

CHAPTER III

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings and analysis of the expressive speech acts performed by the character Wednesday Addams in the *Wednesday* (2022) Netflix Series. The study focuses on how her utterances reflect various types of expressive acts such as thanking, greeting, complimenting, condoling, lamenting, complaining, protesting, and boasting, as classified under Searle & Vanderveken (1985) theory of expressive illocutionary acts. The results are categorized based on the types of expressive acts found in the data, followed by a detailed discussion that interprets how these acts serve to reveal Wednesday Addams's character traits. Character traits, in this context, refer to the consistent patterns of behavior, attitude, and expression that define an individual's personality. This analysis not only highlights the frequency and forms of expressive acts used but also explores how language functions as a medium to reveal Wednesday Addams's defining traits, such as defiance, detachment, and individuality, as categorized through her verbal interactions.

3.1 Result

In this study, expressive acts in Wednesday Addams' dialogues are analyzed to uncover her character traits. The categories used as reference were based on the theoretical framework outlined in section 2.1.3. Out of the eleven predefined expressive act categories, the analysis revealed that only eight categories were found in the data: thanking, greeting, complimenting, condoling, lamenting, complaining, protesting, and boasting. No data was found for the categories of

apologizing, welcoming, and deploring in episode 1. In episode 2, the categories of apologizing, thanking, greeting, welcoming, condoling, and deploring were not present in any of Wednesday Addams' utterances.

These expressive acts were directed at the other characters who served as Wednesday Addams' illocutors. The friend characters include Enid Sinclair, Xavier Thorpe, Thing, and Wednesday herself, while the adult characters are Gomez Addams, Morticia Addams, Dr. Kinbott, Ms. Thornhill, and Principal Weems. As shown in Table 3.1, episode 1 contains 15 expressive utterances: 1 thanking, 1 greeting, 3 complimenting, 1 condoling, 4 lamenting, 7 complaining, 15 protesting, and 4 boasting.

Table 1. *Wednesday Addams' Expressive Utterances by Category in Episodes 1 - 2*

Category	Data Source	
	Total Data Found	(%)
Thanking	1	2.78%
Greeting	1	2.78%
Complimenting	3	8.33%
Condoling	1	2.78%
Lamenting	4	11.11%
Complaining	7	19.44%
Protesting	15	41.67%
Boasting	4	11.11%
Total	36	100%

Regarding the distribution of utterances by the illocutors, Table 3.2 shows that Wednesday Addams produced 16 expressive utterances directed toward friends and 20 toward adults. When speaking to friends, she used more expressive acts such as complaining (6 utterances), lamenting (3 utterances), protesting (3 utterances), and boasting (2 utterances). Meanwhile, when addressing to adults, she mostly expressed protesting (12 utterances), complimenting (3 utterances), and boasting (2 utterances). This distribution highlights that while Wednesday Addams exhibits consistent character traits in both contexts, her protest-oriented expressions are predominantly directed at adults, reflecting a stronger tendency toward defiance, determination, and unorthodox thinking when facing authority figures.

Table 2. Wednesday Addams' Expressive Utterances by The Illocutors and Category in Episodes 1 - 2

Category	Data Source	
	Friends	Adults
Thanking	0 0%	1 6.25%
Greeting	1 6.25%	0 0%
Complimenting	0 0%	3 18.75%
Condoling	1 6.25%	0 0%
Lamenting	3 18.75%	1 6.25%
Complaining	6 37.50%	1 6.25%
Protesting	3 18.75%	12 75%
Boasting	2 12.50%	2 12.50%
Total	16 100%	20 100%

Based on Table 1, a total of 36 expressive utterances were identified in Wednesday Addams's speech throughout the analyzed episodes. These utterances are classified into eight types of expressive acts as defined by Yule (1996), who describes expressive acts as those that state what the speaker feels. The data include thanking (1 utterance), greeting (1 utterance), complimenting (3 utterances), condoling (1 utterance), lamenting (4 utterances), complaining (7 utterances), protesting (15 utterances), and boasting (4 utterances). Among these categories, protesting stands out as the most dominant type, accounting for 15 out of 36 utterances (41.67%), suggesting that protest becomes the primary means through which Wednesday Addams articulates her defining character traits, such as defiance, bluntness, and determination.

According to Searle & Vanderveken (1985), expressive acts reveal psychological states, often tied to emotions, attitudes, or value judgments. Wednesday Addams's frequent use of complaining (19.44%), lamenting (11.11%), and boasting (11.11%) also supports this view, as these categories showcase internal evaluations and emotional responses. The limited presence of acts like thanking, greeting, and condoling, each only once, further aligns with her character as emotionally detached and minimally empathetic.

From a speech act perspective, Austin (1962) classifies utterances into locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. Wednesday Addams's expressive utterances fall under the illocutionary domain, where the speaker intends to express inner states. The dominance of expressive protest utterances reflects her consistent use of language to challenge social norms and authority.

In Table 2, the distribution of expressive acts based on the interlocutors reveals more about her social orientation. Of the 36 total utterances, 16 were directed to friends and 20 to adults. Significantly, protesting accounts for 60% (12 out of 20) of the utterances toward adults, highlighting a clear pattern of resistance against figures such as Principal Weems, Dr. Kinbott, Sheriff Galpin, Gomez Addams, or Morticia Addams. In contrast, her interactions with friends involve more emotional variation: complaining (6 utterances), lamenting (3 utterances), protesting (3 utterances), and boasting (2 utterances), suggesting a nuanced form of expression depending on social proximity.

Interestingly, certain expressive act types: apologizing, welcoming, and deploring, were completely absent. This supports Yule (1996) notion that expressive acts reflect individual social behavior, where the lack of apologizing, for example, points to Wednesday Addams's lack of remorse or willingness to conform to the expected politeness strategies.

In conclusion, the findings from Tables 1 and 2 confirm that Wednesday Addams's expressive utterances are not only a tool for emotional expression but also a strong indicator of her character traits. Through the theoretical lens of Searle, Vanderveken, Austin, and Yule, it becomes evident that her frequent use of protest and complaint forms part of a broader communicative strategy that asserts independence, emotional control, and defiance, key characteristics that define her identity throughout the series.

3.2 Discussion

The analysis in the discussion section presents the identification of expressive acts found in the utterances of Wednesday Addams from the series *Wednesday* (2022). These findings are then used as the basis to analyze the character traits demonstrated by the character of Wednesday Addams throughout the series. By referring to the theory of expressive acts and the concept of character traits as described by Abrams & Harpham (2012), this section explores how Wednesday Addams's expressions reveal aspects of her personality. Through her expressive utterances, the study interprets how language becomes a reflection of traits such as defiance, detachment, sarcasm, and determination that define Wednesday Addams's unique character.

3.2.1 Wednesday Addams's Expressive of Thanking

Thanking is an expressive speech act used to convey gratitude or appreciation for someone's action or assistance. According to Searle (1969) thanking belongs to expressive acts because they reflect the speaker's psychological state in response to a beneficial situation. Typically, thanking is used to express politeness, respect, and acknowledgement of others' contributions in social interactions.

- (1) Context: On Wednesday Addams' first night at Nevermore Academy as a newly enrolled student, she was visited by Ms. Thornhill, the dorm mother, who brought her a bouquet of black dahlias as a symbolic gesture of welcome.

Wednesday Addams : "A Black Dahlia."

Ms. Thornhill : "You know it?"

Wednesday Addams : "Of course. It's named after my favorite unsolved murder. Thank you."

Episode 1 Data Number 8

According to Searle & Vanderveken (1985), expressive speech acts are used to convey the speaker's psychological state in relation to a specific situation. Thanking, as one of these acts, is performed when the speaker expresses gratitude for something that has benefited them. In the context of the series *Wednesday* (2022), Wednesday Addams's utterance of "Thank You" to Ms. Thornhill reflects this expressive function. The act of thanking signals her recognition and positive evaluation of an action done by the hearer, which aligns with the fundamental purpose of expressing gratitude as categorized in Vanderveken's framework. In the entire dataset, this is the only instance where Wednesday Addams uses the thanking expressive speech act. Notably it is directed toward an adult, specifically Ms. Thornhill, the Dorm Mother, rather than toward her peers.

3.2.2 Wednesday Addams's Expressive of Greeting

Greeting category is a speech act used to acknowledge another person's presence or initiate polite interaction. According to Yule (1996), greetings are part of basic social interaction and serve to establish or maintain interpersonal relationships. Such expressions are generally used to open communication, express friendliness, or maintain social etiquette.

- (1) Context: During Wednesday Addams' first week at Nevermore Academy, she was constantly followed by Thing, the disembodied hand, and a long-time member of the Addams family, who had been assigned to secretly observe and report on her activities at school. While sneaking through the bed in the room, Wednesday Addams unexpectedly caught Thing in the act, revealing his presence and secret mission.

Wednesday Addams : "Hello, Thing."
Episode 1 Data Number 8

In Searle & Vanderveken (1985), classification of expressive speech acts, greeting is identified as a type of utterance in which the speaker expresses

acknowledgement of the hearer's presence, often marking the beginning of an interaction. As an expressive act, a greeting serves a social function that establishes rapport or connection between interlocutors. This concept is illustrated in Wednesday Addams's utterance, "Hello, Thing.", which functions as a direct expression of recognition and initiation of communication. The utterance reflects the performative nature of greeting, consistent with Vanderveken's explanation of how expressive acts convey the speaker's psychological attitude toward a social situation. In the data, this is the only instance of a greeting expressive speech act, and it is addressed exclusively to a friend, namely Thing.

3.2.3 Wednesday Addams's Expressive of Complimenting

Complimenting involves expressing praise or approval toward someone's qualities, behavior, or achievement. Holmes (1995) describes compliments as a strategy for building solidarity and enhancing social bonds between speakers. These utterances are commonly used to show appreciation, create positive social interaction, and boost the listener's confidence.

(1) Context:

Gomez Addams : "Hello, my little black cloud!"

Morticia Addams : "Tell us, darling, how was your first week?"

Wednesday Addams: "As much as it pains me to admit, you were right, Mother. I think I'm going to love it here."

Episode 1 Data Number 14

According to Searle & Vanderveken (1985), a compliment is a type of expressive speech act in which the speaker conveys a positive evaluative attitude toward the hearer, often in the form of praise or admiration for their actions, qualities, or decisions. Compliments reflect the speaker's approval and recognition, even when expressed with emotional restraint. This is evident in Wednesday

Addams's utterance, "As much as it pains me to admit, you were right, Mother. I think I'm going to love it here." Although delivered reluctantly, the utterance demonstrates a form of praise and acknowledgment of her mother's earlier judgment, fitting Vanderveken's view of expressive acts as conveying internal psychological states through language.

In the findings, complimenting appears three times toward adults and none toward peers. The first occurs toward Morticia Addams, as shown above. The second is directed at Principal Weems, when Wednesday Addams remarks, "And you graduated with your sanity intact — impressive," acknowledging Weems's endurance as Morticia's former roommate. The third occurs with Ms. Thornhill, in the utterance "Color me intrigued," after receiving valuable information about the Nightshade society. These examples illustrate that Wednesday Addams's compliments, though rare and often tinged with sarcasm, are selectively give to adults who provide her with information or whose experiences earn her reluctant respect.

3.2.4 Wednesday Addams's Expressive of Condoling

Condoling is an expressive act that conveys sympathy or compassion, usually in response to someone's grief or misfortune. Austin (1962) categorized condoling as behaviors, which are utterances related to social behaviors like congratulating or apologizing. These utterances are used to show empathy, provide emotional support, and express solidarity during emotionally difficult situations.

- (1) Context: After successfully uncovering Thing's secret presence and mission to report her activities at Nevermore, Wednesday Addams confronted him. In response, Thing attempted to make her understand the reason behind her parents' decision to assign him. However, Wednesday

Addams rejected the explanation, showing her refusal to accept their interference in her life

Thing says “They are worried about you.”

Wednesday Addams: “Oh, Thing, you poor, naïve appendage.”

Episode 1 Data Number 12

According to (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985), condoling is a form of expressive speech act in which the speaker communicates a sympathetic or compassionate response to another’s misfortune, typically marked by an acknowledgment of pain, suffering, or emotional distress. Such expressions reflect the speaker’s internal emotional state and intention to provide comfort, even when delivered in a nontraditional tone. This can be seen in Wednesday Addams’s utterance, “Oh, Thing, you poor, naïve appendage.” Which, despite its sarcastic phrasing, reveals a subtle form of sympathy and concern. The utterance fulfills the essential function of condoling by recognizing Thing’s perceived hardship and offering a form of emotional response consistent with expressive intent. In this study, only one instance of condoling was identified, directed toward a friend, Thing. This shows that Wednesday Addams’s expressions of sympathy are rare and selectively given, even toward those within her closest social circle.

3.2.5 Wednesday Addams’s Expressive of Lamenting

Lamenting refers to expressing sorrow, regret, or disappointment about a certain condition or event. Searle (1969) identifies it as an expressive act that communicates the speaker’s dissatisfaction or emotional discomfort with a situation. This type of utterance is commonly used to convey emotional distress, dissatisfaction, or grief.

- (1) Context: At the start of Episode 1, the Addams family brings Wednesday Addams to Nevermore Academy. Despite her parents’ attempts to reassure

her by saying she would like the school, Wednesday Addams remains displeased. Eventually, Morticia reveals that it was not them who decided to withdraw her, but the parents of the boy she had bullied, who threatened legal action

Morticia Addams: “Darling, we aren’t the ones who got you expelled. That boy’s family was going to file attempted murder charges. How would that have looked on your record?”

Wednesday Addams: “Terrible. Everyone would know that I failed to get the job done.”

Episode 1 Data Number 3

According to Searle & Vanderveken (1985), lamenting is a type of expressive speech act in which the speaker conveys deep sorrow, regret, or dissatisfaction in response to an undesirable situation or personal failure. This kind of utterance reflects the speaker’s inner emotional state and serves as a means to express discontent or disappointment. Wednesday Addams’s utterance, “Terrible. Everyone would know that I failed to get the job done.” illustrates this function clearly. Her statement reveals a sense of personal regret and frustration, which aligns with the expressive function of lamenting as it communicates a reaction of emotional distress toward a perceived failure. In this study, four instances of lamenting were identified: three directed toward friends and none toward an adult, Morticia Addams. This distribution suggests that Wednesday Addams tends to express her dissatisfaction or regret more freely toward peers, yet still occasionally directs such expressions toward adults when addressing situations involving personal principles or pride.

3.2.6 Wednesday Addams’s Expressive of Complaining

Complaining is used to express dissatisfaction or annoyance about a situation, person, or condition. Thomas (1995) describes complaints as expressive strategies

that reflect a mismatch between expectations and reality. These utterances are often used to voice discontent, criticize, or express the desire for change.

- (1) Context: Wednesday Addams assigned Thing to secretly follow Rowan, a fellow student who left Nevermore Academy. However, at the train station, Rowan managed to slip away unnoticed, leaving Thing confused and unable to complete the task

Wednesday Addams: “How do you lose him in a bathroom with no windows?”

Episode 2 Data Number 28

According to Searle & Vanderveken (1985), complaining is a form of expressive speech act in which the speaker expresses dissatisfaction or negative evaluation toward a particular state of affairs, often implying that it falls short of expectations or social norms. It serves to express the speaker’s unfavorable attitude and often implies a desire for correction or accountability. This function is evident in Wednesday Addams’s utterance, “How do you lose him in a bathroom with no windows?” Her statement reflects irritation and criticism toward the incompetence of others, indicating her dissatisfaction with the situation. The utterance aligns with the function of complaining, as it voices disapproval while implicitly demanding a better explanation or action.

In this study, a total of seven complaints were identified: six directed toward friends and one toward an adult, Morticia Addams. This pattern indicates that Wednesday more frequently expresses dissatisfaction toward peers, possibly because such interactions allow greater freedom in voicing criticism, while toward adults are reserved for situations involving personal autonomy or perceived underestimation.

3.2.7 Wednesday Addams's Expressive of Protesting

According to Searle (1969), protest is a type of expressive act that conveys objection or dissatisfaction. Yule (1996) adds that expressive acts reflect the speaker's feelings toward specific situations, including disapproval or resistance. Thus, protest utterances serve to express disagreement, often directed at authority or perceived unfairness.

- (1) Context: As the Addams family prepared to leave, Wednesday Addams at the Nevermore Academy dormitory, Morticia Addams took a moment to speak with her daughter privately. During their conversation, she warned Wednesday Addams not to cause any more trouble at school, especially not to attempt running away again.

Wednesday Addams : “I will escape this educational penitentiary, and then you will never hear from me again.”

Morticia Addams : “You are a brilliant girl, Wednesday, but sometimes you get in your own way.”

Episode 1 Data Number 7

Searle & Vanderveken (1985) explains that protesting is a type of expressive speech act which the speaker conveys strong disapproval or objection, often in response to an imposed situation or condition that contradicts their personal will or values. This act typically aims to resist authority, challenge a decision, or prompt change. Wednesday Addams exemplifies this through her statement, “I will escape this educational penitentiary, and then you will never hear from me again.” which expresses her rejection of being confined to Nevermore Academy. Her utterance reflects a clear opposition to institutional control and signals a refusal to comply, aligning with the core function of protest as an expression of resistance and autonomy.

In this study, fifteen instances of protesting were found: twelve directed toward adults and three toward friends. This indicates that Wednesday Addams

more frequently directs protest utterances toward adults, reflecting her tendency to challenge authority figures and institutional control. Protests toward peers, while less frequent, still demonstrate her resistance to suggestions or social expectations she finds undesirable.

3.2.8 Wednesday Addams's Expressive of Boasting

Boasting is an expressive act used to express pride in one's achievements, qualities, or abilities. Searle (1969) categorizes it as an expressive act that reveals the speaker's self-satisfaction and identity. These utterances are used to assert dominance, show confidence, or reinforce personal image in social interaction.

- (1) Context: When Wednesday discovered a possible hidden passage leading to the Nightshade Society's room, she attempted to solve the riddle found on the statue of Edgar Allan Poe, which was depicted holding a book.

Wednesday Addams: "Don't worry, Edgar Allan. I see your sanctimonious smirk. But I will get the last laugh."

Episode 2 Data Number 35

According to Searle & Vanderveken (1985), boasting is an expressive speech act in which the speaker expresses pride, confidence, or self-satisfaction, often in relation to personal achievements, abilities, or future success. This type of act is characterized by the speaker's intention to emphasize their own worth or superiority. Wednesday Addams demonstrates this through her utterance, which reveals a strong sense of self-confidence and determination in confronting the intellectual challenge she faces. Her statement is not simply descriptive, but functions as an assertion of her anticipated success and intellectual capability. With a confident and slightly sarcastic tone, she positions herself as superior to the expectations placed upon her, thereby fulfilling the criteria of boasting as an expressive act.

In this study, four instances of boasting were identified: two directed toward friends and two toward adults. This balance indicates that Wednesday Addams uses boasting equally in interactions with peers and authority figures, reflecting her consistent confidence and self-assured persona regardless of social hierarchy. Her boasting toward adults, such as Principal Weems during the school orientation, often serves as a subtle reinforcement of her intellectual and personal dominance within peer relationships.

3.3 Wednesday Addams's Traits Based on Her Expressive Speech Acts

The analysis of Wednesday Addams's expressive speech acts reveals a consistent pattern that reflects her distinctive character traits. By examining her interactions with different interlocutors, particularly friends and adults, it becomes evident that her personality and the dynamics of each relationship. The categorization of her utterances, based on Searle's theory of speech acts, provides a foundation for interpreting how these expressions reflect traits such as defiance, detachment, sarcasm, and pride, as defined in Abrams and Harpham's framework of character traits.

When speaking to her friends, Wednesday Addams predominantly uses complaining, lamenting, protesting, and boasting. Complaining (6 utterances) appears to be her most frequent act toward peers, often delivered in a dry, cynical tone that underscores her sarcastic and detached traits. Lamenting (3 utterances) shows a subtler layer of her personality, revealing moments of dissatisfaction without directly seeking sympathy. Protesting (3 utterances) in this context often carries an ironic edge rather than overt hostility, which suggests a calculated way

of challenging ideas without alienating her peers completely. Boasting (2 utterances) toward friends tends to be understated, serving more as a reinforcement of her confidence and pride than an attempt to impress.

In contrast, Wednesday Addams's interactions with adults reveal a heavier reliance on protesting (12 utterances), followed by complimenting (3 utterances) and boasting (2 utterances). The high frequency of protesting toward adults signals her defiant nature, showing her resistance to authority and societal norms. However, the use of compliments in these exchanges is absent in her speech to friends, suggesting strategic politeness or ironic flattery. These compliments can be interpreted as a tactical maneuver to mask her resistance or subtly mock the recipient, aligning with her sarcastic and perceptive traits. Boasting toward adults, similar to her use with friends, functions as a reinforcement of her self-assuredness but often carries a sharper, more confrontational edge in this context.

The absence of certain expressive acts, such as complimenting friends, highlights an intentional differentiation in her communication style. This suggests that Wednesday Addams values authenticity in peer relationships, avoiding flattery that she might view as disingenuous. In contrast, her selective use of compliments toward adults reflects her strategic adaptability, showing she can employ seemingly positive speech acts to achieve subtle rhetorical goals. This selective deployment reinforces her image as perceptive and calculating, aware of how different audiences will interpret her words.

The reactions of her interlocutors further illustrate the effect of her speech acts on her character portrayal. Friends often respond to her unconventional

demeanor. Adults, however, are more frequently unsettled or challenged by her protests and ironic compliments, reinforcing the perception of Wednesday Addams as an outsider who resists conformity. These differing reactions not only highlight her adaptability but also her commitment to maintaining her individuality in various social contexts.

From a character analysis perspective, these findings show that Wednesday Addams's expressive speech acts are an extension of her defining traits. The frequency and distribution of categories between friends and adults demonstrate her ability to balance authenticity with strategy. With peers, her expressions are more confrontational and calculated, emphasizing defiance, perceptiveness, and unorthodox thinking.

Overall, Wednesday Addams's expressive speech acts serve as a linguistic mirror to her character traits as described by Abrams and Harpham. By adapting her language to the relationship dynamics and desired effect, she not only communicates her thoughts but also reinforces her identity as a defiant, perceptive, and self-assured individual. Her speech acts are not mere byproducts of conversation but deliberate tools in shaping how others perceive her, ensuring that her unconventional persona remains both consistent and compelling across different social spheres.