



**AN ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ACT OF PRAISING ON THE TV  
PROGRAM AMERICA'S GOT TALENT**

**THESIS**

*Submitted to Fulfill a Particular of Requirements for SI Degree In the Department  
of English, Faculty of Humanities Bung Hatta University*

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PADANG  
2017**

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## **AN ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ACT OF PRAISING ON THE TV PROGRAM**

### **AMERICA'S GOT TALENT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study aims at describing the speech act of praising on the TV program America's Got Talent with an approach of pragmatic perspective. Here, the writer analyzed the use of speech acts delivered by the Juries in the form of direct speech act of praising, indirect speech act of praising, communication strategy that focus on the positive politeness, the way how the Juries expressed the praising words. Some theories used in this analysis, they are the concepts stated by Searle (1976), Brown & Levinson (1987), and Crabtree (1991). The method used in this study are direct and indirect speech acts in terms of using study are direct and indirect speech acts in terms of using positive politeness. From the analysis, the Juries tend to express the speech act of praising in terms of direct speech act in form literal words and the communication strategy focus on the positive politeness express by Juries tend in terms of exaggerate.

***Keywords: speech act of praising, direct, indirect, positive politeness strategies, context***

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of The Problem

Language is important for people to communicate ideas or information. We use language for many things, for example sharing ideas and expressing our feelings. Furthermore, language can be used to criticize, to apologize, to praise, to thank, and to order. In communication, people can see many varieties of language in many channels for example in mass media such as television or radio. Television is an electronic tool to give information with easily than other electronic tool.

This is why, most people use television to hear information or watch entertainment. The one of program entertainment is talent show. The dialogue between speaker and hearer of the talent show exists some form of speech act, such as praising, criticizing, and also giving suggestion to each contestant in that talent show. In the linguistics aspect, speech act is interested to be analyzed. In this case the writer wants to analyse, how the jury praised the contestants whether direct or indirect.

Moreover, according to Searle (1969) speech act could be grouped into four types. They are literal and direct, non-literal and direct, literal and indirect, and non-literal and indirect. The writer looks into further through the approach speech act theory of expressive.

Speech act of expressive is the one of part locutionary act. According to Searle (1976) speech act of expressive is express the speaker feelings, such as apologizing, praising, congratulating, deploring, regretting and thanking (as cited in Cutting 2002). The writer analyzed about speech act of praising. In addition, praise refers to positive evaluations made by a person of another's products, performances, or attributes, where the evaluator presumes the validity of the standards on which the evaluation is based. The influence of praise on an individual can depend on many factors, including the context, the meanings the praise may convey, and the characteristics and interpretations of the recipient.

Talking about speech act of praising, when someone praises to others, he can use various ways or strategies to express his feeling of satisfying inform of praising. To know about what the strategies used by the speakers in praising the writer used the theory of the communication strategy based Brown and Levinson.

In relation, Brown and Levinson (1987) stated that there are three strategies of communication. They are Bald on record, positive politeness (roughly, the expression of solidarity), negative politeness (roughly, the expression of restraint) and off record (roughly, the avoidance of unique-vocal imposition/without saying words).

Furthermore, the data analyzed about speech act of praising. The writer used data from TV program "America's Got Talent" that is an American reality television series on the NBC television network, and part of the global Got Talent franchise. It is a talent show that features singers, dancers, magicians, comedian,

and other performers, of all ages competing for the advertised top prize \$1.000.000 dollars.

For further understanding about how the writer analyzed the data, look at the example below (1):



Situation: Piers said to Tanner that he has amazing moves and really good talent, with his expressions face is seriously. Then the audience doing applause and screaming at the same time. Tanner said “Thank you” with his expressions is smile and he feels happy.

Piers: I think yes and you’ve got **amazing** moves for boys six to be doing us stuff on stage, really really **good** talent. (Applause, Screaming)

Tanner: Thank you.

In the example (1) Piers said to Tanner “I think yes and you’ve got **amazing** moves for boys six to be doing us stuff on stage, really really **good** talent”. It is considered as a speech act of praising. The type of speech act is literal and direct. It is literal because Piers means exactly what he says that he is praised to Tanner that he has amazing moves and really good talent. It is direct because a declarative structure to make a statement that he give information to the hearer about the talent is. The context that influence in this example is epistemic context. Piers shared his background knowledge that for boys six to be doing stuff on stage is really good talent.

The communication strategy in the utterance of example is politeness strategy that speaker uses in the conversation. The sub-strategy of the utterance is Intensify Interest. The choice of using the sentence *I think yes and you've got amazing moves for boys six to be doing stuff on stage, really really good talent* can attract the addressee's attention.

Based on the description, the writer is interested to analyzed about speech act of praising with the data from TV program America's Got Talent. Types of speech act, positive politeness strategies and contexts by the speaker in praising.

## **1.2 Identification of The Problem**

TV program does not only discuss about entertainment. There are also many things that can be studied. They are style of language, the choice of words, the politeness principle, and speech act. From the several things, the writer was interested in analyzing in linguistic side which is speech act. The writer found some problems about speech act, those are; definition of speech act, types of speech act, and communication strategies that is found.

## **1.3 Limitation of The Problem**

In this research, the writer focuses to analyze about speech act of praising and positive politeness strategies. Speech act can be analyzed from literary work and the writer only focused on TV program, talent show with the title "America's Got Talent Seasons Sixth". The writer discussed from direct and indirect speech act, communication strategy and also discuss about context that influence in



speech act. The writer limits the speech act of expressive that discussed in this research is only praising and utterance to be data analysis.

#### **1.4 Formulation of The Problem**

The writer of the research focuses on some questions to understand and to make it easier to be analyzed in this study. Those are the research question as follow:

1. How are directs the speech act of praising used by Judges on the TV program America's Got Talent?
2. How are indirects the speech act of praising used by Judges on the TV program America's Got Talent?
3. What are the positive politeness strategies used by Judges on the TV program America's Got Talent?

#### **1.5 Purpose of The Research**

The writer has some purposes of the research to study about speech act of praising in this TV program. Those are:

1. To explain how directs the speech act of praising used by Judges on the TV program America's Got Talent.
2. To explain how indirects the speech act of praising used by Judges on the TV program America's Got Talent.
3. To find out the positive politeness strategy used by Judges on the TV program America's Got Talent.

## **1.6 Significance of The Research**

By doing this research, the writer has a significance contribution in developing of linguistic studies and gives a new knowledge for the reader, especially in speech act studies. From this research, the writer expected the reader to get new and more knowledge about speech act of praising on TV program event in other sources. The writer wants to rider become easy to understand in discussing speech act. Hopefully, this research can be as information for the researcher who is analyzing speech act.