

AN ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACT IN JOE BIDEN'S VICTORY SPEECH REGARDING UNITED STATES ELECTION

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Abstract

This research is an analysis of the Illocutionary act. It aimed to analyze the categories of the illocutionary act that used by Joe Biden's speech, and what is dominant utterances used in his speech. This research applied the descriptive qualitative method and illocutionary at uses act theory by Searle (1979). The data were taken from the The Washington Post, Friday, November 11, 2020, in Washington.. There were 59 utterances and the percentage of utterances were Expressive (42%), Assertive (24%), Commissive (19%), Declarative (10%), and Directive (5%). The result showed the dominant utterances used by Joe Bidens' is Expresive (25 utterances), Biden showed his audiences an inner state in thanking, congratulating, and greeting. Based on the result, Joe Biden used low level in directive of 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 information, feelings, intentions, emotions, or understand the culture of a certain area. There are two types of communication, one is written communication and the other is oral communication. They all have roles based on communication needs. The purpose of communication itself is informative which means an appeal to the mind that is accomplished through language (Berlo 1963:8) as cited by Kamajaya et al (2017). In communication, there are listener and speaker, and they have their own ways to express their point of view. In this type of communication, the use of words cannot be denied. When the speaker says something, the listener will understand by listening and will see the facial expression or body language of the speaker. Therefore, there may be additional misinformation between the speaker and the listener. In communication, humans use words to express their feelings and opinions. The purpose of transmitting information is to gain understanding. In addition, the statement indicates the relationship between the speaker and the listener, which can be seen through the use of speech acts. As defined by Paltridge (2000: 7) cited by Setisni and Utami (2018), speech act is the study of how the speaker uses language to do things for the listener or recipient, such as issuing commands, requests, and warnings. This means that when someone wants to do something, they can say something when someone says something, not just a statement, and they also have an executed behavior. The study of meaning the utterances are spoken and written called a speech act. Afterthat, something disclosed to someone who not only presents the information but also takes action is called a speech act. Then, speech acts are those acts of making statements or questions, giving commands or order, refusing, complimenting, apologizing, etc. Austin (1962) in Basra and Thoyibah (2017) stated that sometimes when

people said an utterance, it is not always to describe something. Instead, by uttering utterances, they do something. The speech act has three categories or dimensions. Grundy (2008) in Basra and Thoyibah (2017) explained that speech act has three dimensions, which are locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. Finally, the authors focuses on the analysis illocutionary act of Joe Biden's speech. Based on Yule (1996) the activity by the speaker in produce a given utterance is called illocutionary act. Illocutionary act reveals how the entire speech should be taken 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 Chakim & 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(1979) cited in Sembiring and Ambelegin (2019) classified types of illocutionary acts into five; assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. It accordance with Hutajulu (2019) who stated the Illocutionary act is a complete speech act, an act of doing something, that expresses the specific purpose of the speaker's intention, such as promise, declaration, order, denial, prediction, request, confirmation, etc. There are five types of illocutionary behaviors: representation, instruction, promise, declaration, and expression. It should be clear that we can discuss each type. According to Searle (1979) cited in Altikriti (2011: 3), as an improvement of the classification of speech acts proposed by Searle (1979), he divided speech acts into five categories:

1. Expressives: these express a state Internal Speaker. They are essentially courteous when greeting, thanking, congratulating, etc .; conversely, it is appropriate to blame and accuse.
2. Directives: The role of the speaker is to make (instruct) the listener to do something (or move towards a certain goal).
3. Assertives: These speech acts increase the value of "true"; or "falls", that is, they allow the speaker to comply with the authenticity of the expressed proposition, such as statements, reports, instructions, conclusions, etc.
4. Commissives: Seale calls it "non-exceptional", that is, the promise is made to the speaker, not the listener. Then they let the speaker take some future actions, like providing, threatening, promising, etc.
5. Declarative: They show the correspondence between the content of the preposition and the facts, as Searle said, "a very different type of speech act", such as resignation, dismissal, baptism, appointment, sentence, etc.

Based on the explanation above, the objective of the research is to classify illocutionary act used in Joe Biden's speech, and to identify the dominant of the illocutionary act used in his speech. The authors chose this topic because Joe Biden is the winner in president election of the United States and one of the phenomenal people in the world.

METHOD

The authors used 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). In order to collect data, the author took several steps, namely: using relevant methods and concepts, especially Searle's theory of illocutionary behavior, to collect, select and classify appropriate statements. In this study, the data collection process was carried out through the following steps:

1. Search for the speech video and its script.
2. Read the script.
3. Choose the implication of the script.

4. Group discourses on types of illocutionary acts.
5. Analyze data.
6. Write a research report.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The authors analyzed the illocutionary acts used by Joe Biden’s speech in the Washington Post, Friday, November 11, 2020. by classifying the data into five categories of Illocutionary acts, they were *assertive*, *directive*, *expressive*, *commissive*, and *declarative* (Searle, 1979). As a result of data analyzed, the finding of illocutionary acts can be seen on the table below:

Table1. Finding of the research

No	Utterance/Statement	Illocutionary Act Classification
1	<i>“My fellow Americans, and the people who brought me to the dance: Delawareans.”</i>	Expressive
2	<i>“I see my buddy Tom, Senator Tom Carper, down there. And I think, I think Senator Coons is there. And I think the governor’s around and ... is that Ruth Ann? And that’s former Governor Ruth Ann Minner. Most importantly, my sisters-in-law, my and my sister, Valerie.”</i>	Expressive
3	<i>“Folks, the people of this nation have spoken. They’ve delivered us a clear victory, a convincing victory, a victory for we, the people.”</i>	Expressive
4	<i>“We’ve won with the most votes ever cast for a presidential ticket in the history of the nation. Seventy-four million.”</i>	Expressive
5	<i>“Well, I must admit, it surprised me tonight.”</i>	Expressive
6	<i>“We’re seeing all over this nation, all cities and all parts of the country, indeed across the world, an outpouring of joy, of hope, renewed faith in tomorrow to bring a better day. And I’m humbled by the trust and confidence you placed in me. “</i>	Expressive
7	<i>“I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide but unify, who doesn’t see red states and blue states, only sees the United States.”</i>	Declarative
8	<i>“I’ll work with all my heart, with the confidence of the whole people, to win the confidence of all of you.”</i>	Commissive
9	<i>“And for that is what America, I believe, is about. It’s about people. And that’s what our administration will be all about.”</i>	Commissive
10	<i>“I sought this office to restore the soul of America, to rebuild the backbone of this nation: the middle class”</i>	Commissive
11	<i>“And to make America respected around the world again. And to unite us here at home.”</i>	Commissive
12	<i>“It’s the honor of my lifetime that so many millions of Americans have voted for that vision.”</i>	Expressive
13	<i>“And now the work of making that vision is real. It’s a task, the task of our time.”</i>	Assertive
14	<i>“Folks, as I said many times before, I’m Jill’s husband. And I would not be here without her love and tireless support of Jill and my son Hunter, and Ashley, my daughter and all our</i>	Expressive

	<i>grandchildren and their spouses and all our family. They're my heart."</i>	
15	<i>"Jill is a mom, a military mom, an educator. She has dedicated her life to education. But teaching isn't just what she does. It's who she is. For American educators, this is a great day for you all. You're going to have one of your own in the White House, and Jill is going to make a great first lady. I'm so proud of her."</i>	Expressive
16	<i>"I'll have the honor of serving with a fantastic vice president. You just heard from Kamala Harris, who makes history as the first woman, first Black woman, the first woman from South Asian descent, the first daughter of immigrants ever elected to this country. Don't tell me it's not possible in the United States. It's long overdue."</i>	Expressive
17	<i>"And we're reminded tonight of those who fought so hard for so many years to make this happen. Once again, America's bent the arc of the moral universe more toward justice. Kamala, Doug, like it or not, you're family. You become an honorary Biden, there's no way out."</i>	Expressive
18	<i>"All those of you who volunteered and worked the polls in the middle of a pandemic, local elected officials: You deserve a special thanks from the entire nation. And to my campaign team and all the volunteers and all who gave so much of themselves to make this moment possible. I owe you. I owe you. I owe you everything."</i>	Expressive
19	<i>"And all those who supported us. I'm proud of the campaign we built. I'm proud of the coalition we put together, the broadest and most diverse coalition in history. Democrats, Republicans, independents, progressives, moderates, conservatives, young, old, urban, suburban, rural, gay, straight, transgender, white, Latino, Asian, Native American."</i>	Expressive
20	<i>"I mean it. And especially those moments when this campaign was at its lowest ebb, the African American community stood up again for me. You've always had my back, and I'll have yours."</i>	Expressive
21	<i>"I said at the outset, I wanted to represent this campaign to represent and look like America. We've done that. Now that's what I want the administration to look like and act like."</i>	Assertive
22	<i>"For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand the disappointment tonight. I've lost a couple of times myself. But now, let's give each other a chance."</i>	Expressive
23	<i>"It's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again. Listen to each other again. And to make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies. They are not our enemies. They are Americans. They're Americans."</i>	Assertive
24	<i>"The Bible tells us to everything there is a season, a time to build, a time to reap and a time to sow. And a time to heal. This is the time to heal in America."</i>	Assertive

25	<i>“Now, this campaign is over. What is the will of the people? What is our mandate? I believe it’s this: America has called upon us to marshal the forces of decency, the forces of fairness. To marshal the forces of science and the forces of hope in the great battles of our time. The battle to control the virus, the battle to build prosperity, the battle to secure your family’s health care. The battle to achieve racial justice and root out systemic racism in this country. And the battle to save our planet by getting climate under control.”</i>	Assertive
26	<i>“The battle to restore decency, defend democracy and give everybody in this country a fair shot. That’s all they’re asking for. A fair shot.”</i>	Assertive
27	<i>“Folks, our work begins with getting covid under control. We cannot repair the economy, restore our vitality or relish life’s most precious moments, hugging our grandchildren, our children, our birthdays, weddings, graduations, all the moments that matter most to us, until we get it under control.”</i>	Commissive
28	<i>“On Monday, I will name a group of leading scientists and experts as transition advisers to help take the Biden-Harris covid plan and convert it into an action blueprint that will start on January the 20th, 2021.”</i>	Commissive
29	<i>“That plan will be built on bedrock science. It will be constructed out of compassion, empathy and concern. I will spare no effort, none, or any commitment to turn around this pandemic.”</i>	Commissive
30	<i>“Folks, I’m a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president.”</i>	Expressive
31	<i>“I’ll work as hard for those who didn’t vote for me as those who did. Let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end here and now.”</i>	Commissive
32	<i>“Refusal of Democrats and Republicans to cooperate with one another. It’s not some mysterious force beyond our control. It’s a decision, a choice we make. And if we can decide not to cooperate, then we can decide to cooperate.”</i>	Assertive
33	<i>“And I believe that this is part of the mandate given to us from the American people.”</i>	Expressive
34	<i>“They want us to cooperate in their interest. And that’s the choice I’ll make. And I’ll call on Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike, to make that choice with me.”</i>	Commissive
35	<i>“The American story is about slow, yet steadily widening the opportunities in America. And make no mistake, too many dreams have been deferred for too long.”</i>	Expressive
36	<i>“We must make the promises of the country real for everybody, no matter their race, their ethnicity, their faith, their identity or their disability.”</i>	Assertive
37	<i>“Folks, America has always, is shaped, by inflection points, by moments in time.”</i>	Declarative
38	<i>“We’ve made hard decisions about who we are and what we want to be.”</i>	Assertive

39	<i>“Lincoln in 1860 coming to save the Union. FDR in 1932, promising a beleaguered country a new deal. JFK in 1960 pledging a new frontier. And twelve years ago, when Barack Obama made history, he told us, yes, we can.”</i>	Declarative
40	<i>“Well, folks, we stand at an inflection point. We have an opportunity to defeat despair, to build a nation of prosperity and purpose.”</i>	Commissive
41	<i>“We can do it. I know we can.”</i>	Assertive
42	<i>“I’ve long talked about the battle for the soul of America. We must restore the soul of America. Our nation is shaped by the constant battle between our better angels and our darkest impulses.”</i>	Assertive
43	<i>“And what presidents say in this battle matters.”</i>	Declarative
44	<i>“It’s time for our better angels to prevail.”</i>	Assertive
45	<i>“Tonight, the whole world is watching America, and I believe in our best, America is a beacon for the globe.”</i>	Expressive
46	<i>“We will lead not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example.”</i>	Commissive
47	<i>“I know I’ve always — believe many of you heard me say it — I’ve always believed we can define America in one word: possibilities.”</i>	Declarative
48	<i>“That in America, everyone should be given an opportunity to go as far as their dreams and God-given ability will take them.”</i>	Declarative
49	<i>“You see, I believe in the possibilities of this country. We’re always looking ahead. Ahead to an America that is freer and more just. Ahead to an America that creates jobs with dignity and respect. Ahead to an America that cures diseases like cancer and Alzheimer’s. Ahead to an America that never leaves anyone behind. Ahead to an America that never gives up, never gives in, this great nation.”</i>	Expressive
50	<i>“It’s always been a bad bet to bet against America. We’re good people. This is the United States of America. There’s never been anything, never been anything we’ve been not able to do when we’ve done it together.”</i>	Expressive
51	<i>“Folks, the last days of the campaign, I began thinking about a hymn that means a lot to me and my family, particularly my deceased son, Beau. It captures the faith that sustains me, and which I believe sustains America.”</i>	Expressive
52	<i>“And I hope — and I hope it can provide some comfort and solace to the 230,000 Americans who’ve lost a loved one to this terrible virus this year.”</i>	Assertive
53	<i>“My heart goes out to each and every one of you. Hopefully, this hymn gives you solace as well.”</i>	Expressive
54	<i>“And it goes like this: And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, and make you sign just like the sun and hold you in the palm of his hand.”</i>	Expressive
55	<i>“And now together, on eagles wings, we embark on the work that God and history have called upon us to do, with full hearts</i>	Assertive

	<i>and steady hands, with faith in America and each other, with love of country, a thirst for justice.”</i>	
56	<i>“Let us be the nation that we know we can. A nation united, a nation strengthened. A nation healed.”</i>	Directive
57	<i>“The United States of America, ladies and gentlemen, there’s never, never been anything we’ve tried we’ve not been able to do.”</i>	Directive
58	<i>“So I remember as my grandpa said when I walked out of his home when I was a kid up in Scranton, he said: “Joey, keep the faith.” And our grandmother, when she was alive, she yelled: “No, Joey, spread it.” Spread the faith.”</i>	Declarative
59	<i>“God love you all. May God bless America, and may God protect our troops. Thank you. Thank you.”</i>	Expressive

Discussion

Based on the result, the data can be summarized in the Table 2 below:

Table 2. Percentage of the illocutionary act in Joe Biden’s Speech

No	Classification of Illocutionary act	Utterance	Percentage
1	Assertive	14	24%
2	Directive	3	5%
3	Commissive	11	19%
4	Expressive	25	42%
5	Declarative	6	10%
	Total	59	100%

From Table.2, it can be concluded the proportion of illocutionary that used are Expressive 42%, Assertive 24%, Commissive 19%, Declarative 10%, and Directive 5%. After the authors analyzed and categorized the data, they found the range of illocutionary acts. The result confirmed that the most frequents illocutionary acts show up in Joe Biden utterances is Expressive. Through the analysis of the speech, it is the Expressive that is quite used with 25 utterances of the complete quantity of utterances in the complete textual content 59 utterances. Based on voice analysis, in Joe Biden's speech, he expressed an inner state. Biden’s speech behavior in his speech was found to express gratitude and greetings. In other words, Biden expressed an inner state to the audience.

CONCLUSION

The objective of this research is to analyze the illocutionary act classification contained in Joe Biden’s speech, and the dominant of the illocutionary act that used in Joe Biden’s speech. Based on the result of data analysis, the authors it was found that the speech of his speech contained there are 4 illocutionary acts used. They are *Expressive*: 25 (42%), *Assertive*: 14 (24%), *Commissive*: 11 (19%), *Declarative*: 6 (10%) and *Directive*: 3 (5%). Then, the dominant of the illocutionary act that used by Joe Bidens’ Speech is *Expressive*, and based on the result about his speech is intended to express an inner state to the audiences. Additionally, Joe Biden’s used low level of directive that mean the speaker's role is to get (to direct) the hearer to do something (or towards some goal).

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