

## Assertive Speech Acts in The Twilight Saga Novel

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### Abstract

*Purpose:* This study aims to investigate the types and functions of assertive speech acts in The Twilight Saga novel.

*Methodology:* The data of this qualitative text analysis were the speeches of the main female character, Bella, which contains an act of assertive speech. The data were collected using document analysis and were analyzed using the framework of Searle's speech acts theory (1969).

*Results:* The findings show all types of assertive speech acts used by Bella, namely, stating, claiming, describing, reporting and concluding. Furthermore, stating is the most dominant category, reflecting the emotional transparency and honesty which are typical of the romance-fantasy genre. Correspondingly, while concluding is the least due to the storyline's emphasis on feelings rather than logical conclusions. In addition, the functions of assertive speech acts are binding the speaker to the truth of the proposition in stating, claiming, describing, reporting and concluding.

*Applications/Originality/Value:* These results imply that the act of emphatic speech in romantic fiction plays a central role in shaping character intimacy, emotional development, and thematic depth. Future research could expand data across sagas, compare novel-film adaptations, or include multimodal analysis to explore how assertive acts shift across media and narrative contexts.

*Keywords:* speech act, assertive speech act, female main character, literary work

### Introduction Section

Literary works are interesting sites to investigate how people use language for interaction. They are often used to explain human psychology, social interactions, and emotions. Human thoughts, feelings, and opinions can be expressed through well-known language (Nurjannah & Masykuroh, 2021). In a work of contemporary literature, every word spoken in conversation is not just a speech, but it also involves actions that are ways to influence others, to express thoughts, or to express feelings. The speech act theory proposed by (Searle's 1969), classifies speech act based on the speaker's intentions and the effect they want to produce on the listener.

The language used in interaction contains various types of speech acts, determined by the context of language use. One of the fields of linguistics called pragmatics studies how meaning is interpreted based on the context of language use. Austin (1962) emphasized that language not only serves to convey information but also allows a person to do something, while Yule (1996) stated that, pragmatics concentrate on how the speaker and listener understand the intentions, assumptions, and conclusions of interactions. The study of speech acts can be applied on various media including cinema (Nitrassa & Masykuroh, 2024). In The Twilight Saga novels, Bella and Edward's dialogue not only reveals the literal meaning, but also their intentions, beliefs, and emotional responses that shape the dynamics of their relationship. As a result, pragmatic analysis provides a deeper understanding of Bella's linguistic actions when she talks to Edward. Language is not only a means of communication but also a tool for performing actions. "To say something is to do something" is a concept first proposed by John L. Austin in 1962, but John R. Searle expanded on it in 1969. Each speech has two effects: illocution (the speaker's intention) and perlocution (influence on the listener), according to Searle. In other words, communication contains a linguistic structure and a pragmatic purpose, suggesting that speech is an action rather than just a statement. According to Searle (1969), depending on the context, the speaker's intentions, and the listener's perception, a sentence can have a variety of purposes. For example, simple declarative words like "It's cold here" can be used to explain, complain, or call for action depending on the situation. As a result, pragmatic interpretation is the only way to understand the act of speech because of its relationship to situational and linguistic contexts. Correspondingly, Searle (1969) classified speech actions into five main types based on their illocution purpose: Assertive, Directive, Commissive, Expressive, and Declaration. However, among these types, the Acts of Assertive Speech are most often found in fictional dialogue, as they serve to shape the beliefs, attitudes, and perspectives of the characters.

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One of the speech acts is assertive speech act, which expresses the speaker's belief in the truth of a proposition. Communication relies on assertive statements (Searle, 1969). When a speaker makes a firm statement, he makes a statement that he considers to be true. In speech, affirmative action is used to state something that the speaker considers to be true and the main goal of assertiveness is to make the speaker "commit to the truth of the proposition Searle (1979)," assertiveness includes actions such as stating, reporting, inferring, claiming, or describing Yule (1996). In addition, Leech (1983) said assertiveness is conveying accurate information based on the knowledge that the speaker has. In *The Twilight* books, Bella often uses assertiveness when trying to understand Edward's identity, confirm hypotheses, or describe what she sees. Therefore, assertive speech becomes an important part of how Bella's perception develops. Decisive actions bind the speaker to the truth of what is said, such as stating, describing, claiming, or affirming something. In Bella's conversations, assertive speech often appears and contains emotional depth. Her words are often used to express her perception of Edward's behaviour, her understanding of their love, and her struggle to reconcile the supernatural with reality. Bella's use of assertive statements such as "I know who you are," "I'm not afraid of you," and "I believe in you" shows how linguistic beliefs transformed her from a sceptical observer to a confident participant in Edward's world.

The phenomenon of assertive speech in novels, especially romance and fantasy novels such as the novel *The Twilight Saga* by Stephenie Meyer (2005) is very interesting to explore because readers can analyse Bella's assertive speech actions in revealing various communication dimensions such as : cognitive, emotional, and social. The cognitive dimension shows Bella's thoughts and beliefs about Edward's identity and their relationship, while the emotional dimension reflects Bella's fear, affection, and insecurities. The social dimension shows how his statements build or challenge power and intimacy in their interactions. Each firm statement not only serves as a means of communication, but also serves as a mirror of Bella's evolving identity and her understanding of love and danger.

This research investigates assertive speech acts in *The Twilight Saga* novel. The novel is selected as the site of the research since in the novel, Bella's assertiveness is expressed through narrative and thought, Bella's aggressive verbal actions feature communication, relational, emotional, and cognitive aspects. Emotionally, she expresses love, fear, and trust, while cognitively, she shares her opinion of Edward's character and their relationship. Really, he places himself in a power dynamic that shifts between humans and vampires. Because of these factors, Bella's bold statements serve as an important marker of her emotional and psychological growth throughout the narrative. In addition, the use of assertive speech actions in film dialogue will tell us about understanding how language contains relational meanings and personal beliefs by analysing Bella's aggressive language actions. Words are not passive in *The Twilight Saga* ; rather, they are performative tools that help characters develop mutual understanding and emotional closeness. Bella's use of assertive statements such as "I know who you are," "I'm not afraid of you," and "I believe in you" shows how linguistic beliefs transformed her from a sceptical observer to a confident participant in Edward's world.

Speech act, especially assertive speech act according to Searle's theory (1969), has been thoroughly studied in various communication contexts which includes literary and media works, daily interactions, and Musyarofah and Sulistyaningsih (2025) investigates the speech in the movie *Twilight*. However, their research did not specifically look at Bella's assertive speech acts. Another research studies politeness aspects of Bellas dialog (Fatmawati & Ningsih,2024). Suggesting that assertive speech is still often used to express emotions in Bella's dialogue. Rambe et al. (2025) and Medina (2022) specifically investigated the actions of assertive speech in literary narratives in their research. They found that, especially in the statements and descriptions of the two categories that were also the focus of their research, literary works often contain emotional representations through assertiveness. By concentrating on *Twilight*, Roza (2025) emphasizes pragmatism in communication in gothic literary works. However, the conversation remains general and does not distinguish between certain types of speech acts. Krisanti (2025) studied speech acts in *The Twilight Saga* movie. Although having similar theme and genre, the context is different from the novel, so that the results are more influenced by visuals and the simplification of dialogue. Meanwhile, research by Isnaeni et al. (2025) on assertive speech in the novel *Calabai* shows that assertive speech can be used to express opinions, explain circumstances, and affirm the beliefs of characters. This function is relevant to be studied in the Bella and Edward interaction. Research by Rejeki & Manaf (2025) and Mirrah (2024) emphasizes the importance of social relations and communication strategies in assertive speech acts, which is indirect. Other studies, such as Aji & Aji (2025), Pratama & Asroriyah (2025), and Nurjannah (2025) show that Searle's theory is effective in assessing speech acts in classical and modern novels. Besides, Nuriyah & Waningyun (2025) found that there is a relationship between expressive and assertive speech in Indonesian novels, which suggests that the emotions of the characters greatly influence how they say what they say. According to Mardiani & Leviani (2022) and Waluyo et al. (2019), assertiveness can indicate social judgment. In addition, the emotional dynamics of male characters influence the type of illocution, according to Mustofa & Nababan (2019), who investigated expressiveness in the novel *New Moon*, which is part of the *Twilight* series.

This research focuses on the assertive speech acts of Bellain *The Twilight Saga* novel analysed using Searle's theory (1969). This research provides an understanding of how affirmative action serves to express internal belief systems and social positions in fictional communication. Practically, these findings can serve as a reference for students of English literature, educators, and researchers interested in exploring the use of language in fictional dialogue. This analysis is also useful. Furthermore, this research encourages readers to see literature and film not only as stories, but also as a reflection of linguistic and psychological realities of human beings.

## Research Method

This research is a qualitative text analysis. The data from this study were the main female character's utterances containing assertive speech acts. The data source, *The Twilight Saga* by Stephenie Meyer (2005) focused on chapters that show intense communication between Bella and Edward as the male lead.

The data were collected using a documentation method, which involved several steps, i.e. reading the novel carefully and repeatedly to identify the dialogue between Bella and Edward, highlighting the speech that showed the act of assertive speech act (stating, claiming, describing, reporting, concluding). The researcher uses Searle's (1969) classification of the assertive speech act and its function as an analytical framework that binds the speaker to the truth of the proposition expressed. The data organization deploys the interactive model of Miles and Huberman (2002), which consists of four main components, namely data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification and is carried out through three main stages of analysing interactively, interrelated, and continuously. throughout the research process.

To ensure the credibility and validity of the data analysis, the researcher applied a triangulation method in which an expert double-checks and validates the accuracy of data interpretations. By applying this triangulation method, the research maintains objectivity and reliability in identifying and interpreting assertive speech acts.

## Finding and Discussion

### *Types Of Speech Acts*

The findings of this study shows that Bella mostly uses five types of assertive actions of stating, describing, claiming, reporting, and concluding. The findings of this study were 34 utterances (34%) in the stating type, 22 utterances (22%) of the claiming type, 18 utterances (18%) of the describing type, 16 utterances (16%) of reporting and 10 utterances of he type of concluding (10%). Those types of assertive speech acts can be summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Types of Assertive speech Acts.

| Assertive Type | Number of occurrences | Percentage |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Stating        | 34                    | 34%        |
| Claiming       | 22                    | 22%        |
| Describing     | 18                    | 18%        |
| Reporting      | 16                    | 16%        |
| Concluding     | 10                    | 10%        |
| Total          | 100                   | 100%       |

### *Stating*

The first type of assertive is stating. The act of stating appears when Bella conveys her facts, physical condition, or feelings directly to Edward. In this phase, Bella is in a conflict with James' character and is recovering after James' attack. The linguistic function in stating is to clarify the ongoing situation without a persuasive purpose. This speech also marks Bella's emotional shift from doubt to clarity about her feelings. For example, in the dialogue "I'm awake Edward" which states Bella's condition after she was injured by James' bite while in the ballet room. "I'm not pain anymore" This dialogue still happens in the same scene when Bella is in the hospital and explains that she is okay. In the dialogue "you stayed with me the whole time" which explains that Bella sees Edward who continues to take care of her while she is in the hospital, and in the dialogue "i know you save me", states that Bella was really touched when Edward chose to save her and still make her human when Edward could have directly turned Bella into a vampire.

After the incident at the hospital, dialogue Bella when she was on the plane to return to the fork also demonstrates the stating speech act. For example in the dialogue "I'm not afraid of going back". In that case, it is explained that Bella is not afraid to return home to see her father after he fights with his sister for avoiding James' pursuit. The incident is also connected to the dialogue when Bella meets Edward in Bella's room, in which Bella says "Charlie is still upset." It explains that her father is still angry because Bella consciously left the house and left with Edward in no apparent way. Moving on to the scene of Bella returning to campus by Edward using a car, Bella also uses the assertive speech act "People are staring at us", the sentence explains that Bella is confused that many people see her coming with Edward at the Prom Night event. In the next scene, Bella also said "I'm really wearing a dress", explaining that Bella wore a dress when she came to Prom Night with Edward even though Bella was known for a woman who didn't like the dress. During the scene with Edward, Bella also uttered assertive statements such as "I don't want this night to end" explaining that Bella didn't want the prom night to end soon because Bella enjoyed time with Edward. After the dance scene, Bella also said the statement in the dialogue "I can hear the music from here" explaining to Edward that she did not listen to the music that was being played inside because they were sitting outside the prom. These sentences are examples of what happened in the scene of *The Twilight Saga*, the statement is a simple statement about his feelings. Related to the situation, pain, fear, or certainty about

his choice for Edward. The Statement scenes generally take place in the hospital scene at Phoenix, on the way back to Forks, before the prom and at prom night.

### *Claiming*

The data shows that Bella often makes claims about Edward's feelings, his safety, or their relationship. This claim cannot always be objectively proven, but it's Bella's commitment to what she believes to be true. Towards the end of the novel, confession scenes often appear as Bella insists on her decision to stay with Edward and her determination for immortality. So, there is a lot of direct dialogue that Bella delivers about herself and her relationship with Edward. In the study, there were 22 Bella dialogues that stated that they had an assertive type that claimed in terms of the relationship between Bella and Edward. The first example is when she is in the hospital, Bella says, "I know you blame yourself, even if you deny it." and "I'm sure you would've done the same for anyone you loved." But Edward always denied it because he felt that it was just his concern for Bella. And after that Bella also added that it was a natural thing because Edward was jealous of Bella, so Bella thought that if you loved someone you would protect them just like Edward protected Bella from the vampire James. The next scene is on the plane as they want to get back from Phoenix to Forks. Bella said, "I'm sure we'll be fine once we get back to Forks." It is explained that Bella convinces Edward not to worry when he returns to Forks because there is a threat from James' partner, Victoria. But Bella insists that everything will be fine. It was the kind of emphatic speech that claimed in their conversation that Bella had assured Edward that nothing bad would happen in Forks.

Next in the car scene there is a dialogue in which Bella shows her belief and doubt that Edward is hiding something from her, "I'm certain you're hiding something." Another example is from the scene when she wanted to enter the building at the prom night, Bella said to Edward, "I believe you brought me here for a reason." Bella believes that she was taken to the prom night event to forget the past incident. Also, the scene of Edward and Bella's conversation during the prom show, when Bella said, "I know you don't want me to become like you." Bella remembers that Edward did not make her a vampire when she was bitten by James when they were in Phoenix to hide. This assertive speech act of claiming shows Bella's believe that even if she asks Edward to change her, Edward will not do it. At the end of the prom night, another Bella's utterance showing assertive speech act of claiming in also presents when she said, "I'm sure this is the happiest I've ever felt." She said that this was the happiest thing in her life because she had just fallen in love with someone like Edward, and the line "I know you will never let anything happen to me." shows that she believes in Edward that she will always protect Bella no matter what happens and that Bella will feel safe with Edward no matter what the circumstances.

### *Describing*

The assertive speech act of describing occurs when Bella describes a situation she is experiencing in more detail than stating. Some of Bella's dialogues or statements describe what she is going through in her life. Bella often describes the sensation, atmosphere, expression of Edward, or the conditions of the place around Bella. So, there is a lot of direct dialogue that Bella delivers about herself and her relationship with Edward. In the study, there were 18 Bella Swan dialogues that stated that they had a describing type of assertive. Its linguistic function is to provide suspicious information, usually to show Bella's perception or interpretation of something. The descriptions reinforce the dramatic atmosphere towards the end of the story, especially in the hospital and prom scenes. For example, in the hospital is when Bella said "Your eyes look darker than usual." It explained that Bella saw a change in Edward's expression when she saw Bella sick and lying in the hospital because of the treatment of her people. The utterance "The room feels too bright" explained that the room in the hospital was too bright while she sees Edward sleeping even though he is just pretending.

Furthermore, the last Bellas' statement while in the hospital is "Your voice sounds worried." explaining that Bella sees Edward worried about his sleeping condition in the hospital bed. The next scene is on the plane on the way home from Phoenix to Forks because he is hiding from James. "The clouds look endless from up here." Here Bella explained that the clouds look good from the plane because the plane is flying at an altitude above the clouds. After the plane scene, there is also an example of an explanation describing Bella's time at home, "The house smells like disinfectant." which explains that when she arrived at Bella's house, she explained that her house smelled like disinfectant. After that, Bella headed to the room because she was punished by her sister for going with Edward for an unclear thing or reason. At that time, it was raining heavily outside and Bella dialogued, "The rain outside sounds heavier tonight." explaining that it was raining hard outside that night because Bella heard the sound of heavy rain. The next scene is when Bella and Edward are in the car on their way to Prom Night. At that time Bella almost reached the Prom Hall, "The lights from the hall look beautiful." There explained that Bella saw that the hall of the Prom Hall looked very beautiful from a distance, even though at that time Bella was in the car but Bella was already amazed by the design of the Prom Night Hall that night. It is also explored with Bella's dialogue saying "Everyone looks glowing under the decorations." that everyone looks charming while in the hall of the Prom Night building with beautiful decorations. In the dance scene with Edward on prom night, Bella also said the cryptate line, "Your skin feels cold on my hand." which explains that when Bella danced with Edward Bella felt that Edward's skin felt cold when touching Bella's hand, and Bella had also felt it during the scene in the car when Bella was almost seduced by delinquents in the city alley. The last example is "The trees look silver under the moonlight." The statement explains that Bella saw the tree look like beautiful silver under the moonlight that night. The statement explained that Bella was very impressed to see the tree in the moonlight on Prom night.

### *Reporting*

The assertive act of reporting involves repeating information, retelling events, or conveying what others are saying. Bella often reports what the doctor said, what Charlie did, or what Alice told her. Its linguistic function is to reconvey facts or events indirectly. The first example of dialogue is "The nurse said I'll recover quickly." The conversation explains that Bella repeated the sister's words that she recovered quickly to Edward. The second was "Charlie told me he almost flew here last night." The information that Charlie or his father Bella came last night to Edward and his mother while he was hospitalized. The third is "Alice said you never left the room." This explains that Alice's words wanted to validate to Edward that she never left Bella while hospitalized. The fourth still scene in the hospital is "The doctor told me I broke several ribs." That is the doctor's re-explanation of Bella's condition after the incident where she fell and was handed over by James in the ballet rehearsal room.

The fifth example is during the scene on the plane, in Bella's utterances "Mom keeps saying she's relieved, I'm fine." Bella's explanation of her mother's words to her that her mother is happy knowing Bella is fine after being discharged from the hospital and that nothing bad happened when she fell down the stairs. The sixth example is when Bella is at home with her father Bella said, "Charlie said he doesn't want me going anywhere alone." This explains that Bella was advised by her father not to go out alone after the incident that happened to her while in Phoenix. The next example is while Bella is in the car heading to Prom, Bella tells Edwards what his father told her "Charlie told me to go home at midnight."

### *Concluding*

Assertive speech act of concluding is used when Bella includes Edward in a certain statement, decision, or category. This type of assertive speech act also appears when Bella admits that Edward is part of her feelings, her decisions, or her situation. In the novel, Bella often places Edward in the narrative of her life, underscoring their emotional attachment. The first example is when Bella gives the statement in the hospital "You are part of the reason I'm still alive" explaining that Edward is part of Bella's life. And "We both know this isn't over yet." Showing that they are one, that is, they both know what could happen in the future after killing James in Phoenix. Further example is found in the scene after they arrived in Forks after going to Phoenix, Bella said "We have to explain this to Charlie." Explaining that the two of them should be able to explain to Bella's father, not just one of them. The next example is in the scene at Bella's house when Bella said "We can get through this together" Meaning that Edward and Bella can get into trouble together. The assertive speech act of concluding is also found in the school prom prep scene, when Bella says "You and Alice made this too perfect" explaining that Edward and Alice did a good job together. Later at Prom Hall Bella said, "We're the worst-dressed couple here." Stating that they were the least charming couple of the night. Similarly, during the dance, Bella said "We're not good dancers, you know." Stating that both Edward and Bella are not good dancers when dancing. After that, Bella also said "We both feel this is right." Stating that they both feel that this or their dance is a good dance according to both of them. After the dance, Bella also gave a statement expressing the assertive speech act of concluding "We don't have to talk about the future now." This means that after the prom, they had no conversation about what to do after the incident, James died and his partner Victoria, was still hanging out there hunting for Bella. The last example is "We should leave before Charlie worries" meaning that they both have to go home early so as not to make Bella's father worried.

The analysis found that "stating" is the most widely used type of assertive speech, while the least used type of assertive speech is "concluding". In the romance-fantasy genre, the Bella-Edward relationship relies heavily on direct emotional communication, such as expressions of feeling, confidence, and commitment, such as "I'm not afraid anymore, Edward." Nonetheless, the latter part of the novel contains many "claiming" scenes in which Bella emphasizes ownership on Edward. In contrast, "describing" and "reporting" scenes appear less because they focus more on personal interactions than new information. Concluding is the least common category because the romance genre emphasizes emotional connection more than the pull of logic or inference. Therefore, the way Bella speaks reflects Twilight's main themes: forbidden love, emotional vulnerability, and the intensity of interpersonal relationships.

### ***The functions of assertive speech acts***

According to Searle (1969, 1976), the assertive speech act is situated when a speakers express a belief about the truth of a proposition. Speakers are committed to the truthful value of the statement, making assertiveness the basis of communication as they transmit knowledge, describe the world, and create a common understanding. Therefore, assertive actions are essential in everyday interactions and literary discourse, concluding character dialogue in books such as *The Twilight Saga*. Depending on its communicative intention, context, and linguistic form, the act of assertive speech can perform several functions. Based on the analysis assertive speech acts Bella made to Edward in *The Twilight Saga* (2005), several core communicative functions emerged. Stating and description were the most dominant functions, accounting for more than half of all assertive utterances. This dominance is closely related to the storyline of these pages, which show Bella's hospitalization, her emotional conflict, and her reaffirmation of her relationship with Edward, among other things. As the scenes focus on explanation, reassurance, and emotional clarity, Bella often uses statements to express her beliefs ("I know what I want") and details her physical and emotional state by stating utterances ("I can feel that my ribs still hurt"). These

forms serve the narrative purpose of communicating truthful information and expressing inner states, which are necessary for plot progression.

Additionally, the role of claiming claims seem significant, especially in an emotionally charged situation where Bella seeks to convince Edward of his intentions or oppose Edward's decisions. Words like "I'm not going to leave you" or "You can't make me stay away" show Bella's strong statement of commitment and authority. In this dialogue, the claim function serves as a representation of Bella's personal position and a means to counter Edward's protective but often limiting choices. According to Searle, these actions reveal their beliefs and arguments tie the speaker to beliefs that go beyond observation. Meanwhile, the reporting function appears in situations where Bella recounts events, recounts experiences, or confirms Edward's interpretation. For example, when he recounts what he remembered during the attack or repeated what the doctor told him, the reporting function is used to reconstruct the event and keep the conversation coherent. Reporting on the action helps bridge the previous scene with the current emotional moment, ensuring Edward and the reader have a clear understanding of Bella's experience. This is because narrative focus is emotional resolution rather than narrating external events, so reporting is less general than stating or depicting.

The least common functions found in the data is concluding (assertive actions that combine knowledge together or expand the referential scope of information). Statements like "We both know it's not over yet" or "Everyone can see how much you care" are examples. By saying these words, we can increase our understanding of each other and emphasize the same perspective. Concluding acts are usually used to create a collective point of view or emphasize interpersonal alignment rather than conveying new information, so perhaps they are less frequent. Despite the fact that they are not very involved, their actions still play an important role in strengthening Bella and Edward's closeness and commitment during the novel's emotional ending.

Overall, the assertive speech acts of Bella's utterances in *The Twilight Saga Novel* show a strong correlation with the themes of love, sacrifice, and conflict resolution that dominate the novel's final chapters. The romance-fantasy genre requires characters to express their emotions, beliefs, and circumstances to reduce tension and strengthen relationships, and the prevalence of expressing and describing reflects this. Reporting and inclusion, on the other hand, contribute to narrative clarity and relational intimacy. According to the theory put forward by Searle, each assertive function found in the data shows how Bella believes in the truth of her claims by using language to convey belief states, emotional claims, and shared understandings. Ultimately, it determines the meaning of the dramatic events that occur at *Twilight's* climax.

## **Discussion**

The findings of this study, which show that stating and claiming are the most dominant acts of assertive speech in Bella's dialogue to Edward are in line with the findings of several previous studies that emphasized the centrality of assertive forms in emotionally or relationally driven contexts. Studies by Dosiya (2022), Madina (2022), and Rambe et al. (2025) have also found that assertive speech acts especially statements and claiming, tend to dominate in Bella's statements. This pattern is very much in line with Searle's (1969, 1976) assertive classification, which emphasizes the speaker's commitment to the truth of a proposition (the direction of word-to-world suitability). These findings also confirm the arguments of Austin (1962) and Yule (2020) that assertive actions are at the heart of literary discourse because fictional characters build meaning, relationships, and emotional depth through propositional actions.

Previous studies have shown that assertive speech plays an important role in conveying beliefs, emotions, and character identities in literary works, but there has been no research that specifically examines Bella's speech to Edward in the *Twilight Saga*. Roza (2025) shows pragmatism in gothic literary works, including *Twilight*, but his analysis is still general and does not discuss specific types of speech acts. Other studies of *Twilight Saga* by Krisanti (2025) and Musyarofah & Sulistyarningsih (2025) focus on the film version, so the dialogue is simpler and does not depict the complexity of the language present in the novel. Meanwhile, research by Isnaeni et al. (2025), Rambe et al. (2025), and Medina (2022) found that assertive speech is often used to express opinions and emotions in novels.

The findings of the current research clearly reflect the theoretical framework proposed by Searle (1969), and also correspond to patterns found in previous linguistic and pragmatic research. In situations where characters are required to express their opinions, determine their physical or emotional state, reconstruct events, or affirm their personal commitments, assertive speech act actions are dominant. These tasks correspond to *Twilight's* climactic emotions and relationship themes. While the differences mainly between novel and film data highlight how genre, medium, and narrative focus affect the distribution and function of speech actions, alignment with previous research reinforces the credibility of the findings.

## **Conclusion**

This study scrutinized the types and functions of assertive speech generated by Bella towards Edward in *The Twilight Saga* novel (2005) using Searle's (1969) theory. It confirmed the five types of assertive speech acts namely stating, describing, claiming, reporting, and concluding as well as their pragmatic functions in narrative. Stating the most dominant category, which reflects the emotional transparency and frankness typical of the romance-fantasy genre. Concluding is the least

common category because the romance genre emphasizes emotional connection more than the pull of logic or inference. Stating and description were the most dominant functions, accounting for more than half of all assertive utterances. The least common functions found in the data is concluding (assertive actions that combine knowledge together or expand the referential scope of information). These results imply that the act of assertive speech in romantic fiction plays a central role in shaping character intimacy, emotional development, and thematic depth. Future research could expand data across sagas, compare novel-film adaptations, or include multimodal analysis to explore how assertive actions shift across media and narrative contexts.

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