

ILLOCUTIONARY SPEECH ACTS IN NETIZENS' RESPONSES TO THE "INDONESIA GELAP" POLITICAL DISCOURSE ON X

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Abstract

This study examines illocutionary speech acts in netizens' comments on X regarding the President's "Indonesia Gelap" speech and explains their functions in constructing criticism, satire, opinions, and emotional expressions. This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach. Data were drawn from netizens' comments on X about the President's speech on migration abroad. The data consisted of written utterances containing illocutionary speech acts and were collected through observation and note-taking. The data were analyzed using Miles et al.'s (2014) interactive model. The findings show that expressive speech acts were the most dominant type, accounting for 75.53% of the data, followed by assertive speech acts (17.02%) and directive speech acts (7.45%). Expressive speech acts were primarily used to express anger, satire, criticism, and dissatisfaction toward public figures and socio-political conditions. Assertive speech acts functioned to convey opinions, evaluations, and claims, whereas directive speech acts appeared in the form of suggestions, commands, and prohibitions directed at particular parties. Commissive and declarative speech acts were absent from the dataset. These findings indicate that political communication on X tends to be spontaneous, emotional, and confrontational. Social media thus serves as a space for emotional expression, social criticism, and public opinion formation. This study contributes to digital pragmatics by demonstrating how expressive language functions as a dominant mechanism for political criticism and emotional engagement in online public discourse.

Keywords: *digital pragmatics; illocutionary speech acts; netizen expressions; political communication; social media; X*

1. Introduction

Social media functions as a public sphere where users express opinions, criticism, support, and evaluations regarding socio-political issues (Astuti, 2013; Padila, 2025; Suhendra & Pratiwi, 2024; William & Loisa, 2025). Digital platforms such as X have transformed communication patterns into faster, more open, and more massive interactions, enabling individuals to communicate, express opinions, and disseminate information in real time through virtual public spaces (I. Putri et al., 2022; Setiadi, 2016; Setiawan, 2023; Zordi et al., 2026). Comment sections now function not only as spaces for

responses but also as arenas for shaping public opinion and expressing collective attitudes toward public policies and statements made by political figures. Consequently, language use in social media frequently reflects communicative intentions such as criticism, satire, suggestions, commands, and emotional evaluations.

This phenomenon can be observed in netizens' responses to the President's speech on the "Indonesia Gelap" issue and the phenomenon of people wishing to move abroad. The speech generated diverse reactions on social media, particularly in the comment section of an X account that shared excerpts from the statement. The responses included satire, criticism, insults, and emotional expressions directed toward the issue and the speaker. This reflects distinctive features of digital communication: freedom of expression, anonymity, and socio-political context, all of which influence how users construct and communicate their views online (Fatimah, 2025; Gibson, 2019; Houghton et al., 2020; Mukhoyyaroh, 2020; Setiawan, 2023).

Such communicative practices can be examined through Speech Act Theory. Searle (1979) classified illocutionary acts into five categories—assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative—highlighting how utterances perform social actions rather than merely convey information. This theory interprets utterances beyond literal meaning by focusing on speakers' intentions and the social functions embedded in communication (Sagita & Setiawan, 2019). In social media environments, illocutionary speech acts provide insights into how netizens construct opinions, express attitudes, and communicate emotions toward public issues (Ameria et al., 2026; Pali' et al., 2024; Sembiring et al., 2026; Zidan, 2024).

The growing importance of digitally mediated communication has also contributed to the emergence of digital pragmatics, which examines how language use, meaning construction, and communicative intentions are shaped by online environments. Unlike traditional pragmatics, digital pragmatics focuses on interactions occurring through social media platforms and other networked technologies where communication is influenced by multimodality, user anonymity, algorithmic mediation, and the persistence of digital texts (Crystal, 2011; Diedrichsen, 2022; Sykes, 2021). In these environments, meaning is often conveyed through both linguistic and multimodal resources, including emojis, visual elements, and typography, which contribute to the interpretation of speakers' intentions (Čmehýlová-Rašová & Škvareninová, 2026; Rahardi et al., 2025). Moreover, digital communication facilitates the rapid circulation of opinions, emotions, and ideological positions, allowing users to negotiate identities, construct social meanings, and participate in public discourse in ways that differ from conventional communication contexts (Ivanyan, 2026; Rahmat et al., 2026). Therefore, the analysis of illocutionary speech acts on X offers valuable insights into contemporary digital political communication.

Prior studies have examined speech acts across various communication contexts, including Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, films, and talk shows (Hastuti et al., 2023; Indriani & Yuniawan, 2022; Maryati & Ningsih, 2023; Sampe et al., 2022). These studies have contributed to understanding the forms and functions of speech acts in digital and non-digital settings. However, most prior studies focused on structured communication contexts, leaving spontaneous netizen discourse on X relatively underexplored, particularly in relation to political issues.

Few studies have analyzed netizens' illocutionary acts in X comment sections responding to presidential speeches, especially expressive acts such as satire, criticism,

insults, and emotional evaluations. Existing research has largely emphasized the classification of speech act types rather than examining how speech acts function as mechanisms of political resistance, emotional mobilization, and public opinion construction in contemporary digital discourse. This limitation is significant because X has become one of the most influential platforms for political discussion and public contestation. Therefore, investigating illocutionary speech acts in responses to the President's speech on "Indonesia Gelap" provides an opportunity to extend current understanding of digital political communication and public engagement.

The novelty of this study lies in analyzing X comment sections on a contemporary political issue while integrating Searle's speech act framework with the socio-political functions of netizen discourse. Unlike previous studies that primarily focused on identifying speech act categories, this research also examines how netizens employ language to construct opinions, challenge public authority, express dissatisfaction, and negotiate political meanings in digital public spaces. By combining pragmatic analysis with socio-political interpretation, the study offers a broader understanding of the role of language in contemporary online political communication.

This study aims to describe illocutionary speech acts in netizens' comments on X about the "Indonesia Gelap" speech and to explain their communicative functions in constructing criticism, satire, opinions, and emotional expressions. This study contributes to digital pragmatics by showing how netizens' illocutionary acts on X construct socio-political criticism and emotional discourse within contemporary digital public spaces. The findings are expected to enrich research on speech acts in online environments and provide insights into the dynamics of political communication in social media.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Speech Act Theory and Illocutionary Acts

Speech Act Theory, introduced by Austin and further developed by Searle, views language as action rather than mere description. The theory classifies speech acts into three categories: locutionary acts (the production of utterances), illocutionary acts (the communicative intention behind utterances), and perlocutionary acts (the effects of utterances on listeners) (Cooren, 2015; Degooyer, 2010; Emery, 2010). Among these categories, illocutionary acts occupy a central position because they reflect the speaker's intended social action and communicative purpose (Hanna & Richards, 2019; Sovrano & Vitali, 2023).

Searle classified illocutionary acts into five categories: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Assertive acts convey information, beliefs, or opinions; directive acts seek to influence others' actions; commissive acts express commitments to future actions; expressive acts communicate emotions and psychological states; and declarative acts create changes in social reality through the utterance itself (Akyüz, 2023; Chanpradit et al., 2025; Demolombe & Louis, 2006; Edmondson, 1981; Hanna & Richards, 2019; Zainal, 2017). In digital communication, these categories are manifested in various forms, such as expressing opinions, giving recommendations, criticizing public figures, supporting political positions, or mobilizing collective responses to social issues.

Illocutionary acts differ from locutionary acts, which concern literal meaning, and perlocutionary acts, which focus on the effects generated on audiences (Hanna & Richards,

2019; Sovrano & Vitali, 2023). Rather than functioning solely as a means of information exchange, these classifications highlight language as social action embedded in particular communicative contexts (Chanpradit et al., 2025; Demolombe & Louis, 2006). Consequently, Speech Act Theory provides a valuable framework for examining how individuals use language to express attitudes, negotiate relationships, and construct meaning in contemporary digital environments.

2.2 Social Media as a Digital Communication Space

Social media has transformed communication by enabling interactive and multidirectional exchanges among individuals, organizations, and communities. Through digital platforms, users can participate in reciprocal interactions, share information, and engage in public discussions that shape responses to social and political issues (Katunga et al., 2023; Kuzmina & Abramov, 2023). As a result, social media plays a significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing collective reactions to current events.

Beyond information exchange, social media supports identity construction across age groups by enabling self-presentation, social comparison, and audience feedback (Pérez-Torres, 2024). These platforms also facilitate community formation, allowing users to exchange ideas, seek recommendations, and participate in discussions that strengthen social relationships and collective engagement (Chotia, 2025; Gazi et al., 2024; Sujith & Aju, 2025). Consequently, social media functions not only as a communication channel but also as a space where meanings, identities, and social positions are continuously negotiated.

Integrating speech act theory with social media studies reveals how illocutionary acts function in digital political communication. Previous studies demonstrate that speech acts are frequently employed in online interactions to express opinions, negotiate identities, convey evaluations, and establish social relationships (Akyüz, 2023; Chanpradit et al., 2025; Hanna & Richards, 2019). At the same time, the interactive nature of social media encourages rapid and emotionally charged communication, creating opportunities for users to respond immediately to social and political developments (Katunga et al., 2023; Kuzmina & Abramov, 2023).

Within these digitally mediated interactions, expressive speech acts appear particularly prominent because social media environments facilitate emotional disclosure, spontaneous reactions, and reduced social constraints compared with face-to-face communication (Chotia, 2025; Gazi et al., 2024; Pérez-Torres, 2024). Through comments, replies, and discussion threads, users frequently employ language to express criticism, dissatisfaction, support, satire, and other emotional responses toward public issues. Such communicative practices demonstrate how language functions not only as a vehicle for conveying information but also as a means of expressing attitudes and mobilizing public sentiment in digital spaces.

Although previous studies have successfully identified and classified speech act types across various digital platforms, limited attention has been devoted to understanding how expressive speech acts function as mechanisms of political resistance, emotional mobilization, and public opinion construction in contemporary political discourse. Moreover, studies focusing on spontaneous netizen interactions on X remain relatively scarce, particularly in relation to viral political narratives in Indonesia.

Therefore, the present study extends existing scholarship by investigating the realization and functions of illocutionary speech acts in netizens' responses to the

President's speech concerning "Indonesia Gelap." This review establishes the theoretical foundation for analyzing netizens' illocutionary acts on X while highlighting gaps in previous research on spontaneous political discourse. By examining the relationship between speech act realization and digital political engagement, the study contributes to the growing field of digital pragmatics and offers insights into the dynamics of political communication in contemporary social media environments.

3. Research Method

3.1 Research Approaches and Types

This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach. According to Creswell and Poth (2016), qualitative research is used to explore and understand meanings within social and humanities contexts. This approach was selected because the study aims to examine the meanings, contexts, and functions of language used by netizens in social media comment sections. The descriptive qualitative design enabled the researcher to analyze naturally occurring data and provide an in-depth interpretation of illocutionary speech acts in digital political communication.

3.2 Data Sources and Research Data

Data were drawn from netizens' comments on an X account that shared excerpts from the President's speech on the "Indonesia Gelap" issue and the phenomenon of people wishing to move abroad. The study focused on illocutionary speech acts classified by Searle (1979), namely assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative acts.

Comments were collected from posts published between 29–30 April 2026. After applying inclusion and exclusion criteria, 94 comments were selected for analysis. The inclusion criteria comprised comments containing identifiable illocutionary speech acts, contextual relevance to the issue under discussion, and sufficient linguistic content for interpretation. The unit of analysis consisted of written comments containing communicative intentions related to the political issue.

3.3 Data Collection Technique

Data were collected through observation and note-taking techniques (Sudaryanto, 2015), focusing on comments containing illocutionary speech acts. The researcher observed netizens' responses in the selected X post and recorded comments relevant to the research objectives. Data selection was based on three criteria: (1) comments containing illocutionary speech acts, (2) comments with identifiable contextual meanings, and (3) comments directly related to responses toward the President's speech on "Indonesia Gelap." Irrelevant, duplicated, or spam comments were excluded from the dataset.

3.4 Research Instrument

The researchers served as the primary instrument, directly involved in data collection, classification, interpretation, and conclusion drawing (Moleong, 2022). To support the analytical process, a classification table was used to group data according to Searle's categories of illocutionary speech acts. This instrument facilitated systematic coding and interpretation of the collected comment

3.5 Data Analysis Technique

Data were analyzed using the interactive model proposed by Miles et al. (2014), consisting of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. During data reduction, comments containing illocutionary speech acts were selected and categorized according to Searle's classification. In the data display stage, the categorized data were organized into tables and descriptive explanations to facilitate interpretation. Finally, conclusions were drawn by identifying dominant speech act types and explaining their communicative functions within the context of digital political discourse. Particular attention was given to how netizens employed language to express criticism, satire, opinions, and emotional evaluations regarding the political issue under discussion.

3.6 Data Validity

Data validity was ensured through theory triangulation. The findings were compared with Searle's theory of illocutionary speech acts and relevant studies in digital pragmatics to ensure consistency and accuracy in interpretation. In addition, repeated examination of data classification was conducted to enhance analytical reliability and reduce interpretive bias. These procedures strengthened the credibility of the findings and ensured that the analysis accurately reflected the communicative functions of netizens' utterances.

Because the study analyzed publicly accessible social media comments, informed consent was not required. To ensure ethical research practices and protect user privacy, usernames and other identifying information were omitted from the dataset, and all user identities were anonymized in the analysis and reporting of the findings. This approach was adopted to protect users' privacy and comply with ethical standards for online discourse research. Only comments relevant to the research objectives were included in the analysis, and no personal information was disclosed in the presentation of the findings.

This methodological design ensures the systematic identification of illocutionary speech acts and rigorous analysis of their functions in digital political discourse. Consequently, it provides a reliable framework for understanding how netizens use language to construct opinions, express emotions, and negotiate socio-political meanings within social media environments.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Results

The findings of this study were obtained from netizens' comments posted in response to the President's speech on the "Indonesia Gelap" issue and the phenomenon of people wishing to move abroad. Based on the analysis of 94 comments, three types of illocutionary speech acts were identified: assertive, directive, and expressive. No commissive or declarative speech acts were found in the dataset. The distribution of speech acts is presented in Table 1.

Table 1.

Distribution of Illocutionary Speech Acts in Netizens' Comments

No	Types of Speech Acts	Frequency	Percentage
1	Assertive	16	17.02%
2	Directive	7	7.45%

3	Expressive	71	75.53%
4	Commissive	0	0%
5	Declarative	0	0%
Total		94	100%

The results indicate that expressive speech acts were the most dominant category, accounting for 71 comments (75.53%). These utterances primarily conveyed emotions, evaluations, criticism, disappointment, and sarcasm toward the issues discussed. Assertive speech acts appeared in 16 comments (17.02%) and were used to express opinions, assumptions, and evaluations regarding social and political conditions. Directive speech acts occurred in 7 comments (7.45%) and generally contained suggestions, requests, or indirect commands directed toward public officials. No commissive or declarative speech acts were identified in the data. This suggests that the comment section mainly functioned as a space for emotional expression and opinion sharing rather than commitment-making or institutional declarations.

4.1.1 Assertive Speech Acts

Assertive speech acts were identified in 16 comments (17.02%). These utterances were mainly used to express opinions, assumptions, and evaluations regarding political figures and public issues.

Data 01

"Hobi banget yapping emang ni wowok" [This wowok really loves yapping all the time.]

This utterance reflects the speaker's evaluation of the target's communication behavior. Although expressed sarcastically, it presents a claim that the speaker considers valid based on personal observation. The comment functions to construct a negative perception of the target as someone who talks excessively.

Data 02

"Ndut lupa pernah ngacir ke yordania" [Ndut forgot that he once ran off to Jordan.]

The speaker refers to a past event to criticize the target. The utterance functions as both a reminder and a sarcastic evaluation of the target's perceived inconsistency.

Data 03

"beliau sedang mencontohkan dirinya sendiri" [He is actually using himself as the example.]

This comment conveys criticism through indirect satire. The speaker implies inconsistency between the target's statement and behavior. Rather than providing factual information, the utterance serves as an evaluative judgment presented in the form of a statement.

In general, assertive speech acts were predominantly employed to communicate criticism, assumptions, and negative evaluations of political figures and public statements

4.1.2 Directive Speech Acts

Directive speech acts occurred in 7 comments (7.45%). Most were expressed in the form of suggestions, requests, and indirect commands directed toward public officials.

Data 04

"Indonesia memang gelap pak. Coba cek PLN udah masuk ke seluruh wilayah Indonesia belum? Buat nerangin Indonesia, paling cuma butuh berapa hari MBG. Yang burem itu mata para pejabat." [Indonesia really is dark, sir. Try checking whether electricity from PLN has reached all regions of Indonesia yet. To brighten Indonesia, it probably only takes a few days, MBG. What is actually blurry is the vision of the officials.]

The phrase *"coba cek"* functions as a suggestion encouraging the target to verify social conditions directly. The utterance simultaneously conveys criticism toward perceived governmental detachment from public realities.

Data 05

"kek, mending ke lapangan, jgn keluar negeri terus, liat warga, bukan laporan enak dan bagus aja yg didenger." [Seriously, it is better to go directly to the field. Stop going abroad all the time. Look at the people, not only listen to pleasant and favorable reports.]

This utterance combines suggestion and prohibition. The speaker encourages greater engagement with citizens while criticizing the target's perceived distance from everyday social conditions.

Generally, directive speech acts served as a vehicle for expressing expectations regarding leadership, accountability, and responsiveness to public concerns.

4.1.3 Expressive Speech Acts

Expressive speech acts constituted the largest category, accounting for 71 comments (75.53%). These utterances primarily reflected emotions such as disappointment, anger, ridicule, sarcasm, and frustration.

Data 6

"Presiden ga tau diri. Cerewet nya udah kek boti" [The President has no self-awareness. He talks too much like a 'gay.']

This utterance expresses dissatisfaction and ridicule toward the target. The primary function is to communicate the speaker's negative emotional response.

Data 7

"anjing bgt ya ni orang, lebih sampah dari babi" [This person is such a damn dog, even more disgusting than a pig.]

The comment demonstrates a strong emotional reaction expressed through offensive language. Rather than presenting an argument, the utterance functions as a direct expression of anger and hostility.

Data 8

"Sumpah prabow udh ga cocok jadi presiden. Presiden apaan begini taiii tai" [Honestly, Prabowo is no longer suitable to be president. What kind of president is this, damn shit.]

The speaker expresses disappointment and rejection of the target's leadership. The utterance reflects a strongly negative evaluation accompanied by emotional intensity.

Data 9

"Pasti hati mungilnya pernah ditolak seme/uke dari yaman </3" [His tiny little heart must have once been rejected by a seme/uke from Yemen </3"]

The speaker employs sarcasm and mockery to express a negative attitude toward the target. The utterance does not aim to provide factual information but rather to ridicule the individual being discussed.

Data 10

"orang aneh, padahal dia sendiri yang kabur2an ke luar negeri! dasar orang tua bau tanah" [Such a weird person, even though he himself kept running abroad! Just an old fossil.]

This comment combines criticism and personal attack. The speaker highlights perceived inconsistency while simultaneously expressing frustration and disapproval.

The predominance of expressive speech acts indicates that the comment section functioned primarily as a space for emotional expression. Netizens tended to communicate feelings, evaluations, and reactions rather than engage in deliberative discussion or policy-oriented debate.

4.2 Discussion

The findings reveal that expressive speech acts dominated the comment section, accounting for 75.53% of the data. Rather than merely indicating the prevalence of a particular speech-act category, this pattern reflects the communicative characteristics of contemporary digital political discourse. The issue of *Indonesia Gelap* represents a politically sensitive topic that triggered strong public reactions, causing netizens to employ language primarily as a vehicle for expressing emotions, evaluations, and ideological positions. In this context, communication is not limited to information exchange but serves as a mechanism for displaying attitudes, negotiating political identities, and expressing collective dissatisfaction.

The dominance of expressive speech acts can be explained through the concept of affective publics, which argues that emotions play a central role in shaping online political participation. Social media platforms encourage users to respond rapidly to political events through emotional reactions that are highly visible and easily disseminated. Consequently, political discussions become increasingly driven by affective engagement rather than deliberative reasoning. Expressions of anger, disappointment, ridicule, and sarcasm found in the present study illustrate how emotional discourse functions as a means of constructing public responses to political issues.

These findings are consistent with the research conducted by Septiani et al. (2016), which found criticism to be the dominant form of expressive speech act. Similarly, Fatmawati and Ningsih (2024) argue that cyberpragmatic interactions are frequently characterized by criticism, satire, complaints, and emotional expressions due to the open and participatory nature of social media platforms. The present study extends these findings by demonstrating that emotional expression becomes even more salient when digital communication intersects with political controversy and public dissatisfaction.

The findings, however, differ from those reported by Cahyaningsih and Rahmawati (2022), who found that expressive speech acts in educational interactions were predominantly realized through agreement. Likewise, Nadhirah et al. (2022) identified a wider range of expressive forms, including praising, apologizing, criticizing, and complaining within classroom communication. Such differences highlight the importance of communicative context. Educational discourse is generally governed by pedagogical objectives, institutional norms, and interpersonal politeness. In contrast, social media discussions surrounding political issues tend to be spontaneous, evaluative, and emotionally charged, encouraging the emergence of more confrontational linguistic behavior.

A further explanation for the dominance of expressive speech acts can be found in the online disinhibition effect, whereby individuals communicate more freely and aggressively in online environments than they would in face-to-face interactions. Relative anonymity, reduced social accountability, and the absence of immediate interpersonal consequences often lower communicative restraints. As a result, users may express stronger emotions, harsher criticism, and more direct hostility toward public figures. This phenomenon was evident in the data, where expressive utterances frequently contained insults, mockery, derogatory labels, and sarcastic evaluations. From a digital-pragmatic perspective, such expressions indicate that language functions not only to communicate opinions but also to perform emotional positioning and identity construction in online spaces.

This tendency is closely related to the phenomenon of digital aggression, which refers to the use of language to attack, demean, or delegitimize individuals in digital communication environments. The prevalence of insults, ridicule, and hostile evaluations suggests that political disagreement on social media is often manifested through aggressive verbal behavior. Although such expressions may function as forms of political criticism, they simultaneously contribute to the intensification of polarization and antagonism within online public discourse. Thus, expressive speech acts in this study should be understood not merely as linguistic forms but also as manifestations of broader socio-political tensions operating within digital environments.

The findings also support Searle's (1979) theory of expressive speech acts, which emphasizes the role of language in conveying psychological states such as anger, disappointment, condemnation, and sarcasm. However, the present study demonstrates that in social media contexts, expressive speech acts perform broader social functions. They are used not only to communicate emotions but also to challenge authority, negotiate political identities, and construct public perceptions of political actors. Consequently, expressive speech acts become a strategic resource for participation in contemporary digital political discourse.

Although expressive speech acts dominated the dataset, assertive speech acts also played a significant role in shaping online discussions. Netizens frequently used assertions,

evaluations, accusations, and opinions to construct interpretations of political events and public figures. These findings are consistent with Kasih and Maharani (2024), who argue that assertive speech acts connect speakers to propositions they believe to be true. Similar patterns were identified by Putri et al. (2025), who found that assertive speech acts are commonly used to express evaluations, beliefs, and claims. In the present study, however, assertive speech acts often appeared intertwined with sarcasm and criticism, demonstrating that the boundary between factual assertion and evaluative commentary becomes increasingly blurred in digital political communication.

The findings also support Karuniawan et al. (2025), who explain that assertive speech acts function to communicate beliefs and viewpoints regarded as valid by speakers. Nevertheless, unlike institutional or academic communication, social media interactions allow subjective interpretations to be presented as seemingly factual statements. This tendency reflects the role of assertive speech acts in constructing legitimacy, reinforcing ideological positions, and influencing public perceptions. Consequently, assertive speech acts function not only as communicative acts but also as rhetorical strategies in online political debates.

Directive speech acts appeared less frequently than expressive and assertive forms. However, their presence remains significant because they reveal attempts by netizens to influence the behavior of public figures through suggestions, recommendations, prohibitions, and indirect commands. Expressions such as *coba cek PLN*, *jangan cuman denger informasi*, and *mending ke lapangan* demonstrate efforts to encourage political leaders to become more responsive to social realities.

These findings align with previous studies by Rahmadani et al. (2019), Astriani et al. (2023), Nurlita and Alber (2025), and Rahima and Yulisah (2023), all of which identified commands, prohibitions, and advice as dominant directive functions. However, unlike previous studies conducted in novels, dramas, or educational settings, directive speech acts in the present study emerged within a highly dynamic digital environment. Consequently, directive expressions were frequently accompanied by criticism, sarcasm, and evaluative language. This finding suggests that directives in political social media discourse are often less concerned with offering solutions and more concerned with expressing dissatisfaction and demanding accountability.

The absence of commissive and declarative speech acts further highlights the communicative orientation of social media discourse. Netizens primarily focused on expressing emotions, opinions, and evaluations rather than committing themselves to future actions or performing institutionally recognized declarations. This finding suggests that participation in digital political discourse is largely symbolic and expressive, emphasizing attitude display and opinion formation rather than concrete social action.

In general, this study contributes to the development of digital pragmatics by demonstrating how speech acts operate within emotionally charged political discussions on social media. The findings indicate that X functions not merely as an information-sharing platform but as a space where emotional discourse, digital aggression, identity performance, and public opinion formation intersect. The predominance of expressive speech acts reflects the transformation of contemporary political communication into increasingly affective, confrontational, and emotionally mediated forms of interaction. Such developments

illustrate how digital platforms reshape the ways individuals participate in public discourse and respond to socio-political issues in contemporary society.

5. Conclusion

This study found that expressive speech acts dominated netizens' responses to the "Indonesia Gelap" political discourse on X, comprising approximately three-quarters of the dataset. Assertive and directive speech acts appeared less frequently, while commissive and declarative speech acts were absent. These findings indicate that X primarily functions as a space for emotional expression, social criticism, and public evaluation of political issues. Expressive acts manifested through anger, sarcasm, mockery, and insults, reflecting netizens' emotional responses toward public figures and political statements. Assertive acts conveyed evaluations and opinions, often through satire and subjective judgments presented as credible interpretations of social and political realities. Meanwhile, directive acts appeared in suggestions and prohibitions, reflecting attempts at constructive criticism and calls for greater responsiveness from political leaders. The findings suggest that digital political communication on X is spontaneous, open, and confrontational. Anonymity and freedom of expression shape netizens' language use in digital spaces, encouraging the public display of emotions, criticism, and political attitudes. Consequently, X serves not only as a platform for information exchange but also as a site where public opinion, political identity, and social criticism are actively negotiated through language. From a digital-pragmatic perspective, the predominance of expressive speech acts reflects the emergence of emotionally driven political discourse in online environments. The findings further demonstrate how social media facilitates affective engagement and confrontational communication, allowing users to express dissatisfaction, challenge authority, and construct evaluations of public figures through linguistic practices. This study contributes to digital pragmatics by revealing how netizens' speech acts on X construct emotional, critical, and confrontational political discourse. These findings may assist researchers, policymakers, and digital communication practitioners in understanding how emotional discourse shapes public responses to political communication on social media and influences the dynamics of contemporary digital public spheres.

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