

LINGUISTICS AND VIETNAMESE LINGUISTICS

**SPEECH ACTS EMPLOYED BY JUDGES
IN TV REALITY SHOW “MASTERCHEF US SEASON 8”****NGUYEN THI MINH HUYEN* - LUONG HUE PHUONG****

ABSTRACT: This study aims to investigate the speech acts utilized by judges in the TV reality show "MasterChef US season 8". The study employs both quantitative and qualitative methods to classify and analyze the judges' utterances in four episodes of the show, based on the theoretical frameworks proposed by Searle (1979) and Yule (2010). The analysis of the judges' utterances in this TV show revealed several key findings regarding their speech act employment. Firstly, the study found that all five types of speech acts (i.e., Representatives, Commissives, Directives, Declarations, and Expressives) were employed in the four selected episodes of "MasterChef US season 8". Among these speech acts, Representatives occupied the first place. Secondly, the judges in this competition demonstrated a preference for direct speech acts over indirect ones. The analysis also uncovered that contextual factors, such as the situations of the speech and the relationship between the speakers and hearers, influenced the judges' choices of speech acts.

KEY WORDS: Speech acts; pragmatics; contextual factors; reality shows.

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1. Introduction

Language is a dynamic medium for expressing ideas, thoughts, and emotions, both in written and spoken communication. However, understanding spoken language poses a unique challenge due to the various interpretations arising from the meaning conveyed within different contexts (Leech, 1983). Within the field of linguistics, the study of speech acts holds significant importance as it enables individuals to comprehend the intentions underlying spoken words, thereby capturing both their literal and intended meanings. Speech acts can be found in every part of the conversation, and reality shows serve as captivating platforms to showcase their usage. Among these shows, “MasterChef US” stands out as a renowned culinary competition and reality-based series that has captivated audiences worldwide with its twelve seasons and 267 episodes. This article aims to analyze the speech acts employed by the primary judges in a particular season of “MasterChef US” – namely, “MasterChef US season 8.” By investigating the speech acts of the judges, this research hopes to uncover their distinct styles while also identifying commonalities in their usage. Furthermore, this study aims to contribute to a broader understanding of linguistic pragmatics, shedding light on the complexities of communication in reality shows.

2. Theoretical background and methodology**2.1. Theoretical background****2.1.1. Speech acts****2.1.1.1. Definition of speech acts**

The concept of speech act is one of the most important notions in pragmatics, emphasizing that utterances are not merely conveyors of meaning, but also perform actions. The term was introduced by philosopher Austin in his book "How to Do Things with Words" (1975), and further developed by Searle (1979). Austin (1975) defines speech act as the actions we engage in when we utter words. Yule (1996:47) describes “Speech act is a study of how the speakers and hearers use language. Speech acts are actions that are performed via utterances”. Searle et al. (1980) adds that speech acts are the fundamental units of human communication, surpassing individual sentences or expressions. They encompass acts such as stating, questioning, ordering, describing, explaining, apologizing, thanking, congratulating, and more. In summary, speech acts are the statement that contains functional action in communications considering the situational aspects.

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2.1.1.2. Speech acts classification

Searle (1979) categorizes speech acts into five types based on their functions: representatives, commissives, directives, declarations, and expressives. Representatives involve stating what the speaker believes to be true or false, including statements of fact, assertions, conclusions, and descriptions. The speaker's words aim to match their perception of the world. Commissives are speech acts where the speaker commits themselves to future actions, such as promises, threats, refusals, and pledges, with the intention of bringing about a change in the world. Directives are used to get someone else to do something, expressing the speaker's desires through commands, orders, requests, or suggestions. Declarations, rely on the speaker's institutional role in a specific context, and change the world simply by being uttered, such as declaring war or christening. Expressives express the speaker's feelings or psychological states, including pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, sorrow, or complaints, reflecting the speaker's subjective experience and do not necessarily provide information about the world. Together, these speech acts encompass a range of functions in communication.

Speech acts can also be categorized into two main types: direct speech acts and indirect speech acts. According to Yule (2010), speech acts involve the use of specific linguistic forms to fulfill certain functions, and there is a relationship between the structural forms and the general communicative functions. Direct speech acts appear when there is a direct relationship between a structure and a function. When employing direct speech acts, speakers aim to convey the literal meaning expressed by the words. An indirect speech act occurs when there is an indirect relationship between a structure and a function. In contrast, indirect speech acts demonstrate an indirect relationship between the structure and function. In these cases, speakers typically express their intentions implicitly. Yule (1996: 55) notes that different structures can be used to achieve the same basic function in indirect speech acts. Geis (1995) provides further classification criteria, stating that the relationship between the function and structure of an utterance determines whether it is a direct or indirect speech act. If the relationship is direct, the utterance is classified as a direct speech act, while an indirect relationship indicates an indirect speech act. It is important to consider the presence of performative verbs, which are used to declare, as they indicate a direct speech act.

2.1.2. Context

Context plays a crucial role in understanding how language is used, and it includes various aspects. Asher (1994) defines context as a linguistic term that is frequently used but rarely explained. Yule (1996) describes context as the physical environment in which words are used. Mey (1993) states that context goes beyond reference and involves understanding the broader context of a situation. Context encompasses not only the surrounding sounds but also the practices and actions involved. In pragmatics, context is taking place in everything that surrounds or the environment which allows for interaction between speaker and hearer, which allows the expression of its language in this interaction to be understood. In conclusion, context involves the speaker, the hearer, their relationship, and the situational factors that influence their interaction, all of which are crucial for comprehending and interpreting utterances in conversations.

2.1.3. Related studies

Researchers have shown interest in studying speech acts in various contexts, including films, talk shows, political speeches, and television commercials. Widowati (2012) examined speech acts of commands in the movie "Elizabeth: The Golden Age," identifying both direct and indirect forms of commands and exploring different politeness strategies. Treasyalina and Ridwan (2015) analyzed speech acts in the Indonesian talk show "Mata Najwa," finding that direct speech acts were more dominant, particularly through interrogative, declarative, and imperative speech. Siti and Muhammad (2018) focused on Donald Trump's inaugural speech, identifying statements of fact, assertions, and discussions of hopes as the primary illocutionary acts. Ingles (2018) studied speech acts in Philippine television commercials and found that the style of presentation influenced the types of speech acts

used, with informational approaches being preferred. Nguyen (2017) examined speech act types in conversations from the New Interchange series, observing a tendency for combined speech acts but a preference for single speech act groups, particularly representatives. In relation to the MasterChef series, Citra and Yusticia (2016) analyzed speech acts in "MasterChef US Season 7," focusing on the dominant type of suggestion and its strategies. In this particular study, the researcher aims to analyze the speech acts performed by judges in "MasterChef US Season 8" using Searle's (1979) theory and Yule's (2010) classification of speech acts, while also considering the influence of contextual factors on the judges' speech acts in the reality show.

2.2. Methodology

Data were collected from four selected episodes (Episodes 10, 15, 20, and 21) of "MasterChef US season 8" due to the massive length of the script of each episode in this TV reality show. The analysis specifically focused on the speeches of the three main judges: Gordon Ramsay, Christina Tosi, and Aaron Sanchez. Those videos are selected randomly from episode 10 to the last one because episode 10 marked the first attendance of a guest. Therefore, it can be implied that the languages of judging from these episodes are varied. Thus, the speech acts might differ considerably in those judges. Firstly, data from the four chosen episodes of the MasterChef reality show were obtained from YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/>) and Dailymotion (<https://www.dailymotion.com/vn>). Additionally, the transcript of the reality show was obtained from Subscene (<https://subscene.com>). Secondly, the episodes were watched carefully several times to make sure the transcripts and the actual utterances were coherent and also to understand the context of each utterance. The transcripts were then revised based on the actual utterances and the utterances made by the 3 judges were retrieved for analysis.

Both quantitative and qualitative analysis methods were used in this research. The quantitative analysis examined the number and proportion of each type of speech act used by each character, while the qualitative analysis focused on explaining the similarities and differences in the use of speech acts among the three main judges and at different stages of the episodes.

Stage A: *Opening, Introduction.*

Stage B: *Instruction-* Judges draw up the rules and guide contestants before each challenge.

Stage C: *Contest-* Contestants take on cooking challenges and culinary judges observe their processes.

Stage D: *Assessment* – Contestants receive comments from judges.

Stage E: *Discussion-* Judges discuss together the candidates' performance and cooking-related things.

Stage F: *Announcement-* Judges declare the winner and the eliminated candidates.

The results of the analysis were presented using tables, which summarized the data and made it easy to understand. This study combined Searl's (1979) classifications of speech acts and Yule's (2010) direct-indirect classification in the analytical framework. Since this study is pragmatic, all contextual features were considered necessary for explaining how the acts work, and the context was included in the analytical framework as well.

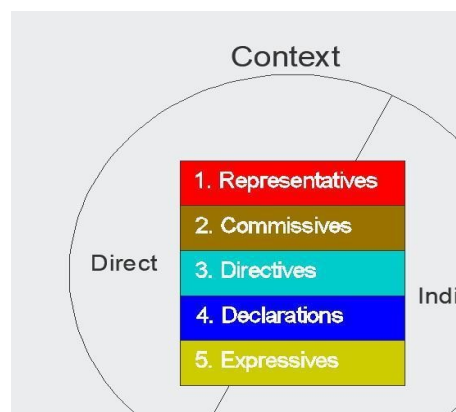


Figure 1. The Analytical Framework

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Results

3.1.1. Speech acts employed by judges based on specific stages of the episode.

In the following table, the sentences found in the script of 4 episodes of reality TV show “MasterChef US season 8” are analyzed and segmented into the types of speech acts.

Table 1. The total amount usage of speech acts

No.	Speech Act Types	Σ	%
1	Representatives	532	38%
2	Commissives	42	3%
3	Directives	414	30%
4	Declarations	11	1%
5	Expressives	398	28%
Total:		1397	100%

Table 1 clearly shows that the frequency of speech acts varied considerably among the 5 types. It is noticeable that the great majority of the utterances are in the category of *Representatives*, *Directives*, and *Expressives*, while small fractions go to *Commissives* and *Declaration*. The representative speech act tends to be the most dominant choice with 532 times and followed closely by directives with 414 times. Expressive speech act ranks third with 398 times and the rest belong to commissive and declarative speech act with only 42 and 11 times respectively.

As mentioned before, 4 episodes of the show are analyzed based on 6 stages. The average length of each episode is about 40 minutes apart from the beginning and ending, which in total sums up to about 160 minutes of material. A total of 1397 utterances by 4 judges were identified. Below are some points concerning speech acts by judges in each stage of selected episodes in “MasterChef US season 8”.

Table 2. Speech acts by judges in episode 10

Stage/ Speech acts	Representatives		Commissives		Directives		Declarations		Expressives		Judges
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
Stage A	6	0	1	1	7	0	0	0	9	0	Gordon
Stage B	6	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	
Stage C	9	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	10	0	

Stage D	21	0	1	3	20	0	0	0	33	8	Christina
Stage E	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
Stage F	3	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	5	0	
Stage A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Stage B	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	
Stage C	4	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	2	0	
Stage D	9	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	21	5	Aaron
Stage E	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Stage F	6	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	
Stage A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Stage B	10	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	
Stage C	2	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	2	0	
Stage D	6	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	15	0	Total
Stage E	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Stage F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	97	1	3	6	131	1	2	1	105	13	

Table 3. Speech acts by judges in episode 15

Stage/ Speech acts	Representatives		Commissives		Directives		Declarations		Expressives		Judge
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
Stage A	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	Gordon
Stage B	8	0	0	0	10	3	0	0	7	0	
Stage C	18	0	1	1	21	2	0	0	3	4	
Stage D	17	0	2	2	19	4	0	0	17	1	
Stage E	10	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
Stage F	6	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	4	0	
Stage A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Christina
Stage B	15	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Stage C	11	0	0	0	22	1	0	0	1	0	
Stage D	23	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	8	1	
Stage E	26	2	1	1	3	2	0	0	2	2	
Stage F	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
Stage A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	Aaron
Stage B	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Stage C	7	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	3	0	
Stage D	9	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	9	1	

Stage E	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Stage F	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total	171	3	6	6	112	13	1	1	62	10

Table 4. Speech acts by judges in the grand finale

Stage/Speech acts	Representatives		Commissives		Directives		Declarations		Expressives		Judge
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
Stage A	30	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	15	2	Gordon
Stage B	5	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	
Stage C	31	1	0	0	47	3	0	0	12	0	
Stage D	39	0	3	5	17	0	0	0	43	5	
Stage E	49	0	1	0	10	1	0	0	9	1	
Stage F	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	
Stage A	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	2	Christina
Stage B	5	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	
Stage C	2	0	0	1	22	3	0	0	2	0	
Stage D	17	0	1	1	13	3	0	0	50	5	
Stage E	24	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	9	3	
Stage F	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Stage A	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	Aaron
Stage B	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Stage C	4	0	1	0	13	0	0	0	4	1	
Stage D	15	0	1	0	15	1	0	0	26	1	
Stage E	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	
Stage F	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	258	1	8	7	160	13	5	0	184	21	

The analysis of the four selected episodes in six stages reveals interesting findings regarding the distribution of speech acts among the three main judges in "MasterChef US season 8". While the majority of utterances are in the category of representatives and the minority belongs to commissives and declarations, the distribution of speech acts varies across the stages. In stages A and D, expressive speech acts dominate, while representatives are prominent in stages B, E, and F, and directives take the lead in stage C. It is worth noting that Gordon Ramsay, who serves as a producer and judge on the show, has the highest number of utterances among the three judges. Christina Tosi comes in second place, while Aaron Sanchez ranks third. When considering the directness and indirectness of speech acts, the data indicates that the three main judges generally prefer to use direct speech acts. However, Christina Tosi tends to employ more indirect speech acts compared to the other judges, while Aaron Sanchez has a minimal number of indirect speech acts. Furthermore, it is evident that Gordon Ramsay stands out as the strictest judge in the TV show, as he consistently exhibits the highest number of directives in each stage of the cooking competition.

3.1.2. Speech acts employment in relation to the addressees of the acts

3.1.2.1. Speech acts by judges in conversations with people in the show.

The total use of speech acts by Gordon Ramsay, Christina Tosi, and Aaron Sanchez when communicating with people in "MasterChef US season 8" is presented in table 5, table 6, and table 7 below:

Table 5. The result of using speech acts by Gordon Ramsay

Speech acts/ Hearers	Candidates	Co-judges	Guests	Audiences
<i>Representatives</i>	184	68	4	15
<i>Directives</i>	197	12	12	5
<i>Commissives</i>	21	1	1	0
<i>Expressives</i>	168	13	11	6
<i>Declarations</i>	8	0	0	0
<i>Direct</i>	529	92	26	26
<i>Indirect</i>	49	2	2	0
Total speech acts per hearer (726)	578	94	28	26

Table 6. The result of using speech acts by Christina Tosi

Speech acts/ Hearers	Candidates	Co-judges	Guests	Audiences
<i>Representatives</i>	107	52	1	2
<i>Directives</i>	113	9	3	1
<i>Commissives</i>	11	1	0	0
<i>Expressives</i>	102	17	3	4
<i>Declarations</i>	2	0	0	0
<i>Direct</i>	307	70	6	7
<i>Indirect</i>	28	9	1	0
Total speech acts per hearer (428)	335	79	7	7

Table 7. The result of using speech acts by Aaron Sanchez

Speech acts/ Hearers	Candidates	Co-judges	Guests	Audiences
<i>Representatives</i>	68	24	1	6
<i>Directives</i>	55	5	0	2
<i>Commissives</i>	5	2	0	0
<i>Expressives</i>	66	8	0	0
<i>Declarations</i>	1	0	0	0
<i>Direct</i>	184	37	1	8
<i>Indirect</i>	11	2	0	0
Total speech acts per hearer (243)	195	39	1	8

According to data shown in 3 tables, it is noticeable that the judges dedicated a significant amount of time interacting with the candidates, as the majority of their utterances were directed towards them. Specifically, Gordon Ramsay, Christina Tosi, and Aaron Sanchez engaged in 578, 335, and 195 utterances with the candidates, respectively. When communicating with the candidates, while Gordon Ramsay and Christina Tosi tended to take directive speech acts when talking with candidates, Aaron Sanchez chose to use more representative ones. Declarations were only used when judges made announcements to candidates. It is also clear that the most frequent speech act type employed by judges

when discussing with their co-judges is representatives which are 68 utterances by Gordon, 52 utterances by Christina, and 24 utterances by Aaron.

Gordon Ramsay emerged as the judge who engaged in more communication with guests and the audience compared to the other judges. Aaron Sanchez had minimal interaction with guests, with only one instance recorded. Christina Tosi relied solely on expressive speech acts when communicating with guests and the audience. Similarly, Aaron Sanchez predominantly used representatives in such interactions. In contrast, Gordon Ramsay displayed a preference for directives when interacting with guests and representatives when addressing the audience.

The dominant style of performing speech acts by all three judges was direct. Indirect speech acts were not observed in interactions with the audience but were occasionally utilized when communicating with other hearers.

3.1.2.2. Speech acts by judges in personal discussions with co-judges.

There were some notable differences in the choices of speech acts by judges in personal discussions with their co-judges, as in the following table.

Table 8. The detail of the realization of using speech acts by 3 main judges in private conversations with other judges

Total speech acts	Hearers	Representatives		Commissives		Directives		Declarations		Expressives		Speaker
		Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
3	Christina Tosi	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	Gordon
0	Aaron Sanchez	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13	Gordon Ramsay	8	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	Christina
13	Aaron Sanchez	8	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	
10	Christina Tosi	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	Aaron
1	Gordon Ramsay	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 8 shows the detailed amount of speech acts that the main judges used to talk with their co-judges. Obviously, a tiny portion of their utterances was given to specific judges compared with figures shown in Tables 5, 6, and 7. Christina Tosi is the one who had more attempts to discuss with Gordon and Aaron since she uttered 26 times in total while Aaron and Gordon uttered only 11 and 3 times respectively. Gordon Ramsay and Aaron Sanchez emphasized differences in giving speech acts with others in their board of judges while Christina Tosi did not. According to the given data in Table 8, she uttered the same number of utterances when talking with Gordon Ramsay and Aaron Sanchez. Whereas, Gordon Ramsay and Aaron Sanchez gave more utterances when talking with female judges than male judges. Gordon even did not chat privately with Aaron. However, all judges still performed representatives directly as the most dominant speech acts when communicating with others.

3.2. Discussion

3.2.1. How were speech acts employed by judges in "MasterChef US season 8"?

3.2.1.1. The types of speech acts used by judges in "MasterChef US season 8"

The data presented in this paper highlights that judges in the TV show "MasterChef US season 8" predominantly used representative speech acts, which involve the speaker's commitment to the truthfulness or falsity of something. This finding aligns with previous research conducted by Siti and Muhammad (2018) on Donald Trump's speeches and Ingles (2016) on speech acts in Philippine television commercials. The dominance of representative speech acts can be attributed to the nature of a

cooking game show, where judges observe contestants' cooking processes and provide feedback on their dishes and skills. Judges primarily used descriptive and informative statements to discuss the flavors, ingredients, and qualities of the dishes, such as commenting on the spice and sweetness of a dish or noting deviations from a classic recipe. They also made factual statements about contestants' progress and achievements in the competition.

Expressive speech acts, which involve expressing opinions, feelings, and preferences, ranked second in frequency. This can be attributed to the judges' role as evaluators and their inclination to share their subjective reactions to the contestants' food. However, representative speech acts remained dominant to maintain fairness and objectivity in the culinary competition.

Directives were also commonly used by judges, as they sought active involvement from the contestants and provided instructions or requests. Judges used directive speech acts to engage contestants in cooking activities and encourage them to follow their advice or suggestions.

The Declaration was hardly used in "MasterChef US season 8" because it might change the reality of the game. The judges uttered an utterance with the characteristic of declarations only when they had to eliminate contestants or appoint someone.

3.2.1.2. How the judges performed the speech acts.

In terms of directness and indirectness, the judges in "MasterChef US season 8" predominantly used direct speech acts, which aligns with a previous study by Tressy and Sakura (2015) on an Indonesian TV talk show. Direct speech acts were favored as they were more straightforward and easily understood by the hearers, allowing for quick responses without the need for complex interpretation. For example, judges would say "*Come on, you gotta finish that dish for me*" instead of using an indirect speech act like "*Are you aware that time is flying?*" when they wanted the candidates to speed up.

A comparison can be made among 3 culinary judges. Gordon Ramsay had the highest number of utterances, while Aaron Sanchez had the fewest. This imbalance can be attributed to Gordon Ramsay's dual role as a judge and producer of the show. He also had the highest number of directives throughout the cooking competition, likely due to his involvement in coordinating the kitchen's operations and his strict persona as a judge. In contrast, Aaron Sanchez had a minimal number of directives. Furthermore, the data reveals that Christina Tosi tended to use more indirect speech acts compared to the other judges, while Aaron Sanchez had very few instances of using indirect speech acts. This suggests that Aaron Sanchez may have a more outspoken personality, while Christina Tosi, as a woman, may prefer to allow the hearer to interpret her statements.

In terms of personal conversations between the judges, the data indicates that the portion of speech acts was relatively small. Instead, the judges mostly spent their time discussing cooking-related matters, engaging in conversations, or arguing to reach final decisions. From these discussions, it can be inferred that Gordon Ramsay played a pivotal role in the show, as his speech act performance demonstrated his leadership in generating and guiding discussions to seek agreement.

3.2.2. How could the contextual factors affect the choice of the judges for speech acts?

The analysis of the data reveals that the context, including the relationship between the judges and their speech partners, influenced the choice of speech acts in "MasterChef US season 8." Judges employed different types of speech acts based on their conversations with various hearers. Gordon Ramsay and Christina Tosi tended to use directive speech acts when interacting with candidates, while Aaron Sanchez predominantly used representative speech acts. However, when discussing with their co-judges, all three judges primarily utilized representative speech acts. Furthermore, when communicating with guests and audiences, Christina Tosi leaned towards using expressive speech acts, while Aaron Sanchez preferred representative speech acts. Gordon Ramsay, on the other hand, used more directives with guests and representatives with audiences. The reason for Gordon's case might be that one of the guests, Shaun O'Neal, used to participate in the MasterChef competition. Therefore, it is possible that Gordon Ramsay treated Shaun the same way as he treated candidates. Additionally, when Joe Bastianich, a former judge on the show, returned as a guest, Gordon Ramsay asked him questions

and used commanding directives during their arguments such as “*Oh, stop it. The fragrance of the berries and the coulis underneath are beautiful*”. Finally, the dominant mode of speech acts among the three main judges was direct. Indirect speech acts were not commonly used with audiences but were occasionally employed with other hearers.

The distribution of speech acts across the different stages of the show revealed that the choice of speech acts aligned with the goal-oriented activities of each stage. Expressive speech acts were prevalent in the opening and introduction stages (Stage A) and the comment stage (Stage D), as judges expressed their feelings, assessed contestants' dishes, and conveyed their emotions and attitudes. Representative speech acts were most frequently used in the instruction stage (Stage B), the discussion stage (Stage E), and the announcement stage (Stage F) to inform, describe, give opinions, and lead the story to enhance persuasiveness and increase suspense. Directives were the preferred speech acts in the contest stage (Stage C), as judges commanded and advised contestants during the cooking challenges, matching the function of this stage.

In summary, the choice of speech acts in “MasterChef US season 8” was influenced by the context and the specific stages of the show, with direct speech acts being the dominant mode of communication among the judges.

4. Conclusions

This research focuses on speech acts, which are functional actions within communication, and analyzes the speech acts employed by judges in the TV reality show “MasterChef US season 8.” The study reveals that representatives, directives, and expressives are commonly used by judges, with representatives being the most dominant. The judges tend to use direct speech acts rather than indirect ones. Among the culinary judges, Gordon Ramsay has the highest number of utterances and directives, while Christina Tosi tends to use more indirect speech acts, and Aaron Sanchez has the fewest instances of indirect speech acts and the lowest number of utterances. The contextual factors, such as the speech situation and the relationship between speakers and hearers, influence the choices of speech acts by the judges. The distribution of speech acts varies across different stages of the show and the choice of speech acts also differs when the judges engage in conversations with different hearers.

The researcher wishes to contribute to the reduction of misunderstandings in conversations with foreigners and enhance learners' comprehension of actors' utterances in English movies or TV shows through the study of speech acts. Additionally, the researcher suggests that learners can apply their understanding of speech acts in specific contexts, such as classroom learning. To facilitate language learning, the TV reality show “MasterChef US season 8” can be incorporated into language classrooms as a valuable teaching resource. Teachers are encouraged to utilize conversations from the show as models to help students improve their speaking skills. Furthermore, given that TV shows offer authentic language usage, the researcher suggests that teachers incorporate them into listening tasks, particularly by designing inference questions based on the knowledge gained from this study. This approach enables learners to enhance their understanding by interpreting language within specific contexts.

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Hành động ngôn từ của các giám khảo trong chương trình truyền hình thực tế "Vua đầu bếp Mỹ mùa 8"

Tóm tắt: Nghiên cứu này phân tích hành động ngôn từ của các giám khảo trong chương trình truyền hình thực tế "MasterChef Mỹ mùa 8" dựa trên các khung lý thuyết được đề xuất bởi Searle (1979) và Yule (2010). Kết quả ghi nhận sự xuất hiện của tất cả năm loại hành động ngôn từ trong chương trình, với Hành động đại diện chiếm đa số. Thêm vào đó, các giám khảo thể hiện sự ưa thích sử dụng ngôn ngữ trực tiếp hơn là gián tiếp. Phân tích cũng chỉ ra rằng các yếu tố ngữ cảnh như tình huống diễn ra và mối quan hệ giữa người nói và người nghe đã ảnh hưởng đến lựa chọn hành động ngôn từ của các giám khảo.

Từ khóa: Hành động ngôn từ; ngôn ngữ học ứng dụng; yếu tố ngữ cảnh; chương trình thực tế.