

ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ELECTION NIGHT SPEECH

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Abstract

The research design of this study was descriptive qualitative. The data sources of this research are "President Obama's Election Night Speech" which was taken from the internet. The transcript was written by Federal News Service. This paper merely focused in analyzing the types and the function of illocutionary acts that found on President Obama's Election Night Speech. The method of collecting the data of the research was observation. The technic that used in the research was non-participatory. The data analyzed used the perspective of Searle's theory. The method to analyze the data was used observational pragmatic method. It found four types of Searle's illocutionary acts; directive, commissive, representative, and expressive. There were 24 data of illocutionary acts which consisted on the President Obama Election Night Speech. The function of the illocutionary acts was 3 showed requesting, 7 showed promising, 7 showed asserting, 6 showed of thanking and 1 showed apologizing.

Keywords: assertive, commissive, declarative, directive, expressive, illocutionary acts,

1. INTRODUCTION

As a human being communication is needed to interact to others. Language brings the way of thinking for each individual to other individual to create a good relationship. A good communication should have a same comprehension of a particular language between the speaker and hearer. Many kinds of subject studied about language, one of the topics is speech acts. Speech acts is something that can not only be expressed by speaking but also by action. Nordquist (2019) stated that speech-act includes as a part of pragmatics that concerns with the words can be used not only to deliver information but also to carry out the actions. Searle (2005) said that speech acts provide requesting, apologizing, inviting, and complaining, promising, thanking. This speech acts can be found in daily life in every lifetime. Researchers decided to choose this

speech acts as a topic. There were many previous researchers as sources.

Speech acts are divided into three; there are illocutionary, locution and perlocutionary. This research concerned to discuss the illocutionary acts purposed by Searle (2005). Based on Searle (2005), there are 5 types of illocutionary acts: directives, commissives, expressive, representatives, declarations. And Searle (2005) stated there are functions of illocutionary acts; promising, offering, thanking, apologizing, asserting, concluding, describing, requesting, questioning, ordering, excommunicating, declaring war. Simon & Dejica-Cartis (2015) discussed the paper which identified, classified and analyzed the types of speech acts in written advertisements. Bayat (2013) discussed about strategy use of speech acts of teachers. The result was that the teachers expressed the acts of thanking, apologizing and

refusing explicitly and they mostly performed the act of complaining implicitly.

This research investigated the types and function of illocutionary acts part occurred in President Obama's Election Night Speech. Illocutionary is important to be discussed because illocutionary acts studied the effectiveness of the speech act received. In illocutionary acts an utterances is not only as a media of communication but also has an intention meaning to do an action. In conversation it was usually confused when someone said "I'll be there" this utterance cannot ensure whether the speaker has made a promise or not due to the word commonly people recognized as a promise word to other.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Speech Acts

Speech acts are one of the pragmatics studies. One of a linguistic expert stated that pragmatics is a study about meaning according to situation and context by Yule (2014). Speech acts is including as a part of pragmatics subject. Speech acts is the way people execute various actions through the way of use a words and when the data are made, a particular acts is performed. Reiter (2002) said that a person does not produce only a series of sentences while producing words, but also carrying an action. Thanking, requesting, promising are some of the way of producing. Austin (as cited in Bayat 2013) represented that there are three acts that also occurred simultaneously in performing agreement. One of these is locutionary acts. The description is only the action by saying something. Besides that an Illocutionary act is the way of doing something by saying. The third is perlocutionary acts is the bound of the conclusion of something. It gives the

effect toward the hearer. In Austin thought that in here speech acts divided into 3 parts and also each part consists of the simple explanation that can be understand easily.

2.2. Illocutionary Acts

Searle (2005) stated that Illocutionary acts have 5 types. Thereupon, directive (ordering a request, forbidding) intends to lead the listener to do some actions, explanation (resigning, appointing) intends to produce an alteration, commissive (promise) showing that executes the speaker some actions by expressing the intention, expressive (apologize, celebrate) states the speaker's frame of mind to a condition and situation, assertive (claim, swear) refers to the sensibility of said something. Those are five types of the speech acts that Searle conducts. To put it more simply, based on the thought the changes and classification are needed.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used the qualitative descriptive approach which involved collecting the data (information) from a variable, indication and condition in order to acknowledge the questions concerning the current phenomena (Arikunto as cited in Mubarak 2019). In collecting the data containing the illocutionary acts in President Obama's Election Night Speech, the researchers used observation method. Qualitative research was an explanation of the research by describing an analysis of the illocutionary acts President Obama's Election Night Speech, in analyzing the data the researcher used observational pragmatic method by applying the Searle's, (2005) theory. Then, the data analyzed was about the types and the function of illocutionary acts. Types of speech acts are commissives (promising, offering) expressive

(thanking, apologizing) representatives (asserting, concluding, describing) directives (requesting, questioning, ordering) declarations (excommunicating, declaring war). The researchers determined the types and the function of illocutionary that used in script. The findings of the research were finally reported by the researchers.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From the analysis of “Transcript of President Obama’s Election Night Speech” (2012) 24 were found which is including in the types of Searle’s illocutionary acts: Directive, commissive, representative, expressive and declarations. There are 24 data of illocutionary acts which mentioned below:

Table 1. *The types of Illocutionary Acts on President Obama’s Election Night Speech*

NO	Types of Illocutionary acts	The Number Of Data	Description
1	Directives	3	3data showed requesting
2	Commissive	7	7 data showed promising
3	Representative	7	7 data showing asserting, 6 data showed thanking
4	Expressive	7	1 data showed apologizing
Total Number of Data		24	

4.1 Types of Illocutionary Acts

1. Types of Illocutionary acts: Directive

There were three data showed the Searle’s category of speech acts which belongs to the illocutionary acts of Directives. According to the category, this data classified as directives because the data showed requesting which according to Searle was about to get address and to bring out an act. Based on the data below, showed that in the data that American President wanted that all the citizen try to establish the

better America. It was the acts of changing the microcosmic social world. This data is taken from the Transcript of President Obama’s Election Night Speech (2012). Below are the following data:

- a. Most of us share certain hopes for America’s future.
- b. You elected us to focus on your jobs, not ours
- c. I am hopeful tonight because I have seen this spirit at work in America.

2. Types of Illocutionary acts: Commissive

There were 8 data showing the category of commissive. Commisives is an illocutionary act that the point is to bind the speaker for some future action (Searle, 2005). This categories used to tie up between the speaker and the action from the speaker said In commissive there are 4 categories, such as promise, threaten, intend, vow. The following data which taken from Transcript of President Obama’s Election Night Speech (2012):

- a. I also look forward to sitting down with Governor Romney to discuss about where we can work together to move forward this country.
- b. Wants to make sure every child has that same opportunity.
- c. You’ll hear the deep patriotism in the voice of a military spouse who’s working the phones late at night to make sure that no one who fights for this country.
- d. We want our kids to grow up in a country where they have access to the best schools and the best

- teachers a country that lives up to its legacy as the global leader.
- e. We want our children to live in an America that isn't burdened by debt.
 - f. We want to pass on a country that's safe and respected and admired around the world, a nation that is defended by the strongest military on earth.
 - g. America, I believe we can build on the progress we've made and continue to fight for new jobs and new opportunities and new security for the middle class.

3. Types of Illocutionary acts: Representative

There were 7 data showing the category of representative. Based on Searle (2005) mentioned that for truth of the case expressed. This categorized is about telling the fact and the truth. This categorized measurable truth. These representatives types divided into 3 parts, i.e. assertive, concludes, describes. The following are the elaboration of the data from Transcript of President Obama's Election Night Speech, (2012):

- a. Tonight, more than 200 years after a former colony won the right to determine its own destiny, the task of perfecting our union moves forward.
- b. It moves forward because of you.
- c. It moves forward because you reaffirmed the spirit that has triumphed over war and depression.
- d. But if you ever get the chance to talk to folks who turned out at our

rallies and crowded along a rope line in a high school gym or saw folks working late at a campaign office in some tiny county far away from home, you'll discover something else.

- e. It's not always a straight line. It's not always a smooth path. By itself, the recognition that we have common hopes and dreams won't end all the gridlock.
- f. The role of citizens in our democracy does not end with your vote. America's never been about what can be done for us; it's about what can be done by us together.
- g. I'm not talking about blind optimism, I have always believed that hope is that stubborn thing inside us that insists, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us so long as we have the courage to keep reaching, to keep working, to keep fighting

4. Types of Illocutionary acts: Expressive

There are two categories showing the category of expressive. Searle (2005) mentioned that expressive is a declaration on the speaker's emotions and also attitudes. This part is consisting of thanking and also congratulating. This part is about how to express something through words or utterances. There are 7 data showing the category of expressive. The following are the elaboration of the data which is taken from Transcript of President Obama's Election Night Speech (2012):

- a. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much.
- b. I want to thank every American who participated in this election.
- c. We have to fix that.
- d. Whether you held an Obama sign or a Romney sign, you made your voice heard and you made a difference.
- e. I want to thank my friend and partner of the last four years, America's happy warrior, and the best vice president.
- f. And I wouldn't be the man I am today without the woman who agreed to marry me 20 years ago.
- g. To the best campaign team and volunteers in the history of politics the best.

4.2 Function of Illocutionary Acts

1. Function of Illocutionary acts: Directive

There were three data showing the Searle's category of speech acts which belongs to the illocutionary acts of Directive: 3 data showing of requesting. Directive is a speech acts that is to cause the hearer to take a particular action. It is the acts of changing the microcosmic social world. In here the function is categorized as a requesting. The data below is the following explanation which taken from Transcript of President Obama's Election Night Speech (2012):

- a. But despite all our differences, most of us share certain hopes for America's future. In here, the function of the illocutionary acts in here is as a requesting. This included as a requesting. Requesting in here known from the hopes of the president to make

America better in the future even there are a lot of differences.

- b. Tonight you voted for action, not politics as usual. You elected us to focus on your jobs, not ours. In here the function of the illocutionary acts in here is as a requesting. As what mentioned before the president mentioned that even though the citizen chose Obama as a president the citizen also need to think about the job itself and the voting is like an action for the better America.
- c. I am hopeful tonight because I have seen this spirit at work in America. The function of the illocutionary acts in here is as a requesting. In here requesting in a way of giving a spirit to the citizen to manage oneself. The president gives the citizens spirit to work harder to make the better America for them.

2. Function of Illocutionary acts: Commisive

There were 7 data showing the category of commissive. Searle (2005) said that commissive has 2 branch there are promising and threat. The data that taken from Transcript of President Obama's Election Night Speech (2012), data below are categorized as a promising commissive function. The following lines are the explanation:

- a. And that is a legacy that we honor and applaud tonight. In the weeks ahead, I also look forward to sitting down with Governor Romney to talk about where we can work together to move this

- country forward. This data is categorized as promising, as it is mentioned that the president said that American citizen have battled but the battle is just for the better America only, after the battle is over the president promising to discuss together.
- b. Wants to make sure every child has that same opportunity. This data also categorized as promising. In here the president promising that every children in America has the same opportunities, there is no different level of life in America.
 - c. You'll hear the deep patriotism in the voice of a military spouse who's working the phones late at night to make sure that no one who fights for this country. This data categorized as promising based on the president speech reveal that the president just wants that the citizen only fought for the job and the president promise that deep patriotism exist.
 - d. We want our kids to grow up in a country where they have access to the best schools and the best teachers a country that lives up to its legacy as the global leader. This data also categorized as promising. In here the president promise to provides a good school for the kids and also provides a good teacher. Good teachers and good school can develop the way of thinking of kids and also good facilities make the kids comfortable for the learning process.
 - e. We want our children to live in an America that isn't burdened by debt. This is categorized as a promising because the president didn't want that the kids living in America with a debt. The president wants the kids live comfortable under his administration.
 - f. We want to pass on a country that's safe and respected and admired around the world, a nation that is defended by the strongest military on earth. This is categorized as a promising. In here the president promises that the country, America has a strongest military to make America safe.
 - g. America, I believe we can build on the progress we've made and continue to fight for new jobs and new opportunities and new security for the middle class. Did not matter whether you're black or white or Hispanic or Asian or Native American or young or old or rich or poor, abled, disabled, gay or straight. You can make it here in America if you're willing to try. This data categorized as a promising because of the last sentence, in that sentence the president said the entire citizen that stayed in America will get the same right no matter what is the condition of the citizen.
3. Function of Illocutionary acts: Representative
There are 7 data showing the category of representative. This data is

taken from Transcript of President Obama's Election Night Speech (2012), the following are the elaboration of the data:

- a. Tonight, more than 200 years after a former colony won the right to determine its own destiny, the task of perfecting our union moves forward. The function of this data is as asserting. Asserting function found on the way president explained about America destiny 200 years ago won from the colony.
- b. It moves forward because of you. The function of this data is as asserting. The president reaffirmed that the reason Obama won the election is because of the citizen.
- c. It moves forward because you reaffirmed the spirit that has triumphed over war and depression, The function of this data is as asserting. A form of affirmation carried out by the president in gave a spirit to the citizen to catch up the dream and also the speech told to the citizen to never give up to their dream.
- d. But if you ever get the chance to talk to folks who turned out at our rallies and crowded along a rope line in a high school gym or saw folks working late at a campaign office in some tiny county far away from home, you'll discover something else. The function of this data is as asserting. In here the president asserts the citizen about point of view that campaigns is not just small and even silly, if the others try to talked to the people who joined political campaign will discover a new perspective.
- e. It's not always a straight line. It's not always a smooth path. By itself, the recognition that we have common hopes and dreams won't end all the gridlock. The function of this data is as asserting. The asserting found in the way the president explained about the way or the path to be travelled is not easy and the progress doesn't run smoothly but the president never gives up to move the country forward.
- f. The role of citizens in our democracy does not end with your vote. America's never been about what can be done for us; it's about what can be done by us together. The function of this data is as asserting. In here the president asserts that even the election was over, doesn't mean that the role of citizen also ended. The president wants that every citizen that stayed and live in America keep monitoring the self-government.
- g. I am not talking about blind optimism. I have always believed that hope is that stubborn thing inside us that insists, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us so long as we have the courage to keep reaching, to keep working, to keep fighting. The function of this data is as asserting. The president emphasized the reluctance to provide empty hopes or sweet

dreams that obtained without working hard. To make it simply that to get something beautiful requires hard work. There is no significant result for a person who never tried.

4. Function of Illocutionary acts: Expressive

There are two categories showing the category of expressive. There are 7 data showing the category of expressive. From 7 data of the illocutionary acts of expressive, 6 data showing of the thanking and 1 data showing apologizing. In here, The following data were taken from Transcript of President Obama's Election Night Speech (2012) below are the elaboration of the data:

- a. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much. The function of this data is as thanking. This data showed that the president express the gratitude toward the people who participant the election and also all the citizen of America.
- b. I want to thank every American who participated in this election. The function of this data is as thanking. This data shows that the president thanked the American people who participated in the election and also all the citizen of America to made the election successful.
- c. Whether you voted for the very first time or waited in line for a very long time by the way, we have to fix that. The function of this data is as apologizing. As the expression of apologizing because

of the rules that made the citizen waited the line to give the voting rights, because of the guilty feeling of him, the president wants to fix the way of the rules.

- d. Whether you held an Obama sign or a Romney sign, you made your voice heard and you made a difference. The function of this data is as thanking. The president thanking to the citizen who gave the voting right and he also thank to the citizen who didn't choose him or giving the vot to him.
- e. I want to thank my friend and partner of the last four years, America's happy warrior, and the best vice president. The function of this data is as thanking. In here also mentioned that the president also thankful to all of the friends and also the vice president before that already stayed with him and did a great job as a vice president and also to all his friends.
- f. And I wouldn't be the man I am today without the woman who agreed to marry me 20 years ago. Let me say this publicly. Michelle, I have never loved you more. The function of this data is as thanking. The president also mentioned the first lady as the wife that accompanied the president during his job as a president and also accompanied as a wife. The president also feels blessed to have the first lady as the wife.
- g. To the best campaign team and volunteers in the history of politics are the best ever. The

function of this data is as thanking. The president also feels blessed for the volunteers and the team who are already struggling. Beside that he also thanked to the volunteer because the volunteer already sacrifice the time to support the president.

5. CONCLUSION

It was found four types of Searle's illocutionary acts; directive, commissive, representative and expressive from the speech acts in transcript of President Obama's Election Night Speech. There were 24 data of illocutionary acts which consisted of: 3 data; directive: 3 data showed request, 7 data was the type of commissive: 7 data is showed a promising, 7 data of the type of representative: 7 data showed of asserting. 7 data of the type of expressive: 6 data showed the thanking and 1 data showed apologizing.

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