

Analyzing Speech Act on Public Sentiment in Responses to President Prabowo's New Policies Post on Instagram

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Abstract, *In the digital era, social media platforms like Instagram have become critical arenas for public discourse, especially in political communication. This study investigates public sentiment and expressive speech acts in Instagram comments responding to two of President Prabowo's key policy announcements: the Free Nutritious Meal Program and the policy of direct bank transfers for regional ASN teacher allowances. Guided by Searle's theory of speech acts, particularly expressive acts such as thanking, complementing, congratulating, deploring, condoling, apologizing, and welcoming, the study analyzes 60 purposively selected comments, 30 for each policy. The findings show that deploring dominates the discourse, with 67% in the meal program post and 73% in the ASN allowance post, indicating prevailing negative sentiment marked by criticism, disappointment, and frustration. Positive speech acts such as complimenting and thanking were present but marginal. These results highlight the importance of transparent policy implementation and the need for improved public communication strategies to address citizen concerns more effectively on digital platforms.*

Keywords: *Expressive Speech Act, Policy, Sentiment.*

1. INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary digital era, social media platforms have become pivotal arenas for public discourse, enabling individuals to freely express their opinions, emotions, and reactions to a wide range of issues, including government policies. Instagram, with its interactive features and broad user base, serves as a dynamic space for public sentiment to flourish and be publicly visible. The platform allows users to directly engage with political figures and their initiatives, making it a valuable source of data for understanding collective responses.

One of the most discussed topics recently has been the new policies introduced by President Prabowo, particularly the Free Nutritious Meal Program and the new mechanism for distributing regional ASN teacher allowances directly to teachers' personal bank accounts. These initiatives have attracted widespread attention and varying public responses on Instagram, especially on President Prabowo's personal account, where users actively share their views.

This study explores these public reactions through the lens of Speech Act Theory, first introduced by John L. Austin (1962) and further developed by John Searle (1969). The theory posits that language does not merely convey information but performs actions, known as speech acts. Of particular interest in this study is the expressive speech act, which reflects the speaker's psychological state in response to certain events or policies.

By focusing on expressive speech acts such as thanking, congratulating, criticizing, welcoming, or lamenting, this study aims to uncover the underlying sentiments and emotional engagement of the public towards President Prabowo's new policies. Through an analysis of Instagram comments, this research seeks to categorize public sentiment (positive, negative, or neutral) and understand how people emotionally and contextually respond to political decisions in the digital space. The findings are expected to provide deeper insight into how public opinion is formed and articulated through language on social media.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Sentiment Analysis

Sentiment analysis is a technique that is performed mechanically to comprehend, extract, or process text data to determine information about sentiments included in a sentence (AlBadani et al., 2022; Singh et al., 2017). Sentiment Analysis, also known as Opinion Mining, is the process of identifying, recognizing, and categorizing users' emotions or opinions about services such as movies, products, events, or other attributes as positive, negative, or neutral. The primary sources for this analysis are social communication platforms, including websites with reviews, forum discussions, blogs, microblogs, Twitter, and others.

This research field has gained significant popularity due to the abundance of opinionated data available online, which helps users make informed decisions in their daily lives. A large volume of such data is stored in digital form. For a specific topic or opinion, sentiment analysis works by mining this data and producing relevant insights.

Research in sentiment analysis often focuses on emotion-based summarization and the extraction of feelings or mental states. It utilizes Natural Language Processing (NLP) to track public emotions and opinions on particular topics, products, or services. Sentiment Analysis has increased a lot of acceptance among various zones like politics, business, and marketing or selling.

Theoretical Framework

Speech Act

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

Searle (1969) enhances Austin's speech act theory by recognizing two kinds of discourse acts: direct and indirect speech acts. Searle puts illocutionary demonstration into five classes:

1. Assertives: These are statements that represent a situation on the earth which could be right or wrong. They commit a speaker to the truth of the propositions expressed.
2. Directives: These are statements that compel or make someone else's action fit the propositional element. It is generally used to give order in this way, making the listener make a specific move, request, command or advice.
3. Commissives: These statements submit the speaker to certain future activity. It could be as a guarantee.
4. Expressives: The aim of expressive statements is to express sincerity of the speech act like sympathy.
5. Declaratives: These statements are aimed to state something and make it so. For example, mentioning someone's mistake and declaring a war.

Expressive Speech Act

According to Searle (1979) & Ilie & Norrick (2018), expressive speech acts have some types, they are thanking, apologizing, congratulating, condoling, deploring, complementing, and welcoming. In addition, Searle (1979) stated that the speaker is not attempting to get the world to become compatible with the words or the words to be compatible with the world when performing an expressive speech act, but the real meaning or intention of the expressed proposition. These expressions are applied in human communication based on the context. Expressive speech acts occur in people's daily utterances, because people express their feelings about pleasure, likes, dislikes, joy, sorrow, or pain (Yule, 1996). In other words, the expressive speech act is related to people's feelings that exist when the utterance is made. In this research, the researchers applied the expressive speech act types as below.

a. Thanking

In expressing thanks, it is applied when the speaker expresses gratitude towards an action from the hearer (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). In addition, it represents the speaker's grateful feeling for something. The expressive word used in this type is thank you or thanks.

b. Apologizing

Apologizing is kind of a regret expression. It is applied when the speaker expresses regret or sorrowful feelings toward an action which the speaker is responsible for (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). The words that are used in this type are sorry, apologize, and regret.

c. Congratulating

Congratulating is an expression of pleasure that is given to the hearer without involving any actions (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). It is the opposite of a condoling expression. The word that is used in this type is congratulations.

d. Condoling

This type of expressive speech act is the opposite of congratulating. Condoling is applied to express sympathy towards some bad or misfortune things (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). There are some expressions that the speaker uses to show his condolences to the hearer.

e. Deploring

Deploring is applied to express outraged, sorrow, disappointment, or strong regret by bewailing or bemoaning (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). The expression in this type is similar to condoling, however it is only applied when the speaker agrees that someone needs to be responsible for the feeling.

f. Complimenting

Complimenting is expressing approval of the hearer for something good, it is applied when the speaker expresses or reacts to something good action or performance from the hearer (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985).

g. Welcoming

Welcoming expression is to welcome the hearer. It is applied to express a pleasure or good feeling for the hearer's presence or arrival (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985).

The Role of Expressive Speech Acts in Political Communication

In recent years, social media has provided influential figures, such as political leaders, party representatives, and heads of state, with a powerful tool to communicate directly with the public, manage crises, and control narratives in real time (Fatema et al., 2023). Unlike traditional media, where messages are carefully filtered and mediated, platforms like "X, Instagram, Facebook, etc." allow these figures to engage with the public in a seemingly personal and immediate manner. Political leaders carefully craft their statements to maximize impact, clarity, and persuasiveness, recognizing that every post could elicit immediate reactions from a global audience (Zhang et al., 2024). According to Al-Shboul et al. (2024),

expressive speech acts serve as effective tools for politicians to influence public opinion and shape political discourse, as they allow leaders to communicate their emotional and psychological stances on issues, thus reinforcing their ideological positions and connecting emotionally with their audience.

Previous Studies

Several studies have explored the use of expressive speech acts on social media, particularly in the context of Instagram comments. These studies serve as the foundation and comparison for the present research. A study by Fadillah et al. (2024) focused on analyzing expressive speech acts in Instagram comment sections and their relevance to moral education among students. The researchers identified five dominant types of expressive acts: hope, invitation, praise, criticism, and congratulation. The findings reveal that criticism is the most commonly used form of expression. Significantly, it was found that there was a relationship between expressive speech and the formation of student moral values. This study emphasizes that teachers play an important role in guiding students to understand and use expressive speech properly, which can affect their moral development. Not only that, this study also states that expressive language on Instagram can reflect user attitudes and indirectly affect the formation of students' moral values in the digital era.

Similarly, Fitriyah et al. (2023) conducted a study on comments found on the BBC Arabic Instagram account, focusing on expressive speech acts such as appreciation and disapproval. The results showed that the nature of criticism that is expressed outright among social media users may not be in line with traditional Arab cultural values. This difference highlights the potential change in communication style that is influenced by the dynamics of individuals in social media. Important findings from the study also found that social media users tend to express criticism more often than praise. The ratio of critical comments to respectful comments was reported as 87:13. This managed to show a very significant prevalence of negative feedback over positive comments. Revealing a significant trend towards critical expression in social media comments, raising questions about the cultural implications and nature of communication that is developing in the digital era. This finding underlines the importance of understanding how social media platforms can shape language and social interaction.

Another relevant study by Simanullang and Fatmawati (2024) examined expressive speech acts in the comment section of the @infopku_ Instagram account. They categorized the speech acts into various types such as expressing enthusiasm, criticism, hope, and gratitude. Their research revealed that in social media, many expressions are found, but for a category

that is often found, especially in their studies, critical and emotional expressions occupy the top position and are very dominant. Not only that, the important findings from this study really highlight the main role of social media data, which is that social media, especially Instagram, provides space for users to express various expressions, as well as convey feelings towards public information.

These studies inform the current research by demonstrating how expressive speech acts can reveal the sentiment of social media users. However, the present study differs by focusing specifically on public responses to a national policy President Prabowo's Free Nutritious Meal Program and by classifying sentiment based on expressive speech functions (e.g., Thanking, Apologizing, Congratulating, Condoling, Deploring, Complementing, Welcoming) to determine whether the sentiment expressed is positive, negative, or neutral.

3. METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is an effort to investigate and investigate a problem using scientific methods carefully and precisely to collect, process, analyze data and draw conclusions systematically and objectively (Abubakar, 2021). This research employed qualitative methods, which examine the condition of the object with the researcher as the key instrument. The data collected are descriptive, and are analyzed thematically or interpretively. According to Creswell (2018), in qualitative research, researchers make interpretations about the meaning of the data. In this research, the researcher will analyze research objects by using expressive speech acts. The research data will be based on the comment section of President Prabowo's Instagram posts, particularly those related to the Free Nutritious Meal Program and the new mechanism for distributing regional ASN teacher allowances directly to teachers' personal bank accounts. This approach allows for an in-depth understanding of how the public emotionally and communicatively responds to these government initiatives through language.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Results

Data collection in this study is based on a compilation of comments from President Prabowo's Instagram posts. The selected posts are those that specifically address the Free Nutritious Meal Program and the new mechanism for transferring regional ASN teacher allowances directly to teachers' personal bank accounts. To ensure a manageable and focused analysis, a total of 30 comments are taken from each selected post. These comments are purposively sampled based on their relevance to the discussed policy and the presence of

emotional or opinionated content. This limitation allows for a detailed categorization and interpretation of expressive speech acts, such as thanking, apologizing, congratulating, condoling, deploring, complementing, and welcoming. By focusing on these selected comments, the study aims to identify patterns in public sentiment and how users express their psychological states in response to the policies through language.

Prabowo's Nutritious Meal Program

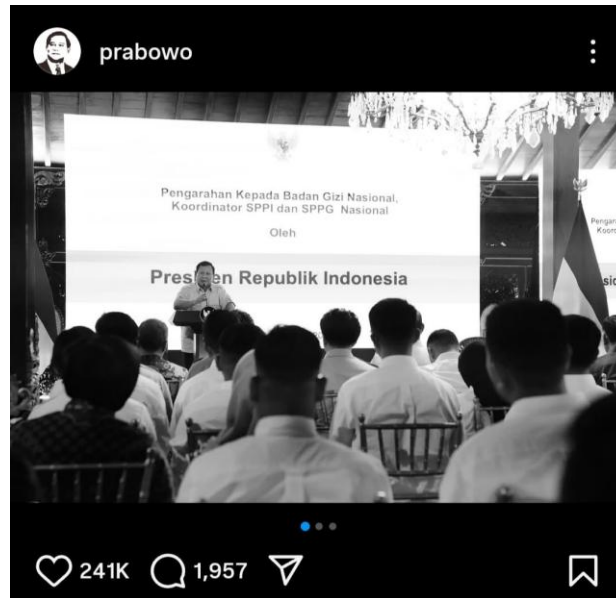


Figure 1. Prabowo's Free Nutritious Meal Program

The data were analyzed qualitatively using analytical techniques based on Searle's classification of expressive speech acts. From a total of 1,958 comments on President Prabowo's Instagram posts, 30 comments were purposely selected for analysis based on their relevance and clarity in expressing public sentiment. These comments were then categorized into seven types of expressive speech acts: thanking, apologizing, congratulating, condoling, deploring, complementing, and welcoming. A total of 30 selected comments were analyzed, and the classification of expressive speech acts based on these comments is presented below.

Table 1. Results of 30 comments that have been analyzed about Nutritious Meal Program

NO	Username	Comments	Type of Expressive Speech Act	Sentiment	Explanation
1.	@teds****	Bapak sehat selalu dan doa terbaik untuk semua program yang Bapak sedang usahakan berjalan lancar dan mensejahterakan rakyat di negeri ini	Complementing	Positive	Expresses support and gratitude, wishing success for the president's program.
2.	@aisy****	Optimis tapi gak tau kenyataan kebutuhan rakyat. Obsesi kosong	Deploring	Negative	Blames the president for not understanding the public's real needs.
3.	@pras****	ok gas ok gas gitu aja terus sampai upin ipin lulus tk woy. Pak itu pengangguran merajalela, phk semakin banyak. Mana janjimu katanya 19 juta lapangan kerja?	Deploring	Negative	Criticizes unfulfilled promises and worsening unemployment.
4.	@doni****	Program ga bermutu, buang-buang anggaran.	Deploring	Negative	Condemns the program as low quality and wasteful.
5.	@perd****	Banyak ya media televisi yang PHK	Deploring	Negative	Criticizes the program for

		massal karna efisiensi pemerintah. Duhhh gimana ya nasib Indonesia klo gini terus			causing inefficiencies and job layoffs.
6.	@herd****	Lebih penting makan gratis di bandingkan kepala keluarga yang Ter PHK akibat OMON-omon 19 JT lapang pkerjaan ' yng GK suka skip NO KOMEN	Deploring	Negative	Compares the food program to the reality of job losses.
7.	@olra***	Pak gemoy, berantas premanisme jgn d bekingin. Ap.??? Gak berani..?? Apa perlu masyarakat yg memberantas nih???	Deploring	Negative	Blames the president for lacking action against thuggery and questions his courage.
8.	@habi****	Evaluasi lagi pak, mubazir buang2 anggaran, banyak yg keracunan juga	Deploring	Negative	Suggests reevaluation due to wasted budget and food safety issues.
9.	@mmmu** **	Program ngga tepat sasaran jangan diteruskan dong, harusnya budgetnya digunakan untuk	Deploring	Negative	Criticizes poor targeting and suggests better fund allocation.

		modal usaha para orang tuanya			
10.	@doni****	Program yang terlalu dipaksakan, hasilnya berantakan	Deploring	Negative	Criticizes the forced implementation that led to poor outcomes.
11.	@rega****	Pak anak buah bapak pernah bilang "yang keracunan cuma 0,5%", maksudnya 0,5 itu nyawa yang gak perlu dianggap atau gimana pak? (bertanya dengan nada sopan)	Deploring	Negative	Questions dismissive response to food poisoning incidents.
12.	@ariw****	Pak tolong tegur itu yg bilang "yang keracunan cuma 0.5% aja"... Mau 0.000000001% pun itu tetap nyawa manusia	Deploring	Negative	Criticizes justification that downplays human life lost.
13.	@doni****	PROGRAM YG TERLALU DIPAKSAKAN HASILNYA BERANTAKAN	Deploring	Negative	Condemns poor program results due to forced implementation.
14.	@she_***	Mohon dievaluasi Ig ke lapangan pak...banyak masalah...usul klo bs per dapur cukup 500	Deploring	Negative	Criticizes program execution, transparency, and scale;

		porsi saja sehingga para katering dan UKM jg kantin sekolah bs merasakan...dan ga perlu yayasan untuk menjadi mitra....bukankah itu cita cita awal tercetusnya MBG ini, skrg di daerah siapa mitra BGN kurang transparan, apalagi dengsn 1 dapur 3000 porsi lebih beresiko dan biaya mahal pula			suggests practical improvements.
15.	@aida****	The best president ke 8 anak Indonesia sehat cerdas dan pintar	Complimenting	Positive	Compliments the president's leadership and impact on children.
16.	@bula****	Pak prabowo adalah seorang pemimpin yang ikhlas dan sabar	Complimenting	Positive	Expresses admiration for the president's sincerity and patience.
17.	@nara****	Pa presiden yg merakyat jujur adil dan tegas sehat2 pa	Complimenting	Positive	Praises the president's honesty and leadership style.
18.	@_ini****	Sehat sehat ya pakk	Complimenting	Positive	Wishing good health to the

					president respectfully.
19.	@mich*** *	Bapak Prabowo presiden RI	Complimenting	Positive	Supports and acknowledges Prabowo's presidency.
20.	@sadi****	Pak gimana ini di tiap desa jadi banyak infak penarikan tiap rumah.	Deploring	Negative	Complaints about unexpected additional community charges.
21.	@okda*** *	Tapi di tempat anak saya makanannya ga layak pak, basi.	Deploring	Negative	Concerns about food quality in school meals.
22.	@mrif**** **	Udah banyak kasus, baru di evaluasi. Gini ya pemimpin yang tiap pidato atau orasi "saya rela mati demi rakyat"	Deploring	Negative	Expresses disappointment and criticism toward the government's slow response in handling the cases.
23.	@motu***	Gak penting	Deploring	Negative	Expresses rejection or belittlement of the government policy content.
24.	@i_am_** **	Sangat terkesan dengan pak prabowo dekat ke berbagai kalangan bukan	Complimenting	Positive	Conveys praise or appreciation for Mr. Prabowo's

		hanya ke kalangan elit saja			attitude or behavior.
25.	@anur**** *	Kami bangga bisa berada di sisi pak prabowo	Complimenting	Positive	Expresses a sense of pride and support.
26.	@self**** *	Keren banget presiden milenial Prabowo	Complimenting	Positive	Conveys praise and admiration for President Prabowo.
27.	@rupa****	Pelanggaran hukum	Deploring	Negative	Criticizes or expresses disapproval of actions considered to violate rules or laws.
28.	@wid**** *	Pak, preman jangan dikasih panggung. Kacau entar negara ini	Deploring	Negative	Expresses concern and criticism about conditions that could lead to chaos.
29.	@gar****	Kirain tegas prabowo ini	Deploring	Negative	Contains disappointment or criticism toward the expected firmness.
30.	@sri****	Tapi pak nyata nya realisasi ga ada. Katanya anak sekolah makan gratis, tapi nihil	Deploring	Negatif	Expresses dissatisfaction and criticism toward

					unfulfilled promises.
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Based on the analysis of 30 comments out of a total of 1,958 on President Prabowo's Instagram post about the nutritious meal program, the majority of comments reflected expressive speech acts categorized as *deploring*, indicating criticism and disappointment toward the program's implementation. This negative sentiment reveals public dissatisfaction with the program's quality and effectiveness, as well as concerns about its impact on the community. On the other hand, some comments were *complimenting*, expressing praise and support for the government's efforts through this program. Overall, negative sentiment was more dominant, highlighting the need for evaluation and improvement in the program's execution, along with more effective communication to better address public aspirations on social media.

Prabowo's Policy on Direct Bank Transfers for Regional ASN Teacher Allowances



Figure 2. Prabowo's Policy on Direct Bank Transfers for Regional ASN Teacher Allowances

The data were analyzed qualitatively using analytical techniques based on Searle's classification of expressive speech acts. From a total of 6,628 comments on President Prabowo's Instagram post regarding the direct transfer of regional ASN teacher allowances to teachers' personal bank accounts, 30 comments were purposely selected for analysis based on their relevance and clarity in expressing public sentiment. These comments were then categorized into seven types of expressive speech acts: thanking, apologizing, congratulating,

condoling, deploring, complementing, and welcoming. The classification of expressive speech acts based on these selected comments is presented below.

Table 2. Results of 30 comments that have been analyzed about direct bank transfers for regional ASN

NO	Username	Comments	Type of Expressive Speech Act	Sentiment	Explanation
1.	@tat*****	Sehat-sehat pak Prabowo	Complementing	Positive	A wish for good health.
2.	@huk****	Terima kasih pak sudah mempercepat casn 2024 terutama pppk tahap 1	Thanking	Positive	Expressing gratitude for accelerating the process.
3.	@iza*****	Prabowo ini bikin masalah sendiri, selesain sendiri, puji sendiri	Deploring	Negative	Criticism of the leader's self-praise and problem-handling.
4.	@tis***	Bapak tidak cocok jadi pemimpin	Deploring	Negative	Rejection of the leader's capability.
5.	@gil*****	Keren wo	Complementing	Positive	A brief compliment.
6.	@gfr****	Bikin kebijakan jangan seenaknya	Deploring	Negative	Criticism of arbitrary policymaking.
7.	@yam*****	Hore PNS THR ga kena pajak, swasta pajaknya gede banget. Keadilan sosial bagi seluruh rakyat Indonesia	Deploring	Negative	Irony criticizing unfair policy differences.
8.	@wan*****	Terimakasih pak atas percepatan CPNS pak	Thanking	Positive	Expression of gratitude.
9.	@lam*****	Dikhianati pemimpin sendiri	Deploring	Negative	Expression of betrayal and disappointment.

10.	@rah****	Kacau banget negara ini sekarang plis	Deploring	Negative	Complaint about the current state of the country.
11.	@xgd****	Sehat pak? Kalo sakit minum obat dulu, jangan aneh-aneh	Deploring	Negative	Sarcastic criticism toward erratic behavior.
12.	@ezy****	Bila omongan penguasa tidak boleh dibantah, kebenaran pasti terancam	Deploring	Negative	Criticism of authoritarian speech control.
13.	@bri****	Sehat-sehat terus dan berkah selalu presidenku	Complementing	Negative	Positive wishes and support.
14.	@ses*****	Aturan tilang gimana itu pak, sama aja merampas aset rakyat	Deploring	Negative	Criticism of a policy that seems exploitative.
15.	@rua*****	Terimakasih pak prabowo dari kami CASN	Thanking	Positive	Expressing gratitude.
16.	@ron****	Kukira bakal lebih baik di era bapak, ternyata makin mundur	Deploring	Negative	Disappointment with unmet expectations.
17.	@ruw**** *	Presiden kinerja terburuk dan tidak ada bukti nyata	Deploring	Negative	Negative evaluation of performance.
18.	@ris*****	Satu minggu, satu masalah	Deploring	Negative	Criticism of recurring problems.

19.	@saw****	Kirain ganti presiden bakal lebih baik, eh ternyata malah makin rusak negara ini	Deploring	Negative	Expresses disappointment and frustration.
20.	@nau****	Menuju kemunduran Indonesia	Deploring	Negative	Pessimistic view of the country's direction.
21.	@she****	Nyesel pilih anda pak	Deploring	Negative	Expression of regret and disappointment.
22.	@iqb*****	Indonesia gelap	Deploring	Negative	Negative expression of the country's condition.
23.	@mat*****	Cukup 1 periode aja pak, kami kecewa	Deploring	Negative	Expression of disappointment and rejection.
24.	@fik*****	Negara dengan sistem yang kacau	Deploring	Negative	Criticism of the national system.
25.	@aka*****	Keren bapak sehat selalu	Complementing	Positive	Praise and good wishes.
26.	@yaa*****	Polisi & TNI hama menyusahkan	Deploring	Negative	Expression of criticism and resentment toward the police and military.
27.	@yah*****	Mending lo tobat deh, fokus ibadah aja udeh	Deploring	Negative	Personal attack with a sarcastic tone.
28.	@ahm*****	Pemerintahan lo tolol pak, urusin tuh	Deploring	Negative	Offensive and insulting criticism

					of the government.
29.	@rxx*****	Semangat presidenku	Complementing	Positive	Encouraging message and support.
30.	@pak*****	Mantap banget nih negara, dijajah pemerintah sendiri	Deploring	Negative	Harsh sarcasm criticizing national conditions.

Based on the analysis of 30 comments from a total of 6,628 on President Prabowo's Instagram post about direct bank transfers for regional ASN teacher allowances, most comments expressed deploring speech acts with negative sentiment, showing public dissatisfaction and criticism regarding fairness and policy management. However, some comments were complimenting or thanking, reflecting appreciation for efforts to improve civil servants' welfare. Overall, the negative sentiment was dominant, indicating a need for better policy transparency, fairer implementation, and improved communication to address public concerns effectively.

Discussion

Prabowo's Nutritious Meal Program

Based on the classification of expressive speech acts into thanking, complementing, congratulating, deploring, condoling, apologizing, and welcoming, this study found that the majority of comments on the nutritious meal program post fall under the category of deploring, which includes expressions of criticism, complaints, and disappointment. Out of 30 selected comments, 20 comments (67%) were classified as deploring. Meanwhile, 8 comments (27%) expressed complementing, and only 2 comments (7%) were categorized as thanking. No comments were identified as apologizing, congratulating, condoling, or welcoming, indicating that public discourse surrounding this program was predominantly critical and evaluative.

Table 3. The Result of People's Comments in Percentages

Type of Expressive Act	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Thanking	2	7%
Complimenting	8	27%
Deploring	20	67%
Apologizing	-	0%
Congratulating	-	0%

Condoling	-	0%
Welcoming	-	0%

Prabowo's Policy on Direct Bank Transfers for Regional ASN Teacher Allowances

Based on the classification of expressive speech acts into thanking, complementing, congratulating, deploring, condoling, apologizing, and welcoming, this study found that the majority of comments on the policy of direct bank transfers for regional ASN teacher allowances fell under the category of deploring, which included expressions of dissatisfaction, criticism, and frustration. Out of 30 selected comments, 22 comments (73%) were classified as deploring. Meanwhile, 6 comments (20%) expressed complementing, and 2 comments (7%) were categorized as thanking. There were no comments identified as apologizing, congratulating, condoling, or welcoming, showing that the public discourse was largely negative and focused on critique.

Table 4. The Result of People's Comments in Percentages

Type of Expressive Act	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Thanking	2	7%
Complimenting	6	20%
Deploring	22	73 %
Apologizing	-	0%
Congratulating	-	0%
Condoling	-	0%
Welcoming	-	0%

The analysis of public comments on both Prabowo's Nutritious Meal Program and the policy on direct bank transfers for regional ASN teacher allowances reveals a dominant pattern of *deploring* as the most frequent expressive speech act. This indicates a general public dissatisfaction with both programs. While a smaller portion of the comments showed appreciation through thanking and complimenting, the overwhelming presence of criticism, disappointment, and frustration highlights the need for the government to address public concerns more effectively. These findings suggest that clearer communication, more inclusive policy-making, and responsiveness to feedback may help improve public perception and engagement.

5. CONCLUSION

The analysis of public responses to President Prabowo's Free Nutritious Meal Program and the direct bank transfer policy for regional ASN teacher allowances reveals a dominant use of deploring speech acts, reflecting widespread criticism and dissatisfaction. While a small proportion of users expressed support through thanking and complimenting, the prevailing sentiment across both policy discussions was negative. This pattern suggests that the public expects more inclusive, transparent, and responsive governance. The findings emphasize the value of analyzing expressive speech acts to understand public opinion in digital spaces, and they underscore the need for the government to strengthen communication strategies and policy delivery to build greater trust and public engagement.

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