

A Pragmatic Study of Gestural Strategies in English Political TV Interviews

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ABSTRACT

Part of the substance of an utterance could be represented by gestures. There are many different perspectives on how gestures, words, and cognition relate to one another and how they could influence communication. Gestures are inferior to words because they communicate no semantic information beyond the linguistic utterances that accompany them. The current study aims to find the main gestural strategies, used by the interlocutors in English political TV Interviews that represent speech acts. It is based on the hypothesis that there are different strategies of gestures used by interlocutors in political TV interviews that represent speech acts. The selected interviews have been analyzed in the light of an eclectic model based on model Kulkarni (2013) and Searle (1979). The first is used for analyzing the main kinds of body movements and types of gesticulation, and the latter for analyzing Searle's classification of speech acts since it is a pragmatic study. The results of the selected interviews have shown that gestural strategies are highly related to the context of situation. Each gesture performs a specific speech act. The interlocutors use gestural strategies to express a wide range of emotions, attitudes, approval, anxiety, disagreement, and affection. The participants in these interviews are equally conscious of their body language and verbal exchanges.

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1. Introduction

Communication is the process of sending and receiving messages that allows humans to communicate ideas, attitudes, and emotions. Humans communicate by using language, which is the verbal way of communication, but we also communicate by using nonverbal communication. Nonverbal communication is frequency characterized as a communication that occurs without the use of words. According to Natyavidushi (2011:103) "Nonverbal communication is usually understood as the process of communication through sending and receiving of wordless messages and can be communicated through gesture, touch, posture, facial expressions and eye contact".

Navarro and Karlins (2008:15) assert that thoughts, feelings, and intentions of the person can be revealed through nonverbal communication. As a result, nonverbal acts can occasionally reveal a person's genuine mental condition. Body language is often more honest than a person's spoken statement which is purposefully intended to accomplish the speaker's purposes, because people are not often aware when they are communicating nonverbally.

1.1 Pragmatics

Pragmatics is one of the most active and rapidly expanding topics in modern linguistics and language philosophy. It has also been a popular issue in cognitive science, artificial intelligence, informatics, neurobiology, language pathology, anthropology and other fields in recent years (Huang, 2014:1; Sukmawaty, et al., 2022).

According to Yule (1996:3), pragmatics is the study of how a speaker or a writer conveys meaning and how a listener or a reader interprets it. Pragmatics entails deciphering what individuals mean in a given situation and determining how the situation affects what is said. He adds that pragmatics is concerned with the following four areas: 1) Pragmatics is the study of how people communicate. 2) Pragmatics is the study of meaning in context. 3) Pragmatics is the study of how to communicate more effectively than what is said. 4) Pragmatics is the study of how relative distance is expressed.

Birner (2013:2) defines pragmatics as "the study of language use in context." She adds that it's not enough to know the meanings of words (semantics) and how they are strung together into a sentence (syntax) to understand what

someone meant by what they said. We also need to know who said it and in what context, as well as be able to infer why they said it and what they intended us to understand

1.2 Speech Act Theory

The concept of speech act is one of the most important concepts in pragmatics. The concept refers to the fact that words don't just carry meaning; they also conduct actions. Yule (1996:47) claims that "actions performed via utterances are generally called speech acts and, in English, are commonly given more specific labels, such as apology, complaint, invitation, promise, or request."

Speech act theory was essentially founded by the philosopher J.L. Austin's book "How to Do Things With Words," in which he argued that utterances have both force and meaning. He also proposed a distinction between performative and constative speech acts (Allott, 2010:178). Constatives actually describe, record, or transfer information. Performatives denote that the issuing of the utterance is the performance of an action; it is normally thought of as simply saying something (Adams, 2006:19). Furthermore, constatives can be correct or incorrect, whereas performatives cannot be correct or incorrect, but they can be felicitous or infelicitous (Martinich and Sosa, 2001:220).

Speech acts, according to Searle (1969:16), are "the basic or minimal units of all linguistic communication." To describe what Austin refers to as an illocutionary act, Searle uses the term "speech act." Furthermore, Searle (1969:24) states that a speaker's performance of a speech act consists of three distinct actions: an "utterance act" (speaking), a "propositional act" (referring and predicating), and an "illocutionary act" (e.g., stating, commanding, or requesting).

Thomas (1995:51) states that "speech act" and "illocutionary act" are interchangeable nowadays. Actually, the terms "speech act," "illocutionary act," "illocutionary force," "pragmatic force," and "simply force" are all used interchangeably to describe the same thing.

1.3 Nonverbal Communication

Nonverbal communication has been used as a primary mode of communication for thousands of years. According to Calero (2005:2), for thousands of years, humans have used gestures, posture, facial expressions, sounds, and symbols to transmit thought, attitudes, ideas, and emotions. Windayanti and Suwono (2014:2) state that in the past, people used to communicate with one another using body movements because they were not yet familiar with writing and language. People still use nonverbal communication when speaking nowadays (Sahib, et al., 2021). A person who speaks will consciously and unconsciously communicate some expressions through his body movements.

Nonverbal communication is "a process in which communicators use the natural features of their bodies to deliver information and express specific meaning instinctively to the communicator" (Guan, 2004:90). People use nonverbal communication in a variety of situations. It offers a continuous stream of information to a person's environment and serves a variety of activities, including communicating feelings and attempting to provoke specific reactions in other people (Ambady and Rosenthal, 1992:256). According to Dickson and Hargie (2003:50), we use nonverbal in order to: 1) Replace verbal communication in circumstances where it may be impossible or unsuitable to talk. 2) Complete the verbal communication and thereby improve the overall message. 3) Contextualize the interaction by creating a specific social environment. 4) Regulate conversation by helping mark idioms. 5) Contradict what is said, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

1.4 Gestures

Gestures are the movements of the hands or arms used to reinforce a verbal message. Gesture is the core of body language which convey a wide range of meanings. Some gestures appear to be expressions of specific emotional states, while others appear to indicate general emotional arousal (Jing et al., 2019:819).

Kendon (2004:8) states that not all bodily movements can be considered gestures. There are many activities that a person must participate in if they are to interact with others, which, while they may reveal the person's attitude and feelings, are not usually regarded as gestures because they are done for the practical essentials of interaction rather than to convey meaning. For instance, the act of drinking while holding a real glass is not a gesture, but if one makes the movement with one's hand of holding a glass and lifting it up to one's lips using one's hands to illustrate the act—it is regarded as a gesture.

Gestures can enhance the effectiveness of a speech, but they must be used sparingly, carefully, and at the appropriate time (Krafft, 2016:34). Gesture provides a unique window into the mind of the speaker and a direct

connection between cognition and communication. People move their hands when they speak. Co-speech refers to spontaneous hand movements that occur in time with speech. People of all cultures and languages gesture and gesture are essential to communication. Our hands assist us in talking, thinking, and remembering, and they can sometimes expose unique knowledge that cannot yet be verbalized (Clough and Duff, 2020:2-15)

In everyday human-to-human interaction, we usually encode the messages we want to send in a series of actions that go beyond verbal communication (Sahib & Rahman, 2021). Gestures help to clarify meanings, feelings, and contexts by acting as an expressive resource for the speaker, used in conjunction with speech to appropriately shape communicative intentions and satisfy the requirements of a specific message being transmitted (Esposito et al., 2007:45; Saleh, et al., 2021). Gesture production varies greatly depending on discourse genres, personal styles, cultural values, and other factors. Speakers may be more or less aware of the gestures they make while speaking. The fact that speakers are frequently unaware of their gestural behavior can show a less monitored aspect of multimodal meaning during communication (Mittelberg and Hinnel, 2022:8; Sukmawaty, et al., 2022).

2. Method

The present study adopts an eclectic model based Searle (1979) and Kulkarni (2013) Models. The first is used for analyzing Searle's classification of speech acts, and the latter for analyzing the main kinds of body movements and types of gesticulation. Below is a diagram which summarizes the elements of the adopted model, and a brief account of each element. This study is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. For Shank (2002: 5), a qualitative approach is "a type of systematic empirical analysis into meaning. whereas he defines systematic as "planned, ordered, and public." By empirical, he indicates that this type of research is grounded in reality. As for quantitative approach, Williams (2011:14) views that a quantitative research methodology refers to "the holistic steps a researcher employs in embarking on research work".

2.1. Gestural Strategies

Kulkarni (2013) identifies four basic types of gestures: Adaptor, emblem, illustrator and regulator.

1) **Adaptors**, these body movements that assist the speaker in controlling their emotions and administering feedback. Adaptor provide useful information about the speaker's physical and psychological state. 2) **Emblems**, Emblem are signals with specific meanings that are willfully used by the speaker and intentionally understood by the interlocutor. These symbolic gestures are used as potential substitute for words. 3) **Illustrators**, The hand movements that are directly connected to speech. They are an important part of visual communication because they serve to illustrate and improve what is said verbally and aiding the receiver in understanding the message. 4) **Regulators**, Regulators aid in synchronizing the back and forth nature of interactions. Speakers use regulators to imply whether others should take their turn, and hearers use regulators to imply whether they want to speak or wish to keep listening.

2.2. Searle's Classification of Speech Act,

Searle (1979) classifies speech act into five types: assertives, directives, commissives, expressive and declaratives. 1) **Assertive**, are a speech act that commits a speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition. The speaker makes statements based on observations made of specific things, followed by a statement of fact or opinion based on the observation. 2) **Directives**, are speech act which are used to get the hearer to do something. 3), **Commissives**, are a speech act that the speaker commits himself to a future course of action with words. 4), **Expressives**, are speaking acts that convey the speaker's attitudes and feelings concerning the proposition. 5), **Declaratives**, Declaratives are speech acts in which the speaker, by the mere act of speaking, changes the exterior status or state of a thing or circumstance.

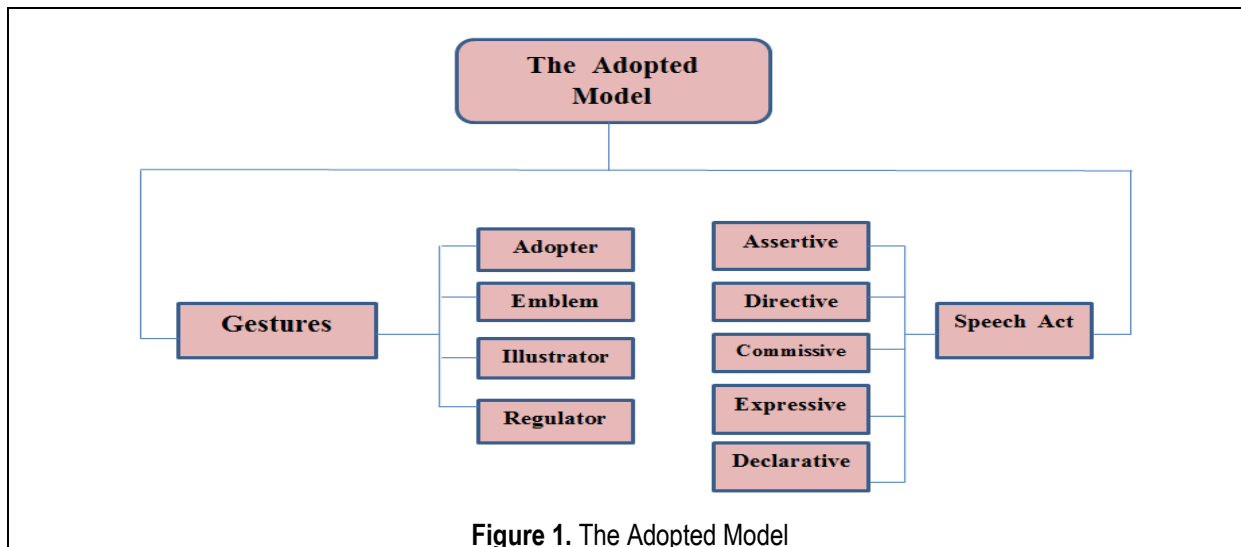


Figure 1. The Adopted Model

2.3. Samples Selection

For collecting data in this study, the researcher gets English political TV interviews then reads it many times to distinguish the expressive speech acts involving gestural strategies. The researcher also observes the concerned data and clarifies the gestures that are found. The data of the study selected to be analyzed in the present study are (4) English political TV interviews which are selected from You Tube.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Analysis of the interview of Boris Johnson

Interviewer (Presenter): Nick Watt is a British journalist. In 2016 he became political editor of BBC's News night.

Interviewee (Guest): Boris Johnson is a British politician who has been serving as the prime minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party since 2019.

The first gesture that appears in this video is "emblem," which is a signal with a specific meaning that is willfully used by the speaker and intentionally understood by the interlocutor. The presenter uses closed fist when he asks Johnson if he thinks Ukraine can win in this war. This gesture is a symbol of power and triumph. In relation to speech acts, this gesture performs expressive speech acts, as represented in the following figure;



Figure 2. Emblem Gesture

Another emblematic gesture in this interview is nodding the head. This gesture is used by the speaker to emphasize his speech. Johnson nods his head when he talks about President Zelenskyy and how he sees him as a historical figure. This gesture acts as a directive speech act.

In this interview, "illustrator" is another gestural strategy which is used by the presenter to illustrate what he is saying and help the receiver understand the message. He uses a baton gesture when he asks Johnson about giving a period to Lord Lebedev after he appeared to tolerate the Russian annexation of Crimea. This gesture is done by the use

of the hand to emphasize a specific point in speech. Concerning speech acts, this gesture performs assertive speech act strategy, as shown in the figure below;



Figure 3. Illustrator Gesture

Another illustrator gesture in this interview is used by the guest when he says " the United Kingdom was the only European country to give actual weapons to support the Ukrainians". He Johnson uses hand movements and head nods to emphasize his speech. Concerning speech act, this gesture performs assertive speech act strategy.

Regulator is another gestural strategy that is used to regulate the conversation and control the speech of others. Both people in this interview use the gesture of nodding in conversation while communicating. The presenter nods his head when Johnson speaks, indicating agreement or understanding. When the presenter asks Johnson about President Zelensky and his dream to join the European Union, he nods his head in agreement with his question. Regarding speech act, this gesture acts as assertive speech act.

3.2. Analysis of the interview of Donald Trump on TBN

Interviewer (Presenter): Mike Huckabee is an American politician, Baptist minister, political commentator, and bassist who served as the 44th governor of Arkansas from (1996 – 2007).

Interviewee (Guest): Donald Trump is an American politician, media personality, and businessman who served as the 45th president of the United States from 2017 to 2021.

In this interview, on the 24th June of 2018, Trump talks about Kim Jong-Un and the administration's campaign promises.

The first gesture that appears in this interview is "adaptor." Trump uses a steeple gesture in a lower position to convey a confident attitude when the presenter asks him, "Do you trust Kim Jong-Un?" He replies, "Yes, I think that we have a very good relationship, and we have good chemistry together, and I really believe he's looking to do something for his country or may be for his family". In relation to speech acts, this gesture acts as an expressive speech act strategy, as shown in the figure below;



Figure 4. Adaptor Gesture

'Illustrator' is another gestural strategy that is used in this interview. Trump uses open palm gesture which has been linked to truth, honesty, and openness when the presenter asks him about the agreement between the United States and North Korea. He says, "we signed an agreement and we got our hostages and we got the remains back of

our great heroes that have died". Concerning speech acts, this gesture performs an assertive speech act strategy, as presented in the figure below;



Figure 5. Illustrator Gesture

The presenter uses another illustrator gesture which is a baton gesture when he asks Trump about the escalator of Trump Tower and the running for president. This gesture done with the hand to illustrate a particular point in speech. Concerning speech acts, this gesture performs assertive speech act strategy, as illustrated in the figure below;



Figure 6. Illustrator Gesture

The guest uses another illustrator gesture when he talks about denuclearizing North Korea. He uses his hand movements to explain his plans. This gesture acts as a commissive speech act strategy, as shown in the next figure;



Figure 7. Emblem Gesture

In this interview, "regulator" is another gestural strategy that is used by the presenter. He uses this strategy to regulate or control what the guest is saying. He uses the head nod which indicates the agreement when Trump talks about the appreciation that he got from the Jewish people. This gesture acts as a commissive speech act strategy.

"Emblem" is another gestural strategy that is used by the presenter. He uses his pointing index finger to direct attention to the guest when he asks him about his promise to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He said, "The embassy was moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. I was there. It was as surreal a moment as I've ever witnessed. You kept that promise ". Regarding speech act, this gesture acts as an expressive speech act strategy , as shown in the next figure;



Another emblem gesture is used by the presenter at the end of the interview. When he thanks Trump, he shakes his hand. Concerning speech acts, this gesture acts as an expressive speech act strategy, as shown in the figure below;



3.3. Analysis of the interview of Hillary Clinton

Interviewer (Presenter): Jake Tapper is an American journalist, author and cartoonist.

Interviewee (Guest): Hillary Clinton is an American politician, diplomat and former lawyer.

In this interview, on the 7th of February 2016, Hillary Clinton speaks to CNN's Jake Tapper before the New Hampshire primary about a variety of campaign issues.

In the present video, both people, the presenter and Hillary Clinton, use gestures to make their conversation clear and understandable. The first gesture that appears in the interview is "emblem". It is a strategy of gesture that is used by the speaker to emphasize his speech. Clinton nods her head while she talks about holding the debate in Flint to address the issues that residents face, such as pollution and other types of toxins. This gesture indicates that she is sure of what she is saying. At the same time, this gesture is used to convince the addressee to agree with the speaker. Concerning speech act strategy, this gesture performs as an assertive speech act strategy, as shown in the next figure;



Clinton uses another emblem gesture when she answers the presenter's question about the acceptable level of lead. She used her hand movements and her head nodding to make her answer acceptable and to convince the presenter to agree with her when she talked about the suffering of children from lead and how a small part of it affects their health and causes permanent damage. This gesture is also used by the communicator in order to clarify a specific point through their speech. This gesture acts as an assertive speech act strategy, as presented in the figure below;



"Illustrator" is another gesture that is used in this interview. This gesture is the most common one because it is used by communicators. Firstly, this gesture is used by the presenter when he asks Clinton about her nomination and if she thinks that she will win again. He uses hand movement to make his questions clear and understandable. So, hand movement can make the speech clearer and more identifiable by the viewer. Concerning speech acts, this gesture performs as an assertive speech act strategy, as represented in the following figure;



The same illustrator gesture is used by Clinton when she uses her hand movement to putting things forward and she tries to emphasize her speech by her hand movements and her head nodding. This gesture performs assertive speech act strategy, as shown in the next figure;



Clinton nods her head through the conversation when the presenter comments on the failure of the local government and the Environmental Protection Agency to dispose of lead. That is to indicate, she attempts to regulate

the conversation. This is another kind of gesture which is "regulator". It is used to regulate the conversation and control the speech of others. This gesture acts as a directive speech act strategy.

3.4. Analysis of the interview of Barack Obama

Interviewer (Presenter): Anderson Cooper is an American broadcast journalist and political commentator from the Vanderbilt family.

Interviewee (Guest): Barack Obama is an American politician who served as the 44th president of the United States from (2009 - 2017).

Former President Barack Obama says Republicans have been "cowed into accepting" a series of positions that "would be unrecognizable and unacceptable even five years ago or a decade ago," telling CNN's Anderson Cooper he is worried about the state of democracy in the US.

When a person speaks, he/she moves their hands, heads or other parts of their body through the conversation. Some of these movements or gestures can add more clarifications to the conversation. In this interview, the interviewer and Obama use their hands and some other facial expressions through their conversation to carry more clarifications. The presenter's hand is clearly raised when he asks Obama a question "Did you ever think it would get this dark?". This is 'illustrator' gesture, and it uses heavily by the presenter to emphasize his question and make it more clear. In relation to speech acts, this gesture acts as an assertive speech act strategy, as shown in the next figure;



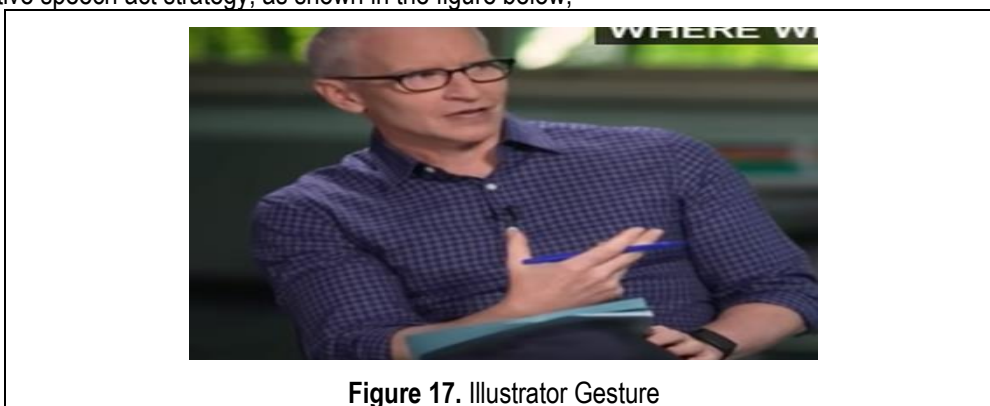
The same gesture strategy 'illustrator' is used by Obama when he answers the question of the presenter about the president and dark spirits when he says; " No, I thought there were guard rails in institutional after Trump was elected that you would have this so called republican establishment who would say okay ". This gesture acts as an assertive speech act strategies, as shown in the figure below;



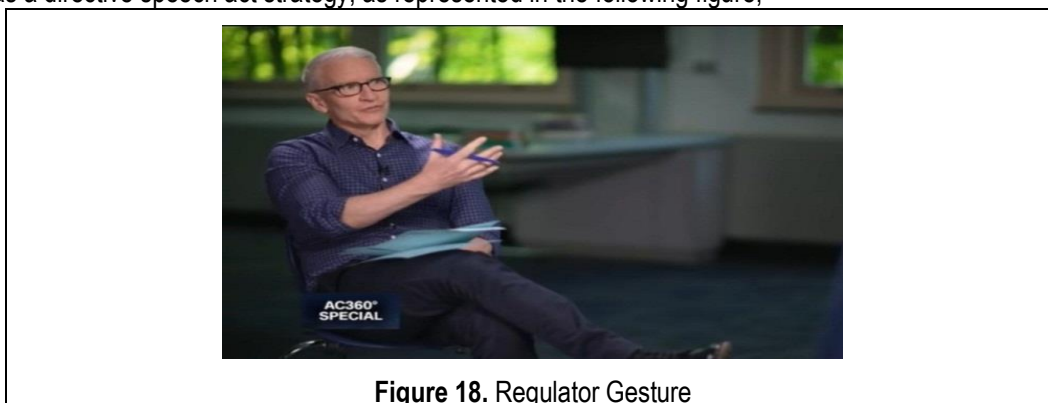
'Illustrator' as a strategy is heavily used by both the presenter and the guest in this interview. Again Obama uses his left hand movement to emphasize his answer to the presenter's question. Obama moves his left hand when he says; "Or, it is a problem if we have a president who is saying that...". This gesture acts as an assertive speech act strategies, as shown in the figures below;



Another illustrator gesture is used by the presenter when he asks his guest a question. This gesture appears when the presenters says; “ I wonder, we as a country citizens we need to listen to each other stories?”. This gesture acts as directive speech act strategy, as shown in the figure below;



Another gesture strategy is used by the presenter in this interview which is “regulator”. The presenter uses his hand trying to control the running of conversation when he says “and the leadership of the Gop, briefly for, you know, one night when they still had this sort of scent of fear in them going against the president.....”. This gesture performs as a directive speech act strategy, as represented in the following figure;



The other gesture strategy which is used by Obama, adaptor is used to mean relaxing through the conversation. This strategy indicates the easy running of the speech in the interview and the speaker feels comfortable. Obama uses this gesture when he says; “It is important for us to figure out how do we start once again”. This gesture acts as an assertive speech act strategy, as shown in the figure below;

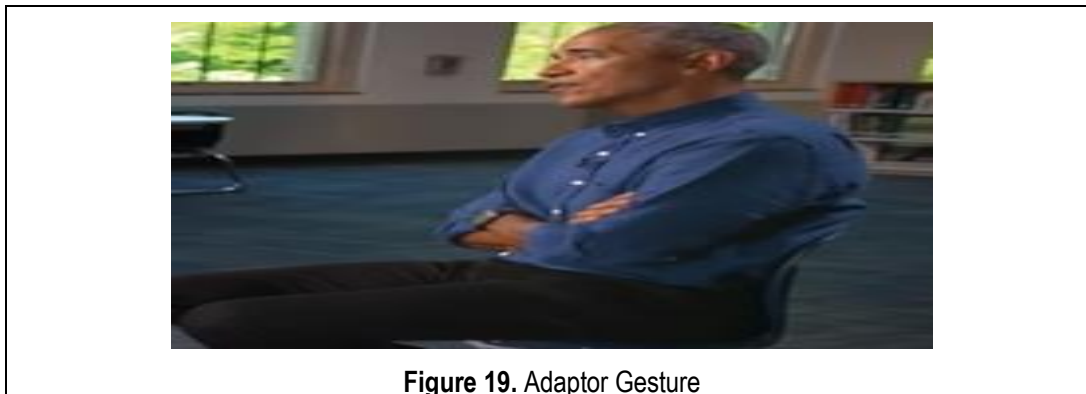


Figure 19. Adaptor Gesture

In interview (3.1), the adaptor, emblem and regulator are used equally. They are used (2) times, recording (33.33%). Concerning speech act, assertive is used (4) times, recording (66.66%), whereas directive and expressive are used equally. They are used only once, recording (16.66%). This percentages are shown in the table below;

Table 1. Gestural strategies & speech act classification in interview (3.1)

Gestural Strategies			Speech Act Classification		
Strategy Name	Frequency	Percentage	Strategy Name	Frequency	Percentage
Adaptor	0	0	Assertive	4	66.66%
Emblem	2	33.33%	Directive	1	16.66%
Illustrator	2	33.33%	Commissive	0	0
Regulator	2	33.33%	Declarative	0	0
			Expressive	1	16.66%
Total	6	100%		6	100%

In interview (3.2), adaptor and regulator strategies are used only once, recording (14.28%). Emblem is another strategy which is used (2) times, recording (28.57%). The last strategy is regulator which is used only once, recording (14.28%). Concerning speech act strategy, assertive and commissive are used equally. They are used (2) times, recording (28.57%), whereas expressive is used (3) times, recording (42.85%). These percentages are illustrated in the next table

Table 2. Gestural strategies & speech act classification in interview (3.2)

Gestural Strategies			Speech Act Classification		
Strategy Name	Frequency	Percentage	Strategy Name	Frequency	Percentage
Adaptor	1	14.28%	Assertive	2	28.57%
Emblem	2	28.57%	Directive	0	0
Illustrator	3	42.85%	Commissive	2	28.57%
Regulator	1	14.28%	Declarative	0	0
			Expressive	3	42.85%
Total	7	100%		7	100%

In interview (3.3), emblem and illustrator strategies are used equally. They are used (2) times, recording (40%). The last strategy is regulator which is used only once, recording (20%). Regarding speech act strategy, assertive is used (4) times, recording (80%). Another strategy is directive which is used only once, recording (20%). This is illustrated in the next table.

Table 3. Gestural strategies & speech act classification in interview (3.3)

Gestural Strategies			Speech Act Classification		
Strategy Name	Frequency	Percentage	Strategy Name	Frequency	Percentage
Adaptor	0	0	Assertive	4	80%
Emblem	2	40%	Directive	1	20%
Illustrator	2	40%	Commissive	0	0
Regulator	1	20%	Declarative	0	0
			Expressive	0	0
Total	5	100%		5	100%

In interview (3.4), adaptor strategy is used only once by the guest, recording (16.66%). Illustrator is another strategy that is used (4) times by both communicators, recording (66.66%). The last strategy is regulator which is used by the interviewer once, recording (16.66%). In relation to speech act strategy, assertive is used (4) times, recording (66.66%), whereas directive is used (2) times, recording (33.33%). This is illustrated in the next table

Table 4. Gestural strategies & speech act classification in interview (3.4)

Gestural Strategies			Speech Act Classification		
Strategy Name	Frequency	Percentage	Strategy Name	Frequency	Percentage
Adaptor	1	16.66%	Assertive	4	66.66%
Emblem	0	0	Directive	2	33.33%
Illustrator	4	66.66%	Commissive	0	0
Regulator	1	16.66%	Declarative	0	0
			Expressive	0	0
Total	6	100%		6	100%

In the entire 4 interview of the selected data, gestures are used as form of communication between the interlocutors. Through this study, all strategies of gestures are existed in the data. The most frequent strategy in political interviews is illustrator. It is used (11) times and its total percentage (45.83%). This indicates that the interlocutors use the illustrator strategy to reaffirm what they are saying and support their words by using hand movements. Another frequent strategy is emblem which is used (6) times, recording (25%). The last frequent strategies are regulator and adaptor. Regulator is used (5) times, recording (20.83%), whereas adaptor is used (2) times, recording (8.33%).The table below show the frequency and percentage of strategies of gestures in all interviews. All these percentages are illustrated in the table and figure below.

Table 5. the Frequency & Percentage of Gestural Strategies in all Interviews

Interview No.	Gestural Strategies							
	Adaptor		Emblem		Illustrator		Regulator	
1	0	0	2	33.33%	2	33.33%	2	33.33%
2	1	14.28%	2	28.57%	3	42.85%	1	14.28%
3	0	0	2	40%	2	40%	1	20%
4	1	16.66%	0	0	4	66.66%	1	16.66%
Total	2	8.33%	6	25%	11	45.83%	5	20.83%

Regarding speech act strategy, the table confirms that the assertive strategy is the most frequent in the selected data. It is used (14) times, and its total percentage is (58.33 %). This indicates that the interlocutors use this strategy to emphasize their speech and explain their viewpoint. Directive and expressive strategies are used equally, they are used (4) times, recording (16.66%). Declarative strategy is not used at all. The table below shows the frequency and percentage of speech act strategies.

Table 6. the Frequency & percentage of Speech Act Classification in all interviews

Interview No.	Speech Act classification									
	Assertive		Directive		Commissive		Declarative		Expressive	
1	4	66.66%	1	16.66%	0	0	0	0	1	16.66%
2	2	28.57%	0	0	2	28.57%	0	0	3	42.85%
3	4	80%	1	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	4	66.66%	2	33.33%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	14	58.33%	4	16.66%	2	8.33%	0	0	4	16.66%

The analysis of the selected data reveals many differences in the use of gestures between the interlocutors. The interlocutors in political interviews are aware of their movements. They heavily rely on illustrator strategies which is used (11) times, recording (45.83%). They use this strategy to express their opinions, ideas, and future plans, because any unexpected move made by a politician becomes the focus of discussion and analysis in the media and among the public.

The movements of body expresses the state of a person, and it is something that cannot be avoided. Even when a person in a state of silence, he is still in contact with other interlocutors cross-culturally in English interviews, through body movement as stated by Ibrahim(2021:241) that silence is required in most situations as having a universal value cross-culturally, because of the functions it can fulfil in interaction without troubling oneself to speak a lot.

The interlocutors use gesture strategies to effectively express their emotions and attitudes. They use gestures to express agreement, disagreement, confidence and anxious. When these gestures match the words they are saying, they convey confidence, clarity, and communication. When they don't, they create stress, mistrust, and ambiguity.

4. Conclusion

Gestures are a universal form of communication that everyone around the world uses irrespective of race, traditions, cultural background, or gender Gestural strategies influence interaction between the interlocutors. They use gestural strategies to emphasize their voice, explain meaning, and give their message implication. When these gestures match the words they are saying, they communicate confidence, clarity, and openness. When they don't, they cause anxiety, mistrust, and uncertainty. Speech acts are represented by gestures in political TV interviews. Assertive is the most frequent strategy which is used by the interlocutors to emphasize and explain their viewpoint. In political interviews, where the interlocutors are as aware of their gestures as they are of the words they utter.

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