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# AN ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTINARY ACT IN DONALD TRUMP'S SPEECH REGARDING COVID-19

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#### **Abstract**

This research aimed to analyze the categories several illocutionary act that uses by Donald Trumps' speech, and what is dominant that uses in his speech. This research method is descriptive qualitative and illocutionary act theory by Searle. The data were taken from the CNN News in the Rose Garden of the White House, Friday, May 15, 2020. There were 75 utterances and the percentage of utterances were Assertive53%, Directive 4%, Commissive 14%, Expressive 17%, and Declarative 0%. The result of this research is the dominant that uses by Donald Trumps' is Assertive 40 utterance, it can be seen that Trump hoped his audiences would be persuaded to act. And based on the result, Donald Trump does not use declarative illocutionary acts in his speech.

Keywords: Communication, Speech Act, Illocutionary Act

#### INTRODUCTION

Language has a vital role in communication, in social life, everyone uses language in daily life as a communication tool. Through language, people can communicate and share their feelings, emotions, intentions, information, or learn about the cultures of a certain region. There are two types of communication, written communication, and oral communication. Both of them have a function according to the need for communication.

The purpose of communication itself is informative which means an appeal to the mind that is accomplished through language (Berlo 1963:8) cited by (Kamajaya et al., 2017). In communication, there will be a speaker and listener, and each other have their way to express their mind. In this communication, the use of utterances cannot be denied. When the speaker uttered something the listeners will fully understand if they hear it while they look at the speaker's expression or body language. Therefore, there may be a miscommunication between the speaker and the listener. In communication, people use utterances to express their feeling and their purpose. The message is conveyed to obtain an understanding. Besides, the utterances show the relationship between speaker and listener that can be seen by speech act. Paltridge (2000:7) cited by (Setiani & Utami, 2018) speech act is the study of how speakers use language to do things for the listener or receiver such as requesting, giving orders, and giving warnings. That means when someone wants to do something, he/she might say something when someone is uttering something it is not just an utterance, at the same time there is an act that has been performed.

The study of intended meaning the utterances are spoken and written is called a speech act. Something disclosed to someone who not only presents the information but also takes action is called a speech act. Speech acts are those acts of making statements or questions, giving commands or refusing, order, apologizing, complimenting, etc. Austin (1962) in (Basra & Thoyyibah, 2017) stated that when people utter an utterance, it is not always to explain



something. Instead, by uttering utterances, they do something. The speech act has three categories or dimensions. Grundy (2008) in (Basra & Thoyyibah, 2017) explained that when people say something, they may involve the three dimensions, which are locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. The writer focuses on the analysis illocutionary act of Donal Trump's speech.

The activity by the speaker in produced a given utterance is called illocutionary act. Illocutionary act reveals how the entire speech should be taken sometimes in the conversation so that illocutionary is very important to learn. Learning the illocutionary act, people will know what the purpose of the speech, avoiding misunderstandings while communication is happening and making them understand what messages have not been found. Yule (1996) cited in (Dibdyaningsih, 2019) stated that the term "illocutionary acts" is often closely associated with the term speech act. When people have communicative force in saying an utterance, it means that they are performing an illocutionary act. Searle(1969) cited in (Sembiring & Ambalegin, 2019) classified types of illocutionary acts into five; assertive, directive, commissive, declarative, and expressive.

According to Searle (1979) cited in Altikriti (2011:3), as an improvement of the classification of the speech acts proposed by Austin, classifies speech acts into five categories:

- 1. Assertive: these speech acts carry the values 'true; or 'falls', i.e., they commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition such as asserting, reporting, instructing, concluding, etc.
- 2. Directives: the speaker's role is to get the hearer to do something.
- 3. Commissives: Seale calls "unexceptionable", i.e. the obligation made in the word by commissives is made in the speaker not in the hearer. So they commit the speaker to some future action, such as promising, threatening, offering, etc.
- 4. Expressives: these express an inner state of the speaker. They tend to be intrinsically polite as in greeting, congratulating, thanking, etc.; and the reverse is a true as in blaming and accusing.
- 5. Declarative: these show the correspondence between the prepositional content and reality and as Searle calls "a very special speech act" such as dismissing, resigning, naming, christening, sentencing, etc.

Based on the explanation above, the aim of the research is to find out what is illocutionary act classification contained in Donald Trump's speech, what is the illocutionary act means, and also what is the dominant of the illocutionary act that used in Donald Trump's speech. The writer chooses this topic because Donald Trump is the president of the United States and one of the most phenomenal people in the world.

#### **METHOD**

This writer uses a qualitative research design in the process of analyzing data. Shank (2002) cited in (Sintamutiani et al., 2019) stated qualitative research is "a form of systematical and empirical inquiry into meaning" (p. 5). The writer uses Donald Trump's speech took in White House, Friday, May 15, 2020, in Washington on the development of a vaccine for COVID-19. for analysis of this research. In collecting the data the writer conducted several steps, such as collecting, selecting, and classifying suitable utterances with the method and relevant concept especially Searle's theory on illocutionary acts. In this research, the process of collecting data is done through the following steps:



- 1. Searching the video of the speech and its script
- 2. Reading the script
- 3. Choosing the illocutionary acts on the script
- 4. Grouping the utterances concerning the types of illocutionary acts
- 5. Analyzing the data
- 6. Writing the report of the research

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Results**

The writer analyzed the kinds of illocutionary acts that used by Donald Trump's speech in the White House, Friday, May 15, 2020, in Washington on the development of a vaccine for COVID-19. with classifying the data into five categories of illocutionary acts those were assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative Searle(1969). As a result of this research, the finding of illocutionary acts on the table below:

**Table.1 Finding of the research** 

No	Utterance/Statement	Illocutionary Act Classification
1	"Thank you very much. Thank you very much"	Expressive
2	"It's very hot today"	Assertive
3	"Please sit down"	Directive
4	"This is going to be a very hot one and we apologize to everybody out there that's got to suffer through it."	Expressive
5	"It's better than bad weather and it's great to be in the rose garden"	Expressive
6	"I want to especially thank this group for joining us as we announce a historic groundbreaking initiative in our ongoing effort to rapidly develop and coronavirus vaccine."	Expressive
7	"Just as American generations before we faced the hardest trials, directing their views on the highest peaks and overcoming the greatest obstacles, Americans will meet today, and this moment is especially in our time, with unparalleled speed, unparalleled scale, and the unyielding spirit of the American people. Our nation will return stronger and greater than ever before."	Assertive
8	"We're going to have an amazing year next year"	Commissive
9	"We're going to have a great transition into the fourth quarter"	Commissive
10	"We will be reigniting our economic engines"	Commissive
11	"We will take care of the most vulnerable, namely senior citizens and others"	Commissive
12	"We will work very very our senior citizens and our nursing homes and various communities to support those struggling in this very difficult time"	Commissive
13	"For example, today, Secretary Perdue, together with Ivanka Trump, launched the Farmers and Families Food Box Program, which will provide \$3 billion to help small farmers"	Assertive



14	"And so we will buy food worth \$3 billion, great for everyone.	Commissive
	Our farmers, our breeders, and those who need good food."	
15	"The main feature of our reopening plan is the world's largest	Assertive
	and most ambitious testing system so far".	
16	"America is now conducting close to 350,000 tests per day, an	Assertive
	unthinkable number just a short while ago, more than anybody	
	in the world by far, suggesting many states now have excess	
	testing capacity to monitor for new outbreaks"	
<b>17</b>	"Florida, many other states have so many tests that the testers	Assertive
	wait for the people to appear"	
18	"Another important pillar of our strategy to keep America	Assertive
	Open is the development of effective treatments and vaccines	
	as quickly as possible"	
19	"We have deployed the genius of American scientists and	Assertive
	researchers from all over the government and the private	
	sector, from academics, from everywhere to defeating viruses,	
	and extraordinary measures have been made."	
20	"Scientists at the NIH began developing the first vaccine	Assertive
	candidate on January 11th, think of that, within hours of the	
	virus's genetic code being posted online"	
21	"And we were out there trying to develop a vaccine, not even	Assertive
	knowing what we were up against"	
22	"Then my administration cut through every piece of red tape	Assertive
	to achieve the fastest ever, by far, launch of a vaccine trial for	
	this new virus, this very vicious virus"	
23	"And I want to thank all of the doctors and scientists and	Expressive
	researchers involved because they've never moved like this or	
	never even close."	
24	"The NIH and the HHS have also been working constantly	Assertive
	with private industry to evaluate more than 100 potential	
	treatments"	
25	"The Food and Drug Administration has swiftly approved	Assertive
	more than 130 therapies for active trials"	A (*
<b>26</b>	"That's what we have right now, 130. And another 450 are in	Assertive
	the planning stages and tremendous potential awaits"	T
<u>27</u>	"And thank you very much to Dr. Hahn."	Expressive
28	"I especially wanted to thank Senator Steve Daines of	Expressive
20	Montana for his extraordinary work."	T
29	"He has worked so hard to secure additional funding for	Expressive
20	vaccine development. He has been right at the forefront"	A aganting
30	"In addition, it will continue accelerating the development of	Assertive
21	diagnostics and breakthrough therapies"  "The great national project will bring together the best of	A ggar-4:
31	"The great national project will bring together the best of	Assertive
	American industry and innovation, the full resources of the	
	United States government, and the excellence and precision of	
32	the United States military"  "Wa're also working your strongly with other countries who	Assertive
32	"We're also working very strongly with other countries who	Asseruve
	are also have some great, great scientists, doctors, and we're	



	all working very closely together and they're viewing us as the leader and we are."	
22		T
33	"And today, we're proud to announce the addition of two of	Expressive
	the most highly respected skilled professionals in our country,	
	worldwide respected"	
34	"Operation Warp Speed's chief scientists will be Dr.	Assertive
	MoncefSlaoui, a world renowned immunologist who helped	
	create 14 new vaccines, that's a lot of our new vaccines, in 10	
	years during his time in the private sector."	
35	"Joining Dr. Slaoui as Chief Operating Officer is General Gus	Assertive
	Perna, a four-star general who currently oversees 190,000	
	service members, civilians, and contractors as U.S. Army	
	Material Command commander"	
36	"So General, thank you very much. And doctor, thank you very	Expressive
	much"	LAPICSSIVE
	"It's great to have you on board. Really highly respected	Evnnaggiva
37		Expressive
20	people. Thank you". "In propagation for this initiative apparts throughout the	A
38	"In preparation for this initiative, experts throughout the	Assertive
	government have been collaborating to evaluate roughly 100	
	vaccine candidates from all over the world"	
<b>39</b>	"They have identified 14 that they believe are the most	Assertive
	promising and they're working to narrow that list still	
	further."	
<b>40</b>	"So we started off with over 100, we're down to 14, and we	Assertive
	have some really interesting choices to be made"	
41	"They're doing very well."	Expressive
<b>42</b>	"Through Operation Warp Speed, the federal government is	Assertive
	providing unprecedented support and resources to safely	
	expedite the trials. Moving on at record, record, record	
	speed"	
43	"While we accelerate the final phases of vaccine trials,	Assertive
	Operation Warp Speed will be simultaneously accelerating its	
	manufacturing and manufacturing process"	
44	"In other words, we're getting ready so that when we get the	Assertive
	good word that we have the vaccine, we have the formula, we	118801 1140
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
15	have what we need, we're ready to go."  "As appased to taking years to goon up. We're gogging up. It's	A ggg-41
45	"As opposed to taking years to gear up. We're gearing up. It's	Assertive
	risky, it's expensive, but we'll be saving massive amounts of	
	time. We'll be saving years if we do this properly. And that's	
	what we're doing"	
<b>46</b>	"So we're gearing up on the assumption that we'll have in the	Assertive
	near future, relatively near future, a vaccine."	
47	"Our job is so urgent that under Operation Warp Speed, the	Commissive
	federal government will invest in manufacturing all the best	
•	vaccine candidates before they are approved."	
48	"And as we work to bring critical medical production back to	Assertive
	America, these vaccines that we're going to be focused on and	110001 1110
	manufacturing, they're all going to be right here in the USA"	
	manajaciaring, mey re an going to be right here in the USA	



49	"We know exactly where the other countries are and we'll be very happy if they were able to do it"	Expressive
<del>50</del>	"We'll help them with delivery, we'll help them with it in every	Commissive
30	way we can"	Commissive
51	"No ego whatsoever"	Assertive
52	"Operation Warp Speed also makes the necessary	Assertive
-	preparations to distribute this soul-saving treatment on a	
	large scale."	
53	"So we're talking about massive numbers so that millions of Americans will quickly have access to them."	Commissive
54	"we're also very, very much involved in other things other	Assertive
<b>5T</b>	than the vaccine"	Assertive
55	"But this includes ramping up production of supplies needed	Assertive
	for distribution, such as cold chain storage, glass vials,	TIBBET LIVE
	needles, syringes, and more"	
56	"We'll have everything right on hand, ready to go."	Commissive
57	"When a vaccine is ready, the US government will deploy	Directive
	every plane, truck and soldier required to help distribute it to	
	the American people as quickly as possible"	
58	"America's blessed to have the most brilliant, talented doctors	Assertive
	and researchers anywhere in the world. We have the mightiest	
	military by far in the world. Our military is completely	
	rebuilt."	
59	"Our military is completely rebuilt. Much of the equipment	Assertive
	has been delivered. Some of it's on the way. All made right	
	here in the USA"	
_60	"So I want to thank our great truckers"	Expressive
61	"They like me and I like them. We're working on something together."	Assertive
62	"But we have the mightiest And they'll be helping us with	Assertive
	this, by the way"	
63	"We have the mightiest military in the long history of	Assertive
	humankind. We have the best and most devoted workers ever	
	to walk the face of the earth. And now we're combining all of	
	these amazing strengths for the most aggressive vaccine	
	project in history. There's never been a vaccine project	
	anywhere in history like this"	
64	"And I think we're going to be successful in doing it, and	Assertive
	hopefully by the end of the year."  "Our nation will some hard stronger and another than ever"	Comercial
65	"Our nation will come back stronger and greater than ever"  "Wa're going to have a tramondous year next year"	Commissive
66	"We're going to have a tremendous year next year"  "We're going to have a really good fourth quarter"	Commissive Commissive
$\frac{67}{68}$	"We're going to have a really good fourth quarter"  "We're going to have a very interesting and productive	Commissive
บอ	"We're going to have a very interesting and productive transition quarter, where Steve is there, And I'm sure our	Commissive
	Secretary of the Treasury, I think you feel the same way,	
	Steve."	
	Die re.	
69	"And thank you for your good work. Really good work"	Expressive
<b>69 70</b>	"And thank you for your good work. Really good work"  "And it's not finished yet, is it?"	Expressive Directive
70 71	"And thank you for your good work. Really good work"  "And it's not finished yet, is it?"  "I want to thank Steve Mnuchin, everybody."	Expressive Directive Expressive



72	"Now I'd like to ask Dr. [Slowey and 00:15:54] and General	Directive
	Perna to come up and say a few words, followed by Secretary	
	Azar and Secretary Esper"	
<b>73</b>	"Thank you all very much"	Expressive
<b>74</b>	"We're doing something that has never been done before"	Assertive
75	"We're doing a great job. These people are doing an	Expressive
	incredible job. The people right here, I want to thank you all.	_
	Total professionals. Great men, great women. Thank you all	
	very much"	

#### **Discussion**

Based on the findings of the result, the data is summarized in the table below:

Table.2 percentage of the illocutionary act in Donald Trump Speech

No	Classification of Illocutionary act	Utterance	Percentage
1	Assertive	40	53%
2	Directive	4	5%
3	Commissive	14	19%
4	Expressive	17	23%
5	Declarative	0	0%
Total		75	

From that table.2, it can be concluded the percentage of illocutionary that uses are Assertive 53%, Directive 5%, Commissive 19%, Expressive 23%, and Declarative 0%. After the writer analyzed and classified the data there were found the number of illocutionary acts. The result showed that most of the illocutionary acts occur in Donald trump utterances is Assertive. Through the analysis of the speech, it is the Assertive that is highly used with (40) instances and represents 53% out of the total number of utterances in the whole text (75). In Donald Trump's speech, he described more and gave information to the audience.

Based on the analysis of the speech, In Donald Trumps's speech, he explained to the listener about the government of United States will be act. It is found that Trump's speech acts in his speech are intended as statement of fact. Disscussion of hopes implied in Trump's speech acts. On the table above, it can be concluded that Trump hoped his audiences would be persuaded to act. This result similar to a research conducted by Usman et al. (2017) on donald trump's presidential candidacy speech. Donald Trump produced majority assertive type of illocutionary acts and can be seen that Trump want to engage his people to act. Furthermore, this result consentient with (Mufiah & Nur Rahman, 2019) Donald Trump's illocutionary act analysis in Inaugural Speech. The result has shown that Donald Trump persuaded his audience about the nation will be act. So, the result of this research that Trump's speech acts in his speech are intended that his people would be invited to do something.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The aim of this research is to find the result of the illocutionary act classification contained in Donald Trump's speech, and what is the dominant of the illocutionary act that used in Donald Trump's speech. Based on the result, the writer found that the speech of Donald Trumps' contained 4 classifieds of the illocutionary act, such as Assertive 40, Directive 4, Commissive 14, and Expressive 17. Then, the dominant of the illocutionary act that uses by Donald Trumps'



Speech is Assertive, and according to the result about Donald Trump's speech are to persuaded his people to act. Additionally, Donald Trump does not use declarative illocutionary acts in Trump's speech.

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