

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This research set out to examine Calum's expressive speech acts in the film *Aftersun* and to explore how those utterances reflect symptoms of depression. Using a qualitative method and applying Searle's theory of expressive speech acts, the study focused specifically on Calum's dialogue, which was selected using purposive sampling. The goal was to identify utterances that not only served expressive functions but also revealed deeper emotional and psychological states, particularly those associated with depressive symptoms as described by Beck and Alford.

The results show that Calum's expressive speech acts are heavily dominated by negative expressions, including complaining, apologizing, lamenting, and expressing frustration. There are no instances of expressive acts like boasting, welcoming, or congratulating. More specifically, the analysis reveals that five core symptoms of depression, reduction in gratification, negative expectation, low self-evaluation, self-criticism, and fatigability, are manifested through Calum's expressive speech acts.

Many of Calum's symptomatic expressions occurred during interactions with his daughter, Sophie, or in situations where parental expectations were high, indicating that his depression significantly impacted his ability to engage and fulfill his paternal role as he might have wished. Calum never explicitly states he is depressed. Instead, he hints at his struggles through the subtle way he speaks.

In conclusion, Calum's emotional deterioration throughout *Aftersun* is a result of his internal struggle with depression, which he silently carries beneath daily interactions. His expressive speech acts reveal depression symptoms, each reflecting the complex and layered nature of his psychological state. Though he tries to maintain the appearance of a present and caring father, his words often betray a deeper sadness and emotional withdrawal. Calum's story serves as a quiet but powerful reminder of how depression can be hidden behind ordinary language, and it emphasizes the importance of listening closely to what people say and what they don't.