

SPEECH ACTS OF CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN SPEECH ON FUTURE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE IN 2018, AND ITS IMPACT ON SAUDI IDEOLOGY

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Abstract

The goal of this study is to analyze the types of illocutionary acts, which were dominantly used by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's speech and how they affected Saudi youth ideology. The data is obtained by translating and transcribing the speech, then analyzed through Searle's (1969) speech acts theory. A questionnaire was held to show the effectiveness of His Highness's speech on Saudi youth. The findings showed that most types of illocutionary acts that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman used were representative (61 times) 73.5%. Then Commissive was eleven times (13.3%). The questionnaire results showed that many Saudi youths strongly agreed that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's speech positively affected their mentality, and this was reflected in their professional lives.

Keywords: Pragmatics; Speech Acts; Speech

INTRODUCTION

Language could have different forms; written, spoken, or sign language. The spoken language for instance refers to the oral language used amongst humans. It includes speeches, discussions, negotiation, conversation, and preaching. The researcher is interested in public speeches. The study of speech analysis has become a significant aspect of public speeches. Usually, public speeches are delivered or performed by a public figure such as a leader to "express his opinion or give an overview about a thing or event that is important and should be discussed" (Mufiah & Rahman, 2019, p.125). Furthermore, this leader has followers who look up to him and consider his speech and be inspired by this type of public speaking. Moreover, it is commonly known that leaders, after delivering their speeches, hope that their audience will understand their intended meaning. Nonetheless, in the Saudi context, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is a remarkable figure in Saudi Arabia and globally. The young Crown Prince is known for his passion for Saudi youth, and many Saudi youth males and females look up to him as a role model. Unfortunately, there has been a dearth of research on speech acts analysis regarding Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's speeches. To bridge the gap, the researcher will analyze the types of illocutionary acts that were dominantly used by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's speech during the Future Investment Initiative in 2018, and how his speech affected Saudi youth's ideology. The reason behind selecting this speech is that in 2018, the Saudi government initiated the vision of 2030. This vision has caused a lot of social and economic reformations, which may affect Saudi youth's ideology. Pragmatics goes beyond the literal meaning. It helps to analyze and understand the speaker's intended meaning. Yule (1996, p. 3) defined pragmatics as "the study of speaker meaning," and to understand the intended meaning of a speaker pragmatics competence is required (Rahayu & El Fauziah, 2021). Moreover, speech acts are considered to be a significant branch of pragmatics, and linguistics students who study pragmatics must come across speech acts. According to Rahayu and El Fauziah (2021), a speech

act “is an act performed when saying something” (p. 610). According to Rahmayani and Dwiyuliana (2018), Austin introduced the concept of speech acts and he believed that people usually do not use words just “out of the blue” (Rahmayani, & Dwiyuliana, 2018, p. 267). In simple terms, there is something that a speaker or a writer wants to deliver, i.e., refusing, giving an order, apologizing, complimenting, etc. When people speak, their spoken utterances lie basically in three categories of speech acts: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts (Grundy, 2008). Later on, Searle developed the concept of speech acts. Additionally, he declared that illocutionary acts are divided into five categories: representative, expressive, directive, commissive, and declarative. Representatives are those kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker believes to be the case or not. For example, the earth is round. Expressive are those kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker feels, for example, I am really sorry! Directives are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something; for instance, could you please give me a pen? Commissive is when a speaker commits himself to some future action, for example, I will cut my hair. Declarations are those kinds of speech acts that change the world's conditions, for instance, a priest: I now pronounce you husband and wife (Mufiah & Rahman, 2019).

METHOD

This research was designed to answer the following research questions:

1. What types of illocutionary acts are frequently utilized by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s speech at the Future Investment Initiative in 2018?

2. How does Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s speech affect Saudi youth ideology?

The design of this study was a descriptive qualitative approach. The chosen approach was suitable and applicable to the nature of this research. The data was obtained by translating and transcribing the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s speech at the Future Investment Initiative in 2018, then analyzed through Searle’s (1969) speech acts theory. Descriptive statistics were employed to calculate the frequencies and percentages to determine which types of illocutionary acts were dominantly used by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The percentage also was used to present the results from the questionnaire. Searle’s speech acts theory (1969) was used to answer the first question. Regarding the second question, the researcher designed an online questionnaire. Besides, some examples from Twitter were used to show the effectiveness of His Highness’s speech on Saudi youth. The participants were one hundred and six Saudi youth (21 males and 85 females) aged between 20-35 years who voluntarily participated in the online questionnaire. This questionnaire was sent through Telegram and WhatsApp groups. Although this study targets Saudi youth, it would be impossible to have all Saudi youth citizens participate in this study. The reason behind selecting this age category is that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman lies in this age group, and the effect that someone makes on his peers is significant and noticeable.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Table. 1 The list of illocutionary of Representative

No	Locutionary/ Statement	Type of Illocutionary
1	First of all, the accident is harrowing for all Saudis, mainly because he is a Saudi citizen.	Representative (assertion)

2	Today, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is taking all legal measures to achieve and complete the investigations by working with the Turkish government to reach outcomes, bring the guilty to justice, and take deterrent sanctions.	Representative (assertion)
3	This is the procedure that any government is required to take in such a matter,	Representative (statement of fact)
4	Undoubtedly, the cooperation today between Saudi Arabia and the Turkish government is distinguished.	Representative (assertion)
5	We know that many are trying to use this painful circumstance to cause a crack between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Turkey.	Representative (assertion)
6	This is what I can say on this subject.	Representative (conclusion)
9	the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken massive steps in developing the Saudi economy in the past three years and the governance and restructuring of many sectors.	Representative (statement of fact)
10	Today is the time to restructure the national security sectors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to raise the level of economic development sectors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.	Representative (assertion)
11	The numbers are speaking.	Representative (description)
12	Correction to the information you have just mentioned,	Representative (assertion)
13	the expected economic growth in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for this year is from 2.2% to 2.5%.	Representative (statement of fact)
14	It has been amended more than once,	Representative (statement of fact)
15	I think three or five times.	Representative (assertion)
16	The numbers are adjusted every day and improve,	Representative (statement of fact)
17	If we look at the numbers in the past two or three years, we find, for example, that our non-oil revenues have almost tripled.	Representative (statement of fact)
18	we find that the current budget for this year is the enormous budget in the history of Saudi Arabia.	Representative (assertion)
19	We find that the percentage of capital expenditure and operation is increasing, and the percentage of wages are declining.	Representative (statement of fact)
20	Three years ago, the percentage of wages from the budget of Saudi Arabia was almost 50%.	Representative (statement of fact)
21	This considerable challenge was that the percentage decreases in the budget and employment doubled.	Representative (assertion)

- 22** For example, three years ago, The Public Investment Fund was \$150 billion in size. This year, it has reached \$300 billion. Representative (statement of fact)
- 23** By the end of the year, we expect to be close to \$400 billion, which is the goal of 2020 for the Public Investment Fund. Representative (Prediction)
- 24** We may achieve that at the beginning of 2019, and we may reach \$500-600 billion in 2020, which is leading to \$2 trillion, Allah willing, or more by 2030. Representative (Prediction)
- 25** Our position in global competitiveness has improved Representative (statement of fact)
- 26** and this was announced a few weeks ago, I believe. Representative (statement of fact)
- 27** and they will show you where we were and where we are today, and the numbers for next year will show the same. Representative (assertion)
- 28** Also, reform is done in several other sectors such as culture, entertainment, or sports. Representative (statement of fact)
- 29** I think it is obvious, not in terms of ranking Saudi Arabia in many centers or the activities within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Representative (statement of fact)
- 30** There have been quantum leaps in the past three years, Representative (statement of fact)
- 31** and this thing will undoubtedly continue Representative (assertion)
- 32** because I live with powerful and gigantic people who only set a goal and quickly achieve it. Representative (assertion)
- 33** I don't think there are any challenges for the great Saudi people. Representative (assertion)
- 34** All our projects are progressing... reform, our war against extremism, our fight against terrorism are all progressing, and the development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Representative (statement of fact)
- 35** its situation has always been difficult after establishing the United Nations. Representative (statement of fact)
- 36** The countries that work well depend on natural resources, the most important is oil, especially in the Gulf countries. Representative (statement of fact)
- 37** Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid built a model in Dubai and convinced everyone in the Middle East that we can offer not only as Dubai but much more than that, he raised the bar. Representative (statement of fact)

38	and we can see Abu Dhabi moved strongly with successive and fast achievements and the whole of the Emirates.	Representative (description)
39	Bahrain, too, since His Highness the Crown Prince appointed in 99 until today	Representative (statement of fact)
40	made vast and outstanding achievements in Bahrain.	Representative (prediction)
41	This is nothing about what will happen in the next five years.	Representative (assertion)
42	Today, Kuwait has a vision of 2035	Representative (statement of fact)
43	wonderful people, and substantial financial resources.	Representative (description)
44	Quickly, it will be able to make huge achievements.	Representative (assertion)
45	In Egypt today, the economic growth was about 5% or last year. This year, more than 5%.	Representative (statement of fact)
46	Unemployment rates are dropping quickly in Egypt.	Representative (statement of fact)
47	The construction of housing units and infrastructure projects is increasing at an unbelievable rate in Egypt.	Representative (statement of fact)
48	When I visit some sites in Egypt, I find officials, from the most senior to the most junior, crying as they work on the ground to restore a more fantastic Egypt, a powerful Egypt.	Representative (description)
49	We can see a very strong and wonderful work in the leadership of the president in Lebanon to restore Lebanon to its primacy.	Representative (statement of fact)
50	I am sure that the efforts of our brothers in Lebanon will succeed under the leadership of the president and the Lebanese leaders.	Representative (prediction)
51	Jordan has huge and transformative projects, and we are involved in some of these projects. Oman also has significant projects and is trying to move Oman to another stage in addition to what they have done in the past years, in addition to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.	Representative (statement of fact)
52	I think the new Europe will be in the Middle East.	Representative (Prediction)
53	and the next renaissance in the world in the next thirty years will be in the Middle East, Allah willing.	Representative (prediction)
54	This is the battle of the Saudis.	Representative (statement of fact)
55	This is the battle I am fighting personally.	Representative (assertion)
56	I believe that this goal will be 100% achieved.	Representative (Prediction)
57	To note, in any war, there are battles we lose.	Representative (statement of fact)
58	And we do not expect that we will win all battles, but the Saudis have mettle.	Representative (statement of fact)
59	but the Saudis have mettle.	Representative (assertion)

60	We have a mountain where the proverb is always given, and it's called Tuwaiq.	Representative (statement of fact)
61	The Saudis have mettle like this mountain.	Representative (description)
62	and the mettle of the Saudis will not be broken unless this mountain collapses to the ground.	Representative (assertion)
63	I want to conclude that President Saad is staying in Saudi Arabia for two days.	Representative (conclusion)

Table. 2 The list of illocutionary of Expressive

No	Locutionary/ Statement	Type of Illocutionary
1	and I think it is painful for any human being in the world and a completely unjustifiable horrific accident.	Expressive (sorrow)
2	and this is something painful.	Expressive (sorrow)
3	Yet, a man came in the nineties and showed us a model and made all of us believe in the Middle East that we can offer more	Expressive (proud)
4	I do not want to die unless I see the Middle East at the forefront of the world's ranks.	Expressive (wish)
5	So, I hope the rumours that he has been kidnapped will not spread.	Expressive (wish)

Table. 3 The list of illocutionary of Directive

No	Locutionary/ Statement	Type of Illocutionary
1	First, I ask everyone not to believe me. Look at the numbers.	Directive (request)
2	Look at the numbers. Don't believe me! Look at the numbers,	Directive (request)
3	If we look at the Middle East now,	Directive (request)
4	We want everyone to compete in raising the bar.	Directive (request)

Table. 4 The list of illocutionary of Commissive

No	Locutionary/ Statement	Type of Illocutionary
1	Next year's budget will be the first time in the history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where a budget of more than one trillion Saudi riyals has been approved.	Commissive (promise)
2	Saudi Arabia in the next five years will be completely different.	Commissive (promise)
3	If we succeed in the next five years, more countries will join us	Commissive (promise)
4	No matter how hard they try to suppress our efforts, we won't stop.	Commissive (promise)
5	and, Allah willing, next year will be much better.	Commissive (promise)

6	We expect next year it will be 45%, with an increase in this item and growth in employment.	Commissive (commit)
7	We believe unemployment numbers will improve next year until we reach 7% by 2030.	Commissive (promise)
8	Bahrain will be completely different; Kuwait, even Qatar, despite our issue with them, has a strong economy and will be completely different after five years. UAE, Oman, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and the opportunities it has.	Commissive (promise)
9	We want to raise the bar also in Saudi Arabia.	Commissive (commit)
10	I want to send them a message from this platform, they will not be able to do that as long as there is a King his name is Salman bin Abdulaziz, a Crown Prince his name is Mohammed bin Salman in Saudi Arabia, and a President in Turkey his name is Erdogan.	Representative (promise)
11	This crack will not happen, and we will prove to the world that the two governments cooperate to punish any criminal, and any sinner, and justice will appear in the end.	Representative (promise)

Table. 5 The list of illocutionary of Declarative

No	Locutionary/ Statement	Type of Illocutionary
1	I think there are special projects in the Middle East.	Declarative
2	However, they believe that everything they have achieved in the past two years is nothing but a small start.	Declarative

Table. 9 Frequency of illocutionary acts in Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's speech

No	Illocutionary types	Frequency	Percentage
1	Representative: statement of fact (29), assertion (17), prediction (7) description (5), conclusion (2).	61	73.5%
2	Commissive: promise (9), commit (2).	11	13.3%
3	Expressive: sorrow (2), proud (1), wish (2).	5	6%
4	Directive: request (4).	4	4.8%
5	Declarative (2)	2	2.4%

From the frequency and percentage of that data, it appeared that most types of illocutionary acts that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman used were representative (61 times) 73.5%. Commissive was eleven times (13.3%), expressive was five times (6%), directive was four times (4.8%), and declarative was two times (2.4%). Furthermore, the representative was highly used in Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's speech, and the speech acts in his speech are intended as a statement of fact and assertion. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman asserted to the audience that Saudi Arabia will be remarkably different in various sectors.

Figure 1

The personality of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has had a positive impact on Saudi youth.

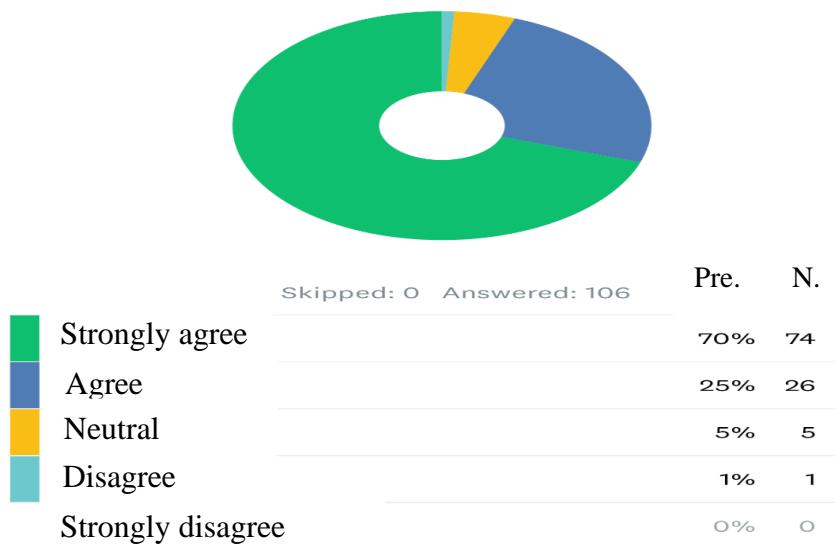


Figure 1 showed that 70% strongly agree that the personality of His Highness has a positive impact on Saudi youth, whereas 1% showed disagreement.

Figure 2

Being Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the same age category as Saudi youth influences them positively.

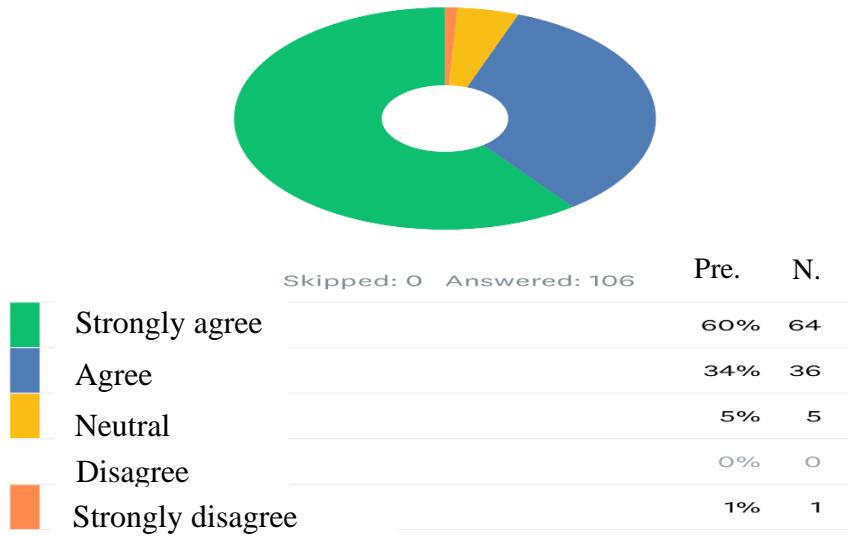


Figure 2 showed that 60% of the participants strongly agree that His Highness's young age positively influences other Saudi youth, while 1% showed disagreement.

Figure 3

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's speeches contain moral support motivating Saudi youth.

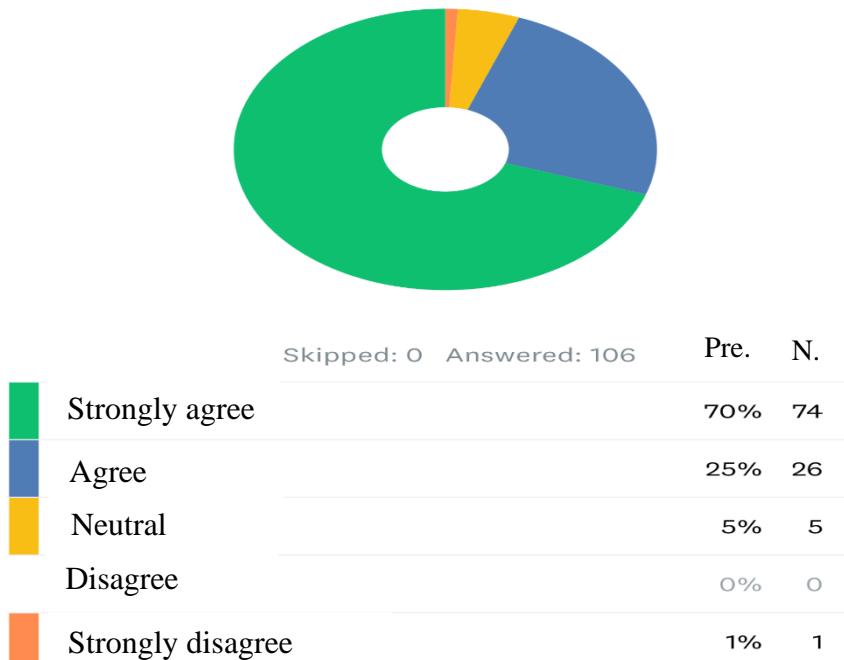


Figure 3 showed that 70% strongly agree that His Highness's speeches contain moral supports, which motivates Saudi youth, whereas 1% showed disagreement.

Figure 4

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman obtains his utterances from the Saudi environment; therefore, he linked the Saudi's mettle with Tuwaiq mountain.

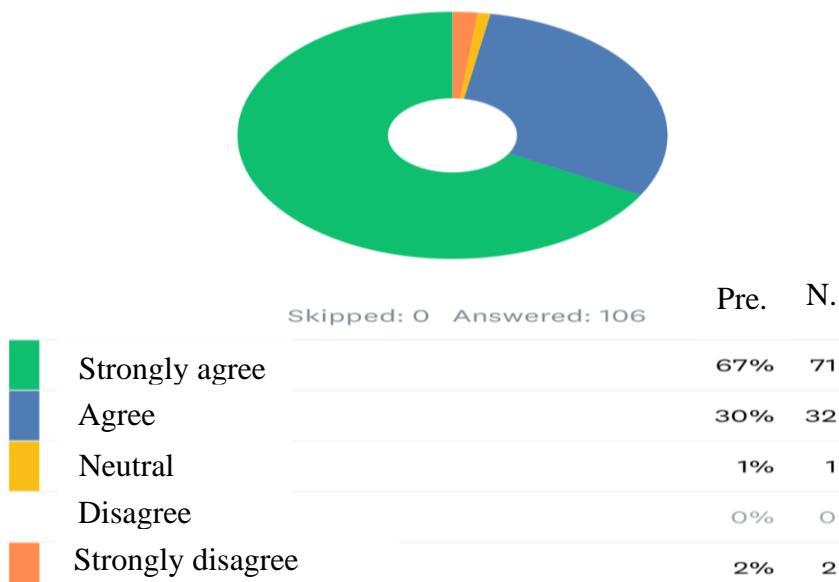


Figure 4 showed that 67% strongly agree that His Highness obtains his utterances from the Saudi environment. Therefore, he linked the Saudi mettle with Tuwaiq mountain, and 2% strongly disagreed.

Figure 5

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's famous saying: "the Saudis have mettle like Tuwaiq mountain" has a positive impact on enhancing Saudi youth confidence.

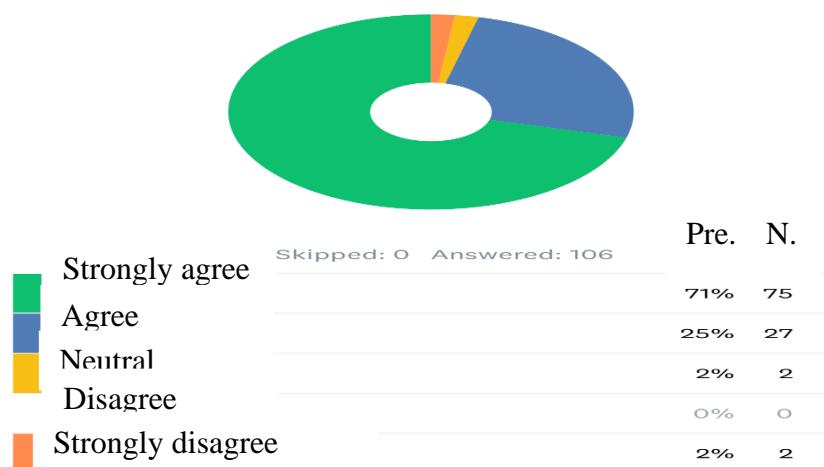


Figure 5 showed that 71% strongly agree that the saying "*the Saudis have mettle like Tuwaiq mountain*" has a positive impact in enhancing Saudi youth confidence, whereas 2% showed disagreement.

Figure 6

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman trusts the Saudi youth; therefore, he dictated most of his speeches to them.

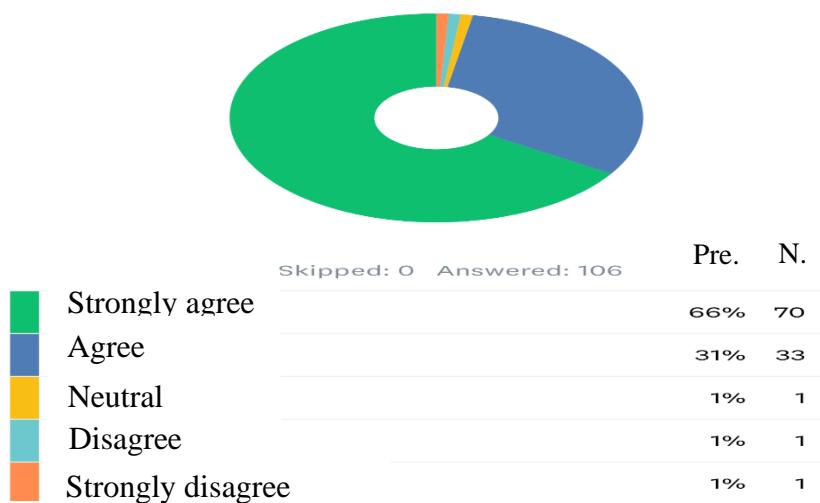


Figure 6 showed that 66% strongly agreed that His Highness trusts the Saudi youth; therefore, he dictated most of his speeches to them.

Figure 7

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's confidence in Saudi youth made them more professional.

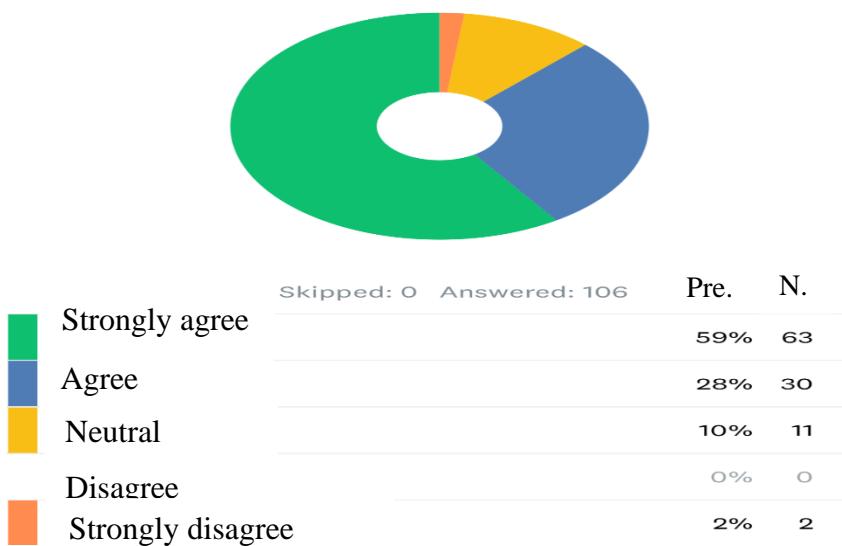


Figure 7 showed that 59% strongly agree that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's confidence in Saudi youth makes them more professional, whereas 2% disagree.

Figure 8

The vision of 2030 that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman leads inspires the Saudi youth to have more responsibility toward building their future.

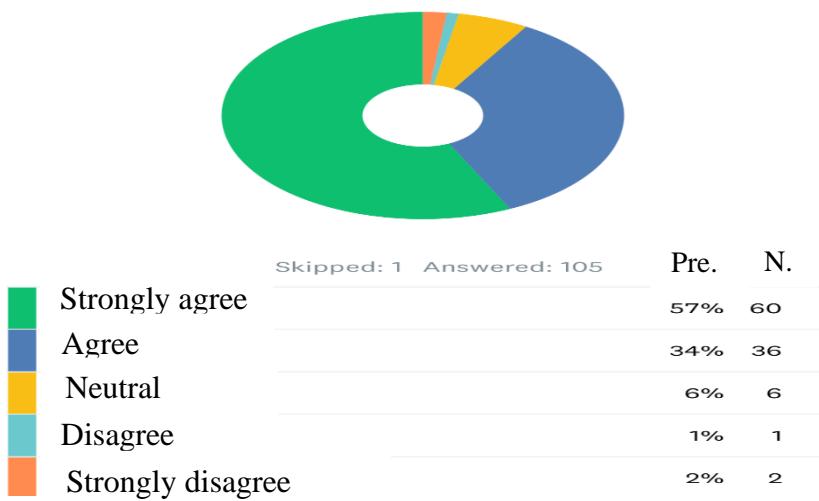


Figure 8 showed that 57% strongly agreed that the vision 2030 that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman leads inspired the Saudi youth to be more responsible, whereas 2% strongly disagreed.

The questionnaire results showed that many Saudi youths strongly agreed that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's speech positively affected their mentality. This was reflected in their professional lives. Besides, some examples were taken from Twitter that showed the effectiveness of His Highness's utterances. For instance, Alrayes (2021) wrote on her Twitter account "the leader Mohammed bin Salman who bets on the determination of the members of his organization knows for sure that his influence has reached to the core of their minds and

that he has voluntarily won the loyalty of their hearts". Another example is what Mohammed (2021) wrote on his Twitter account that "the positive energy of every Saudi man and woman lies in His Highness saying: the Saudi's mettle is like Tuwaiq mountain".

CONCLUSION

This research aimed to analyse the type of illocutionary acts that were dominantly used by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's speech at the Future Investment Initiative in 2018. It also investigated how it affected Saudi youth's ideology. The results showed that the first most dominant was representative, and the second most dominant was commissive. Moreover, many examples on Twitter showed the positive impact of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's utterances on Saudi youth's attitudes towards themselves or their

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