

## An Analysis of Speech Act Found in Bernie Sander's Speech: A Pragmatics Case

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### ABSTRACT

Speech Act is the utterance that used by speaker in his communication that used to convey meaning from speaker to the listener that essential in communication. Speech act consist of three types, those are Locutionary Act, Illocutionary act and Perlocutionary Act. The researchers choose Bernie Sander's speech because it deems as worthy to be analyzed to find its speech act. (1) What kinds of illocutionary acts does Bernie Sander use in his speech, ask the researchers, as a result of the research problems? 2. What are the most prevalent illocutionary acts used by Bernie Sander during his speech? 2. This study was done using qualitative research and the method of document or content analysis. The researchers used script speech by Bernie Sander's speech in his speech about staying in Presidential race to be analyzed to find its types of illocutionary act used Searle Speech Act theory, there are Assertive, Directives, Expressive, Commisive, and Declarative. The researchers found twenty-one (21) data from Bernie Sander's speech that show the existence of types of illocutionary act. There are 4 types of illocutionary act which found in the speech, such as Assertives, Directives, Expressives, and Commisives, and only Declarative type not exist in the speech. And based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that assertive acts account for 72% of all illocutionary acts used in speech, followed by directives with 4% and expressive with 3%. (12 percent).

**Keywords:** *Illocutionary Act, Speech Act, Speech.*

### INTRODUCTION

Human in their existence need to interact with one and another which this interaction use as means to gather information, convey some expression or message and to build relation which human need in their life as beings that need to socialize which one of their feature. To make this things possible human need language. Alshami (2019:1) states language is a way of human kind to spread their thoughts, ideas, feelings, and emotions with one and another. Language is the tool that makes communication among people possible. Human live in the world where many things need to be done with communication which it means human need know how to utilize the language of the world to procure and deliver information and to create correspondence among individual in the world.

Noumianty (2016:1) states that language is a media used in expressing ideas, thoughts and feelings used in written and oral communication. In this communication, human brings his intention which carries certain meaning such as informing, persuading, asking and etc. All language processes have meaning, from sender to receiver through language user narration. This communication happens by the act of speaking and writing which carried toward the

receiver that required the act of reading and listening to accept what the sender want to communicate. The communication happens in the form of conversation, written text or audio. Language user that use their ability of speaking use their oral ability through word and sentences that spoken which has expression that contain what the language user want to deliver toward its receiver or listener. One way that speaker use to carry what want to be delivered is through the way of speech.

Speech is verbal way of communicating ideas and expression directly toward the listener. Stalnaker in Medi (2015:1) said that speech is the means of expressing thought in word that was delivered toward certain audience. Speech is the manner in which a speaker addresses a specific audience in order to orate or deliver a message through spoken speech. It is the ability that require speaker who has knack of delivering written, prepared or spontaneous speaking that address something that can be delivered with word and sentence that can capture listener attention and impart message or intention toward the listener.

When the speaker makes a speech, he or she establishes functions for the audience or causes an event. The speaker conveys the message that effectuates the listener which sparks certain impression toward the listener. The speaker when giving its speech not merely give information or message but also there are an action that take place. The idea that from the speech there are also exist acts or function that it tries to utter, it is called speech act.

Speech act is the element that show what a sentence used for or the function from the existing meaning in the sentence which it tries to utter (Pardede and Herman, 2020; Caroline et al, 2021). It is aspect that exist when speaker making the process of speaking, which making the act of giving information and the request on the audience to do something from accepting the message. Wijana (2021:14) states that Speech act is any kind of act that could potentially be occurred by speaker in conducting its utterance.

For example: "Your radio sounds too noisy!"

This utterance does not merely indicate the speaker refer to how noisy the radio is, but also to ask the radio owner to turn down the volume of the radio. The speaker's intent can be deduced from his or her context and actual expression or meaning by looking at the intention from a semantic perspective. All acts that referred are what was done, what was said, and the act of affecting when any process of language happened. It is the element that makes a sentence inside the communication keep flowing as the function or the acts make the meaning of an expression or sentence reaches its aim.

These acts based on theory of Searle in his works. When language is used as a communication tool, Searle in Rahardi (2005:35-36) claims that three types of acts take place: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts (Pasaribu et al, 2019). For instance: there sentence "I would like some orange, could you buy it for me?" This sentence has acts of expressing the aspiration of the speaker for orange and also its act of ordering for someone to buy it for him. All sentences in the existence have speech acts in it that occur as function that shows the meaning of the sentence.

According to Wijana (2021:18), in conducting illocutionary act, it is the speaker that say something with what the speaker means to the hearer based on what the speaker tries to express or want to convey certain action. Illocutionary Acts always happen in all speech as it shows the function and act as something to show what was the speaker try to uttered. Speech

is the act of saying things that based on real situation that take place (Sihombing et al, 2021). Therefore, when the speaker performs the speech, it need to put an act of illocutionary act in order to make the speech achieve its goal as utterance or something that the speaker want to address toward its audience. Thus in every speech there are illocutionary acts taking place that show how an utterance has an expression or meaning it carries toward the listener.

This claim is made by Searle in Rahardi (2005:35-36), who claims that illocutionary speech acts consist of five different speech categories, each of which has a communicative function in the sentence (Herman, 2015; Hutajulu and Herman, 2019). All these types show what speaker was trying to act on its speech. It is the Expression that contain inside each sentence inside the speaker utterance especially in a speech which contain message or a request from the speaker toward the audience. For instance, when a speaker in his speech utter “I as the leader of this nation express gratitude that today our nation scientist has found the cure for that may end the pandemic”, from this sentence it can be procured that the speech category is an expressive speech category from the message that the speaker tries to express his gratitude because some good news. The speaker intention, message and expression can be identified and classified in these speech categories.

In the form of language communication such as speech, there are speech acts that can be analyzed from the utterance of the speaker when the speaker trying to give its speech which is to try to give message or information but also show the need to reach the audience to give message or conveying certain imperative to the audience. The speaker tries to reach its goal by utilizing the function of speech act as Carla (2021:1) stated speech acts are utilized when the speaker tries to state an apology, complaint, compliment, request, greeting, invitation, rebuttal or refusal to the audience (Thao et al, 2020). Every sentence that the speaker utters in front of the audience has message that being communicated from speaker to the audience. It is the way of speaker to manage to achieve the audience attention that put impression and message among its audience.

The phenomena of speech act often occur in communication especially in speaking in which the speaker need to impart the exact meaning and expression toward the. The functions and meaning of speech acts are important to understand because they reveal what the speaker is trying to communicate. Nurdiansyah (2018:2) asserts that if communication is not properly understood, the recipient may receive the speaker's meaning in words or sentences in a different or incorrect way. For the example researchers find speech acts in one of line of Bernie Sander's Speech in his speech:

“Yes, the wealthy and multi-national corporations in this country will start paying their fair share of taxes. We are going to end austerity for working families, and provide some austerity for large, multi-national corporations.

Today, we say to the military-industrial-complex that we will not continue to spend \$700 billion a year on the military – more than the next ten nations combined. We're going to invest in affordable housing, we're going to invest in public education, we're going to invest in rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure – not more nuclear weapons and never-ending wars.

”

This sentence includes in types of illocutionary act namely Representative. This kind of

Illocutionary act use to when the speaker trying to show a representing fact of something to the audience.

According to Usman (2017:2), speech acts as one aspect of pragmatic study exists to observe the intention behind utterances (Sitanggang et al, 2020). Therefore, it need be known what the actual context and meaning that the speaker tries to utter by knowing the Illocutionary acts to avoid misunderstanding which researchers deem important to understand the intention or purpose correctly, so that the goal of the communication can be reached.

Previous studies have attempted to conduct research on the topic of speech act. "Illocutionary Speech Acts Analysis in Tom Cruise's Interview" was done by Haucsa, Marzuki, Alek, and Hidayat in (2020). This study is part of a larger project to analyze Tom Cruise's interview for illocutionary speech acts. This study aims to describe the types and functions of illocutionary speech acts used by the interviewer and Tom Cruise in their conversation. This study describes the most and least used illocutionary speech acts found in interviews, as well as how often they are used. Thus, the interviewee often uses his utterance to assert or explain things that he believes are facts, as the researchers explained.

Because this speech contains utterances that utter from the speaker to the listener and can be analyzed to determine what kind of illocutionary acts were used by the speaker toward its listener, the researchers chose the Bernie Sander Speech in Brooklyn, New York. It was also chosen because of the content of his speech, which described all of the current problems and raised questions about each one. He believes that his ideas can help solve the problem. His speech style is direct which not using any big words or esoteric word that may make confusion and description that he tries to show with his speech is clear and easy to be discern that able to reach the listener from different background. On this research, the researchers try to analyze the speech act of the speech using Searle's Theory. Through this research it can be found all speech category of Illocutionary Acts that found on the Bernie Sander's speech and the percentage of its speech act to show which speech category more dominant.

## **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

### **A. Research Design**

An exploratory qualitative research approach is used to conduct this study. In qualitative research, obtaining data from sentences is a key feature. Sugiyono (2014:21) quotes Bogdan and Biklen as saying that the qualitative descriptive method is the method used to collect data in the form of words or pictures rather than number. This research was conducted in Qualitative Method due to the reason that it is the research that try to make analysis that resulting in the answer of understand and find the illocutionary acts in the Bernie Sander's Speech which the type of the data is speech text that comprise of speech categories of Illocutionary speech acts that not based on statistic numerical data. The type of qualitative research that this research used was content analysis. Ormrod (2015:12) states content analysis is usually also carried out on human communication styles as books, newspapers, personal journals, official documents, films, television, art, music, human interaction video recordings, voice communication transcripts, and net journals and bulletin board entries. This research applied content analysis because the data of the research was in form of script which the researchers analyze the content of the script to find out the speech act in the speech in order to answer the problem of the research.

Research design is used to make the researchers' research effectively to address the research problem logically and as unambiguously as possible. Qualitative data cannot be analyzed in numerical and numbers the same comprehensive way as quantitative results, so can only give a guide to phenomena and things that happening. Descriptive data made the researchers a research that can be understood by the reader as this method of research show how the researchers obtained the data, because it allows them to evaluate the quality of the results, and also allows the reader to make their own decision about the validity of the data.

### **B. Data Source of the Research**

The data source of the research was in form of transcript. This research used the transcript of the speech by Bernie Sander at Speech at Brooklyn, New York in 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 as the primary data. The speech script was can be seen <https://vtdigger.org/2019/03/02/full-text-sen-bernie-sanders-2020-presidential-campaign-kickoff-speech/>.

The data is the words that found in the speech, and that data will be analyzed with the theory of speech act by Searle and Austin. The data were collected by identifying the words Bernie Sander said in his speech.

### **C. Instrument of the Research**

Researchers employed note-taking as a research tool. Note-taking is a technique for collecting data by writing down findings from oral or written presentations on note cards (Ray, 2005 in Umar, 2016:21). This research garnering data with tools of note taking with media of computer and books that write down necessary data and all information that useful in conducting the analysis.

### **D. Technique of Data Collection**

In order to make the research reached its goal there are procedure and steps that already being determine as the guide and pace on collecting the data from the source that is essential on the progress of the research. The researchers used documentation on procuring the data. When it comes to documentation, Creswell (2010) in Thao et al. (2021) says that using books, transcripts, newspaper and magazine articles as well as meeting notes and ancient inscription and agenda is the best way to find the relevant data.

The researchers used the following steps of collecting data:

There were steps that the researchers must take in order to get goal-oriented of this research, such as:

1. Search the website that contain the transcript of the speech
2. Download the transcript
3. Identify the data that describe speech act which collected from the speech transcript.
4. Classify the data on the type of speech act which suit to each utterance.
5. Interpret the utterances to find the speaker intention.
6. Make the conclusion based on the analyzed data.

The steps and the procedure are put forth as the main line to collect the data which require process that must be conducted from first step to the final step that fulfill all requirements in collecting all the data from the source and process it in conducting the research.



### E. Technique of Data Analysis

The researchers used the content analysis on this research because researchers collected data and analyze data to get research results. Researchers used documentation as the way to gather the data. The data was analyzed based on Searle and Austin's speech act theory. Purba and Herman (2020) cite Sugiyono (2007) as saying that data analysis occurs after the information from the sources has been gathered. Systematically applying to describe and illustrate data is called data analysis (Thao and Herman, 2021). Researchers analyzed the speech per sentence by classify each sentences on its type of illocutionary acts and analyze the keyword that show the sentence belong in certain type of illocutionary act.

The researchers used percentage to conclude the most dominant types of illocutionary acts in the data by using the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Total types frequency of the sub category} \times 100 \%}{\text{Total types of all categories}}$$

The researchers applied this formula by adding certain types of the data frequency that identified inside the speech and times it with 100 percent and divide it with the total types of all categories of the illocutionary act to find the percentage of every types of illocutionary acts inside the speech

In conducting this research, the researchers provided some ways to analyze the data as following:

1. Code the data.
2. Classify each sentence based on its type of illocutionary act.
3. Calculate the amount of each types of illocutionary acts in the speech.
4. Drawing the conclusion

## RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### RESEARCH FINDINGS

#### 1. Types of Illocutionary Act

After the researchers procured the result of the analysis from the data of the Bernie Sander's Speech by using Searle Speech Act Theory, the researchers found total of 25 Data of Illocutionary Acts which consist of 18 Assertive Data, 4 Directive Data, 3 Expressive Data, 0 Commissive Data and 0 Declarative Data.

**Table 1. Illocutionary act used in the speech of Mark Zuckerberg**

No	Types of Illocutionary Act	Frequency
1.	Assertives	18
2.	Directives	4
3.	Expressives	3
4.	Commissives	0
5.	Declarations	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

## 2. The Most Dominant Types of Illocutionary Act

There are 31 Data that researchers found in the speech of Bernie Sander's Speech.

**Table 2. The percentage of Illocutionary Act in speech by Mark Zuckerberg**

No	Types of Illocutionary Act	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Assertive	18	72 %
2.	Directives	4	16 %
3.	Expressive	3	12%
4.	Commissive	0	0%
5.	Declarative	0	0 %
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100 %</b>

From the table, it can be seen the amount of each type of illocutionary act based on the percentage. From the 25 identified data it can be seen there are 18 Assertive data (72%), 4 Directive data (16 %), 3 Expressive data (12%), 0 Commissive data (0%) and 0 Declarative data (0%). From the percentage it can be inferred that the most dominant Illocutionary act in the Bernie Sander's speech was Assertive data with 72 % from all the data.

## DISCUSSION

After analyzing the data based on the theory of Searle (1969), the researchers would like to discuss topic that relates of this research. Based on the phenomenon speech act often happens when do communication, people do not understand what the speaker say, so it is make miss understanding of communication. So the researchers were interested to analyze of speech act, but more than focus in types of illocutionary act found in speech by Bernie Sander in Iowa about He staying in the Presidential Race

According to the findings of this study, there are five different types of illocutionary acts used by Bernie Sander in his speech: assertiveness, directiveness, expressionism, and commissiveness. Assertive is the most common personality type used by Bernie Sander, and the researchers discovered 14 examples of assertive behavior. The findings led the researchers to discover several differences as well as similarities between previous studies' findings and those from this new study. In contrast to previous research, the 2020 study by Haucsa, Marzuki, Alek, and Hidayat. Speech Acts in Tom Cruise's Interview: An Analysis of Illocutionary Ones This study is part of a larger project to analyze Tom Cruise's interview for illocutionary speech acts. When comparing Searle's Speech Act Theory to other theories, it is important to remember that both use speech act theory to analyze speech types and the dominant communicative function of the illocutionary act. This study is different from previous studies in that it looked at perlocutionary speech, whereas previous studies looked at dialog rather than a speech.

The researchers implied that Bernie Sander speech does contain illocutionary act mostly Assertive Act, and by knowing the speech act of his speech it can be known his intention behind his speech that is trying to assert his vision in his campaign and invite his supporter to help him.

## CONCLUSION

This research is conducted to find the types of illocutionary act, and the most dominant type

of illocutionary act that used in the Bernie Sander's speech. After analyzing the data in previous point, the researchers concluded that:

1. This research focused to find types of illocutionary act in the speech of Bernie Sander. There are five types of illocutionary act found in the Bernie Sander's speech based on Searle Speech Act Theory. They are 18 assertive data, 4 directives data, 3 expressives data, 0 commissives data, and 0 declaration data found in Bernie Sander's speech. The total data from every utterance by Bernie Sander in speech has 25 data.

2. Researchers found that Bernie Sander used the assertive act as the most prevalent illocutionary act in his speech based on the percentage of his speech in which it was used.

This finding addressed the issue of whether or not the speaker's speech contained illocutionary acts, with the Assertive act being the most frequently employed type of illocutionary act. As a result of this study, we can infer that the way speakers and writers use language helps listeners and readers understand what they are saying.

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