

## **ANALYSIS OF EXPRESSIVE SPEECH ACTS IN THE LYRICS OF THE SONG TITLED 'WHITE SPACE' BY JEONG DONG- WON**

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### **Abstract**

One form of indirect communication that can be studied pragmatically is communication between writers or authors and readers through works that have been written in accommodating their thoughts and feelings. Sentences that contain the expressions of the author's psychological state and their feelings can be categorized as expressive speech acts which can be analyzed by examining the contexts spoken or written. Song lyrics are also among the works that can be studied pragmatically. This study aims to analyze the lyrics of the song titled "White Space" sung by Jeong Dong-won and written by Kim Jong-hwan to find out the expressive speech acts contained in it. This research was qualitative research using a descriptive qualitative research method because the data obtained were the words and sentences contained in the lyrics as primary data. The results of this study showed that in the song lyrics titled "White Space", the author wrote it (those expressions) implicitly or indirectly. There were various expressions such as sadness (4), regret (2), anxiety (1), pride (1), blame (1), advice (1), and hope (1). Those were contained in sentences that represent the thoughts and feelings of the author.

**Keywords:** Expressiveness, Pragmatics, song lyrics, speech acts

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### **INTRODUCTION**

One of the purposes of communication is to understand each other's intentions, both information, thoughts, and feelings that are conveyed by the speakers and the speech partners. That kind of communication can occur directly or indirectly, also in that process, there are speech events and speech acts that can be studied pragmatically by understanding the context. This kind of study can also be carried out on literary works as an example of indirect communication where litterateurs and authors express their thoughts and feelings through their work which will then be read by readers. For example, lyrics of the songs that are still classified as literary works and become a medium that can accommodate the thoughts and feelings of the author.

In a pragmatical study of speech acts on the communication process there is an expressive speech theory which according to Searle in Maíz-Arévalo (2017) is a speech act that reveals a sincere determined psychological state by paying attention to the context of its proportional content. This theory can also be used to examine communication indirectly such as literary works that store various expressions of the author's psychological conditions reflected in the series of words and paragraphs of their works. As is the case in lyrics of the song. Furthermore, the lyrics of songs convey various emotions to listeners and describe both the emotional state of the writer and the singer (Edmonds & Sedoc, 2021), no exception to the lyrics of the trot.

Trot is one of the traditional Korean music that is on the trail in South Korea these days. Begun to be loved again by the Korean people since the emergence of the trot survival program named "Mr. Trot" in

2020. "Mr. Trot" scored a record as a program with the highest rating on Korean television, with an average national audiences

34.016 percent and 35.711 percent for two parts, followed by the overwhelming support of 7,731,781 votes for their part in the finals, which made a little delay in the victory announcements (Dreamers.id, 2020). This program being a consolation for the Korean people who are experience the distress and sadness in the face of covid pandemic that spread throughout the world. Not only the elderly, those in their 30s, twenties, and even teenagers enjoyed this genre. A pleasant rhythm, easy to follow, and well-understood lyrics make the trot popular in every circle. The emergence of the "Mr.Trot" survival program became the turning point of the trot's popularity in South Korea which had previously faded.

The old trot uses the tempo  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  taken from the foxtrot which is commonly used as dance accompaniment music. This genre grew up in the Japanese colonial period in Korea, so that people believe that

this genre is much influenced by music from Japan called enka or kayokyoku (Kumparan KPOP, 2018). In trot songs there are usually lyrics that depict of sadness, love separation, family separation, longing for hometown, natural scenery, etc. Lyrics of Trot are mostly written in Korean and regional dialects. English and other foreign languages are not used in trot songs because they are considered to damage the unique melody and trot rhythm. However, foreign languages began to be used in trot recently even though only one or two words.

With that kind of characteristics of the songs and the typical lyrics, the researcher intends to analyze the expressive speech acts contained in the Trot song titled "White Space" sung by Jeong Dong-won and written by Kim Jong-hwan which is considered interesting because the lyrics of the song illustrate the meaning of life such as sadness, regret, despair, emptiness, and lonely.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Speech Act**

Rahmadhani and Utomo (2020) quoted Rohmadi who mentioned that pragmatic is a linguistic study related to the context, where the context plays a role in determining the purpose of the speaker in interaction. The thing that is an important point in pragmatic studies is speech acts which are the manifestation of actions through speech to an interlocutor with a specific purpose. Wijana in Kentary, et al. (2015) also added that in speaking there are two kinds of delivery techniques, namely 1) direct speech acts marked by the use of speech acts according to the speech modes used; 2) Indirect speech acts, marked by the use of different modes with the intentions to be conveyed.

Azimova (2021) concluded and explained that the theory related to speech acts was first introduced by Austin which defined speech acts as an act that could be effectively fulfilled by a sentence. Austin also mentioned three components of speech acts, namely (1) locutionary act or act of saying something which is an action in saying something with a certain meaning, (2) Illocutionary act which is the actions referred to as speakers or actions taken when telling something, and (3) perlocutionary act which is the consequences, results, or influence of a speech. Austin distinguishes 5 general functions of language, namely, verdictive acts, exercitive acts, commissive acts, behabitive acts, and expositive acts (Azimova, 2021). In contrast to Austin, Searle also classifies speech acts into 5 categories, namely representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives or performatives. In various literature, this classification is included in the type of illocutionary acts which according to Yule in Azimova (2021) is the most often discussed and being the basis for analysis in pragmatic understanding.

The research in this paper is focused on the study of expressive speech acts which according to Searle in Maíz-Arévalo (2017) is a speech act that expresses the psychological conditions specified in sincerity related to the situation in propositional content. In addition, Maíz-Arévalo (2017) mentions the fact that expressive speech acts are related to the mental (inner) of the speaker, there are also other

definitions that focus on underlying emotions, psychological attitudes or thoughts, demeanors, and feelings (state of mind, attitudes and feelings).

### **Trot Song**

Chang (2016) in his article explained that the trot was first introduced during the Japanese colonial era in Korea as *yuhaengga* [流行歌, popular songs] which literally means popular songs that were sung by many people in certain periods. Chang (2016) added that no one knew exactly when this Trot music was born, but many assumptions said that Trot music began to emerge around the 1950s. The origin of Trot is still a sensitive topic for Koreans. In the 1860s and 1980s there were two major controversies about “pongchak (other names of trot)”, some claim that Trot is a traditional Korean music, and there are also those who assume that Trot is

an external music because it comes from Japan's *enka* [演歌]. Chang (2016) also states that although trot emerged during the Japanese colonial period which was made to express sadness and sung by the Korean people as an outlet for misery, pain, poverty, and oppression at that time, this genre began to undergo major changes after Korea became independent such as the use of major keys when produced and distributed. After that Trot is considered a traditional music and loved for decades because it takes the theme of rural and very original.

In the 1960s to the 1970s there were several male trot singers who were popular at that time such as Na Hoon-a, Nam Chin, and Pae Ho. Unlike Na Hoon-a, Nam Chin, and other singers who sang with rural sentimental in a sad tone, Pae Ho became the first singer to bring Trot with sophisticated urban sentiment (Chang, 2016). Trot really changed when Joo Hyun- mi who used to work as a pharmacist recorded a medley which contained trot songs entitled “Couples-Only Party” [Ssang-ssang-p’at’i] in 1984. Joo Hyun-mi sang it with a fast tempo then the medley song was popular and was played along the Korean resting place. Thanks to his popularity, Joo Hyun-Mi began his career as a Trot singer in 1985 by releasing the song titled “Raining on Yongdong Bridge” [Pi nae-ri-nu’n Yong-dong-gyo]. Since then, Trot is considered as a pleasant music without an element of nationalism in it. Trot began to be played in the art shows and nightclubs.

Chang (2016) states that Trot experienced an increase in popularity in 2004 when Jang Yoon-jeong released the song titled “Oh My” [O-mo-na] which is a light and cheerful song with comedy elements in it. Not only parents and elderly, the younger generation began to enjoy Trot music. Many Korean idols have contributed to introducing trot music to the younger generation and also the world, one of which is Super Junior-T, Orange Caramel (Sub-Unit of the After School Group), and also Daesung (Big Bang).

Research related to expressive speech in song lyrics has also been carried out by Busyrowi, et al (2018) who examined the lyrics of the song *Ummi Kultsum* (“al-athlal” dan “anta umriy”). This research is qualitative descriptive research using the listening method as a research data collection technique. Data analysis in Busyrowi's research was carried out in several stages, namely the stage of data grouping, data identification, and data analysis. The study of the lyrics of the song shows that there are forms of expressive speech acts contained in the lyrics of the song *Ummi Kultsum*, namely direct speech acts and indirect speech acts. The function of expressive speech acts in the lyrics of *Ummi Kultsum* (“al-athlal” dan “anta umriy”) is to convey sadness, disappointment, longing, joy, regret, wait, hope, certainty, feeling of admiration, expressing enthusiasm, attention, resignation, pride, and confusion.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The type of this research is qualitative descriptive research where the data collected in the form of words and sentences that have meaning and cause more significant understanding than just numbers or frequencies (Nugrahani, 2014). This research is a qualitative study because the data obtained are words and sentences contained in the lyrics of the song titled "White Space" which shows expressive speech as primary data and various related sources including journal articles, books, news articles as secondary

data. Techniques that are used in collecting the data are listening and recording. The steps in data collection are carried out by (1) listening and scrutinizing the song titled "White Space", (2) record the lyrics of the song, (3) grouping and identifying lyrics in accordance with sources and theories, (4) analyzing expressive speech acts reflected in song lyrics by describing them descriptively, (5) make conclusions in accordance with the results of the research obtained.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- a) An expressive form of "white space" sung by jeong dong-won and written by Kim jong-hwan.

An act of expressive speech in the lyrics of the song is indirect because the lyrics listed set out the point of expression that is not actual or implied.

| No | Indirect speech acts                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 얼굴이 잘생긴 사람은 늙어 가는 게 슬프겠지<br>[eolguri jalsaenggin saram-eun neulgeo ganeun ge seulpeugetji]<br><i>A good-looking man, sad to get old</i>                                                   |
| 2  | 아무리 화려한 옷을 입어도 저녁이면 벗게 되니까<br>[amuri hwaryeohan oseul ibeodo jeonyeogimyeon beotge doenikka] <i>No No matter how fancy you wear it, you'll take it off in the evening</i>                 |
| 3  | 내 손에 주름이 있는 건, 길고 긴 내 인생에 훈장이고<br>[nae sone jureumi inneun geon gilgo gin nae insaenge hunjangigo]<br><i>The wrinkle in my hand, it's a medal in my long long life</i>                    |
| 4  | 마음에 주름이 있는 건, 버리지 못한 욕심에 흔적<br>[maeume jureumi inneun geon beoriji mothan yoksime heunjeok]<br><i>The wrinkle in my mind, traces of unabandoned greed</i>                                 |
| 5  | 전화기 충전은 잘 하면서, 내 삶은 충전하지 못하고 사네<br>[jeonhwagi chungjeoneun jal hamyeonseo nae salmeun] chungjeonhaji mothago sane<br><i>You're good at charging your phone, but can't recharge a life</i> |
| 6  | 마음에 여백이 없어서 인생을 쫓기듯 그렸네 [maeume yeobaegi eopseoseo insaengeul jjotgideut geuryeonne] <i>with no space left in my mind, so I drew it like I'm chasing my life</i>                          |
| 7  | 마지막 남은 나의 인생은 아름답게 피우리라<br>[majimak nameun nawi insaengeun areumdapge piurira]<br><i>The last remaining of my life, i wish can blooms beautifully</i>                                     |

- b) The expressive function of the "White Space" song sung by jeong dong-won and written by Kim jong-hwan

- 1) Expressing sadness

The lyrics of the song "white space" include some expressions of sadness: Data 1

얼굴이 잘생긴 사람은 늙어 가는 게 슬프겠지

|                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| eolguri jalsaenggin saramleun neulgeo ganeun ge seulpeugetji |
| <i>A good-looking man, sad to get old</i>                    |

In data 1, it can be seen that all human beings must feel sad when they get older and grow old, it is undeniable that even people who are good looking will feel the same way. This can be seen in this lyric which uses the grammar -겠- [get] which indicates conjecture, possibility, or things to be like that if you think about it. Then the suffix -지 [ji] is used to confirm the truth of what is already known.

These two grammars are used in the word 슬프다 [seul-peu-da] to 슬프겠지[seul-peu-get-ji] which means 'it will definitely be sad, right' where the speaker also knows and understands that either the face or the appearance can change over time and such changes can have an emotional effect because both the face and the appearance are no longer what they used to be.

Data 2

|                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 내 손에 주름이 있는 건 길고 긴 내 인생에 훈장이고                                    |
| nae sone jureumi inneun geon gilgo gin nae insaenge hunjangigo   |
| <i>The wrinkle in my hand, it's a medal in my long long life</i> |

In data 2 there is a metaphor use, namely 훈장 [hun-jang] which means medal or service star which has the meaning of a form of appreciation obtained for one's efforts and struggles. In this lyric, the wrinkles on the hands that the speaker gets are evidence of the effort and struggle that makes him/her proud or satisfied. On the other hand, it also shows sadness because 주름 [ju-reum] or wrinkles here are a sign of aging. This is also supported by the phrase 길고 긴 인생 [gil-go-gin-nae-in-saeng] or the long road of life, which shows a lot of things that have been passed and the time that has been spent. Data 3

|                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 전화기 충전은 잘 하면서, 내 삶은 충전하지 못하고 사네                                              |
| jeonhwagi chungjeoneun jal hamyeonseo nae salmeun chungjeonhaji mothago sane |
| <i>You're good at charging your phone, but I can't recharge a life</i>       |

In data 3 speakers express sadness through metaphor form of the phrase 충전 [chung-jeon] for recharging. The speaker revealed that he/she could neither recharge life nor repeat life (because he/she had no power/energy), unlike a phone that could be recharged if the battery had run out and could insert and delete the files on the phone easily.

Data 4

|                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 마음에 여백이 없어서 인생을 쫓기듯 그렸네                                                        |
| maeume yeobaegi eopseoseo insaengeul jjotgideut geuryeonne                     |
| <i>with no space left in one's mind, so I drew it like I'm chasing my life</i> |

In this 4th data, the speaker reveals that he/she has lived without rest for a long time in order to get a better life, but it only makes his heart sad because greed in pursuing life closes his feelings (happy, sad, etc.).

## 2) Expressing Regret

In the lyrics of the song "White Space" there are several expressive speech acts that describe regret, namely:

Data 5

|                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 마음에 주름이 있는 건, 버리지 못한 욕심에 흔적                                |
| maeume jureumi inneun geon beoriji mothan yoksime heunjeok |
| <i>The wrinkle in my mind, traces of unabandoned greed</i> |

In the fifth data, the speaker reveals that he/she regrets because in his/her life he/she only focuses on material things which makes him/her a person who is greedy for life. This can be seen in the sentence 버리지 못한 욕심에 흔적 [beo-ri-ji mot-han yok-sim-e heun-jeok] which means 'greed that I cannot throw away'.

Data 6

|                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 전화기 충전은 잘 하면서, 내 삶은 충전하지 못하고 사네                                              |
| jeonhwagi chungjeoneun jal hamyeonseo nae salmeun chungjeonhaji mothago sane |
| <i>You're good at charging your phone, but can't recharge a life</i>         |

In the 6th data, the speaker regrets everything that has happened in his/her life. He/she can charge his/her cell phone, but he/she can't recharge his/her life with things that he/she feels are better than what he/she has done before. Therefore today the speaker lives in regret. This can be seen in the sentence 내 삶은 충전하지 못하고 사네 [nae salm-eun chung-jeon-ha-ji mot-ha-go sa-ne] which means 'I live a life that cannot be replenished'.

### 3) Expressing anxiety

In the lyrics of the song "White Space" there are several expressive speech acts that describe anxiety, namely:

Data 7

|                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 마음에 여백이 없어서 인생을 쫓기듯 그렸네                                                        |
| maeume yeobaegi eopseoseo insaengeul jjotgideut geuryeonne                     |
| <i>with no space left in one's mind, so I drew it like I'm chasing my life</i> |

In this 7th data, the speaker expresses his/her regret by describing the feeling like a painting. Where 여백 [yeo-baek] or an 'empty part/side' signifies the space he needs to fill, in this case it is intended as 마음 [ma-eum] or heart. It is also identified through the use of the word 그리다 [geu-ri-da] in 그렸네 [geu-ryeot-ne] which means 'to draw'. Then, the use of the suffix -듯 [deut] which means 'like' in 인생을 쫓기다 [in-saeng-eul jjot-gi-da] or the pursuit of life, indicates something that he draws following in the footsteps of his life. In addition, the word 쫓기다 [jjot-gi-da] also has the meaning of being depressed by feelings as well as emotions that can make the heart restless, which indicates that the speaker draws something based on the emotions he feels.

Through the phrase 마음에 여백이 없다 [ma-eum-e yeo-baek-i eop-ta] or 'in the heart there is no empty space', the speaker said that in his heart there is no empty space that he can fill because it has been filled by something. Then followed by the sentence 인생을 쫓기듯 그렸네 [in-saeng-eul jjot-gi-deut geu-ryeot-ne] or '(I) draw it like chasing life', with an ending conjunction -아/어서 [a-seo/eo-seo] which means 'then' and 'because', indicating that on the grounds of the absence of that empty space, the speaker increasingly fills his heart with the anxiety/distress that he describes as pursuing life.

#### 4) Expressing Proud

In the lyrics of the song "White Space" there are several expressive speech acts that describe a sense of pride, namely:

Data 8

|                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 내 손에 주름이 있는 건, 길고 긴 내 인생에 훈장이고                                   |
| nae sone jureumi inneun geon gilgo gin nae insaenge hunjangigo   |
| <i>The wrinkle in my hand, it's a medal in my long long life</i> |

As previously explained, in the 8th data, the speaker feels proud because the wrinkles he gets on his hands are proof that he has gone through a long effort and struggle to get to this point, where he realizes that he has spent a lot of time.

#### 5) Blame

In the lyrics of the song "White Space" there are several expressive speech acts that describe blame, namely:

Data 9

|                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 청춘은 붉은 색도 아니고, 사랑은 핑크빛도 아니더라, 마음에 따라서 변하는 욕심 속 물감의 장난이지                                                                        |
| cheongchuneun bulgeun saekdo anigo, sarangeun pingkeubitdo anideora, maeume ttaraseo byeonhaneun yoksimsok mulgamui jangnaniji |
| <i>Love isn't even pink, it's changing according to one's mind. It's a prank of paint in greed</i>                             |

In the 9th data, the speaker blames the stigma of society which states that youth is like red which means having a high fighting spirit and having a lot of positive energy as contained in the lyrics

청춘은 붉은 색도 아니고 [cheong-chun-eun bul-geun saek- do a-ni-go] which means 'youth is not red'. Then love is similar to a pink color which means that in love there will only be feelings of pleasure, calm, and happiness as contained in the lyrics 사랑은 핑크빛도 아니더라 [sa-rang-eun ping-keu-bit-do a- ni-deo-ra] which means 'love (also) is not pink'. Whereas in real life, not all youth is full of enthusiasm, many people have a gloomy youth and are full of laziness. Likewise with love, it will not only be happy but there are many other things that might happen such as separation, quarrels, jealousy, etc. The speakers blame society for the stigma created by their minds as found in the lyrics 마음에 따라서 변하는 욕심 속 물감의 장난이지 [ma-eum-e tta-ra-seo byeon-ha-neun yok-sim sok mul-gam- ui jang-nan-i-ji] which means 'it (all) is just a painting trick in greed that changes according to the heart (feelings)'.

#### 6) Expressing Advice

In the lyrics of the song "White Space" there are several expressive speech acts that describe advice, namely:

Data 10

|                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 얼굴이 잘생긴 사람은 늙어 가는 게 슬프겠지. 아무리 화려한 옷을 입어도 저녁이면 벗게 되니까.                                                                      |
| eolguri jalsaenggin saram-eun neulgeo ganeun ge seulpeugetji. amuri hwaryeohan oseul ibeodo jeonyeogimyeon beotge doenikka |
| <i>A good-looking man, sad to get old. No matter how fancy you wear it, you'll take it off in the evening</i>              |

In this 10th data, the speaker said that something or things that were originally good could turn out to be less good over time. This is shown by the lyrics 얼굴이 잘생긴 사람은 늙어 가는 게 슬프겠지 [ol-gur-i jal-saeng-gin sa-ram-eun neul-geo ga-neun ge seul-peu-get-ji] or even a handsome person when aging will feel sad, considering things that can happen when they get older, for example, skin aging which can change facial appearance and other aging processes that can change a person's appearance. The next advice is also shown by the lyrics 아무리 화려한 옷을 입어도 저녁이면 벗게 되니까 [a-mu-ri hwa-ryeo-han o-seul i-beo-do jeo-nyeo-gi-myeon beot-ge doe-ni-kka] or no matter how good and luxurious the clothes you worn, it will be removed at night before going to bed (replacing them with sleepwear). These two lyrics show that in life there will be a time when one has to give up on good things because in the process of life there are not only good things and good positions but there will be things and positions that are not good enough.

#### 7) Expressing Hope

In the lyrics of the song "White Space" there are several expressive speech acts that describe Pengharapan, namely:

Data 11

|                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 마지막 남은 나의 인생은 아름답게 피우리라                                             |
| majimak nameun nau'i insaengeun areumdapge piurira                  |
| <i>The last remaining of my life, i wish can blooms beautifully</i> |

The 11th data shows the speaker's expectation to have a beautiful life in the rest of his life. This can be seen in the last lyric which is 아름답게 피우리라 [a-reum-dap-ge pi-u-ri-ra] which means 'will bloom beautifully' where the speaker describes his life as a flower, plus the use of grammar -(으)리라 [(eu)-ri-ra] which shows the conjecture for certain things indicates that his life will continue to grow and develop for the better like a flower. Even the certain conjecture of this positive outcome shows that there is an implied expectation.

## CONCLUSION

In the lyrics of songs, of course, they have a variety of things that the writers want to express by the lyrics to the readers and connoisseurs of the song. One of them is an expressive speech acts that show the condition of the psychological or feelings of the writer. For example, the expressive speech acts contained in the lyrics of the song titled 'White Space' sung by Jeong Dong-won and written by Kim Jong-hwan. In

the lyrics of this song, the author writes them implicitly or indirectly by showing various expressions such as sadness (4 results), regret (2 results), anxiety (1 result), proud (1 result), blame (1 result), giving advice (1 result), and hope (1 result) those contained in sentences and represent the writer's thoughts and feelings. Of course, the analysis of the meaning of the songwriter's speech can be different considering how the recipient of that speech captures the intention can also be different. So that there is openness and diversity over the meaning of this speech is understandable.

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