JELE The Eyes of Experts

OPEN ACCESS

Article

Illocutionary Speech Acts on Instagram Comments of Abigail Muria's Interview: Cyber Activism Analysis

https://doi.org/10.31004/jele.v10i6.1802

*Jessica Ruth Margaretha Simanjuntak, Novi Kanaya Perdana Turnip, Sukma Rahayu Dalimunte, Dinda Aqiila Azman, Rahmadsyah Rangkuti[abcde] [ID]

[12345]Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia
Corresponding Author: jessicaruth@students.usu.ac.id

A B S T R A C T

This research analyzes illocutionary speech acts in Instagram comments on Abigail Muria's interview with Al Jazeera English, focusing on the context of Indonesian protests in 2025. Using Searle's theory of speech acts, the study classifies netizen comments into five types: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. The researchers analyzed 29 comments found based on some requirements: most-liked comments, in the form of sentences, minimum 1 row maximum 6 rows, and related to the context. Through qualitative descriptive and quantitative method, also cyber discourse analysis, the findings show that expressive acts, such as thanking, encouraging, criticizing, and praising, are the most dominant, followed by assertive acts expressing agreement or criticism. These comments reflect strong emotional and cognitive engagement with Indonesia's political situation. Additionally, directive and commissive acts show how users use social media to mobilize action and express solidarity. This study highlights how online interactions serve as a form of cyber activism, allowing users to participate in political discourse, challenge authority, and amplify their voices globally. Ultimately, the research underscores the importance of digital platforms as spaces for collective expression and social change in the digital age.

Keyword: *Speech Acts, Cyber Activism, Cyber Discourse*

Check for updates

INTRODUCTION

Cyber activism refers to the use of digital platforms and online tools to promote, support, or enact social and political change. It leverages the widespread reach of the internet, social media, and other digital communication methods to raise awareness, mobilize communities, and challenge existing power structures. Through activities such as online campaigns, hashtag movements, virtual protests, and digital storytelling, cyber activists engage with audiences beyond geographical boundaries, creating new spaces for dialogue and collective action. In the context of social media interactions, such as Instagram comments, cyber activism manifests as expressive acts that influence public discourse and contribute to activism in the digital age (Castells, 2012); (Eltantawy & Wiest, 2011).

This digital activist action manifests in various ways in delivering messages. Some state their belief and argument, some tend to show their emotion by using expressive language, some direct something/people to do an action, and meanwhile some provide their commitment towards the issue. People of the internet have their own style to address the issue and accelerate change. Therefore, it is crucial to investigate how their comments are functioning not merely as words, but more as action by using Searle's speech act theory. Speech act theory by Searle perceives that language does not just describe reality but also performs action.

From late August to early September 2025, Indonesians staged large demonstrations centered in front of the House of Representatives (DPR) building in every region of Indonesia (Rachman, 2025) . These demonstrations were triggered by various important issues, such as

demands for a reduction in DPR member allowances, which were considered unfair amid the economic crisis, pressure to pass the Asset Seizure Bill, and rejection of a number of controversial bills. Involving students, workers, and elements of civil society, these demonstrations not only highlighted economic and legal policy issues, but also criticized political practices that were considered corrupt and repressive. Through this movement, the demonstrators asserted their collective aspirations for parliamentary reform and social justice in Indonesia. Nowadays, with the existence of social media, demonstration doesn't only happen in real life but also in virtual life. Social media has played a key role in inspiring volunteer activism among its users, driven by the issues and information that circulate widely online (Iefimova G. V., 2025). This shows that social media is a powerful space for spreading awareness and engaging the public in important causes (Dewantara & Widhyharto, 2015)

In this analysis, the researcher will analyze the interview speech of Abigail Limuria. As cited from (Sukardi, 2025) a social-political activist and young Indonesian writer, who was born on November 10, 1994. She is also known as one of the founders of the independent media outlet What Is Up, Indonesia? (WIUI). Until this day, she is actively educating the younger generation about politics and social issues through various digital platforms and has also been a source for international media outlets discussing the dynamics of protests in Indonesia in 2025. Abigail is also a book author and plays a role in political education and women's empowerment movements.

Following the case this research will be used illocutionary acts as theory to analyze the object and the object in this analysis from Indonesian language . Speech acts are activities carried out through speech. Speech is more than just a way of delivering information; it can also be used to give instructions, make promises, express feelings, or announce something. Austin first developed this concept, which was then expanded upon by Searle. Communication acts are divided into three categories: locution (uttering words), illocution (the aim or intention of communication), and perlocution (the impact of speech on the listener). (Searle, 1976) make definition an illocutionary act is one component of a speech act, which is an action carried out through speech with a specified goal, such as stating, commanding, promising, or requesting. Illocutionary acts are fundamental to communication, requiring the speaker to transmit their intention directly through their voice. Searle classifies illocutionary activities into five categories: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

Numerous research has examined the presence of illocutionary speech acts on social media. For example, (Ahmadi F et al., 2024) described the types of speech acts on the comments on three posts of the Instagram account @indonesia.g20, as the official Instagram account for the 2022 Indonesian G20 Presidency. They also investigated the reading position. The findings revealed that the three Instagram posts received positive comments in the form of expressive speech acts, indicating that the commenters generally liked and supported Indonesia's implementation of the 2022 G20 presidency.

(Yulian & Mandarani, 2023) in "A Speech Act Analysis: Illocutionary Acts Produced by Teacher in ESL Classroom" examined the types of illocutionary acts used by an ESL teacher at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Sidoarjo using Searle's (1979) framework. Through descriptive qualitative analysis with NVivo 12 Pro software, they identified 266 utterances consisting of directive, representative, expressive, and commissive acts, with directives dominating the interaction. The study highlights how teachers employ illocutionary acts to control communication, deliver instruction, and build interactional meaning in classroom discourse. This research is relevant to the current study as it provides a linguistic foundation for understanding how illocutionary acts function to convey intention and influence others, which also applies to communicative strategies used in cyber activism.

(Surya & Alam, 2023) in "Illocutionary Speech Acts in the Presidential Speech Regarding the Relocation of the National Capital City" analyzed President Joko Widodo's speech using Searle's (1976) speech act theory to identify the types and functions of illocutionary acts. Employing a descriptive qualitative method, the study examined utterances from a YouTube video of Jokowi's speech about the new capital relocation. The results revealed four types of illocutionary acts: assertive (9 utterances), commissive (5), directive (3),

and declarative (1), with assertive acts being the most dominant. These acts were used to inform, explain, promise, and persuade the public regarding the government's decision. The study demonstrates how political speeches use language strategically to influence public perception and gain support, which relates to the present research on illocutionary acts in cyberactivism as both explore how language functions persuasively to mobilize and shape audience response in socio-political contexts.

Additional research by (Hafifah & Fatmawati, 2024) examined expressive illocutionary speech acts. The sorts and purposes of expressive speech acts were examined in the comments section of the Kompas TV YouTube video "Pidato Pertama Kaesang Jadi Ketum PSI: Masuk Politik Terinspirasi Jokowi." The outcome demonstrated that the role of the expressive speech act in the comment's column is to praise, criticize, congratulate, welcome, accuse, complain, berate, insult, and support.

Research on illocutionary speech acts has also been carried out by (Darmawan et al., 2025) using "X" as the social media platform. They used illocutionary speech acts by Searle (1976), Austin's (1962) felicity conditions, (Parker, 1986)'s framework of direct and indirect speech acts, and literal and non-literal speech acts to analyze the expressive speech acts found in netizen responses to a post by President Joe Biden about U.S. economic growth. According to the datum, netizens primarily use direct and literal speech acts to express negative feelings, particularly dissatisfaction with Biden's economic policies.

The theory of illocutionary speech acts has also been used in studies on cyber activism on social media. A related study by (Hafifah & Fatmawati, 2024) investigated if illocutionary speech acts were present in social media users' comments and speech on a Sky News Arabiyah YouTube channel video, a video which delivers the news of the Ukrainian and Russian conflicts. Four categories of speech acts were identified by the results, with representative and directive types being more prevalent This demonstrates that the dominant speaker expects action from the interlocutor and conveys his viewpoint in reaction to the conflict that arises.

The illocutionary speech acts theory was also applied in a humanitarian activism study by (Nurhaliza et al., 2025) to examine the illocutionary speech acts in the CNN Arabic YouTube channel comments about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The results indicated that a variety of illocutionary actions were present in public answers in the comments area, and that the collaborative function was the most commonly employed speech act function in the comments. It showed that people were more likely to show unity and exchange information without aiming to start a direct argument.

Based on the previous study above, the researchers chose to analyze the illocutionary acts on instagram comments of Abigail Muria's interview with Aljazeera English (Abigailimuria & Whatisupindonesia, 2025) as the main discussion of this cyber activism analysis. The researchers chose this research topic because the Indonesian protest towards the government is currently being widely discussed on social media, which is the main object of cyber discourse research. Many previous studies have analyzed various platforms such as YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram posts through the comments related to issues trending at the time. In this research, the researchers analyzed a contemporary issue about protests against government policies in 2025, particularly questioning the role of the house of representative council in Indonesia and violence against demonstrators. Also, the researchers analyzed the comments from an interview which are still infrequently analyzed. The aim of this research is to reveal how discourse on social media is interpreted and drives activism movements in the cyber world related to political issues.

METHOD

This research employs a qualitative descriptive and quantitative method using a cyber discourse analysis approach. The study aims to describe how netizens perform illocutionary acts in online interactions. The qualitative descriptive method used to interpret, classify, and describe how netizens perform illocutionary acts in Instagram comments by using Speech Act Theory (Searle's 1979). Then, the quantitative method used to calculate the quantity of the data,

and determine the dominant type of illocutionary act found in this analysis. The researchers also used a cyber discourse analysis approach. This study (Latief, 2014) is suitable because the datum consist of online comments, which reflect the pragmatic use of language and user engagement in digital communication. Cyber discourse analysis approach used to show the domain and the data significance, which are online discourses. The datum of this research are netizens' comments taken from the comment section of an Instagram Reel interview posted by @abigailmuria. The comments were chosen because they represent spontaneous online discourse that expresses opinions, emotions, and evaluations in a public digital space. The source of datum is the comment section of the specified Instagram post. The datum was collected through digital observation and purposive sampling. The researcher observed the post and selected comments that had high engagement, specifically those that received more than five likes, as they are considered to represent public attention and opinion. A dozen top comments were chosen as the primary datum. The selected comments were transcribed and organized into a working document for further analysis. The datum was analyzed using Searle's (1979) Speech Act Theory, focusing on the classification of illocutionary acts into five types: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. The analysis followed three main steps: (1) Watching the interview video of Abigail Limuria and Al-Jazeera English on Instagram. (2) Finding some comments that are appropriate to the provisions below: (a) Most-liked comments, minimum 5 likes. (b) In the form of sentences, not only emojis. (c) Minimum 1 row, maximum 6 rows. (d) Related to the topic discussed, based on context. (3) Copying and arranging the selected comments into a working document. (4) Identifying and classifying each utterance according to Searle's categories of illocutionary acts. (5) Interpreting and examining the coded datum to reveal the dominant patterns of speech acts in the comments and how it works as cyber activism.

This process emphasizes qualitative interpretation of illocutionary functions rather than quantitative measurement, allowing the study to capture the characteristic patterns of speech acts that dominate netizens' interactions in social media discourse.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

*1.@sukmaningrum_*

"Kira2 dprnya ngerti artinya ga ni"

Types: Expressive (criticize)

Analysis: This comment expresses sarcasm and doubt toward the DPR's ability to understand Abigail's statement. The tone sounds mocking, suggesting disbelief that the officials truly grasp her message. It's an expressive speech act that conveys public frustration and disappointment toward political figures. In the context of digital activism, it functions as a subtle form of social criticism, often delivered through humor or irony.

2.@muhsyukri_09

"Penguasa Indonesia ga malu???"

Types: EXPRESSIVE (criticism)

"ketidakjujurannya smpe ke luar negri!!!"

Types: ASSERTIVE (asserting)

Analysis: The first utterance is filled with emotional criticism, showing anger and shame toward those in power. It's rhetorical rather than literal, making it an expressive speech act that reveals disappointment and outrage. The second utterance is assertive because it declares something as true, that the government's dishonesty is now known internationally. Together, the two sentences combine emotional expression and political judgment, showing the user's frustration with the country's leadership.

3. @harashta

"Thank you so much for the explanation on international television ka"

Types: EXPRESSIVE (thanking)

Analysis: This comment expresses genuine gratitude toward Abigail for explaining Indonesia's situation clearly on international TV. The phrase "thank you so much" shows appreciation and emotional support. This expressive act represents solidarity and

encouragement, common in online activism where people thank public figures for bravely speaking up for the nation.

*4. @rizkimfirman_*

"Respect bangett kak abiii,"

Types: EXPRESSIVE (thanking)

"terus suarakan pada dunia, keadaan Indonesia saat ini"

Types: DIRECTIVE (commanding)

"Kami dukung selaluu"

Types: COMMISSIVE (promise)

Analysis: This comment includes three different speech acts. The first expresses admiration and gratitude toward Abigail. The second is a directive, urging her to continue speaking up about Indonesia's situation. The third is commissive, showing the speaker's promise to keep supporting her cause. Altogether, the comment reflects emotional connection and a sense of collective solidarity among online supporters.

*5. @mingblingming_*

"Malu atuhhhh masuk al jazeera pak @prabowo"

Types: EXPRESSIVE (deploring)

Analysis: This comment can be categorized as an expressive illocutionary act, as it reflects the speaker's emotional response to a particular situation. Specifically, the speaker expresses strong disapproval by stating that the subject, likely a government figure or institution, should feel ashamed. This utterance does not merely convey information, rather, it reveals the speaker's disappointment, frustration, or moral judgment about the current state of affairs in Indonesia. By publicly voicing this sentiment in a comment section, the speaker engages in a form of emotional protest, using language to challenge and criticize those in power. The choice to use the word "ashamed" signals a deeper ethical stance, suggesting that the subject has acted in a way that violates public expectations or social norms. Such expressive acts are common in online political discourse, where individuals use digital platforms to articulate dissatisfaction and hold public figures accountable. This comment contributes to the broader narrative of protest and resistance expressed by netizens in the digital space.

6. @jeromepolin

"LETSGO KAK ABIGAILL"

Types: EXPRESSIVE (encourage/cheer)

Analysis: This utterance shows excitement and positive support. The use of all caps and emojis amplifies the enthusiasm. It's an expressive speech act because it communicates encouragement and emotional energy toward Abigail. In the context of digital activism, comments like this function as moral support and collective motivation from online audiences.

7.@sophiekirana

"Thank you, thank you, Kak Abigail, for your courage in explaining this very eloquently on international television!!!"

Types: EXPRESSIVE (thanking)

Analysis: This comment is a heartfelt and emotional expression of gratitude. The repetition of "thank you" and the praise for Abigail's "courage" and "eloquence" highlight strong admiration and respect. The overall tone is warm and supportive, showing how the public values Abigail's bravery in representing Indonesia's voice to the world. It's a clear example of an expressive speech act that builds positive image and emotional solidarity in online spaces.

8. @ragha. sukma

"This is the real voice of Indonesia."

Types: ASSERTIVE (asserting)

"Thank you, Abigail."

EXPRESSIVE (thanking)

Analysis: This comment shows that the speaker is making a statement. The person is praising Abigail for how she answered the interview questions, using a relational process. The word "is" shows that the speaker is explaining or describing what Abigail did. Then the words

"thank you" are obviously indicated as thanking, the type of expressive speech acts. Related to digital activism, this comment supports what Abigail stated about the political situation in the government of Indonesia.

> *9.@smile_artworks*
> "*Makasih sudah menjadi perwakilan rakyat yang sebenarnya, di saat kita ditindas sama 'perwakilan rakyat' yang seharusnya*"
> *Types: EXPRESSIVE (thanking) and ASSERTIVE (asserting)*

Analysis: Both expressives and assertives can be applied to this comment. The speaker uses an expressive speech act to convey respect and admiration to Abigail for bravely speaking for the people in a global interview, particularly when contrasted with the official representatives (DPR), who are seen as repressive. In addition, it serves as an assertive speech act by expressing the speaker's opinion that Abigail is the genuine representation of the people, even while others in positions of authority fall short of their duties. This mix of voicing feelings and rendering a conclusion draws attention to both political criticism and personal adoration.

> *10. @umirusmiyanti*
> "*She is very smart,*"
> *Types: ASSERTIVE (asserting)*
> "*i hope the next future she Will become the leader*"
> *Types: EXPRESSIVE (hope)*

Analysis: This comment contains two types of illocutionary speech acts. At first, the user delivers their opinion about Abigail by stating that she is very smart. Then, the user also expresses their hope that someday Abigail will be the leader in the future. These combinations show how the user supports Abigail because of her intelligence in explaining and analyzing conditions that happen in Indonesia. Together, these acts reflect both admiration for Abigail's abilities and support for her potential as a future leader, especially in the context of addressing issues in Indonesia.

> *11. @karensss_*
> "*@cnn @bbcnews @enews @9newssydney @channelnewsasia we need the international coverage because our media is silent ab it*"
> *Types: DIRECTIVE (request)*

Analysis: The comment functions as a directive speech act, specifically a request, aimed at international media outlets (@CNN, @BBCNews, @enews, @9NewsSydney, @ChannelNewsAsia) to cover an issue allegedly ignored by national media in Indonesia. In this statement, the user expresses both urgency and frustration, framing the appeal as a collective need while implicitly criticizing domestic media for censorship or inaction. The tagging of global news organizations not only directs the plea to specific actors but also amplifies visibility, turning the comment into a form of digital activism. This reflects a broader socio-political context in which citizens, feeling silenced or disempowered by local institutions, strategically seek external attention to invoke international pressure or scrutiny.

> *12. @geraldinugroho04*
> "*@dnldiku @fachrizalubbe We are Bijak Makassar proud of you Kak Abigail Limurai,*" *Types: EXPRESSIVE (encourage)*
> "*Thank you for speaking about the current situation in Indonesia which is not good and has opened the world's eyes to Indonesia's concerns.*"
> *Types: EXPRESSIVE (thanking)*

Analysis: The user employs expressive speech acts of encouragement and gratitude to show solidarity with Abigail Limurai. By stating "*proud of you*", they express admiration for her bravery in speaking out about Indonesia's political issues, aligning themselves with her stance. The phrase "*thank you for speaking...*" serves as an act of thanking, acknowledging Abigail's role in voicing shared concerns on an international platform. This comment reflects both emotional support and a sense of representation, showing that Abigail's message resonates with the user's own views.

> *13. @sigit_artha*

"itu bbrpa mentri sama anggota dpr belum tentu bisa cascescos ngomong kayak begini"

Types: ASSERTIVE (complain)

Analysis: The user employs an assertive speech act in the form of a complaint, expressing doubt and criticism toward Indonesian ministers and DPR members. By stating *"itu beberapa menteri sama anggota DPR belum tentu bisa cascescos ngomong kayak begini"*, the user implicitly compares their communication abilities to Abigail's, suggesting that even officials may lack the clarity (*"cascescos"*) she demonstrates. This utterance conveys both skepticism and disapproval, positioning Abigail as a more articulate and capable spokesperson. The assertive act reflects the user's critical stance toward political figures and elevates Abigail's performance in contrast.

14. @ali.ahyarr

"Yuk sekali kali media asing interview Gibran, ya ga usah susah2 topiknya, cukup di minta pandangannya atas kekisruhan yg saat ini terjadi di Konoha. Bisa kali itu sekali kali,,"

Types: DIRECTIVE (invite)

Analysis: This comment contains a directive illocutionary speech act, specifically in the form of an invitation. The speaker invites foreign media to interview Gibran, suggesting they ask simple questions, such as his opinion on the ongoing chaos in "Konoha" (a likely metaphor or satirical reference to a political situation). The use of casual language and humor indicates the speaker's indirect critique, while still making a clear request. This shows an expectation or desire for Gibran to respond publicly.

*15. @ilhamwahyuse_*

"'police brutality in indonesia is not something new' well said"

Types: ASSERTIVE (agree)

Analysis: This comment expresses the speaker's agreement with a statement about police brutality. According to Searle, assertive acts are used to state what the speaker believes to be true. By saying "well said," the commenter asserts that they share the same opinion and acknowledge the truth of the statement. It reflects a belief about reality , not just emotion, hence it's assertive.

16. @picnic_cycling

"Bahkan seluruh pejabat pemerintahan Indonesia pun tidak memiliki kemampuan berbahasa Inggris seperti Mbak @abigaillimuria !!"

Types: ASSERTIVE (complain)

"Salute" EXPRESSIVE (encourage)

Analysis: This comment complains about Indonesian officials' lack of English skills. A complaint still counts as an assertive act because it conveys a statement or judgment that the speaker believes to be true. The speaker is asserting dissatisfaction toward a real situation. The word *"Salute"* expresses admiration and encouragement toward Abigail. Expressive acts show the speaker's psychological state here, appreciation or support, rather than describing facts.

17. @pocilnuna

"SHE'S THE BEST."

"BEAUTY AND BRAIN."

ASSERTIVE

This comment shows what the author thinks is true. The author states it in the form of a firm statement, without words that describe an opinion. By saying "SHE'S THE BEST" and "BEAUTY AND BRAIN," the speaker states that's her character.

18. @isauriie

"I am deeply concerned about what's happening in our country right now"

Types: EXPRESSIVE (deploring)

Analysis: Here, the speaker communicates an emotional reaction toward a troubling situation. This fits expressive acts, specifically the deploring subtype, because the utterance shows sorrow, fear, or worry about something undesirable, not a factual claim or command.

19. @dwipanjilaksono

"BANYAK ORANG PINTER DI NEGERI INI, TP YG JADI KOMISI III DPR RI, NILAINYA CUMA 68"

Types: ASSERTIVE (complain)

Analysis: This comment criticizes or complains about the competence of government members. As an assertive, it conveys the speaker's belief that capable people exist but are not in power. The complaint expresses dissatisfaction but still functions as a statement about how things are, not a request or command, which makes it assertive.

20. @aisah.____

"'police brutality is not something new' SAY IT GIRL!!! truly well explained"

Types: ASSERTIVE (agree)

Analysis: The comment confirms and supports the earlier statement, showing that the speaker agrees it is true. Saying "SAY IT GIRL!!!" and "truly well explained" indicates approval of the message's truthfulness. Hence, it's an assertive act, expressing agreement or endorsement of a factual statement.

21. @ayyuquee9

"Terpantau gada buzzer komen, ga bisa basa enggres"

Types: ASSERTIVE (asserting)

Analysis: This comment criticizes certain individuals, most likely public figures or government officials, for their inability to speak English. The criticism is framed as an assertive illocutionary act because the speaker is making a statement that reflects their belief or evaluation about the situation, presenting it as if it were a factual observation. While the tone clearly conveys disapproval, the primary function of the utterance is not to express personal emotion (as in expressive acts), nor to prompt someone to take action (as in directives), but rather to assert a judgment. In the context of political discourse, such criticism may also imply a contrast between the speaker's expectations of public officials and their actual performance. Furthermore, the comment may be indirectly responding to the role of "buzzers", a term commonly used in Indonesian digital culture to refer to individuals or paid accounts that spread propaganda or manipulate public opinion on social media, often in defense of political elites. By pointing out language incompetence, the speaker undermines the credibility and authority of such figures.

22. @imroatulaulla

"Malu ih malu atuh @dpr_ri klakuan kalian disorot duniaaa bukan karena prestasi tapi krna keserakahan dan ketidakadilan"

Types: EXPRESSIVE   (criticize)

Analysis: From this statement the researcher classified it as an expressive critique because the commenter expresses his feelings with a statement that represents himself, with word" malu atuh" and with the following tagged representative council account and say that the dpr is famous not for their achievements but for its greed.the statement want to show critiq to dpr that means the user want to the representative council more be kind and caring toward indonesia society.

23. @bob_gloriaus

"Kita ga pernah kekurangan orang orang kompeten, sistem aja nih udh bangkotan kelamaan dipegang manusia2 yg itu itu lagi.
Makasih kak @abigaillimuria"

Types: EXPRESSIVE (thanking)

Analysis: This comment is expressive because the commenter expresses their opinion through their words and then thanks Abigail with the words "Thank you, @abigaillimuria." The commenter expresses their feelings and thanks Abigail for speaking up and explaining to the world what is currently happening in Indonesia.

24. @keemeeisworking

"buzzer gabisa nyerang, ga ngerti inggris soalnya buzzernyaz"

Types: ASSERTIVE (asserting)

Analysis: This comment is classified as assertive stating an opinion because the commenter wants to show his statement by criticizing the buzzer because they are not visible in the comments section because they cannot speak English. These buzzers usually make different statements and make chaos in the comments section.

25. *@sindi_haegens*

"*@prabowo @gibran_rakabuming @ketua_dprri @puanmaharaniri @dpr_ri @smindrawati You are all on international news. Shame on you all*."

Types: EXPRESSIVE (criticize)

"*@abigaillimuria Tell the world how bad indonesian government treating indonesian people*"

Types: DIRECTIVE (request)

Analysis: From this comment the research found two classifieds of the illocutionary the first its EXPRESSIVE CRITIZE the commenter tagged all of the important person in indonesia and say they are in international news and that so embarrassing, from his statement the commenter wants to express his feeling this critize. And the next is Directive Request from this word "@abigaillimuria Tell the world how bad indonesian government is treating indonesian people" his statement wants to request and make a hope to abigail as the speakers to tell the word how the worst indonesia government treat indonesian society.

26. *@abdrzkny*

"*Ga ada buzzer soalnya ga ngerti*"

Types: ASSERTIVE (asserting)

Analysis: This comment is classified as assertive stating a reason because in his words" Ga ada buzzer soalnya ga ngerti" he wants to show his statement by criticizing the buzzer because they are not visible in the comments section because they cannot speak English. These buzzers usually make different statements and make chaos in the comments section.

27. *@febriraidz*

"*The whole world should know that in this country, Indonesia, justice belongs only top all rulers*"

Types: ASSERTIVE (report)

Analysis: This comment is classified as an Assertive report because the commenter expresses to the world his statement and wants to inform that in Indonesia "justice belongs only top all rulers".

28. *@adzanabs*

"*THANK YOU*"

Types: EXPRESSIVE (thanking)

Analysis: The commenter expresses her feelings and says thanks to Abigail for his speak up and explaining to the world about what is happening in Indonesia right now.

29. *@krnjc_*

"*Dpr nntn ini aja kyknya mereka ga ngerti artinya apa:)*"

Types: ASSERTIVE (asserting)

Analysis: From this comment can be classified Stating an Opinion because the commenter gives his statement with express his feeling with sarcasm word and complaining to Indonesian government that they don't understand what's the topic interview.

No.	Types of Illocutionary Act	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Expressive	17	45.94%
2.	Assertive	15	40.54%
3.	Directive	4	10.81%
4.	Commissive	1	2.70%
5.	Declarative	-	0%

Based on the analysis, the most dominant type of illocutionary act found in the comments is Expressive, followed by Assertive, as categorized by Searle's (1979) theory of Illocutionary Acts. The expressive acts observed in the comments include forms such as thanking, encouraging, hoping, praising, deploring, and criticizing. Many users express gratitude towards Abigail, commending her bravery and intelligence in articulating the current political situation in Indonesia during an international interview. Additionally,

numerous comments reflect encouragement and admiration, with users stating how proud they are of her efforts and representation. These expressions serve not only to support Abigail personally but also to align with her message publicly. On the other hand, a number of users also convey negative emotional responses, particularly directed at the Indonesian government. These critical comments are often marked by disappointment and frustration, with some users tagging official government accounts and urging those in power to feel ashamed. Such responses reflect public dissatisfaction and demonstrate how expressive acts can serve both affirming and dissenting functions within online discourse.

In addition to expressing emotions, users also share their opinions and beliefs, which are categorized as assertive acts under Searle's (1979) classification. These include acts such as asserting, complaining, and agreeing. Positive assertions are primarily directed toward Abigail, with many users affirming that she speaks as the true voice of Indonesia by courageously bringing national issues to the international stage. Conversely, negative assertions are aimed at the Indonesian government, criticizing its inadequate response to the interview and accusing it of dishonesty that has now been exposed globally. Users also express complaints by implying that government officials may lack sufficient English proficiency and would be unable to articulate issues as clearly as Abigail did. Furthermore, some comments directly quote Abigail's statements from the interview and explicitly express agreement, reinforcing the credibility and accuracy of her message.

For, the directives types, the post uses a mix of commanding, requesting, and inviting tones to get a message across. The user firmly tells Abigail to speak up about what is really happening in Indonesia, showing a sense of urgency and frustration. They also tag international media and ask them to report on the issue since local media is not covering it. This comes across as a plea for help. Finally, they invite the international press to interview Gibran and ask him simple, direct questions, suggesting a desire for more honesty and clarity from those in power. Overall, the user is clearly trying to get others to take action and pay attention.

A commissive act appears in the form of a promise in one of the comments. In this case, the user commits to supporting Abigail and standing by her side as she speaks out about political issues in Indonesia. This expression of solidarity not only shows personal support but also reinforces a shared commitment to advocating for political awareness and change.

From this case, the researcher found that most of the comments tended to support Abigail's statement. The netizens felt that Abigail successfully represented their collective voice in the interview, allowing them to freely express their feelings and emotions regarding the situation. This sense of representation encouraged users to share their emotional responses openly, making the expressive function the dominant form of communication within the online discourse.

In this study, the netizens contributed to digital activism through social media, which serves as a platform for argumentation and expression without the limitations of real-life interaction, yet possesses the power to disseminate information rapidly across the world. Furthermore, the netizens validated Abigail's argument, acknowledging it as a true reflection of the people's voice. Their participation also extended to tagging international media accounts in the comment section, aiming to make the people's voices heard on a global scale and to attract international attention to Indonesia's social and political conditions. The ultimate goal of these actions was to raise the government's awareness of the citizens' struggles and to urge state officials to take immediate measures in resolving the ongoing issues. Some users even tagged government officials directly, demonstrating a collective hope that those in authority would respond promptly and effectively to the concerns expressed by the public.

After getting the result in the discussion, the researcher compared it with another research of speech acts in digital platforms. According to Ahmadi F et al. (2024), the findings revealed that the three Instagram posts received positive comments in the form of expressive speech acts, indicating that the commenters generally liked and supported Indonesia's implementation of the 2022 G20 presidency. Furthermore, in this research, the finding results

show the most dominant are expressive acts, such as thanking, encouraging, criticizing, and praising, followed by assertive acts expressing agreement or criticism. These comments reflect strong emotional and cognitive engagement with Indonesia's political situation. Additionally, directive and commissive acts show how users use social media to mobilize action and express solidarity.

CONCLUSIONS

This study reveals that Instagram comments on Abigail Muria's interview with Al Jazeera English reflect various illocutionary acts, with expressive and assertive types being the most dominant. These speech acts show how netizens engage emotionally and cognitively with political discourse, expressing support, gratitude, anger, disappointment, and agreement. Through their responses, users not only validate Abigail's statements but also participate in shaping public discourse around the 2025 Indonesian protests. Their digital engagement signifies how online platforms have become spaces for activism, dialogue, and resistance. Furthermore, the presence of directive and commissive speech acts highlights how netizens use social media to mobilize others and commit to collective political goals. Tagging international media, demanding transparency, and promising support show a shared effort to raise awareness and push for change. In this way, digital communication becomes a form of cyber activism that empowers citizens to challenge authority, demand accountability, and amplify marginalized voices on a global scale. Based on the findings of this study, the researchers recommend future research analysis. The study on illocutionary acts in the context of cyber activism could be expanded to include other digital platforms such as TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), or Facebook, where political discourse also thrives. Analyzing multimedia elements such as visual videos, captions, hashtags alongside comments, and reposts could provide a more comprehensive understanding of how activism is performed and perceived online. Additionally, incorporating a larger and more diverse dataset over a longer time span would allow researchers to track patterns of engagement and shifts in public sentiment over time. Educators and activists can also use these findings to better understand how digital language shapes collective action and public opinion, particularly among younger generations. Finally, this research highlights the need for media literacy programs that help netizens critically engage with political content online, ensuring that digital activism continues to be a productive and informed force for social change.

REFERENCES

Abigailimuria, & Whatisupindonesia. (2025). *Indonesia Protest, Anti-Govt Demonstration Turns Violent In Jakarta*. https://www.instagram.com/reel/DN7TiMqj7xz/?igsh=cTZlaDR0a2dpNW9y

Ahmadi F, Y., Syaifullah, A. R., & Hermawan, B. (2024). Speech Acts on Instagram comments about G20 Indonesia. *Diksi*, *32*(1), 76–92. https://doi.org/10.21831/diksi.v32i1.71227

Castells, M. (2012). Networks of outrage and hope – social movements in the Internet age. *Polity Press*.

Darmawan, A. S. W., Degaf, A., & Anggrisia, N. F. (2025). Expressive Speech Acts and Public Sentiments in Netizen Responses to Political Posts on X. *Journal of Languages and Language Teaching*, *13*(2), 960. https://doi.org/10.33394/jollt.v13i2.13167

Dewantara, R. W., & Widhyharto, D. S. (2015). Aktivisme dan kesukarelawanan dalam media sosial komunitas kaum muda Yogyakarta. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial Dan Ilmu Politik*, *19*(1), 40–52.

Eltantawy, N., & Wiest, J. B. (2011). Social Media in the Egyptian Revolution : Reconsidering Resource Mobilization Theory Social Media in the Egyptian Revolution : Reconsidering Resource Mobilization Theory. *International Journal of Communication*, *5*(January), 1207–1224. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/285908894%0ASocial

Hafifah, A. W., & Fatmawati. (2024). Expressive Speech Acts in the YouTube Kompas TV Comment Column Based on Cyber Pragmatics Perspective. *RETORIKA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa*, *10 No.1*, 274–284. http://10.0.217.85/jr.10.1.9355.274-284

Iefimova G. V., P. K. O. (2025). The Role of Social Media in Promoting Volunteer Initiatives and Shaping Communities. *JEL Classification*, *1*(63).

Latief, M. A. (2014). *Research Methods on Language Learning: An Introduction*.

Nurhaliza, Y., Rahmi, A., Acts, S., & War, U. (2025). *[3] [1] [2] [3]*. *1*(1), 55–69.

Parker, F. (1986). *Linguistics for non-linguists*. Department of English, Louisiana State University.

Rachman, A. (2025, September 8). Dipangkas! Ini Beda Tunjangan DPR Sebelum & Setelah Demo Besar-besaran. *CNBC Indonesia*. https://www.cnbcindonesia.com/news/20250908060603-4-664838/dipangkas-ini-beda-tunjangan-dpr-sebelum-setelah-demo-besar-besaran

Searle, J. R. (1976). A classification of illocutionary acts. *Language in Society*, *5*(1), 1–23. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047404500006837

Sukardi, M. (2025). *Siapa Sebenarnya Abigail Limuria yang Viral Suarakan Demo DPR ke Media Internasional?* INEWS.ID. https://www.inews.id/lifestyle/seleb/siapa-sebenarnya-abigail-limuria-yang-viral-suarakan-demo-dpr-ke-media-internasional

Surya, O., & Alam, N. (2023). Illocutionary Speech Acts In The Presidential Speech Regarding The. *Celtic: A Journal of Culture, English Language Teaching, Literature AndLinguistics*, *10*(2), 156–171. https://doi.org/10.22219/celtic.v10i2.

Yulian, A. A., & Mandarani, V. (2023). A Speech Act analysis : Illocutionary Acts produced by teacher in ESL classroom. *Celtic: A Journal of Culture, English Language Teaching, Literature AndLinguistics*, *10*(1), 1–13. https://doi.org/10.22219/celtic.v10i1.23276