

## **Expressive Illocutionary Speech Acts in Chinese Children Novel**

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### **Abstract**

An expressive illocutionary speech act is a speech in which a speaker expresses his thoughts and feelings of being thanking and apologizing. Usually, one utterance conveys one meaning, but in this research, one sentence has two to four additional meanings. This phenomenon came from elements outside the sentence that affect the presence of the additional meaning. The aim is to present the indication that one utterance can have more than one meaning and expand the theory of illocutionary speech acts. This research used a qualitative method to examine the role of context in these additional meanings. Vanderveen & Macqueen's list of performative verbs (1990) is a guide in analyzing 96 data to determine the role of context. The result shows that some data have multiple senses of expressive speech acts. There are two, three, or four meanings in one sentence. To praise one is the most common speech function found. When admiring someone, the speaker also announces his agreement and offers something in the future. The many tasks of praising found in the data show the author of this children's novel to set an example for readers, especially children, to respect others with more than one meaning.

**Keywords:** *pragmatics, expressive illocutionary speech acts, multiple-meaning, context*

## **INTRODUCTION**

In everyday conversation, there are times when someone conveys an utterance/speech that implies an intention as well as an action. This utterance is called an

illocutionary speech act. Searle (1979:12-20) determines the classification of illocutionary into five categories. One of the categories is expressive illocutionary speech acts. This expressive illocutionary speech act is an utterance delivered by a speaker according to his feelings. He wants to show his heart and mind to the hearer regarding a situation. When someone said "Thanks for the gift", this utterance expressed his gratitude for the gift received. This kind of utterance is called expressive illocutionary speech acts.

In daily conversation, one sentence usually has one meaning. In pragmatic, it could be expressive, directive, commissive, assertive, or declarative speech acts. One phenomenon found, one utterance is not only had one type category; it can have two, three, or even four categories. This multiple categories in one sentence is one kind of speech act that would be an appropriate topic to be researched because a person has more than one intention when speaking.

A Children's novel entitled 《笑猫日记：从外星球来的孩子》 Xiao Mao Riji: Cong Waixingqiu lai de Haizi Xiao Mao's Diary4: A Child from Outer Space' by Yang Honying<sup>5</sup> show this phenomenon. The data shows another intention or purpose of the speaker behind the sentence uttered. There is a possibility that expressive illocutionary acts contain other illocutionary acts such as assertive, directive, commissive, or declarative. The problem is, in what context can this dual function arise? The existence of other meanings from an utterance is worthy of studying, and the existence of more than one meaning should be studied and may broaden the understanding of the additional meaning of an expressive sentence. The aim is to present the indication that one utterance can have more than one meaning and expand the theory of illocutionary speech acts. This research used a qualitative method to examine the role of context in these additional meanings.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This section is about research methods. We examine other researchers who did the same study to get some opinions concerning this topic. We did this research by searching

other similar papers concerning expressive illocutionary acts to know whether there are other studies on this topic. This research tries to find whether the data of expressive illocutionary prove our assumption. This research aims to know whether the data of expressive illocutionary acts can prove our assumption. Below are some papers relating to our interest

Nurhayati and Yuwartatik (2016) in their article "Illocutionary and Perlocutionary Acts of Main Characters Dialogues in John Milne's Novel: The Black Cat" talked about sentences having multifunction speech acts. The dialogue "Thank you. I enjoyed it very much [...]" (p.79) beside conveys to thank for the interlocutor's merit (expressive act), also to affirm or announce the speaker's gratitude towards interlocutor. This sentence has a double meaning, they are to thank and to announce. Another sentence, "No, thank you. I want to get off the boat as soon as possible". (p.81) is both declarative and assertive acts. As declarative, it means a refusal; as an assertive it implies an affirmation.

Finanda and Junining (2020) in their article "*Ilokusi dalam Tindak Tutur Langsung Literal pada Tokoh Sakakibara Kouichi*" or 'Illocutionary Acts in Literal Direct Speech on the Character Sakakibara Kouichi' cited question "*Tadi saya dengar penanggulangan dengan cara menjadikan seseorang [...], tidak ada ini?*" 'I heard earlier that the problem is resolved by making someone [...], this does not exist?'. That sentence consists of two speech acts from different clauses. The first clause belongs to the assertive act because the asking person claimed about the problem solving; the second clause belongs to directive acts because that person needs an answer. There is no dual meaning in one clause from that sentence. Another sentence that supports the double meaning is "*Kapan-kapan main ke Tokyo. Ayo berkeliling museum. Akan kupandu*" 'When you have time to go to Tokyo. Let's go to museums. I'll guide you'. This utterance belongs to commissive act offering his guidance. It also belongs to directive act.

Rajaa Hamid Salih's article "A Discourse-Pragmatic Analysis of Illocutionary Speech Acts in Dickens "Hard Times" novel (2022) found that there are five kinds of illocutionary

speech acts. 31% data are expressive acts, because it plays a significant role in expressing the aesthetic and emotional content. However, Salih did not examine the double meaning of speech acts.

Rismaya and Suganda (2021) in their article "*Tindak tutur ilokusi dalam gelar wicara mengenai teori konspirasi Covid 19*" 'Illocutionary speech acts in a speech on the conspiracy theory of covid 19' examines illocutionary speech acts in a speech on the Covid-19 Conspiracy Theory. The data sources came from three videos talk shows on the Kompas TV Youtube channel in 2020 regarding the comments of the artist Jerinx on the coronavirus. Jerinx uttered: "*Saya ingin mengucapkan belasungkawa saya. Mungkin banyak masyarakat yang mengira saya tidak simpati kepada para tenaga medis yang gugur. Saya melakukan semua yang apa saya lakukan ini justru karena saya tidak ingin para dokter tenaga medis di Indonesia tambah stress.*" 'I want to express my condolences. Maybe many people think I don't sympathize with the medical personnel who died. I do everything I do because I don't want doctors in Indonesia to be stressed. The sentence is an expressive speech act to express condolences or sorrow. It is followed by an assertive speech, "*saya tidak ingin*" 'I do not want to' showing that Jerinx's statement is contradictory.

Concerning the data, there are some steps to analyze. In the first step, the illocutionary sentences from the novel are chosen. In the second step, choose only the expressive illocutionary sentences. The third step, uses Vanderveken & Macqueen's performative verbs to ascertain whether the verb is performative or not performative verb. If no performative verb is found, it means the utterance has an implicit performative form. Fourth step, the writer checks the context of the sentence from the novel. In pragmatics studies, examining an utterance is not only from the utterance sentence but also from something "not visible" or not mentioned by the speaker. Austin (1962:69) calls the implicit performative as primary performative. Wijana in his book *Dasar-Dasar Pragmatik* (1996) cites Firth's explanation that the context of an utterance is a shared knowledge (background knowledge) between the speaker and the hearer, including the

context of the social background and the co-text or contexts of a common physical nature such as buildings, objects, etc. In the last step, the writer interprets the multiple meaning and explain why this utterance has one or multiple meaning

## **RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

In everyday interaction, we find somebody's utterances talking about their feelings. If someone talks about their feelings, that utterance belongs to the expressive illocutionary acts category (Searle: 1979). The following are examples of utterances that describe expressive illocutionary acts:

- (1) *"Terima kasih atas kadonya!" kata Ananta kepada Monik.*<sup>1</sup>  
"Thanks for the gift!" Ananta said to Monik.
- (2) *Selesai mengecek isi tas miliknya, Dina berkata "Aku minta maaf, Nancy. Buku catatan milikmu tertinggal di rumah."*<sup>2</sup>  
Finished checking the contents of her bag, Dina said "I'm sorry, Nancy. You left your notebook at home."
- (3) *"Selamat karena kamu menang lomba menggambar di sekolah, Danny!" kata ayah sambil mengambil lauk yang ibu baru saja letakkan di meja makan.*<sup>3</sup>  
"Congratulations on winning the drawing contest at school, Danny!" said the father as he took the side dish that his mother had just placed on the dining table.

Looking at the utterances and the existing context, utterance (1) contains the "thank you" action taken by Ananta. The word "thank you" is a word to express gratitude for the gift he received. Dina's utterance (2) is included in the expressive illocutionary act. The act of apologizing is an act of showing Dina's feelings, namely guilt. The word "sorry" is an indication of an expression of guilty. Speech (3) contains *thank you*. This word belongs to the illocutionary speech act. Danny's father wholeheartedly congratulated his son on his success. The word "congratulations" becomes a strong indication as an expression that uses feelings of pleasure about the current condition.

In utterance (2), Dina also meant Nancy to forgive herself for forgetting Nancy's book that was left at her house. The act of apologizing belongs to directive illocutionary speech acts because it implies the hearer (Nancy) does what the speaker (Dina) wants. Meanwhile, utterance (3) also contains the father's act of

announcing Danny's victory to all family members while eating together. This expression belongs to the type of assertive illocutionary speech acts.

Thus, utterance (2) expressed illocutionary speech acts also belong to the type of directive illocutionary speech acts. Dina's words, apart from apologizing, she also asked her interlocutor (Nancy) to apologize. The dual function of speech acts in sentence (3) show that expressive and assertive illocutionary speech acts appear in the same sentence. So, except the father wanted to congratulate Danny himself, he also wanted to announce to everyone about his son's victory. From the examples of expressive illocutionary speech acts above, there is a phenomenon that a speech act is not independent. One utterance can have more than one meaning.

In 《笑猫日记：从外星球来的孩子》 *Xiao Mao Riji: Cong Waixingqiu lai de Haizi* 'Xiao Mao's Diary, A Child From Outer Space' there are 96 expressive illocutionary speech acts. We classified them into six types, as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Six types of Expressive illocutionary speech acts**

<b>Types of Illocutionary Speech Acts</b>	<b>sum</b>
<b>Expressive</b>	5
<b>Expressive + Assertive</b>	60
<b>Expressive + Assertive + Directive</b>	12
<b>Expressive + Assertive + Directive + Commissive</b>	11
<b>Expressive + Assertive + Commissive</b>	4
<b>Expressive + Directive</b>	4
<b>Total</b>	96

Below is table 2 shows 96 expressive illocutionary acts with six types of categories, analyzed into their meanings based on Vanderverken & Macqueen's list (1990).

**Table 2: The meaning of expressive illocutionary and other speech acts**

No.	Speech acts types	Meaning	sum	
1	<b>Expressive</b>	sad	8	
		happy	21	
		give compliments	36	
		congratulate	2	
		apologize	1	
		reproach	4	
		complain	2	
		blame	1	
		regret	1	
		agree	2	
	disapprove	18		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>		
2	<b>Assertive</b>	give praise	31	
		notify	19	
		reproach	4	
		describe	1	
		guess	5	
		admit	5	
		complain	2	
		agree	3	
			disapprove	13
			<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>
3	<b>Directive</b>	prohibit	6	
		encouraging	5	
		asking for	10	
		ask	6	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>		
4	<b>Commissive</b>	promise	1	
		agree	2	
		disapprove	11	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>		
5	<b>Declarative</b>	-	-	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	

From all the conversations in the novel, 96 data on expressive illocutionary speech acts. Those ninety-six expressive illocutionary speech acts show a different intention of the speaker. Some only have one intention, and belong to expressive illocutionary speech acts; some have more than one intention. In this case, they

include other illocutionary speech acts (assertive, directive, and commissive). In these 96 expressive illocutionary speech acts, there are no directive illocutionary speech acts. The following are some descriptions of the analysis of expressive illocutionary speech acts:

### 1. Expressive Illocutionary Speech Acts

(4) "啊,我太幸福了!" *A, Wo tai xingfu le.*

'Oh, I'm so lucky!' <sup>6</sup>(p. 051)

啊, 我太幸福了! *A, wo tai xingfu le* 'Oh, I'm so lucky!' said the cat's mother (Pi Hu Mao). Pang Tou, the third son, has no skills like his brothers. Every day he goes out to play, lazy to study. One day he met a child whom he thought was strange and came from outer space. Then, they became friends, Pang Tou like his alien friend. He learned to play piano in a piano school for an animal. After school, Pang Tou always goes to his alien friend's house to play the piano for him. When Pang Tou plays piano, his alien friend becomes the conductor. This situation made Pang Tou learn vigorously. As a result, in the graduation ceremony, Pang Tou played piano very well. His mother was very excited.

No performative action from this utterance shows the mother in a happy mood. No performative verb was found in her utterance, "Oh, I am so lucky". Then, checking the context of why she is happy, as Austin (1962) said "when there is no performative verb, then we should check the context". Context of data (4) is Pang Tou, his mother and father walked home happily after the graduation ceremony. The context showed how happy they were when going home because they were astonished by the best performance of Pang Tou. The sentence in the context is 毕业演出结束后, 我们一家三口高高兴兴地走在回家的路上 *Biye yanchu jieshuhou, women yi jia san kou gaogaoxingxingde zou hui jiade lushang* 'After the



graduation performance ended, the three of us happily walk on the road back home' showed the mother's happiness emotion.

## 2. Expressive + Assertive Illocutionary speech acts

(5) 这次叫我操心的，不是三宝，是胖头。 *Zhe ci jiao wo caoxin de, bu shi San Bao, shi Pang Tou*

'This time, I was worried about not San Bao, but Pang Tou'. (p. 006)

This statement came from Xiao Mao (the cat's father). He has a good friend who is older than him. His name is Qiuqiu Laolaoshu or uncle Qiuqiu. Because Xiao Mao's was unhappy these few days, uncle Qiuqiu kept guessing what happened. He asked whether San Bao, Xiao Mao's second son, made him sad. But his guess was wrong. In fact, it was Pang Tou who caused his father upset. So, as not to make uncle Qiuqiu ask again, Xiao Mao expressed his anger by saying the words as in data (5). The father's mood when uttering sentence (5) was unhappy and somewhat angry. By saying 这次叫我操心的 *Zhe ci jiao wo caoxin de, bu shi San Bao, shi Pang Tou* 'This time what I was worried about was not San Bao, but Pang Tou', the father expressed his anger by blaming his third son, Pang Tou. That sentence does not have a performative verb which indicates the speaker is doing an act of blaming. This kind of primary performative conveyed an implicit intention of blaming. There is no utterance that the cats' father said bluntly that Pang Tou was at fault. That's why it's called primary performative or implicit performative.

Blaming is one of the meanings of expressive illocutionary speech acts. Through this utterance, Xiao Mao intended to blame but also had **another intention**. He wanted to tell uncle Qiuqiu that uncle Qiuqiu's guess was wrong. Xiao Mao's anger was not toward San Bao (the second son), but toward Pang Tou (the youngest son). **Telling something** to someone (I was worried about was not San Bao, but Pang Tou) is one meaning of **assertive** illocutionary speech acts. But, this confession's meaning did not utter explicitly. This assertive illocutionary speech act belongs to the primary performative or implicit performative, as Austin stated. No

performative verb indicates explicitly that the father did the act of telling in speech. Wijana in his book *Dasar-Dasar Pragmatik* (1996) cites Firth's explanation that the context of an utterance is a shared knowledge (background knowledge) between speaker and interlocutor, including the context of their social background and the co-text or contexts of a common physical nature such as buildings, objects.

### 3. Expressive + Assertive + Directive Illocutionary Speech Acts

(6) 虎批猫抱住胖头：在妈妈心中，你和二丫、三宝都是一样的。你们都是妈妈的心肝宝贝儿。

*Hu Pi Mao baozhu Pang Tou: zai mama xinzhong, ni he Er Ya, San Bao dou shi yiyang de. Nimen dou shi mama de xingan baobeir.* 'Hu Pi Mao hugged Pang Tou and said: In mother's heart, you, Er Ya also San Bao, are all the same. You are mother's beloved sons'. (p. 004)

The sentence above (6) was uttered by Hu Pi Mao (the cats' mother) to his desperate son Pang Tou because Pang Tou felt he lacked skills like his elder brothers. The mother tried to comfort Pang Tou's disappointment and praised her son, that she loves the three of them, and that they are all her beloved sons. By saying 你们都是妈妈的心肝宝贝儿 *Nimen dou shi mama de xingan baobeir* 'You all are mother's beloved son', the cats' mother praised his youngest son implicitly. Said implicitly means no directly say, it belongs to implicit performative or primary performative showing the cats' mother appraised her three sons not frankly. This compliment explains that Pang Tou has the same position as his two older brothers, namely being loved by their mother. This praise is an expression of feelings that arise from the heart of the mother which is indicated by the description 在妈妈心中 *zai mama xinzhong* 'in the mother's heart'. Therefore, this utterance is included in the type of **expressive** illocutionary speech acts which have the meaning of giving praise.

The context showed that cat's mother persuaded her youngest son not to be discouraged by kissing his head. Next is the conversation between Pang Tou and his father and mother expressing his sadness.. "爸爸、妈妈，你们是不是对我很失望?" "不，不! 我们没有!" 虎皮猫一边亲吻胖头一边说, "胖头· 你怎么会这样想呢?" "因为我没有二丫和三宝优秀。" Baba, mama, nimen shi bu shi dui wo hen shiwang?": Bu, bu! Women mei you!" Hu Pi Mao yibian qinwen Pang Tou yibian shuo," Pang Tou, ni zenme hui zhe yang xiang ne?" "Yinwei wo mei you Er Ya he San Bao youxiu." 'Papa, mama are you dissappointed in me?' "No, No, not at all!" Hu Pi Mao while kissed her son said: Pang Tou, how can we have this kind of opinion?" "Because I am not as good as Er Ya and San Bao." **Assertive** speech from the above context means that Pang Tou's mother and father **notified** their opinion that he is not as bad as he thought. She told Pang Tou to stop being discourage and doubting his abilities.

His father did something. He asked uncle Qiuqiu what should be done because he put some hope in his youngest son. From the conversation between them "我一边小声嘀咕着，一边连忙把胖头推到了校长的面前。" "哦，我明白了! 你是想让这只小猫到我们学校来上学。" 我有点点头。 "Wo yibian xiaosheng diguzhe, yibian lianmang ba Pangtou tuidaole xiaozhang de mianqian." "O, Wo mingbaile! Ni shi xiang rang zhe zhi xiao mao dao women suexiao lai shang lai." Wo you diandian tou." "While muttering in a low voice, I quickly pushed the Pang Tou in front of the principal. "Oh, I see! You want this kitten to come to our school." "I nodded slightly." From the above conversation, we can draw a **directive** speech act. Pang Tou's father follows his uncle's advice to **send his son to school**.

#### **4. Expressive + Assertive + Directive + Commissive illocutionary speech acts**

(7) 别去! 让他自己慢慢来。。。 *Bie qu! Rang ta zii manman lai...*

'Don't go! Let him do it himself'. (p. 082)

Hu Pi Mao (the cats' mother) and Xiao Mao (the cats' father) from a distance watched Pang Tou walking toward Bao Bao who was running around under the Ginkgo tree. Bao Bao is a child to be assumed as an alien by Pang Tou. He tried to attract the attention of Bao Bao's who was running around the ginkgo tree through the cat smiling that his father taught. At this time, the father wanted to go to Pang Tou to help him. However, his wife immediately said 别去！让他自己慢慢来。。

。 *Bie qu! Rang ta ziji manman lai...* 'Don't go! Let him do it himself'. These words do not have a performative verb showing cat's mother will do an action. There is an intention of hindering the father to walk toward Pang Tou. His wife's disagreement can be detected in the sentence 别去！ *Bie qu! 'Don't go!'* This exclamatory sentence expressed his wife's disapproval of what his husband was about to do. She asked him to see what Pang Tou and Bao Bao did from far away. The disapproval meaning belongs to the type of **expressive** illocutionary speech acts.

The mother's words 别去！ *Bie qu! 'Don't go!'* is the primary performative form because it conveyed disapproval implicitly. There is no performative verb that indicates the action of forbid, she only said "Don't go". She directly expressed her disapproval to her husband because she thought her husband's action—came nearer to them—was not good. Therefore, "Don't go" involves something that she believes in, belongs to the category of **assertive** illocutionary speech acts with the meaning of disapproval.

别去！ *Bie qu! 'Don't go!'* is also belong to the type of **directive** illocutionary speech acts mean **forbidden**. The mother forbade her husband to go toward Pang Tou and Bao Bao. There was no action from the father, it meant no performative verb, except the primary performative verb indicating forbidding actions. There is another speech act conveyed by 别去！ *Bie qu! 'Don't go!'*. The cats' mother utterance

involves something that will be done in the future. It belongs to the type of **commissive** illocutionary speech act with the meaning of **disapproval or refusal**.

### 5. Expressive + Assertive + Commissive Illocutionary Speech Acts

(8) “教钻圈的教练恐怖了，胖头怕他。” [...] “不学就对了。” *Bu xue jiu duile*.

‘Not studying, that's the right thing. (p. 025)

Data (8) shows uncle Qiuqiu response to Xiao Mao's complaint about his son Pang Tou's refusal to learn jump through hoops at school because it is dangerous. Uncle Qiuqiu implicitly expressed his opinion that he agreed with Pang Tou's refusal. No performative verb indicates uncle Qiuqiu's action in utterance (8). In this case, context plays its role. It belongs to the primary performative. The context when uncle Qiuqiu said “教钻圈的教练恐怖了，胖头怕他。” *Jiao zuanquan de jiaolian kongbu le, Pang Tou pa ta.* “The hoops jumping coach terrified Pang Tou’ did not show he did some action. The second clause 就对了 *jiu duile* ‘that's the right thing’ showed uncle Qiuqiu agreed Pang Tou does not go to an ordinary school. This second clause means approval. The act of **agreeing** is included in the category of expressive illocutionary speech acts because agreeing is an expression of uncle Qiuqiu's thoughts.

This utterance also belongs to the type of **assertive** illocutionary speech acts means agreeing. This assertive illocutionary speech act has no primary performative verb. No verb in 就对了 *jiu duile* ‘that's the right thing’ indicates the speaker uncle Qiuqiu's action. This utterance also belongs to the type of **assertive** illocutionary speech act; it related to uncle Qiuqiu's thought.

Apart from that, this utterance has another meaning. Uncle Qiuqiu agreed with Pang Tou's plan to stop studying in the future. This utterance also belongs to **commissive** illocutionary speech act means of agree. The form of the sentence is

the primary performative, has no performative verb that shows uncle Qiuqiu doing an action of **agree**.

## 6. Expressive + Directive Illocutionary Speech Acts

(9) 啊? 是这样吗? *A, shi zheyang ma?*

'Hah? Is it like that?' (p. 004)

After hearing his mother's appraisal in data (6), Pang Tou's said "Hah? Is that like that?". His mother believes Pang Tou is as good as his two elder brothers. Then, he became sad because he has no certain activities, except running here and there, playing all day, do not want to study. He feels like a useless child. But, after listening to his mother's words that she loves him as much as his two brothers, he would be a good boy after having beneficial activities, he is slightly surprised. Then, Pang Tou said the exciting sentence (data 9) burst out because he was not as angry as before.

The easing of Pang Tou's anger can be seen from the clause 胖头已不像刚才那么沮丧了 *Pang Tou yi bu xiang gangcai name jusangle* 'Pang Tou doesn't look so disappointed as before.' Pang Tou was satisfied with his mother's words. He liked his mother's praise. His satisfaction which was part of his joy was expressed through the words 啊? 是这样吗? *A, shi zheyang ma?* 'Hah? Is it like that?'. These words show that happiness is a part of his satisfaction.

There is no performative verb showing that Pang Tou is happy. From the context, we understand that the utterance consists of happiness feeling. The expression of feeling happiness is an expressive illocutionary speech act with **joy meaning**.

Except having the meaning of joy, this rhetorical utterance shows that Pang Tou needs certainty from Pi Hu Mao's words by using rhetorical questions. There is no performative verb indicating the speaker's actions, but looking at the context, it can be seen that Pang Tou is asking a question through the punctuation mark "?" at

the end of the sentence so that this utterance is included in the primary performative. Pang Tou's joy and disbelief feeling to his mother's words were expressed by the sentence 啊？是这样吗？*A, shi zheyang ma?* 'Hah? Is it like that?'. Thus, this utterance belongs to the category of **directive** illocutionary speech acts meaning **satisfaction and happiness**. Six data above is selected from all 96 data that show several functions that appear in an illocutionary utterance that pragmatic researchers have not widely studied.

## CONCLUSION

At first, it can be assumed that a person who said an utterance could convey two meanings. The data proves this assumption. Utterances selected are only the type of illocutionary speech acts. We took six expressive speech acts suspected of containing other illocutionary categories other than expressive speech acts. One expressive illocutionary utterance also simultaneously includes a different kind of category. The meaning conveyed is also more than one.

One utterance consists of two types such as expressive and assertive, so it also has two meanings. Some consist of three categories, even four categories that have four meanings to be conveyed in one sentence. This is understandable because humans want to speak sparingly of words, so words representing several meanings are chosen. Thus, an utterance has several unambiguous meanings because each meaning can be described in what category. The category can be identified by examining the context of the utterance. It is hoped that similar research can inspire other researchers to find out how human thinking is not one-to-one.

Through this children's novel 《笑猫日记：从外星球来的孩子》Xiao Mao Riji: Cong Waixingqiu lai de Haizi 'Xiao Mao's *Diary, A Child From Outer Space*, it proves that children can express two or more meaning in one utterance. The author, Yang Hongying, wants to teach children how to respect each other by praising and

admitting the advantages of interlocutors, and the value of politeness in social communication.

## NOTES

1The real conversation that took place between Ananta and Monik.

2The real conversation that took place between Dina and Nancy.

3The real conversation that took place between Danny's father and mother.

4Xiao Mao's Diary series is published into English French, German, Korean, etc. The novel also received the Number Two Best Publication Award in China, three times receiving the Best Children's Literacy Award in China; and for the title 《笑猫日记：那个黑色的下午》 Xiao Mao's Diary: Those Dark Afternoons has won the Number Two Publishing Government Award in China.

5Yang Hongying started her writing career at the age of 19 and is currently the chairman of the Sichuan Writers' Association (四川省作家协会), editor-in-chief of children's literature publications and also works as editor of children's books. Yang Hongying had also been an elementary school teacher. Yang Hongying has won many awards as a writer including the Best Work Award (五个一工程), China Publishing Government Award, Best Chinese Publication, China Best Children's Literature Award, Bing Xin Children's Story Book Award (name of Chinese poet and author), and many more.

6p. 051 refers to page 51 of the novel 《笑猫日记：从外星球来的孩子》 Xiao Mao's Diary, A Child From Outer Space . This numbering also applies to sentences numbered (5) to number (9).

7"lah" is a phatic word class, which indicates a contradiction between 不是 and 是.

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### **Data Source**

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