

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

See You in the Cosmos is a middle-grade novel written by Jack Cheng and published in 2017. The story revolves around Alex Petroski, the main character and narrator in the novel. He is an eleven-year-old aspiring astronaut who dreams of launching his golden iPod into space as a record of his daily life. Alex documents his experiences on his iPod, a narrative device throughout the novel. He records everything he encounters, from conversations with people he meets along the way to his thoughts and observations about the world around him.

To describe the characterization of Alex, the author will analyze Alex's expressive speech acts first. Expressive speech acts are one of the aspects that are part of pragmatic studies. Pragmatics, a field within linguistics, focuses on the practical use of language. It considers that effective communication involves more than just grammar and vocabulary; it also encompasses cultural, situational, and social factors. Pragmatics helps to study how different factors work together to create meaning and make communication clear, as shown in the story mentioned earlier (Senft, 2014). Based on Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (2006), pragmatics involves the utilization of language in specific situations to convey a speaker's intention to a listener. Pragmatics focuses on various elements, including

the context of communication, pointing out things in speech, underlying assumptions, implied meanings, and the functions of speech acts. According to Searle (1969:21), speech acts are divided into six categories which are, assertive, commissive, directive, declarative, and expressive. Expressive speech acts, in particular, can be classified into six categories: thanking, apologizing, congratulating, wishing, and expressing attitudes.

The writer is interested in discovering Alex Petroski's character based on his expressive speech acts not other kinds of speech acts because expressive speech acts, involving the expression of feelings and desires, offer a unique glimpse into Alex's thoughts. Through studying what Alex says, one can describe his true emotions and character. Characterization analysis in narrative literary works can be effectively conducted through the observation of expressive speech acts. By examining how his characters express his emotions, desires, and intentions through speech, one gains insights into his personalities. When integrated with broader context, including actions, thoughts, and interactions between the speaker and the hearer, the analysis becomes more comprehensive, enabling a deeper understanding of Alex Petroski.

This study will use a qualitative method to examine the expressive speech acts used by Alex in the novel to describe his characterization. Alex's utterances are annotated manually first in the PDF file and transferred into a table for clear findings.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What kinds of expressive speech acts occur in Alex's utterances?
2. What is the most dominant expressive speech acts from Alex's utterances?
3. How expressive speech acts can be analyzed to depict the characterization of the main character?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study aims to explain Alex's characterization by discovering what expressive speech acts that occur and what is the most dominant expressive speech acts from his utterances and how the expressive speech acts are analyzed to describe the characterization.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The unit of analysis of this research focuses on the narrator's utterances as the main character in *See You in the Cosmos*. The selected utterances are focused on Alex's expressive speech acts, followed by the context of the conversation between Alex and other characters in the story.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is that it delivers a deeper understanding of the characterization of Alex Petroski in Jack Cheng's narrative. By examining Alex's

expressive speech acts, this analysis enhances the understanding of Alex's characterization considering his roles as both protagonist and narrator.

1.6 Previous Studies

This study references ten previous studies. The first part of this section discusses six studies that analyze the expressive speech acts of specific characters, mostly the main character. The second part focuses on the expressive speech acts of all characters in a novel or movie. All of the previous studies focused on expressive speech acts, but none of them used the novel *See You in the Cosmos* as their research object.

Mustofa et al. (2019) studied expressive speech acts from the novel *New Moon* by Stephanie Meyer. The study focuses on analyzing expressive speech acts employed by male characters within the context of romantic speech events in the novel. The theoretical framework applied in this research is based on the work proposed by Yule (1996). The findings of this investigation revealed the presence of fifteen distinct types of expressive speech acts exhibited by the male characters (Mustofa & Nababan, 2019).

In 2022, Kurniasih and Mutlasi used Searle's (1976) theory to analyze expressive speech acts in the movie *Ecanto*. Their qualitative descriptive analysis revealed that the main character predominantly engages in the Expressive of

Attitudes type, expressing emotions of dislike, complaint, and criticism (Kurniasih & Mutlasih, 2022).

In 2022, Ningtyas et al. analyzed how Sam and Rita, the main characters in the movie *I Am Sam*, used expressive speech acts. They used Searle's (1976) theory and descriptive qualitative analysis to identify the types and differences of expressive speech acts by Sam and Rita. They found that expressive speech acts helped the characters express their feelings, attitudes, and emotions. They also found that Sam mostly used praise, while Rita mostly used expressions of dislike. This showed that intellectually disabled people, like Sam, were more positive than nondisabled people, like Rita (Ningtyas et al., 2022).

In 2019, Widyowati studied the expressive speech acts used by the main characters in the movie *Dear John*. The research used a mixed-method approach and data from the movie's dialogues. The analysis was based on theories by Yule (1996) and Clark (1995). The results showed that six out of seven types of expressive speech acts were used, with thanking being the most common (Widyowati, 2019).

Selsibilla et al. (2022) analyzed the expressive speech acts and their contexts of the main character in the movie *Joker*. They used a descriptive qualitative method and data from the movie by Todd Phillips. They also used Dell Hymes' (1974) SPEAKING framework to study the contexts. They found six types of expressive

speech acts in 27 utterances. The main character often used greetings to say hello to others (Selsibilla et al., 2022)

Sirwan & Yulia (2017) studied the expressive speech acts and their contexts by Steve Rogers in the movie *Civil War*. They used Dell Hymes' SPEAKING model and data from the movie's dialogues. They found ten types of expressive speech acts in 45 utterances. They showed how Steve Rogers expressed his feelings and emotions with care, sympathy, and empathy (Sirwan & Yulia, 2017).

In this section, previous studies have focused on the expressive speech acts of all characters in literary works, such as novels and movies.

In 2019, Selviani and Pujiyati used Searle's (1968) theoretical framework to analyze expressive speech acts in the dialogue from Indah Riyana's novel, *The Perfect Husband*. Their qualitative descriptive analysis revealed various forms and functions of expressive speech acts within the novel. (Selviani & Pujiyati, 2019).

In 2022, Tanjung et al. investigated expressive speech acts in *The Lovely Bones* movie. They used qualitative methods to analyze the characters' utterances and found nine types of expressive speech acts, including apologizing, blaming, congratulating, doubting, greeting, praising, regretting, thanking, and wishing. The most common type was praising, used by characters to admire someone or something for the listener's benefit (Tanjung et al., 2022.).

In 2015, Raharjo analyzed expressive utterances in the SpongeBob SquarePants movie. He used a descriptive qualitative research method to identify the characteristics and variability of expressive utterances by the characters. He found four types of sentence structures used for expressive utterances (Raharjo, 2005).

Furthermore, Sukarto and Anggraini (2022) studied expressive speech acts in the short film *Tilik* by Wahyu Agung Prasetyo. They used theories by John Rogers Searle and Dell Hymes to analyze the data. They found six types of expressive speech acts: blaming, insinuating, complaining, praising, apologizing, and thanking. They concluded that expressive speech acts are part of illocutionary speech acts and have different functions depending on the speaker's intention. (Sukarto & Anggraini, 2022)

This study differs from other studies in that none of the previous studies have used *See You in the Cosmos* as their object. While other studies simply conclude their data and identify the most dominant data, they do not use it for further analysis of specific characters that produce expressive speech acts as a parameter for characterizing the character.

1.7 Writing Organization

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the background, research questions, purpose, scope, significance, previous studies, and organization of the study

CHAPTER II: THEORY AND METHODS

This section provides a literary review of the theory used to analyze the data gathered for this research.

CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter describes the research methods used in this study, including the type of research, data, population, sample, and sampling technique; the method of collecting data; and the method of analyzing data

CHAPTER IV: FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the results of the analysis by using tables and explains what kinds of expressive speech acts are found in Alex's utterances and how they can be used to depict his characterization

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the inference based on the analysis result of this study.