

An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts Found in Joe Biden's Victory Speech as a President

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ABSTRACT

In this research the researcher discussed the Illocutionary Acts in the utterances of Joe Biden's Victory Speech as a President. The aim of this research is to find out the types of Illocutionary Acts and Identify the context in Joe Biden's Victory Speech as a President. The researcher uses qualitative descriptive analysis method. The researcher collects the data from the script, then classification of the types and describes contexts of Illocutionary Acts. Based on the theories, the data analyzed one by one based on the utterances to know the types and context of illocutionary acts used. In this research, the researcher analyzed fifty one data. From the analysis, the researcher found four types of Illocutionary Acts used by Joe Biden in his victory speech as a president. They are Representative (admitting, announcing, asserting, notifying, proposing, stating, and telling), Commissive (pledging, promising, and wishing), Expressive (apologizing, greeting, thanking, and praising), and Declarative (declaring).

Keywords: *Illocutionary act, representative, commissive, expressive, declarative.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication that used by human can speak each other's. According Falks (193; 59) he stated that in social activity, language always used by human. In communication each country has differences in speech. Based on Fernandez, M (2013) communication is a process of social interaction of human activities. Discussing about language, there are several branches in language such as linguistic, phonetics, phonology, semantics, pragmatics, morphology, syntax, psycholinguistic, stylistics, sociolinguistics, etc.

Language is closely associated with transmitting information and utterances from the speaker to the listeners. With language the speakers

can communicate with listener. In communication it requires understanding between the speaker and the listeners. Pragmatics examines how people communicate and understand more than the literal meaning of words or sentences when they speak, write, gesture, or in more general terms when they interpret and produce utterances.

Studying speech act is important to comprehend what message in every utterance. Moreover, some speech acts do not only have function in communicating, but also in producing the effects upon the thoughts, feelings, or actions of the speakers. Searle (1976) mentions that there are three types of speech acts; Locutionary Act, Illocutionary Act, and Perlocutionary Act. The locutionary act is related about the factual meaning from the

utterance, and the sentence can be trusted. The second is Illocutionary Act indicates from the speaker say the word based on the context to the listener. And the last, Perlocutionary Act indicates the sentence has statement to deliver to the people.

Speech act theory is originated by Austin. As an Austin, the speech act also developed by Searle. According Searle (1976) there are five illocutionary types. They are commissive, representative, expressive, directive, and declarative. The Illocutionary act can be found between speaker and listener.

There are utterances in speech delivered by speaker. Utterances of the speaker will be illocutionary act. Furthermore, the researcher so interests choose Joe Biden's victory speech as a president. Which the speech was published on November 08, 2020 on Washington post.

The objective of the research can be formulated as follows: To find out the types of Illocutionary Act found Joe Biden's victory speech as a president and Identifying the contexts underly Illocutionary acts used in Joe Biden's victory speech as a president.

Pragmatics is a study about meaning. It is the study of how people communicate by using language and discusses the meaning of language use, including the impact that context has on an utterance and the purposes that speakers intend to accomplish by choosing the means of speech. In addition, pragmatics is the study about how the speakers say something that has a meaning. There are many experts have argued about the definition of pragmatics. According

Yule (1996) Pragmatics is a lesson that discusses the significance of words passed on by the speaker or writer which is perceived by the listener or reader. Yule says that the study of pragmatics, listeners or readers can know the deeper meaning, assumptions, purpose and gesture of each speaker's words.

Language is able to influence many people including in politics. In giving speeches, the use of language greatly affects the listeners. The strength in speaking and the commitment of the speaker can be seen from the linguistics- political that the speaker uses in the speaker speech. According to Joseph (2006) "language reflects the speaker's intelligence, industry, and social worthiness level of exposure or education".

Yule (1996) states that the speaker's speech act has the result and purpose of the word that the speaker say to the listener. Speech acts are always used in everyday life when a speaker says something to a listener without saying in long words in communication, so that it can produce good results in communicating with one another.

According to Austin (1962), there are three types of speech act, they are:

1. Locutionary Act

According Austin (1969), he stated that locutionary act is in saying something in the sentence roughly equivalent with certain reference and in the traditional sentence. When the speaker says "the dangerous dog is in the garden", it means that outside the room or in

the park there is a dog that is dangerous.

2. Illocutionary Act

The theory that is often used in Illocutionary act is Austin and Searle's theory. According Wardhaugh (1986), Austin focuses on how the speaker conveys the meaning of the speaker speech, while Searle focuses more on how the listener responds to the speaker's speech.

3. Perlocutionary Act

The next of types of speech act is Perlocutionary act. Perlocutionary act is the effect the word from the speaker to the listener. According Stubbs (1983) Perlocutionary can be said when a speaker succeeds in giving feelings, thoughts, or actions to the listener or him/herself.

Based on Searle (1976), there are five types in Illocutionary act as following:

1. Representative

In uttering a representative, a speaker state what the speaker believes about something to be case or not as the speaker believes. The main representatives. Act are suggesting, asserting, stating, concluding, reporting, and complaining.

For example:

“I was not angry with you”

The sentence is an example of illocutionary act asserting. In the sentence, the speaker said the truth. To make clearly to the hearer, the

speaker says “was not” as the hearer believe on what the speaker say as the truth.

2. Directive

To get someone do something, the speaker can ask the hearer do something. It is can call directive. The typical this expression use imperative structure; however, there are several ways to show the expressions. Directive illocutionary act is often used. The main directive are requesting, ordering, commanding, advising, and recommending.

For example:

“May you close the door?”

In utterance is directive, especially requesting. The speaker wants the hearer to close the door. In saying “May you”. The speaker makes a request to hearer as the hearer close the door.

3. Commissive

Commissive Illocutionary acts is the act that promises the speaker do something to the hearer in the future. For the example:

“I will come back next week”

In utterance is a commissive especially do promise to hearer or reader. The speakers says that the speaker promise to come back the hearer next week. The speaker saying “I will come back”, the speaker make a promise to hearer and the speaker wants the hearer not worry about the speaker because the speaker will come back.

4. Expressive

Expressive is the act to show an express statement from the speaker. The action or a feeling from the speaker to the hearer to receive or to feel what the speaker action or feels.

For the example:

“Thank you for your wishes”.

In the utterance is a expressive illocutionary act especially thanking. From the sentence, the speaker says “thank you” to the hearer because the hearer give wishes to the speaker. In the utterance, the speaker express gratitude to someone.

5. Declarative

Declarative is the utterance that changes reality within the proposition. This types of illocutionary different from the another types in illocutionary act because the speaker statement can change the reality.

For the example:

“*You are guilty*”. (Fotion Nick, 2000:57)

In the utterance is a expressive illocutionary act especially declaring. The speaker says “guilty” to the hearer because the hearer did mistake to the speaker or to someone.

Related studies which there are many researchers which investigate speech act. The first research was conducted by Nuzulur Rohma (2008), entitled “*Illocutionary Acts Used By Characters „In The Man With The Heart In The Highlands” William Saroyan*”s. The researcher focused to

find out the types of illocutionary acts and how do the characters perform illocutionary acts in the drama. The result of this research, there are 4 types of illocutionary acts, namely representative act (asserting, suggesting, boasting, complaining, reporting, answering, and disagreeing). Directive act (ordering, commanding, requesting, and advising). Commissive act (agreeing, promising, and offering). And last expressive act (greeting, thanking, and apologizing).

The second research was conducted by Nur Azni Wardani (2011), entitled “*An Analysis Of Illocutionary Act In Prince Of Persia : The Sand Of Time Movie*”. The researcher focused to find out the context and classification of illocutionary acts used in *Prince of Persia : The Sand Of Time Movie*, and to understand the interpretasi between speaker and hearer in dialogue. The result of this research, the researcher finds 5 type of illocutionary acts. Representative (reporting, stating, and concluding), Directive (Ordering, asking, requesting, and command), Expressive (praising and appologizing), Commissive (refesual and pledging), and the last Declarative (Declaring).

2. METHOD

The used in this case by the researcher is descriptive qualitative research. According Creswell (1994) he stated that qualitative is a research that in natural setting involve participants that enables the researcher to develop a level of detail. The researcher may to develop the data in detail.

According Leedy and Ormrod (2001) In qualitative research, there are five different methods: First, Case

study; he stated that the case study about poorly understood the situation such as program, person or even. Second, Ethnography Study; the study about an entire group that common culture. Third, Phenomenological study; the study about “to understand an experience from the participants. Fourth, Content analysis study; the study to identifying patterns, themes or biases. And the last, grounded theory study; take data and develop it.

The instrument in this research is the researcher. According Sugiyono (2011) stated that the researcher is the key of the study. The researcher did sample retrieval, data source initiated purposive and snowball. The researcher also did analysis and collecting data. In collecting the data, the researcher used document analysis. In this matter, the researcher read the speech on Washington Post. The research tenderly, afterwards, the researcher identified and analyzed the types and context of illocutionary acts found in Joe Biden’s victory speech as a president.

In take the research, a data is needed. This case paper is conducted in the form of field research in which the data is taken naturally from the speech of president. The researcher browsed the text on script of Joe Biden’s victory speech from washingtonpost.com. Some steps have been taken to analyze the data in this research: 1). Reading the entire the utterances o script. 2). Categorized the data based on classification Illocutionary act. 3). Concluding the data that have been collected.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The researcher used the data from the utterances of Joe Biden’s victory

speech as a president. First, the researcher identified the types of illocutionary act. And the last, the researcher analyzed the context of Illocutionary act spoken by president.

Representative

1. Data 3

“Folks, the people of this nation have spoken. They’ve delivered us a clear victory, a convincing victory, a victory for we, the people. We’ve won with the most votes ever cast for a presidential ticket in the history of the nation. Seventy-four million”. From the utterance, it is obvious that Joe Biden’s illocutionary act is Representative. Biden said “We’ve won”. It is clear that this utterance is stating.

Based on the context, Biden told the audience present at the victory speech that Biden and his colleagues have won with the most votes ever cast for a presidential ticket in the history of the nation. Seventy-four million. Biden said that he won because the American people voted for him with clear victory, a convincing victory, a victory for them, the people.

2. Data 4

“Well, I must admit, it surprised me tonight.”

From that utterance, it is obvious that Joe Biden’s illocutionary act is Representative. Biden admits that he feels. It is apparent that this utterance is admitting.

Context-based, Biden said "admit" to listeners who have chosen him to become president. Biden admitted that he really did not expect that he would stand in front of the American public that night.

3. Data 5

“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.” It is evident from the utterance that Joe Biden's illocutionary act is Representative. Biden told the listeners "we're seeing". It is obvious that Stating is this utterance.

Commissive

1. Data 7

“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.”

From the pronunciation, it is obvious that Joe Biden’s illocutionary act is Commissive. Biden said “I pledge” to the American people. It is clear that this utterance is pledging.

Based on background, Biden said “pledge” in which he promised to American people that by elected president, Joe Biden will unite the American people regardless of who they are. He also promised not to see where they came from, such as red states (Texas) and blue states (California).

2. Data 8

“I’ll work with all my heart, with the confidence of the whole people, to win the confidence of all of you. And for that is what America, I believe, is about. It’s about people. And that’s

what our administration will be all about.” From the utterance, it is obvious that Joe Biden’s illocutionary act is Commissive. Biden said “I will” to the American people. It is clear that this utterance is Promising.

Based on context, Biden said “will” to American people. Joe Biden promised to American people that he would work sincerely so that the American people would not be disappointed.

3. Data 22

“You’ve always had my back, and I’ll have yours.” From the utterance, it is obvious that Joe Biden’s illocutionary act is Commissive. Biden said “I will have yours” to the American people. It is clear that this utterance is Promising.

Based on the context, the American people have supported Biden to become a president and Biden promised the American people that Biden always support them.

Expressive

1. Data 1

“My fellow Americans, and the people who brought me to the dance.” From the point of view, it is obvious that Joe Biden’s illocutionary act is Expressive. Biden said “the people who brought me to the dance”. It is clear that this utterance is Thanking.

Based on context, Biden thanks to his fellow American and the people who have brought him victory to become president.

2. Data 2

“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. Anyway, Folks, the people of this nation have spoken."

From the utterance, it is obvious that Joe Biden's illocutionary act is Expressive, especially greeting.

3. Data 6

"And I'm humble by the trust and confidence you placed in me."

From the utterance, it is obvious that Joe Biden's illocutionary act is Expressive. Biden said "I'm humble" to the listeners. It is clear that this utterance is Thanking.

Declarative

1. Data 20

"I owe you. I owe you. I owe you everything".

From the utterance, it is obvious that Joe Biden's illocutionary act is Declarative. Biden said "I owe you". It is clear that this utterance is Declaring.

Based on the context, Biden declares to the American people who have chosen him and his team that he owes everything. He is indebted for what they have sacrificed for Biden's success as president.

Data Interpretation

In this research, the researcher mostly found representative in Joe Biden's victory speech as a president. Representative is utterances which represent the state of affair in the world

and hence they must commit the speaker to the truth of the expression. In Joe Biden's speech, he often convince the audience to believe that America will be a fair, united, safe country and be the center of the world during his government. In representative classifications that are often used by Joe Biden's victory speech as a president, the researcher mostly found stating in Joe Biden's speech. It can be seen from his speech "I sought this office to restore the soul of America, to rebuild the backbone of this nation: the middle class. And to make America respected around the world again. And to unite us here at home". It is clear, the stating to nations America that he would turn America into a better period.

4. CONCLUSION

In analyzes language, understanding the speech situation is one aspect that must be done. One of the aspects of the speech situation that is important in pragmatic learning is analyzes the context. By analyzing context, it can influence and make it easier for listeners or readers to describe the situation where illocutionary act of utterances occur. In this research, the researcher analyzed context of the situation as background knowledge to assume the utterances shared by Joe Biden's as a speaker.

The researcher has found and analyzed fifty two data in the utterances of Joe Biden that classified Illocutionary Acts theory by Jhon Searle. Such as, Representative, Directive, Commisive, Expressive, and Declarative. From the data analysis of chapter three, the researcher classified Illocutionary Acts that occurs in Joe Biden's utterances in four types. They

are Representative (*stating, admitting, proposing, asserting, suggesting, announcing, telling, and notifying*), Commissive (*pledging, promising, and wishing*), Expressive (*thanking, greeting, praising, and apologizing*), Declarative (*declaring*), and there is no Directive found in this research.

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