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# ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS OF DONALD TRUMP'S CONGRESS SPEECH

## TINDAKAN ILOKUSI PADA PIDATO KONGRES DONALD TRUMP

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#### **Abstract**

This research focuses to finding out what the types of illocutionary act are found in Donald Trump's Congress speech were, and What the meanings of illocutionary types are found in Donald Trump's Congress speech were. In this design, the researcher has used qualitative and document analysis as method. The data analysis was performed by categorizing the data based on Searle's categorization of speech acts which include assertive, directives, commissives, expressive, and declaratives. Each category was, then, through observed to find the answer of the second research question. Document of Donald Trump's Speech is the main instrument of the data. After doing the research, the research found the types of illocutionary acts found in Donald Trump's Congress Speeches consist of assertive, commissives, and expressive. Then, The researcher has found the meanings of illocutionary types that found in Trump speeches included of socializing the nation's agenda and ensuring the audience are interested to collaborate with America government in realizing the nation's project. The results of this study expected to give consideration in the study about speech acts, especially in pragmatics. And also give contribution for education, this research is beneficial for linguistics lectures and language learners.



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Keywords: Speech Acts, Illocutionary Acts, Assertive, Directives, Commissives, Expressive.

#### Introduction

Humans are social being, which means that humans cannot live without the help of others. As social beings, humans must be able to communicate well with others because humans need to say something to their interlocutors during the communication process. According to Wardhaugh (2006:1) stated that when two or more people communicate with each other in speech, we can call the system of communication that they employ a code.

In daily communication, people use language as their media. When they use language, they produce utterance in certain contexts. According to Saeed (2009:12-13), an utterance is created by speaking (or writing) a piece of language. According to Kreidler (2002: 26-27), an utterance is an act of speech or writing; it is a specific event, at a particular time and place and involving at least one person, the one who produces the utterance, but usually more than one person. Based on those explanations, utterances are commonly used in conversations between two or more people with a particular time and place. It is quite different with the definition of the sentence.

According to Kreidler (2002: 27) stated that a sentence, on the other hand, is not an event; it is a construction of words (in English or whatever language) in a particular sequence which is meaningful (in that language). In learning the language, we will automatically learn about speech, for the example when in the procession of marriage we find the utterance "I pronounce you man and wife" is not just an utterance, but also has the meaning that a man is a legitimate husband and wife. We need to learn every utterance because every utterance has a different meaning. By learning the utterances we will avoid misunderstanding to interpret the words of each person.

Study of pragmatic is guiding us in selecting meaning. In pragmatics, there is meaning that described between the speaker and hearer by observing the context. In communication, context is important to help the hearer to understand the speaker's intention. In the study of pragmatics includes context, deixis, presupposition, and speech acts. Speech acts are the focus of this research.

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In pragmatics there are three types of acts there are locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. In this study, the researcher will analyze the type and meaning of the types of illocutionary acts, especially in speech. It is important to know the meaning of illocutionary acts because the speaker has many possibilities to interpret the meaning of the utterance. The types of illocutionary acts will be identified in Donald Trump's speech.

The researcher interests to identify Donald Trump's congress speech because this speech in this speech, Donald Trump will use a language which can be understood by everyone, and to persuade the audience to join his new agendafor America. Then, with find out illocutionary acts in Donald Trump's speech will give the information to the reader that there is the explicit meaning of Donald Trump's speech, so the utterances can be interpreted truthfully. this research is give contribution in education, and this research is beneficial for linguistics lectures and language learners. This research also gives information to the reader how important to know the meaning in every utterance and grow the reader's interest to learn more about speech acts.

#### **Research Methods**

In this study the researcher used qualitative research. The researcher used document analysis as the method. The method is used to collect the data, classifies, analyzes, and then draws the conclusion from analyzed data. The researcher will analyze the transcript of Donald Trump's speech. The source of data is video of Donald Trump' congress speech. And the data is the utterance from Donald Trump's congress speech which contains of illocutionary acts. The main instrument of the research is document of Donald Trump' speech. The document is transcript of Donald Trump's congress speech. The data analysis was performed by categorizing the data based on Searle's categorization of speech acts which include assertive, directives, commissives, expressive, and declaratives. Each category was, then, through observed to find the answer of the second research question.

#### **Results and Discussion**

The findings of the research regarding the types and meaning of illocutionary acts found in Donald Trump's Congress speech as follows:



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1. The Types of Illocutionary Actsare found in Donald Trump's Congress Speech.

#### a. Assertive

Assertive have the idea of what the speakers belief to be true. There are five kinds of assertive acts found in Donald Trump's Congress speech. They consist of informing, asserting, and stating. Those types of assertive are explained as follows.

The first act is informing. In delivering speech, Trump performed many acts of informing. The information he delivered deals with the real condition of America.

i) What we are witnessing today is the renewal of American Spirit.(D:1/S:11)

The second act of assertive is asserting. The data show that Trump asserted the audience that he delivers the message deeply from his heart and also he asserted the audience that America is once again ready to lead. This is supported by the following sentence.

i) I am here tonightto deliver a message of unity and strength, and it is a message deeply delivered from my heart. (D:1/S:7)

The last act of assertive is stating. The statement that Trump makes deal with the description that he had made earlier. He informed about changing the trade, laws, and immigration system in America. Although the changes are difficult to carry out, it is must since he believes that it will be possible if they are work to as presented in the speech excerpt below.

i) I believe strongly in free trade but it also has to be FAIR TRADE. (D:1/S:94)

# b. Directives

Directive is used by the speaker to get addressee to do something. By performing this act, the speakers intended to produce some effects through action on the hearers. The directives acts found in Donald Trump's congress speech are suggesting and requesting. They are explained as follows.

The act of directives that found in Donald Trump speech is requesting. In his speech, Trump gave a lot of information to the audience and asked the

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audience to think of own citizens first can make America great again. Trump also requested the audience to think about the wonders in America's 250<sup>th</sup> years and marvels that can achieve with just set free the dreams of American people.

i) Imagine the wonders our country could know in America's 250th year.(D:1/S:221)

#### c. Commissives

Commissives are acts which commit the speaker to some future actions. The acts of commissive performed by Trump in his speech are promising and offering. Based on the data, Trump promised in his speech. He promises that he will not allow the mistakes in the past define the course of the future America. The act of promising presented in the data below.

i) I will not allow the mistakes of recent decades past to define the course of our future. (D:1/S:17)

Instead of the nation's agenda, Trump also promises to overcome the problem that may faced by American citizens and Government. The problems is related to jobs, protect the great companies and workers in America. This is supported by the data below.

i) I am going to bring back millions of jobs. (D:1/S:98)

The second act of commissive is offering. In this speech, Trump offered cooperation with new partnership which has the same interests align to achieve the entire goals. This is indicates that Trump wants to find new partnership to work together with him and his member. The act of offering is presented by the sentence below.

i) America is willing to find new friends, and to forge new partnerships, where shared interests align. (D:1/S:209)

## d. Expressive

Expressive are speech acts that express a psychological state. These acts express the speaker's inner state that says nothing about the world. The acts which belong to this category are thanking, state of pleasure, and saluting,. They elaborate below.

The first expressive act is thanking. Trump thanks to all audience for coming in his presentation. This act shows an expression of thanking and also has function as a opening closing mark of the speech. The sentences showing thanking are presented as follows.



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i) Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, the First Lady of the United States, and Citizens of America. (D:1/S:1)

The second act of expressive found in Donald Trump's Congress speech is state of pleasure. Trump expressed his pleasure since he got opportunity to share about his meeting with Harley Davidson by saying "In fact, they proudly displayed five of their magnificent motorcycles, made in the USA, on the front lawn of the White House. (D:1/S:88). After that, Trump continues tell all audience about what they have discussed.

The last act of expressive acts found in Donald Trump's Congress speech is saluting. He said "They told me -- without even complaining, because they have been mistreated for so long that they have become used to it -- that it is very hard to do business with other countries because they tax our goods at such a high rate"(D:1/S:91). He said that because he is salute with American company, Harley Davidson. Because they have been mistreated for so long, and they have faced very hard business with other countries and they have become used to it.

# 2. The Meanings of Illocutionary Types are found in Donald Trump's Congress Speech.

#### a. Assertives

Assertives, the form of the speech that binds the speakers at the truth or fact. Such as: informing, convincing, questioning, describing, and stating.

In "Since my election, Ford, Fiat-Chrysler, General Motors, Sprint, Softbank, Lockheed, Intel, Walmart, and many others, have announced that they will invest billions and billions of dollars in the United States and will create tens of thousands of new American jobs. (D:1/S:34)" based on the context, shows that as the president of United Stated Trump has the duty to make United Stated more prosperity, and this utterance also indicate that the speaker tells about the truth, so this utterance refers to informing. The utterance has a meaning to informall audience that there are many companies that will be investing billions and billions dollars in United States.

In this speech "I am here tonightto deliver a message of unity and strength, and it is a message deeply delivered from my heart."(D:1/S:7)based

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on the context, when performed this act Trump made a gesture with his hand, pointing himself when he said "from my heart." The gesture shows that the speaker gives assertion of the preposition. So, this utterance refers to asserting. Trump performed his act means that he deliver the message deeply delivered from his heart.

Last, In this speech, "I believe strongly in free trade but it also has to be FAIR TRADE. (D:1/S:94)" it was stating. The reason why this datum was stating because based on the context, as the president of United Stated, Trump wants to make a Fair Trade. Because, it has been a long time since they had a fair trade. The utterance shows that the speaker has belief that America can be having a fair trade.

# b. Directives

Directives, namely the form of speech intended to the hearers to do something. Such as: ordering, suggesting, requesting, advising, and recomanding.

In "I am asking all citizens to embrace this Renewal of the American Spirit. (D:1/S:242)" it was requesting. The reason why this datum is requesting, because based on the context, Trump needs help to achieve all the goals of the new projects for United Stated. And the utterance indicates that the speaker intended the hearer to do something. The utterance has a meaning that Trump requested the audience to think of the marvels if they just set free the dreams of Americans people.

# c. Commissives

Commissives, namely the form of speech that deals with acts to commit the speaker to some future actions. Such as: promising, vowing, and offering.

In this research, the researcher just found two kinds of commissives act, they are; promising and offering. In, "I will not allow the mistakes of recent decades past to define the course of our future.(D:1/S:17)" it was promising. The reason why this datum is promising, because based on the context, when delivering this utterance Trump gives the straight expression. And this utterance indicates that the speaker will commit some future course of action. This utterance has a meaning that President Trump promised the audience that he will not allow the past mistakes defines the future America.

The second is offering, in "America is willing to find new friends, and to forge new partnerships, where shared interests align.(D:1/S:219)" it was offering. The reason why this datum is offering because the utterance indicate that the speaker will comit some future course of action. In this utterance has a meaning



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that President Trump will find a new friend to cooperation with him which has the same interests aligned to achieve the entire goals.

# d. Expressives

Expressives, namely the nature of speech that serves to express feelings to the hearers when they speak. Such as: thanking, state of pleasure, and saluting.

In the speech, "thank you very much Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, the First Lady of the United States, and Citizens of America.(D:1/S:1)" it was thanking. The reason why this datum is thanking because based on the context, Trump has the opportunity to delivering thespeech for the first time in Congress. This utterance also indicates that the speaker expressed his feeling of thanking. This utterance has the meaning that Donald Trump expressed feeling of thanking because he has the opportunity to delivering the speech in Congress.

In the speech, "In fact, they proudly displayed five of their magnificent motorcycles, made in the USA, on the front lawn of the White House." (D:1/S:88) it was state of pleasure. The reason why this datum is state of pleasure because based on the context, Trump made a gesture with smiling when he delivering this utterance. This utterance also indicates that the speaker shows his feeling of pleasure to Harley Davidson. The meaning of this utterance is President Trump wanted to share his feeling of pleasure to all audience that he just met with a great American company, Harley-Davidsons.

The last, In "They told me -- without even complaining.(D:1/S:91)" it was saluting. The reason why this datum is saluting because based on the context, Trump gives a gesture with his head when he said "they told me without even complaining" he shakes his head for a moment. It means that, Trump cannot believe that they not complaining, although they have been mistreated for so long. The utterance also indicates that the speaker expressed the feeling of saluting. The utterance has a meaning that President Trump salutes with the company of Harley Davidson because they were mistreated for so long but they told Donald Trump without even complaining about that.

## Conclusion

There are four types illocutionary acts found in Donald Trump's Congress speech selected speeches i.e assertives, directives, commissives, and expressive. Trump performed different types of illocutionary acts such as assertive,

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directives, commissives, and expressive due to various meanings. Firstly, Trump performed assertive acts has the various meanings include Trump want to socializing the nation's agenda and ensuring the audience are interested to collaborate with America government in realizing the nation's project. Secondly, Trump performing directive acts have the various meanings include Trump wants all audience to support him to do the reformations in America and he wanted American people to solving the problem in America directly. Thirdly, Trump performed commissive acts has various meaning include Trump wanted to build the audience trust to his administration that it can be better than the previous one and he had many infrastructure project which need support from new investor. Fourthly, Trump performed expressive acts has various meaning include Trump wanted to share his feeling of pleasure with all audience, he wanted to express his feeling of thanking to the audience, and he wanted to show his feeling of saluting to Harley Davidson.

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