effective interaction.

Human speech can be expressed in both paper and electronic formats. The two media are used for indirect communication between the speaker and the message in action, as well as for transmitting distant communications. Speech acts involving expressive sentences consist of three simultaneous actions, which are the locutionary act, the illocutionary act, and the perlocutionary act, Austin. It provides numerous advantages. It may be relied on by anyone, even during life's journey. Furthermore, internet and communication technology tools, such as increasingly sophisticated cell phones, are propelling the development of new network websites that offer online friendship and knowledge (Darmawan & Prischilla, 2019).

After first accessing the internet via cell phones, smartphones have recently developed, and the internet's use as a means of communication is expanding fast. Smartphone functions enable a wider range of communication possibilities, including SMS, MMS, chat, e-mail, browsing, and social networking functions. Arianto (Sandra, 2018). emphasises that social media has transformed communication in Indonesia, serving as a vital platform for information exchange while also

presenting challenges like misinformation. This duality highlights the need for critical engagement with social media content. It offers various benefits and can be relied upon by everyone, even for life's journey. Moreover, internet and communication technology tools, such as increasingly sophisticated smartphones, are one of the driving forces behind the development of new network websites that provide online friendship and information.

Globally, other experts also recognise the significant impact of social media on communication. Boyd (Buhl & Andreasen, 2018) explains that social media platforms offer opportunities for individuals to express their identities and build relationships, redefining how people interact across cultures. These global insights confirm the influential role of social media in shaping both local and international communication dynamics, supporting its function as a vital part of modern life.

The logic above leads to the conclusion that language is vital for communication, and understanding the context and intent behind speech acts is crucial for effective interaction. Communication is based not only on the literal meaning of words but also on understanding the speaker's intentions. With the advent of social media, communication has evolved, allowing people to connect, express themselves, and form relationships through platforms that transcend traditional forms of communication like print and electronic media. Users can share, interact, and communicate in ways that foster social relationships, as proven by social media's 10 expanding positions in modern communication, both locally and globally. This evolution in communication tools highlights the power of digital platforms to reshape how people interact across different cultures and contexts.

Illocutionary acts, as conceptualised by Austin (Voudoukis & Pagiatakis, 2022) refer to speech acts that are performed with the intention of achieving a particular communicative function, such as making promises, issuing warnings, or making requests. These acts are distinct from mere statements, as they involve the speaker's aim to bring about a certain effect on the listener, which is dependent upon the context, including the identity of the speaker, the recipient, the time, place, and the medium of communication (Hutauruk & Puspita, 2020).

In the context of social media, illocutionary acts play a significant role, as users engage in various communicative actions such as commenting, posting, and messaging, all aimed at influencing or interacting with others. Fala and Kumala (Popel et al., 2020) highlight how illocutionary acts are utilised in social media platforms like Instagram, where users frequently perform actions such as requests, offers, and statements. These speech acts are fundamental in shaping online interactions, particularly as they facilitate engagement and establish connections. Social media services such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and WhatsApp provide a space where these illocutionary acts transcend physical boundaries, enabling real-time communication that is not confined by time or space (Supena et al., 2021). Through these platforms, users can express their intentions, negotiate social realities, and influence relationships, social media has become a significant tool for both communication and interaction in the digital age.

The digital world of social media enables new forms of illocutionary acts, where users perform communicative functions that not only convey information but also influence relationships, shape identities, and negotiate social realities. As Mulawarman and Nurfitri (Guerberof Arenas & Moorkens, 2019) point out, social media is not merely a tool for information exchange but also plays an important role in the socialisation processes of users, particularly in educational contexts where students utilise these platforms for both academic and social purposes. This underscores the importance of understanding the role of illocutionary acts in the digital age, as social media increasingly becomes an integral component of modern communication.

Instagram plays a significant role in facilitating social interactions among students, offering them an opportunity to share experiences and engage with their peers through posts, photos, and videos. This form of social media communication not only serves as a medium for students to

Grace Joy Sigalingging, Sahlan Tampubolon, Sahat Taruli Siahaan| An Analysis of Illocutionary Speech Acts in Instagram Posts and Comments by Third-Semester English Education Students of Nommensen HKBP showcase their academic and social lives but also encourages active participation through comments, allowing users to express opinions, ask questions, and build relationships. The ability to interact through comments fosters a sense of community and collaboration, making Instagram a powerful tool for engagement. Instagram and similar platforms enable users to construct their identities and engage in social discourse that transcends traditional face-to-face communication (YUNI, 2021).

The ease of commenting and sharing posts provides students with an accessible way to communicate and interact with a wider audience, enriching their social networks. Furthermore, as Instagram serves as an outlet for self-expression and information exchange, it also encourages the maintenance of politeness and respect in digital communication, which, according to Goffma(Kuang & Zheng, 2022a) , is essential for successful social interaction. If these norms are followed, communication on Instagram can be both effective and enriching, strengthening relationships within the digital community.

In conclusion, illocutionary acts are essential to contemporary communication, especially on Instagram and other social media sites. These actions, which entail the speaker's desire to influence the listener's conduct, can take many forms, including requests, assurances, and statements expressed in messages, postings, and comments. Social media makes it easier to commit illocutionary activities that mould relationships, sway attitudes, and create identities by giving people a place to connect in real time. Users can execute communicative acts that transmit information and negotiate social dynamics by interacting with others through posting and comments, which strengthens the online community. It is imperative to comprehend illocutionary acts via social media to analyse how communication transcends conventional face-to-face contact and impacts contemporary discourse.

In today's digital age, social media platforms like Instagram has become essential tools for communication among university students. They use Instagram to share posts and leave comments that reflect their feelings, thoughts, and social interactions. However, there is still limited understanding of how students use language pragmatically on these platforms, especially in the form of illocutionary acts, which carry hidden meanings beyond the literal content of the message. Illocutionary acts represent the speaker's intention, such as inviting, advising, encouraging, or expressing emotions, and these are often embedded subtly in casual expressions. Comments, in particular, play a crucial role in revealing these intentions, as they allow students to interact with others through expressive, assertive, and directive speech acts. For example, in the caption, "This will be new history, with new people," the speaker performs an assertive act expressing hope and motivation for a new beginning. However, this may be misunderstood as a negative comment about abandoning old friends, as seen in a response like "You're replacing your old friends, huh?" which reflects a failure to recognize the intended illocutionary force. Such misinterpretations can lead to conflict or emotional misunderstanding. Therefore, this study is important to analyze how third-semester English Education students at Nommensen HKBP University perform illocutionary acts through their Instagram posts and comments. By uncovering the intentions behind their words, the research seeks to understand their communicative strategies better, enhance pragmatic awareness, and promote more effective and meaningful digital communication (KARAASLAN et al., 2018).

This study examines illocutionary speech acts in Instagram posts and comments by third-semester English Education students at Nommensen HKBP University. Adopting a descriptive qualitative method, the study analyses students' Instagram interactions to identify and classify various illocutionary acts. These speech acts are integral to daily communication, particularly on social media platforms like Instagram, where users share intentions, opinions, and interactions.

The research on Instagram posts and student comments, particularly in the context of illocutionary acts, aims to understand the communication patterns occurring on social media, especially those related to identity expression and social interaction. As a social media platform,

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Instagram plays a significant role in shaping how students communicate with their surroundings, personally and academically (Kuang & Zheng, 2022b).. Through the analysis of illocutionary acts, this study explores how students convey their intentions and purposes, such as giving instructions, expressing emotions, or simply sharing (Sari & Pranoto, 2022).

information. Furthermore, this research aims to investigate the influence of social media on the evolution of communication practices and how the platform is utilised to strengthen social connections and build digital identities. Therefore, this study is expected to provide deeper insights into the dynamics of student communication in the digital era and its contribution to the development of their communication skills in virtual spaces (Cresti, 2018).

Therefore, this study is conducted to investigate the use of illocutionary speech acts in Instagram posts and comments, particularly among third-semester English Education students. By analyzing their digital interactions, this research aims to reveal how language functions pragmatically in social media contexts and how students convey meaning, express emotions, and build social connections through illocutionary acts.

METHOD

This chapter described the steps of the study in further detail. It included the design of the study, methods for gathering and analyzing data, research tools, and the reliability of the results. The type of study explained the methodology employed in this investigation. Meanwhile, equipment, methods of data collection, and methods of data analysis showed how the data were gathered and examined using the findings of the study. The procedure for ensuring the legitimacy of the data was discussed in the final section of this chapter. Below is a presentation of each section.

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research approach. In this study, the researcher used a qualitative methodology. Qualitative research was defined as research conducted without the use of statistics, facts, or hypotheses. According to Abawi (2008:5), the purpose of qualitative research was to address a problem or symptom that had occurred in society. When using a qualitative design, the researcher had to observe and discover the truth without being influenced. Because the researcher aimed to explain an action in a particular object, the researcher also employed descriptive research as a method in this study. Based on Sandelowski (Ali, 2021) descriptive research was often described in academic texts as occupying the lowest level in the qualitative research hierarchy.

This research analyzed the Instagram posts and comments of third-semester English Education students at Nommensen HKBP University using various types of illocutionary act utterances. This study examined posts and comments that included illocutionary acts as well as the effects of using illocutionary acts in online interactions. The research design was utilized to gather and analyze data in order to answer the formulation of the problem in this study. This was a descriptive qualitative study. The descriptive qualitative research was undertaken to determine the various types of illocutionary acts and their repercussions. The subjects of the study were students in the third semester of English instruction at Nommensen HKBP

The data of this research was gathered from the posts and comments on Instagram of third-semester students from Nommensen HKBP University, and the source of the data is Instagram. Based on Marr (Cresti, 2018) data is the basic material from which information is generated. Data is kept, processed, and turned into intelligible insights that enable humans or systems to make informed decisions and communicate more effectively. The data came from the Instagram accounts of four students: @Icaafrianisitorus, @givalentine_, @novia.as.564, and @cristina_nelvana, whose posts and comments contain topics related to emotional expression and social identity

Observation was defined as a methodical description of events, behaviors, and objects in the social situation under study (Kawulich, 2005:2). The researcher performed observations to acquire information on what forms of illocutionary acts were used and which types were most dominantly

Grace Joy Sigalingging, Sahlan Tampubolon, Sahat Taruli Siahaan| An Analysis of Illocutionary Speech Acts in Instagram Posts and Comments by Third-Semester English Education Students of Nommensen HKBP

used by students in Instagram posts and comments. Students' written expressions were analyzed based on their posts and comments on social media. The Instagram profiles of the students were used as an instrument.

The researcher took numerous measures to obtain data. According to Sugiyono (Sari & Pranoto, 2022), research data were fixed materials relevant to solving the research problem. The data were gathered as words, phrases, and sentences collected through screenshots from an Instagram account, using documentation and selection techniques to obtain information for analysis in the study. The data analysis technique used in this research was the content analysis technique. Content analysis was a technique used to analyze text data by identifying words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. In this case, the object being analyzed used content analysis techniques, that is Instagram uploads and students' comments.

The next stage following data collection was data analysis. Miles and Huberman (Cresti, 2020) defined data analysis as the process of arranging and categorizing data to reveal themes. The goal of data analysis was to organize, categorize, and summarize the data so that it could be better understood, interpreted, and related to important findings. The next stage was to classify the data based on Searle's (Sameer, 2017) definition of speech acts, which included assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative, and then to find the dominant types that were usually utilized by students in postings and comments. Triangulation was an essential aspect of qualitative research that ensured the validity and reliability of collected data. It involved verifying the truth of the data by examining it from different perspectives. In this study, triangulation was employed to confirm the accuracy and legitimacy of the data, enhancing the credibility of the findings. According to Fusch et al. (Kosasih Galingging & Tannuary, 2022) triangulation could be divided into four types:

1. Data Source Triangulation: This type ensured that data was comprehensive and saturated by involving multiple sources and maintaining interactive activities throughout the data analysis process;
2. Investigator Triangulation: This involved multiple researchers in data collection and analysis to reduce bias and ensure a broader perspective on the findings;
3. Theoretical Triangulation: In this approach, various theoretical frameworks were applied to analyze the data, allowing for the verification of findings through different lenses to avoid subjective interpretations;
4. Methodological Triangulation: This type involved using multiple methods, such as surveys, interviews, and observations, to collect and compare data, thus providing a complete and accurate picture of the research subject.

In this study, data source triangulation was used to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data. The researcher collected data from four Instagram accounts with different topics. One topic focused on emotional expression and social identity, while another emphasized self-confidence and self-validation (Sibarani, 2018). By using multiple data sources, the study made sure the data was complete and covered different viewpoints, which helped improve the credibility, validity, and reliability of the research findings. This approach provided a clearer and more accurate understanding of the topics

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Data

This chapter presents the data analysis and results derived from the posts and comments made by third semester students of the English Education Department at Nommensen HKBP University. The primary objective of this chapter is to systematically present the gathered data, ensuring that it

Grace Joy Sigalingging, Sahlan Tampubolon, Sahat Taruli Siahaan| An Analysis of Illocutionary Speech Acts in Instagram Posts and Comments by Third-Semester English Education Students of Nommensen HKBP provides meaningful insights to support the discussion in the subsequent sections. The data for this research were collected using a descriptive qualitative method, focusing on an in-depth textual content analysis. Specifically, this study employed a case study approach to obtain detailed information regarding students' linguistic expressions in their Instagram posts and comments. By analysing their use of language, the research aimed to identify the illocutionary acts embedded in their interactions.

The research was conducted by examining the Instagram accounts of four third semester students at Nommensen HKBP University. The researcher systematically collected data from their posts and comments, focusing on the structure, meaning, and functions of their sentences. Each post and comment was analysed to determine the types of speech acts utilised by the students, particularly in relation to illocutionary acts such as assertives, directives, expressives, commissives, and declaratives (Al-Mudhaffari et al., 2020)

The results provide valuable insights into the pragmatic competence of students, as reflected in their social media interactions. The results of this research will be further discussed in the following sections, highlighting the significant patterns and implications observed in the students' social media interactions.

Results and Discussion

These results provide insights into how students express their intentions through language in social media communication. The examination of data collected from Instagram posts and comments made by third-semester English Education students at Nommensen HKBP University reveals three categories of illocutionary speech acts: assertives, directives, and expressive. The results show that the students utilized 12 aggressive speech acts, 8 directive speech acts, and 20 expressive speech acts. These speaking acts take many forms, including presenting facts or beliefs (assertives), giving advice or making requests (directives), and expressing feelings such as thanks and encouragement. The existence of these three types suggests that students use Instagram not only for social connection, but also to convey ideas, influence others, and express emotions. Each sort of speech act has a distinct communication function, adding to the breadth of language use in digital conversation. The dataset contained no occurrences of commissive or declarative speech activities (Sun & Hu, 2023). This absence shows that the students did not use Instagram to make formal commitments or impose institutional authority through language use, which is consistent with the informal and personal nature of their online interactions.

The most dominant type of illocutionary speech act found in the students' Instagram posts and comments is the expressive act, which occurred 20 times out of 40 total speech acts, accounting for 50% of the data. The expressive act was the most common sort of illocutionary speech act found in the students' Instagram posts and comments, accounting for 20 of the 40 total speech actions and 50% of the data. This suggests that students predominantly use Instagram to convey their feelings, such as gratitude, encouragement, congrats, and personal recognition. Expressive activities are critical in establishing and maintaining social relationships, reflecting students' proclivity to utilize language for emotive rather than transactional goals in digital communication. Assertive activities were discovered 12 times (30%), indicating that students use Instagram to convey views, beliefs, and factual declarations, albeit to a lower extent. Directive acts, which occur 8 times (20%), suggest that certain postings or comments were made to influence others by advising or demanding actions. The absence of commissive and declarative speech acts emphasizes the informal and personal nature of Instagram connections. Commissive acts, which contain promises or obligations, are more typically utilized in formal or goal-oriented circumstances, whereas declarative acts necessitate institutional authority, which students lack in informal social media environments. These findings show that students' Instagram communication is mostly used for emotional expression and social connection rather than formal speaking functions (Arthur & Fenyi, 2022).

Discussion

The results of this study indicate that expressive speech acts are the most frequently used type of illocutionary act in the Instagram posts and comments of third- semester students, expressive 50% of the total instances. This suggests that students predominantly use Instagram to convey emotions, express thoughts and social identity and engage in social interactions rather than merely sharing information or making requests. Expressive speech acts, such as congratulating, thanking, and welcoming, demonstrate how students actively participate in digital social interactions and offer emotional support to their peers. The second most frequent category is assertive speech acts, accounting for 30% of the total occurrences, which include assertions, factual statements, and personal claims. This suggests that, besides emotional expression, students use Instagram as a platform for sharing opinions, communicating beliefs, and engaging in intellectual discussions. Meanwhile, directive speech acts, which include inviting, advising, and requesting, make up 20% of the total instances. These acts reflect students' efforts to influence their audience's actions, such as encouraging participation in events or seeking responses. Interestingly, the dataset did not contain any instances of commissive or declarative speech acts, indicating that students do not frequently use Instagram to make commitments or enact institutional changes (Mariana et al., 2018).

These results highlight the communicative tendencies of students in digital spaces, particularly on Instagram. The prevalence of expressive speech acts suggests that students perceive Instagram as a platform for emotional engagement and relational bonding rather than for transactional or authoritative discourse. The frequent use of assertive speech acts further supports the notion that students utilise Instagram not only for social expression but also for intellectual engagement and self-presentation. Meanwhile, the lower frequency of directive speech acts indicates that persuasive communication is not a primary function in their interactions on this platform. The complete absence of commissive and declarative speech acts suggests that students do not commonly use Instagram for making promises, commitments, or authoritative declarations. This finding aligns with the idea that Instagram serves more as a space for personal and social expression rather than for formal or institutional communication.

The research conducted by Khairatunnisa and Manaf (2020) found that directive speech acts were the most dominant in student interactions on social media, primarily reflecting students' attempts to request or instruct others. However, the current study revealed that expressive speech acts, which focus on conveying emotions, were more prevalent among students, highlighting a tendency to use social media platforms as a means of emotional expression. This suggests that students, in particular, prefer to express their personal feelings and emotions rather than engage in directive communication. Similarly, Fadillah et al. (Cer, 2019) found that expressive speech acts, such as expressions of gratitude, praise, and criticism, dominated comments on Instagram. This result closely aligns with the current study, which also identified expressive speech acts as the most common, underscoring the role of Instagram as a platform for students to emotionally engage with their peers, share sentiments, and strengthen social bonds.

Sidiq and Simatupang (2019) focused on public figures like Dwayne Johnson and LeBron James, who predominantly used assertive speech acts on Twitter to convey information or personal opinions. In contrast, the current study revealed that students favored expressive speech acts, suggesting a divergence in the purpose of social media communication: public figures use platforms for more informative and persuasive purposes, while students prioritize emotional expression and social support, particularly on visually-driven platforms like Instagram. Dewi (2019) also observed the dominance of directive and expressive speech acts in Instagram captions, particularly in the context of online shop promotions. While expressive speech acts were also central in both Dewi's and

the current study, a crucial distinction lies in the communicative intent: Dewi's study emphasized the illocutionary force of persuasion in marketing, aiming to influence consumer behavior, whereas the current research centers on the social and emotional functions of communication among students, particularly in fostering relationships and community.

Aistisya and Prabawa (Pardede & Herman, 2020) found that expressive speech acts, especially expressions of gratitude, were dominant in their study, further corroborating the current study's results. Both studies highlight the emotional dimension of social media communication, showing that students and even public figures use these platforms to share information and build positive relationships and a supportive social image. Overall, the findings across these studies, while similar in the dominance of expressive speech acts, reveal notable differences in communicative contexts, such as the shift from informational exchanges in the case of public figures to emotional and relational interactions among students. This highlights the multifaceted role of social media, which serves as both a tool for personal expression and a means of fostering social connections in a digital age.

The significance of these results lies in their implications for understanding digital communication patterns among students. The dominance of expressive and assertive speech acts reinforces the idea that Instagram functions primarily as a medium for self-expression, social connection, and intellectual discourse rather than a tool for directive or performative speech. This insight is valuable for educators and researchers examining digital literacy and online interaction, as it emphasizes the role of social media in shaping students' communicative behaviors. Furthermore, understanding these patterns can provide insights into how students navigate and construct their identities in digital environments. By recognizing the functions and limitations of speech acts on Instagram, future studies can explore how social media influences language use, interpersonal communication, and social interaction in digital contexts (Pohan, 2018).

The second research, "Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in Prabowo's Speech at the Consolidation of Winning Presidential Candidates in 2023" by Yessy Octavianna, Carolina Pakpahan, and Wika Sihalo (Octavianna et al., 2024). Found that assertive speech acts were the most dominant, appearing 35 times (47.29%) out of 74 utterances. These acts were followed by directive and expressive types, while no declarative acts were identified. The dominance of assertives in Prabowo's speech reflects his intent to convey certainty, authority, and clarity to his audience. This study shows that assertive acts are effective in delivering strong political messages and influencing public perception through factual and confident statements.

Triangulation

This section analyses the triangulated data to verify its consistency with the research results. By comparing the collected utterances, the analysis aims to confirm whether the data aligns with the classification of expressive speech acts and supports the research conclusions. This process ensures the accuracy and reliability of the research results.

Data Source Triangulation

The following section presents the data triangulation derived from various social media interactions. This process aims to establish the validity of language use patterns by collecting data from multiple sources. Through this triangulation, the study captures a broader perspective on the linguistic expressions and communication patterns observed in social media environments. The utterances collected are as follows.

To increase the validity of the research findings, data source triangulation was used. The following ten sources of triangulated data contribute to a more comprehensive and reliable knowledge of students' Instagram communication patterns.

Table 1. Data Source Triangulation

No	Utterances
1.	@cristina_nelvana It's a shame it wasn't posted
2.	@cristina_nelvana Maybe if there's something sweeter than me, it's probably sugar.
3.	@cristina_nelvana Juicy Luicy for now, because I haven't met Tulus yet
4.	@cristina_nelvana You're so beautiful
5.	@cristina_nelvana Thank youuu, my love, who's just as beautiful!
6.	@Novia.as.564 Some people are like clouds. When they disappear, it's a brighter day
7.	@Novia.as.564 Simple things can bring so much peace.
No.	Utterances
8.	@Novia.as.564 Grateful to enjoy the beauty of such a peaceful place. Being surrounded by nature's calmness brings joy and serenity.
9.	@Novia.as.564 Don't forget to take a moment to enjoy the beauty around you and let nature soothe your soul.
10.	@givalentine_ I don't know what the concept is

The research results are strengthened by employing data triangulation. Information is verified through different perspectives and methodologies using posts and comments on topics of self-confidence and self-validation. This process enhances the credibility and trustworthiness of the study's conclusions.

The Data Source Triangulation Analysis

Data source triangulation analysis was carried out to increase the reliability of the research findings. The following is an examination of ten triangulated data sources that provide detailed insights into the students use of speech acts on Instagram.

Table 2. The Data Source Triangulation Analysis

No	Data Utterances	Assertive	Directive	Commissive	Expressive	Declarative	Explanation
1.	@cristina_nelvana It's a shame it wasn't posted				<input type="checkbox"/>		This caption was written by the user @cristina_nelvana. This utterance serves to express

(Expressives, Deploring)	disappointment or regret about something that did not happen as expected. Since this utterance conveys a negative emotional reaction toward an unfortunate situation (the fact that something was not posted),it falls under the deploring category of expressive acts.
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Notwithstanding the structural similarity, a salient thematic divergence is discernible. This secondary dataset foregrounds self-assurance and personal validation as its core communicative imperatives. Expressions such as “Maybe if there’s something sweeter than me, it’s probably sugar” exemplify a rhetoric of self- aggrandisement, functioning as a discursive strategy for affirming one’s intrinsic value while simultaneously soliciting external validation. Additionally, assertive speech acts like “I don’t know what the concept is” reflect a self-reflexive modality, indicative of an emergent subjectivity wherein students engage in introspective discourse to articulate intellectual humility or conceptual ambivalence. The directive speech acts within this dataset, such as “Don’t forget to enjoy the beauty around you,” assume a hortatory function, advocating for mindfulness and psychological well-being. This pragmatic shift from external solicitation to inward affirmation suggests a recalibration of communicative priorities wherein self-construction eclipses mere social engagement. The triangulation data thus provides empirical substantiation for the hypothesis that Instagram is not merely a social conduit but also a performative arena for self-validation and identity reinforcement.

The table below shows the findings of data source triangulation, which includes ten validated data points to verify study validity.

Table 3. Table Data Source Results Triangulation

No	Illocutionary Acts	Illocutionary Forces	Frequencies	Percentage (%)
1.	Assertives	1) Factual Statements	2	40%
		2) Claims	2	
2.	Directives	1) Advising	1	10%
3.	Commisives	-	-	0%
4.	Expressives	1) Deploring	1	50%
		2) Congratulating	1	
		3) Thanking	3	
5.	Declaratives	-	-	0%
TOTAL			10	100%

Based on the results of the data triangulation, Expressives dominate the speech act categories with a 50% percentage, followed by Assertives at 40% and Directives at 10%. This indicates that most of the utterances analyzed express the speaker’s feelings or psychological states.V The triangulation process confirms the accuracy and validity of the data analysis, as the Expressives category consistently appears as the most frequent type of speech act across different data sources

Grace Joy Sigalingging, Sahlan Tampubolon, Sahat Taruli Siahaan| An Analysis of Illocutionary Speech Acts in Instagram Posts and Comments by Third-Semester English Education Students of Nommensen HKBP (Akhmedovna, 2021). This consistency supports the conclusion that the primary purpose of communication in these utterances is to convey emotions and personal responses (Ratih, 2020). The alignment between the data and the analysis strengthens the reliability of the research results and verifies that the Expressives category is indeed the most dominant speech act in the observed communication context.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the illocutionary acts in the Instagram posts and comments of third-semester English Education students at Nommensen HKBP University, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The illocutionary speech acts found in the data include assertives, directives, and expressives. The data was collected from the Instagram accounts of third-semester English Education students, that is, @Icaafrianisitorus, @givalentine_, @novia.as.564, and @cristina_nelvana. Each account focused on different topics. For example, one account focused on emotional expression and social identity, while another emphasized self-confidence and self-validation. Students use assertive acts to express their thoughts, present factual information, and share personal perspectives. Directive acts are employed to influence others' behavior, such as offering advice, making invitations, and encouraging participation in activities. Expressive acts reflect the speaker's emotional state and are used to convey feelings such as gratitude, encouragement, congratulations, and welcome. No commissive or declarative speech acts were found in the data.
2. The most dominant type of illocutionary act found in the data is expressive. This type of speech act is used the most frequently, indicating that students primarily use Instagram for emotional expression, maintaining social connections, and strengthening interpersonal relationships. The prevalence of expressive acts emphasizes the affective nature of their digital communication, focusing on emotional support, social bonding, and self-expression. The absence of commissive and declarative speech acts is likely due to Instagram's informal and personal nature as a platform, which does not require formal commitments or declarations. In conclusion, this study demonstrates that social media serves as more than just an information-sharing tool; it is a dynamic space for self-expression, emotional connection, and identity formation. The students' linguistic choices reflect their inclination toward fostering interpersonal relationships, strengthening social bonds, and engaging in meaningful interactions rather than simply exchanging factual content. This highlights the evolving nature of digital communication, where social media platforms facilitate both personal expression and community engagement.

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