

ABSTRACT

As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow by Zoulfa Katouh is a novel that portrays the psychological struggles of its main character, Salama, who lives in the middle of war in Syria. Throughout the story, Salama frequently expresses her emotional distress, which can be analyzed through her lamentative utterances. This study aims to explore the types and functions of lamentation as expressive speech acts, as well as symptoms associated with Major Depressive Disorder based on Searle & Vanderveken (1985) and APA (2013). This study employs a descriptive qualitative method to analyze Salama's utterances. The results show that there are 20 data of lamentation, consisting of dissatisfaction (8), grief (7), and sorrow (5). The dominance of dissatisfaction indicates that Salama primarily expresses her emotional distress through hopelessness, helplessness, and emotional frustration. In terms of MDD symptoms, depressed mood (12) appears as the most dominant, followed by worthlessness (6) and fatigue (2). This finding suggests that Salama's lamentation reflects a consistent use of sadness and hopelessness. This study implies that expressive speech acts, particularly lamentation, can reveal deeper psychological conditions of a character, especially in relation to depressive symptoms.

Keywords: expressive speech acts; lamentation; major depressive disorder; *As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow*; Salama Kassab