EXPRESSIVE SPEECH ACTS AND PUBLIC SENTIMENTS IN NETIZEN RESPONSES TO POLITICAL POSTS ON X

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Article Info	Abstract
Article History Received: October 2024 Revised: December 2024 Published: April 2025 **Keywords** *Expressive speech acts;* *Digital discourse;* *Political engagement;* *Felicity conditions;*	*The proliferation of online platforms such as "𝕏" (formerly Twitter) has significantly reshaped the nature of political discourse by enabling users to express their emotions and opinions instantly and publicly. Among the various forms of communication observed on these platforms, expressive speech acts— utterances that convey psychological states—play a central role in articulating sentiment. This study focuses on the expressive speech acts found in netizen responses to a post by President Joe Biden regarding U.S. economic growth. Analyzing 46 selected comments using Searle's theory of speech acts and Austin's felicity conditions, the research employs content analysis to uncover patterns in how language is used to express emotional reactions. The findings indicate that netizens predominantly employ literal and direct speech acts to convey negative emotions, especially discontent with Biden's economic policies. Sarcasm and irony emerge as key rhetorical devices that not only enrich the emotional texture of the comments but also serve as veiled critiques capable of influencing public perception. These nuanced expressions highlight how users navigate platform constraints to voice political opinions effectively. The study underscores the importance of understanding digital discourse, suggesting that such insights are crucial for political figures and policymakers seeking to engage meaningfully with the public in the digital age.*

INTRODUCTION

The widespread adoption of the internet and online communication has profoundly reshaped global interactions, spurring the growth of numerous digital communication platforms (Dwitama & Hidayat, 2021). Social networks have become vital channels for both mass communication and personal interaction, allowing users to engage in real-time exchanges that overcome geographical limitations (Voitko & Rakhimov, 2023). Among these platforms, "𝕏" (formerly Twitter) stands out as a prominent space where individuals and groups worldwide share thoughts, emotions, and opinions on a global scale (Sinnott et al., 2021). In this virtual environment, users communicate a wide array of information and emotions through various speech acts, shaping public discourse in ways that traditional media cannot replicate (Hristic & Stefanovic, 2022).

Expressive Speech Acts in Digital Communication

Speech act theory, based on the foundational work of Austin and Searle, provides a framework for understanding how utterances in digital settings function beyond merely conveying information (Epelde, 2020; Hanna & Richards, 2019). Speech acts are categorized into locutionary acts, which represent the literal meaning; illocutionary acts, which convey the

intended action; and perlocutionary acts, which describe the effect on the listener. Illocutionary acts, reflecting the speaker's intent, are particularly significant on online platforms where brevity, immediacy, and directness are prioritized. The concise nature of messages on platforms like "𝕏" creates an ideal environment for examining expressive speech acts that reveal psychological states, including gratitude, criticism, sarcasm, or frustration.

Expressive speech acts are especially well-suited to digital spaces, where users often face character limits that challenge them to convey complex emotions and ideas efficiently (Rodrigo, 2020). In online discourse, these acts allow users to express a range of psychological states and attitudes, often intensified by immediate feedback and the public visibility of interactions (Buder et al., 2023). This context transforms platforms like "𝕏" into powerful media not only for casual conversation but also for public displays of emotion, shaping collective perceptions and societal narratives (Wahl-Jorgensen, 2018). Through expressive speech acts, users contribute to the formation of social identities, public sentiment, and group affiliations, exerting considerable influence in the realm of political discourse (Gagrčin, 2024).

The Role of Expressive Speech Acts in Political Communication

In recent years, social media has provided influential figures, such as political leaders, party representatives, and heads of state, with a powerful tool to communicate directly with the public, manage crises, and control narratives in real time (Fatema et al., 2023). Unlike traditional media, where messages are carefully filtered and mediated, platforms like "𝕏" allow these figures to engage with the public in a seemingly personal and immediate manner. Political leaders carefully craft their statements to maximize impact, clarity, and persuasiveness, recognizing that every post could elicit immediate reactions from a global audience (Zhang et al., 2024). According to Al-Shboul et al. (2024), expressive speech acts serve as effective tools for politicians to influence public opinion and shape political discourse, as they allow leaders to communicate their emotional and psychological stances on issues, thus reinforcing their ideological positions and connecting emotionally with their audience.

Furthermore, pragmatic analysis, an approach that examines meaning in relation to context, plays a crucial role in understanding how language functions within these settings (Rahayu et al., 2024). Pragmatics goes beyond linguistic structure to consider how meaning is shaped by social and situational contexts, allowing researchers to analyze not just what is said but also how it is received and interpreted (Melani & Utomo, 2022). This is particularly relevant in digital discourse, where users often rely on indirect expressions or implicit meanings. For example, a simple comment may carry a deeper illocutionary force, as discussed by Parker in his foundational work on the topic, where users express emotions indirectly or employ sarcasm to convey dissatisfaction, thereby altering the intended meaning without overtly stating it (Ogleznev, 2022). Through pragmatic analysis, we can uncover the layers of meaning in these expressive acts, which often reveal the underlying sentiments and attitudes of users.

Political Discourse on 𝕏

"𝕏" provides a unique platform for political discourse, particularly because it enables real-time interaction between political figures and the public. This immediacy creates an environment where netizens can voice their opinions instantly, making it an ideal setting for studying expressive speech acts in politically charged exchanges. Unlike other platforms, "𝕏" often encourages the use of brief and impactful language, which can heighten the intensity of emotions conveyed in responses to political statements. Netizens commonly employ indirect speech acts, blending literal and non-literal meanings to express their views on political matters (Rodrigo, 2020). Comments such as "The economy sucks" might appear as straightforward critiques but often carry deeper emotional undertones, shaped by the platform's character limits and its tendency to favor concise, impactful statements (Li & Liu, 2021).

Several prior studies have examined the function of speech acts within social media environments like Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube, with a particular focus on how users perform acts beyond simple information sharing. These studies have demonstrated that social media users frequently engage in actions such as requests, expressions of emotion, and criticism (Rodrigo, 2020). However, there is a limited focus on the specific role of expressive speech acts within the context of political discourse on "X." This study aims to fill this gap by analyzing how expressive speech acts are employed in netizen comments responding to President Joe Biden's post about U.S. economic growth. As Biden's posts often attract emotionally charged reactions from a diverse audience, they offer a rich corpus for examining how expressive speech acts function in online political discourse. According to Garaeva et al. (2023), expressive speech acts are instrumental in conveying a range of emotions, including gratitude, praise, criticism, and blame, providing insight into the psychological state of netizens reacting to political content.

Research Objectives and Questions

This study explores the role of expressive speech acts in digital political discourse, particularly in interactions with political figures on "X." It applies Searle's theory of speech acts along with Austin's concept of felicity conditions. These felicity conditions, which require appropriate context, speaker intentions, and mutual understanding for speech acts to be successful, are essential for analyzing the effectiveness of expressive speech acts in shaping public perception (Austin, 1962). The study aims to address the following research questions:

1. What types of expressive speech acts and emotions are predominant in netizen comments responding to President Joe Biden's post on "X"?
2. How do netizens use sarcasm, irony, and other indirect expressions to convey complex emotions and critiques within this political context, and how does this impact the felicity of their speech acts?

Key Elements in Expressive Speech Acts in Digital Discourse

To gain a deeper understanding of how expressive speech acts are constructed in online discourse, this study examines how these acts are interwoven with various communicative strategies, including euphemism, sarcasm, irony, and complex emotional expressions. Netizens often use euphemisms to soften harsh criticisms or to veil intense emotions under a layer of politeness, which indirectly shapes public perception of political figures. In contrast, sarcasm and irony allow for layered emotional critique, enabling users to express both disdain and frustration through indirect speech. This combination of language techniques amplifies the expressive power of digital discourse, especially in politically sensitive discussions.

The concept map below illustrates these components, emphasizing the connection between expressive speech acts and the factors that shape public perception, especially in the politically charged environment of platforms like "X."
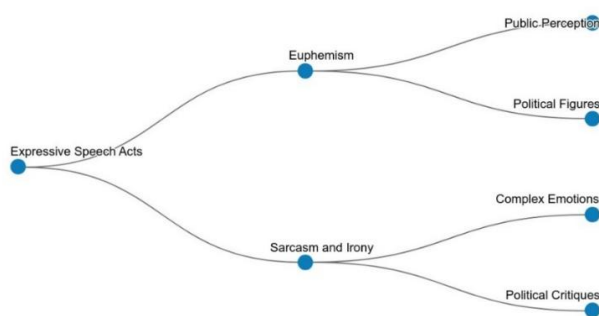

Figure 1: Key Elements of Expressive Speech Acts in Online Political Discourse

RESEARCH METHOD

This study investigates expressive speech acts in netizen comments on social networks, specifically focusing on the relationship between language and emotional expression. The research centers on understanding how netizens express emotions such as apologizing, congratulating, thanking, deploring, and conveying attitudes in responses to one of President Joe Biden's "𝕏" posts (@POTUS) from January 5, 2024, discussing the USA's economic growth in 2023. Netizen comments posted between January 5 and January 6, 2024, were analyzed, focusing on sentences containing expressive speech acts to explore how these expressions impact social interaction and public perception.

Research Design

The research employs a post-positivistic paradigm, which views truth as relative and knowledge as gained through observation and empirical testing. Post-positivism acknowledges that observations are shaped by the theory and context, differing from the absolute objectivity of positivism (Rahardjo, 2023). This paradigm aligns well with the qualitative approach taken here, which is complemented by a quasi-qualitative method to balance qualitative insights with supportive statistical analysis. This combined approach is particularly suited for studying expressive speech acts, as it allows for a detailed examination of emotional expressions within social media discourse, addressing the complexity and indirectness often seen in digital interactions, such as sarcasm and irony.

Research Participants and Data Source

The study focuses on netizen comments in response to President Biden's economic post on "𝕏," with 46 comments selected as the data source. These comments represent a sample of public opinion and emotional response to a high-profile political figure's statement, providing rich data for examining language and emotional expression in digital political discourse.

Research Instruments

The instruments in this study involve document analysis tools adapted to digital contexts. A content analysis approach was used to capture nuanced emotional expressions, particularly indirect forms like sarcasm and irony. Adjustments were made to ensure the digital context was considered, such as analyzing indirect cues typical of online discourse, including tone implied through phrasing or punctuation. This adaptation ensured that emotional subtleties and indirect expressions were systematically identified and analyzed.

Data Collection Technique

The data collection process began with locating the relevant "𝕏" post by President Biden on his official account, from which 46 publicly visible comments were recorded. This approach utilized cyber research techniques, essential for capturing behaviors and communication patterns on digital platforms. Cyber research enables real-time, large-scale data collection from user-generated content, surpassing traditional methods in its ability to capture the immediacy and scale of online interactions.

Data Analysis

Data analysis followed Sugiyono's (2013) framework, which includes steps for data collection, reduction, presentation, and drawing conclusions. Thematic analysis was applied, focusing on identifying emotional expressions, with particular attention to indirect forms such as sarcasm. To classify expressive speech acts, Searle's (1976) categories were used, including apologizing, congratulating, thanking, deploring, and attitude. Additionally, Austin's (1962) felicity conditions and Parker's (1986) framework of direct and indirect speech acts, as well as literal and non-literal speech acts, were applied to explore the underlying intent of each comment. These analytical tools allowed for a detailed examination of emotional subtleties, addressing the subjective nature of sarcasm and indirect speech.

This structured and comprehensive method, combining qualitative, quasi-qualitative, and cyber research techniques, provides a flexible and adaptive framework for understanding complex emotional expressions in online discourse, highlighting how expressive speech acts contribute to social interaction and public perception in a digital context.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
Research Findings
This study presents an in-depth analysis of 46 comments responding to President Joe Biden's post on the U.S. economy, classifying them into expressive speech acts using Searle's (1969) framework. By examining various types of expressions, this analysis underscores how digital political discourse comprises a rich tapestry of emotional responses, often layered with sarcasm and indirectness. This section explores the classification of these expressive acts, their alignment with Austin's felicity conditions, and the overarching thematic patterns that emerge.

Classification of Expressive Speech Acts: Diverse Emotions and Intents
Table 1 outlines the four major categories of expressive speech acts identified in this dataset, providing a quantitative snapshot of the most prevalent types of emotional expressions:

Table 1

Frequency of Expressive Speech Act Categories in Netizen Comments

No	Category	Quantity
1	Expressive of Congratulating	1
2	Expressive of Thanking	3
3	Expressive of Deploring	16
4	Expressive of Attitude (13 Positive, 13 Negative)	26

Direct Expressions of Praise and Gratitude
Direct expressions of praise, while minimal, reflect a straightforward form of approval that appears sparingly within the dataset. For example, the comment "Congratulations!" (Artem, 5 January 2024) represents an unambiguous expression of joy, standing in contrast to the dataset's more critical tone. This form of praise is rare, underscoring that while some netizens do show support for Biden, it is often succinct and unembellished, lacking the depth or intensity seen in more critical responses. Similarly, expressions of gratitude, though limited in number, reveal a tendency among netizens to credit Biden's policies with positive outcomes, often intertwined with ideological overtones.

For instance:

"*Thank you, Joel. Another example of why America invented capitalism and currently has the greatest economy in world history*." (Three Year Letterman, 5 January 2024)

In this case, the expression of gratitude is amplified by the commenter's ideological reinforcement of capitalism, transforming the act of thanking into a broader assertion of national pride. This interweaving of emotion and ideology highlights how gratitude in online political discourse can serve as a means of endorsing both a leader's actions and a larger political or economic system. By embedding personal values within the speech act, commenters extend the meaning of their praise beyond Biden's policies, resonating with deeper beliefs.

Direct Expressions of Criticism: Deploring as a Dominant Act
Deploring speech acts constitute the majority, revealing a prevalent inclination toward direct criticism. This pattern suggests that netizens often choose explicit, unfiltered language when critiquing political figures, indicating a preference for transparency and immediacy in their expressions. Comments like:

"Joe I'm sorry but I can't believe anything you say because you are a pathological liar."
(William Cannon, 6 January 2024)

Using a sarcastic preface ("I'm sorry") is to introduce a direct and personal denunciation. By framing criticism in this way, commenters create a nuanced blend of polite language and severe accusation, enhancing the impact of their message. The prevalence of such comments suggests that netizens on platforms like "𝕏" feel emboldened to address leaders in a frank, often personal manner, reflecting the platform's informal, egalitarian nature.

Another example:

"Our wallets don't lie, random Biden staffer. The economy sucks." (Burt Macklin, 5 January 2024)

This comment illustrates how personal economic hardships are used as tangible evidence of political failure. By grounding their critique in personal experience, commenters lend authenticity to their expressions, underscoring the real consequences they associate with economic policies. This approach provides a direct, experiential foundation for criticism, highlighting netizens' preference for concrete grievances over abstract debate.

Indirect Expressions: Sarcasm and Irony as Subversive Critique

The analysis also reveals a smaller but significant portion of indirect, non-literal expressions, particularly those using sarcasm and irony. These speech acts are strategically deployed to veil criticism within ostensibly positive language, adding layers of meaning that require deeper interpretation. Table 2 provides a breakdown of speech acts according to their literal versus non-literal and direct versus indirect nature:

Table 2
Breakdown of Literal vs. Non-Literal and Direct vs. Indirect Speech Acts

No	Category	Quantity
1	Literal and Direct Speech Act	37
2	Non-Literal and Direct Speech Act	1
3	Literal and Indirect Speech Act	0
4	Non-Literal and Indirect Speech Act	8

One example of this indirect approach is:

"Congrats Joe, you did it," followed by "means real workers have to pay the salaries of more government leeches." (Bloope, 5 January 2024)

This comment begins with a sarcastic "Congrats Joe," masking criticism within a congratulatory phrase. The second part of the comment subverts the initial praise by criticizing public sector job creation, framing it as a financial burden on taxpayers. This dual-layered construction allows the commenter to voice disapproval while presenting it within a superficially positive structure, underscoring sarcasm as a potent vehicle for veiled critique in online discourse.

Similarly, the comment:

"That's impressive Mr. President. That means out of the 336 million people in the US, 0.80% have jobs."

Here, the seemingly positive statistic actually highlights perceived economic shortcomings. This approach reflects the complexity of digital communication, where sarcasm and irony convey dissatisfaction without overt negativity, aligning with Brown and Yule's (1983) observations on the layered social functions of language.

Evaluating Felicity Conditions in Expressive Speech Acts

An analysis of how well comments align with Austin's felicity conditions further illustrates the effectiveness of these speech acts.

Table 3
Felicity Conditions in Netizen Comments

No	Felicity Condition	Quantity
1	Person and Circumstances Appropriateness	44
2	Complete and Correct Execution by All Participants	44
3	Appropriate Intentions of Participants	44
4	Not Fulfilled	2

In evaluating how netizen comments align with Austin's felicity conditions, this study reveals that most comments meet these criteria, particularly in terms of appropriateness, clear intent, and completeness. For example, the comment, "Thank you, President Biden. #DemsDeliverJobsAgain" (Aaron Black, 5 January 2024), directs gratitude clearly toward President Biden, with the hashtag reinforcing the commenter's approval. This statement fulfills the felicity conditions by aligning intent with a transparent message, leaving no ambiguity about the speaker's appreciation for Biden's economic policies.

Another instance of clear, direct praise appears in the comment, "Great job on the unemployment rate, Mr. President!" (Samantha M., 6 January 2024). This comment directly commends Biden for his economic achievements, meeting the felicity conditions by ensuring that both the intention and context are transparent, straightforward, and immediately understood.

However, some comments, especially those using sarcasm or irony, fail to meet the felicity conditions due to the ambiguity they introduce. For example, the comment "Congrats on helping the 'average American' by raising gas prices!" (Mark C., 5 January 2024) superficially appears to offer praise but contains an underlying critique of Biden's economic policies. Here, sarcasm obscures the intention, creating a disparity between the literal meaning and the underlying criticism. Similarly, "Way to go, Joe! The inflation rate is really something to be proud of" (Linda T., 5 January 2024) uses sarcasm to critique inflation under Biden's administration. While the words seem positive, the sarcastic tone disrupts clarity, masking dissatisfaction and complicating the intent for the audience.

These examples illustrate that while many netizens align with felicity conditions through direct expressions, others employ sarcasm and irony to add complexity, which can obscure intent and complicate interpretation. These findings demonstrate how indirect expressions introduce layers of meaning that challenge traditional speech act theory's focus on clear intent and straightforward interpretation.

Summary of Key Findings and Thematic Patterns

The thematic patterns observed across these expressive speech acts demonstrate that digital political discourse on "𝕏" encompasses both overt and covert forms of communication. The dominance of Literal and Direct Speech Acts indicates a preference for explicitness, particularly in expressing dissatisfaction. However, the presence of sarcasm and irony within Non-Literal and Indirect Speech Acts introduces a layer of rhetorical sophistication that challenges traditional speech act theory's ability to capture online discourse fully.

These findings suggest that while some netizens favor clear, direct expression, others leverage the subtleties of language to embed multiple layers of meaning, creating a diverse communicative landscape. Expressive acts thus serve not only as outlets for personal sentiment but also as tools for broader social commentary, where language becomes a medium for

political engagement, criticism, and the negotiation of public sentiment in an increasingly complex digital arena.

Discussion

The findings of this study are positioned within the broader context of speech act research in digital communication. By analyzing 46 netizen comments on President Joe Biden's @POTUS post from January 5, 2024, this study classified expressive speech acts and examined their usage, drawing on frameworks from Searle (1976), Austin (1962a), and Parker (1986). The results shed light on the use of expressive speech acts in politically charged digital discourse, particularly in response to Biden's post.

The data indicate a strong preference for Literal and Direct Speech Acts, with 37 comments in this category, suggesting that netizens often prioritize clarity and directness in both positive and negative expressions. Comments like "Congratulations" communicate unambiguous praise, while statements such as "Your economy is terrible" clearly convey dissatisfaction. These examples align with Austin's theory, which highlights the importance of synchronizing literal meaning with illocutionary force to ensure effective communication. The tendency to use Literal and Direct Speech Acts, especially for criticism, reflects the nature of political discourse, where users may feel compelled to voice their opinions explicitly when discussing policies. This inclination for directness suggests that netizens value transparency in political interactions within digital spaces.

Some comments, however, demonstrate overlapping categories that challenge direct classification. For instance, comments blending sarcasm, criticism, and indirect praise, such as "Congrats Joe, you did it," illustrate how categories like "congratulating" and "deploring" can overlap. While the surface language appears positive, underlying criticism shifts the speech act into a complex expression that complicates traditional categorization. Such examples underscore a limitation of speech act theory, which may struggle to classify expressions where literal and non-literal meanings coexist (Cutting & Fordyce, 2021).

Ambiguity is also notable within Non-Literal and Indirect Speech Acts, where sarcasm and irony are frequently used to convey layered intentions. Comments such as "That's impressive Mr. President. That means out of the 336 million people in the US, 0.80% have jobs" appear positive but ultimately communicate criticism indirectly. This reliance on sarcasm introduces ambiguity and challenges the assumption in traditional frameworks that speech acts convey clear intent. As noted by Brown and Yule (1983), such comments reflect the complex, multi-layered nature of communication, where a single utterance can serve multiple functions, signaling individual sentiment and broader social engagement.

The absence of Literal and Indirect Speech Acts in this dataset is also noteworthy, suggesting that netizens on platforms like "𝕏" rarely use indirect language to convey literal meanings. This trend could stem from the platform's emphasis on brevity and immediacy, which encourages users to be explicit, particularly in politically sensitive contexts. Compared to previous studies, such as Rahmad's (2019) work on Facebook, which observed a stronger emphasis on directive speech acts, this study's focus on expressive acts in "𝕏" comments highlights the platform's role in fostering emotional engagement rather than instructive interaction. This difference implies that "𝕏," with its character limits and quick pace, naturally supports expressions of sentiment, especially in polarized discussions.

Sarcasm and irony, recurring in Non-Literal and Indirect Speech Acts, align with Dresner and Herring's (2010) observations on how online users convey illocutionary force without relying on non-verbal cues like tone or body language. While this study did not examine emoticons, the prevalence of sarcasm implies that users adeptly convey complex emotional nuances through text alone. This reliance on linguistic cues reflects the challenges digital platforms face in accurately interpreting sarcasm and irony, suggesting a need for more

advanced content moderation tools to identify these complex expressions. Furthermore, the predominance of negative expressive acts aligns with Ardi et al. (2020), who observed "flaming" behavior on social media, underscoring how platforms like Twitter can serve as outlets for public criticism, especially around political discourse. The platform's design, which promotes rapid and reactive communication, may unintentionally amplify confrontational language, underscoring social media's role in shaping public opinion and discourse.

The comparison between interactions with political figures and celebrities reveals notable differences in how netizens engage with these two groups. As explored by Das and Goard (2017), political figures like Biden often attract critical and polarized responses, while celebrities typically receive admiration and praise. This contrast highlights how the context of discussion, whether political or entertainment-focused, influences the types of speech acts users employ. The findings suggest that discussions around political figures on platforms like "𝕏" may naturally foster divisive discourse, given the platform's role in facilitating debate on complex societal issues.

While traditional analyses of speech acts offer foundational insights, they may fall short in capturing the complex emotional cues associated with sarcasm and indirect speech acts. Platforms like "𝕏" could benefit from multi-faceted approaches that extend beyond linguistic theory, integrating advanced computational methods to enhance moderation algorithms. For instance, unsupervised mathematical optimization and probability distribution methods, as discussed by Pokhriyal and Jain (2024), leverage probabilistic categorization to recognize intricate language patterns. This approach, combined with context-based evaluations (Malave & Dhage, 2020), emphasizes the role of user behavior and context in detecting sarcasm, thereby expanding traditional speech act analysis.

Additionally, machine learning and deep learning models, such as CNN-SVM (Convolutional Neural Network - Support Vector Machine) and ARO-MCEDNN (Attention-based Recurrent Optimization - Multi-Channel Ensemble Deep Neural Network) (Sarsam et al., 2020; Palaniammal & Anandababu, 2023), demonstrate strong potential in accurately identifying indirect speech acts by using lexical, syntactic, and pragmatic cues. Furthermore, multi-modal sarcasm detection frameworks (Yu & Ji, 2024), which employ cross-modality attention fusion, allow a more comprehensive interpretation by aligning emotional signals across different channels. These approaches suggest that blending traditional speech act analysis with computational methods could enhance the detection of sarcasm and indirect speech on social media, supporting more effective content moderation without limiting user expression.

The study also acknowledges limitations in applying traditional speech act frameworks to online comments due to the unique characteristics of digital discourse. Digital conversations, as Cutting and Fordyce (2021) note, often include fillers, backchannels, and incomplete speech that do not fit neatly into traditional speech act categories but serve essential social functions, such as maintaining rapport. Additionally, distinguishing sarcasm or indirect expressions from genuine statements can be challenging, as these forms rely heavily on shared context and often lack clear illocutionary intent. These insights imply that while traditional frameworks are valuable, they may require adaptations to address the distinct features of online interactions, such as brevity, anonymity, and the rapid exchange of messages.

This study highlights the complexity of speech acts in online political discourse. The prominence of Literal and Direct Speech Acts reflects users' preference for clarity, particularly when expressing dissatisfaction. Nevertheless, the presence of sarcasm and other figurative language in Non-Literal and Indirect Speech Acts demonstrates that users employ sophisticated rhetorical strategies to convey layered meanings. This research contributes to the expanding body of literature on digital communication by illustrating how language shapes public discourse, especially within politically sensitive discussions on platforms like "𝕏."

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study reveal that digital political discourse is more layered and complex than initially anticipated. Contrary to the assumption that netizens would mostly employ straightforward and literal expressions, the analysis uncovered a significant use of intricate forms of communication, such as irony and sarcasm, particularly in critiques of political figures. This discovery challenges the prevailing belief that online exchanges are dominated by direct and simple statements, showing instead that netizens often rely on subtle and multi-faceted strategies to convey their opinions and emotions.

Building on these findings, this study offers valuable insights into cyber linguistics, especially in analyzing expressive speech acts within political contexts. The frequent use of literal and direct speech acts, particularly for expressing negative sentiments, highlights how netizens engage in clear and concise political critique. Meanwhile, the presence of non-literal expressions like sarcasm demonstrates that online interactions often involve deeper layers of meaning. These speech acts require careful interpretation, suggesting that even within the fast-paced environment of social media, users employ sophisticated rhetorical tools to articulate their emotional and ideological stances.

For researchers and social media analysts, these findings highlight the importance of developing frameworks that capture the complex ways in which netizens express themselves online. A focused analysis of expressive speech acts, especially those that involve indirectness and figurative language such as sarcasm and irony, could deepen our understanding of digital sentiment. Incorporating advanced analytical tools, such as natural language processing and sentiment analysis, could also enhance social media platforms' ability to interpret and moderate expressive content more accurately. Future research could expand on this study to examine similar interactions across various platforms or explore responses to different political figures, offering a fuller view of how netizens use expressive speech acts to engage with political discourse in online environments.

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