

## ILLOCUTIONARY ACT ON DONALD TRUMP'S SPEECH "CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE BRIEFING" IN 2020

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### Abstract

This research aimed at identifying the type of illocutionary act and the function of illocutionary act in President Donald Trump's speech about Coronavirus Task Force Briefing in 2020. This research was designed by using Qualitative research method. The data was analyzed by using the theory of Miles, et all (2014:31-33). The result of this research showed that there were five types illocutionary act namely: verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives, and expositives. Those illocutionary act found function to as evaluate, suggest, advice, promise, appreciate, and explain. Based on the results, it can be concluded expositives become as the dominant types of illocutionary act used in Donald Trump's speech. It is suggested that illocutionary should be learned and more understand deeply.

**Key words:** *Speech Act; Illocutionary Act; Script*

### Abstrak

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi tipe dan makna ilokusi pada pidato president Donald Trump tentang Coronavirus Task Force Briefing in 2020. Penelitian ini di desain dengan menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Data ini dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori dari Miles, et all (2014:31-33). Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada lima tipe ilokusi yaitu : verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives, and expositives. Tipe-tipe tersebut berfungsi untuk mengevaluasi, menyarankan, menasehati, berjanji, mengapresiasi, dan menjelaskan. Berdasarkan dari hasil tersebut dapat disimpulkan bahwa expositives merupakan tipe yang paling banyak ditemukan pada pidato Donald Trump. Penelitian ini disarankan dapat dipelajari dan dipahami lebih dalam.*

**Kata Kunci :** *Tindak tutur; Tindak ilokusi; Naskah*

### A. Introduction

Pragmatics is the study of how language is used in communication. Therefore, in pragmatics, we study about speaker's meaning that is how meaning is communicated based on its context. Pragmatics is concerned with the study of

meanings as communicated by a speaker (writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). It means that more to do with the analysis of what people mean by their utterances whether the words or phrases it those utterances might mean by themselves.

Language is a structured system of communication used by humans, based on speech and gesture (spoken language), sign, or often writing. As humans being, people always need to relate to other human beings. It takes significant elements because they can provide what they want to say and they can show that they are expressed. Language plays a necessary part in the lives all of us and is our most characteristic of human possession. Based on Sapir (1921:3), explained that language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desire by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols. They also use the language to express their feeling, idea, and thought through convey the language with others and to deliver information in English.

Communication is very essential in our life because humans can make communication to form relationship with a person and other groups, and people can learn many things through these communications. Language is something occurring from the inside of the speaking subject manifest in the meaningful intentional purpose of the individual speaker. Human communication can likewise send information that consist of the message itself that is helpful for others.

Locution is a particular form of expression or a peculiarity of phrasing especially a word or expression characteristics of a region, group, or cultural level. In other word we can said that locution occur with the utterance of a

sound, a word, or even a phrase as a natural unit of speech. Furthermore, this act happens when the speaker performs an utterance (locution), which has a meaning in the traditional sense.

Perlocution is the effect of an utterance on an interlocutor. The aim of perlocutionary is to change feelings, thoughts, or actions. This is seen when a particular effect is sought from either the speaker, the listener, or both, the response may not necessarily be physical or verbal and elicited by inspiring, persuading, and deterring.

Illocutionary is the performance of the act of saying something with a specific intention. In a illocutionary, it is not just saying something itself, but the act of saying something with the intention of stating an opinion, confirming, or denying something, making a prediction, a promise, a request, issuing an order or a decision, giving an advice or permission.

Based on the preliminary study that had been carried out researcher by related the documentation of Donald Trump's speech, researcher found several misunderstanding meaning between the speaker and hearer. For example, "Let me begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the American people millions of Americans are making profound and difficult sacrifices". Donald Trump's goal in this sentence is ask the hearer to pay attention and listen to him when he delivers his speech. This kinds of behabitives of illocutionary act that used is the emotional

state of the speaker which includes act/thanking.

Based on the explanation above in this research, the researcher would analyze the types of illocutionary act and the meaning of the illocutionary act in the speech done by President Donald Trump in his speech about "Coronavirus Task Force Briefing". The reason took Trump's speech as an object of this research because his information is very important nowadays, he discussed information relate to the coronavirus.

Based on the explanation above, this research was focused on the illocutionary act on Donald Trump's speech. The sub-focus of the research were on:

1. The types of the illocutionary act in President Donald Trump's Speech about Coronavirus Task Force Briefing,
2. The function of the illocutionary act in President Donald Trump's Speech about Coronavirus Task Force Briefing.

## **B. Method of Research**

This research used qualitative research. Creswell (2013:4) states that qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups describe to a social or human problem. Qualitative method aims to explain phenomena through the process of collecting and analyzing data. It means that qualitative research is research design that describing about factual phenomena without using numbering to finished the data. Ary et al (2010:424) the qualitative inquirer deals with data that are in the form

of words or pictures rather than numbers and statistics. The qualitative research has a natural setting as a direct source of the data which focus of the process rather than simply with outcomes and products.

From the definition above, the researcher uses qualitative research to describe the illocutionary act in Donald Trump's Speech "Coronavirus Task Force Briefing". The researcher tried to collecting the data from the comprehending and reading the speech which has been transcription.

The source of the data is documentation in the form of text about Coronavirus. In this research, researcher used the transcription of Donald Trump's speech. The data source of this research was taken from the internet.

In this study, the researcher collected the data from documentation namely from the Donald Trump's speech. In collecting the data, the researcher did the following steps:

1. Download the video of Donald trump's speech (<https://youtu.be/5ZQZW7INTT8>).
2. Printed out the transcription of Donald Trump's speech.
3. Reading and comprehending the speech which would be analyzed.
4. Put a sign or underlined each sentence that includes the kinds of illocutionary act.
5. Arranging and making a list of the data which had been clasified as the illocutionary act.

The researcher analysed the data by using Miles, et all theory. According to (Miles, et all 2014:31-33), there are 3 activities in analyzing qualitative data:

1. Data condensation

Data condensation is part of analysis. Data condensation referred to the process of selecting the data that appear in the full corpus (body) of written-up field notes, interview transcripts, documents and other empirical material. By condensing, we are making data stronger. In this stage, researcher will selected the data needed which contains the illocutionary act on Donald Trump's Speech "Corona Virus Task Force Briefing" in 2020. Then, the researcher will classified the data for each category. The purpose of this activity is to make researcher easier to classify data.

1.

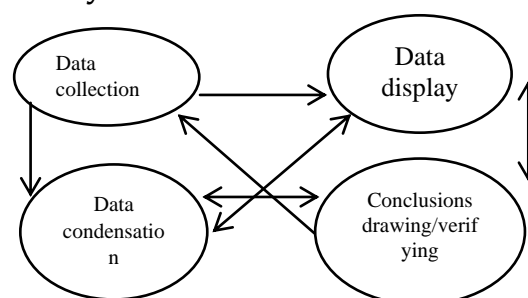
ata Display

The second steps was data display. Generally, a display was an organized compressed assembly of information that allows conclusion drawing and action. Data display helps us to understand what is happening and to do something-either analyze further or take action based on that understanding. Designing displays-deciding on the rows and columns of a matrix for qualitative data and deciding which data, in which form, should be entered in the cells-are analytic analysis (Miles, Huberman & Saldana, 2014:31-33). After the researcher got the data needed, researcher displayed the data in a table form to make researcher easier in drawing conclusions.

2. Drawing and verifying conclusion

The third stream of analysis activity was conclusion drawing and verification. In this level, researcher give descriptions or describe the result of analyzing the data. from the start of data collection, the qualitative analyst interprets what things means by noting patterns, explanations, casual flows, and propositions. Conclusions were verified as the analyst proceeds.

**Figure 1. Components of data analysis: interactive model**



Source: Miles, M.B. & Huberman, A.M (1994)

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**C. Research Finding and Discussion**

**1. Research Finding**

Briefly, the result of illocutionary act found in Donald Trump's speech can be shown on table 1. below:

**Table 1.Types of Illocutionary Acts**

Nu mb	Types of Illocutionary Acts	Function	Freque ncy
1	Verdictives	Evaluating	9
2	Exercitives	Suggesting Advising	2 1
3	Commisives	Promising	10
4	Behabitives	Appreciating	6
5	Expositives	Explaining	14
TOTAL			41

Source : The Researcher, 2023

Based on the table above the researcher has found 5 (five) types of illocutionary act are verdictives, exercitives, commisives, behabitives, and expositives.

Based on theory of Austin in Alston (1998:85) stated that there are five (5) types of illocutionary acts are verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives, and expositives. The researcher has analyzed Donald trump's speech and discovered five types of illocutionary acts as the theory stated. There were 39 utterances in that speech was analyzed by the researcher. The types of illocutionary acts that has discovered then classified in accordance with the types. The researcher also discovered the realization the use of illocutionary act in that speech, then classified into its illocutionary types. As the result of this research, the types of illocutionary act as Austin in Alston stated has found with the realization also. Every utterances was analized and classified as the theory stated.

From the data analysis in the Donald Trump's speech the researcher found that there are some types of illocutionary act wihich used in the speech. Furthermore, this research only focused on the thory of Austin in Alston (1998:85).

#### a. Verdictives

Verdictives is an utterance that focused on the speakers views about the looks of the object directly and reality. This are examples of verdictives in Donald Trump's utterances:

##### Data sample 1

"I think it's going to be a very acceptable package. It's a very big package and a very acceptable package. It'll be good for our country, good for the airlines, good for a lot of people."

This utterance include as verdictives because provided an evaluation about the airlines.

##### Data sample 2

"We built a great, great energy business in the United States, so we have tens a thousands of jobs."

This utterance include as verdictives because the speaker talking about the quality energy of business in United States.

##### Data sample 3

"That's a tremendous statement and we continue to pray for him and his fast recovery."

This utterance include as verdictives because provide and an evaluation about intensive care about Boris Johnson Prime Minister.

##### Data sample 4

"That's a very, very positive development."

This utterance include as evaluating and behabitives because provided an evaluation about the development.

##### Data sample 5

"So that's been very successful, and that gear and those outfits are being handed out as they arrive."

This utterance include as verdictives because give a positive feedback about the project Airbridge.

The detail information about verdictives related with expression of illocutionary act is available in appendix.

#### b. Exercitives

Exercitives is the imperative sentences, advicing, and giving advice to other. This

are examples of exercitives in Donald Trump's utterances:

Data sample 1

"I think it's going to be a very acceptable package. It's a very big package and a very acceptable package. *It'll be good for our country, good for the airlines, good for a lot of people*".

This utterance include as exercitives because provided a suggestion that will be implemented.

Data sample 2

"We don't want that to happen."

This utterance included as exercitives because the speaker advice people about the oil production.

Data sample 3

"That's a tremendous statement and *we continue to pray for him and his fast recovery*"

This utterance include as exercitives because provide an suggestion about intensive care Boris Johnson Prime Minister.

c. Commissives

Commissives is a word phrase or sentences that give a promise or be responsible for something. This are examples of commissives in Donald Trump's utterances:

Data sample 1

"We'll be probably putting out a proposal and giving them some of the details, some of the very powerful details over the weekend. It's moving along quickly."

This utterance include as commissives because provided a promise that would be done in a short time.

Data sample 2

"*And we are going to be in a position to do a lot to help them so that they keep their employees and they save their businesses, and that'll be taking place I think you can say over the weekend.*"

This utterance include as commissives because provided a promise that would be done in a short time.

Data sample 3

"And hopefully we're going to be opening up. We can call it opening very, very, very, very soon I hope."

This utterance include as commissive because the speaker promise something in a short time to do.

Data sample 4

"It hopes to begin testing in clinical trials very soon."

This utterance include as commissives because provide a promise.

Data sample 5

"But we'll have to see how that all works out."

This utterance include as commissives because provide a promise.

The detail information about verdictives related with expression of illocutionary act is available in appendix.

d. Behabitives

Behabitives is the responses for someone that lead to forgive, greet, praise, curse, thanking, and so on. This are examples of behabitives in Donald Trump's utterances:

Data sample 1

"The oil industry does better than it's doing right now."



This utterance include as behabitives because provided an appreciation about the oil quality production.

Data sample 2

"Let me begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the American people. Millions of Americans are making profound and difficult sacrifices in their own lives because they know it will save the lives of countless other. "

This utterance include as behabitives because provided the emotional state of the speaker which is includes act thanking.

Data sample 3

"That's a very, very positive development."

This utterance include as evaluating and behabitives because provided an appreciation about the development.

Data sample 4

"They've done a fantastic job and they're building nationwide 21 temporary hospitals and care facilities, adding 17,000 hospitals beds and they did that all within a very short period of time."

This utterance include as behabitives because provided an appreciation about the Javits Center for doing a good job and very quickly.

Data sample 5

"And we want to thank all of the heroes on the front lines as they fight to save American lives."

This utterance include as behabitives because provided an appreciation to heroes on the front lines as they fight to save American lives.

e. Expositives

Expositives is explanatory sentences about something to someone related to giving explanations and details. This are examples of expositives in Donald Trump's utterances:

Data sample 1

"As the New York metropolitan area continues its battle against the outbreak, the full power of the federal government is there to support them. As you know the Javits Center has now been fully converted into a 3,000 bed hospital, one of the largest anywhere in the country, and by the incredible professionals, I have to say the Corps of Engineers, what they can do is just incredible."

This utterance include as expositives because give the detail information about the government in New York.

Data sample 2

"Project Airbridge continues to expand with more than 24 flights already completed and 49 additional flights now scheduled in the near future."

This utterance include as expositives because give the detail information about the project Airbridge.

Data sample 3

"The American medical system continues to perform beyond our highest expectations, reminding us that the United States is blessed with the most advanced healthcare and the most skilled healthcare workers anywhere in the planet."

This utterance include as expositives because give the detail information about the American medical system by comparing it with United States.

#### Data sample 4

"I spoke with hundreds of mental health leaders and advocates from around the country to discuss the vital work they're doing."

This utterance include as expositives because give the detail information about the meeting with mental health leaders and advocates.

#### Data sample 5

"We had the top doctors in the country, some international doctors, mental health, big factor, not only as the virus inflicted immense physical suffering on many people, but also mental and emotional suffering as well."

This utterance include as expositives because give the detail information about how the America ready and take serious to face the virus.

The detail information about expositives related with expression of illocutionary act is available in appendix.

Based on the data analysis there are five types of illocutionary act which is has the result of the function they are evaluating, suggesting, advising, promising, appreciating, and explaining.

#### a. Evaluating

Evaluating is give an opinion to evaluate something. Such as when someone doing something and need to be fixed. It is critically examines a program, activity, policy, or the like. This involves gathering information about program activities and outcomes. It is purpose is to make judgements about a program, improve its effectiveness, and to weigh decisions.

#### b. Suggesting

Suggesting is giving a suggestion to someone to do something in the form of a suggestion, recommendation or solution to something, either in the form of a problem, a situation that requires opinions or input in doing something.

#### c. Advising

Advising is ask someone to do or not to do something. Advising leads someone to good and right things that can make someone to be better than before. Advising consist of good teaching or lesson such as hints, warnings, and reprimands.

#### d. Promising

Promising is give a promise to do or give something to someone. Promising also is an ability to do or leave something in an effort to gain trust. Promises can be spoken or written as a contract between two parties. It can be the ability to comply with obligations or not to carry out prescribed to an authorized superior to someone.

#### e. Appreciating

Appreciating is an expression to congratulate someone's achievement and support them. Appreciating can motivate others to do something as best they can, pleasing others for what they have done, enjoy yourself for being able to support others, build trust in relationships with colleagues, strengthen relationships with others, show appreciation or respect, increase effectiveness and efficiency at work, makes us focus on the important things and eliminate the insignificant things, produce something innovative, as moral support, and etc.



f. Explaining

Explaining is an expression to explain the details about something to someone to make them more understand. This is describing verbally about a situation, facts and data according to the time in the applicable laws.

## 2. Discussion

From the research result which has answered the research questions, she found that there were 5 (five) types of illocutionary act namely verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives, and expositives. Related to the research focuses, researcher found that there were 49 illocutionary act discovered in the Donald Trump's speech which consisted of 39 utterances. From the 39 utterances which has classified into its types, the researcher discovered that there were five types of illocutionary act which consisted of 13 data of verdictives, 4 data of exercitives, 12 data of commissives, 6 data of behabitives, and 14 data of expositives.

Illocutionary act is an act that the speaker wants from the hearer to do something based on the situation. According to Austin in Alston (1998:85) there are five types of illocutionary act, they are verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives, and expositives. Verdictives is an utterance that focused on the speakers views about the looks of the object directly and reality. Similarly, Austin in Alston (1998:85) stated that verdictives consist in the delivering of a finding, official or unofficial, upon evidence or reasons as to a value or fact, so far as these are

distinguishable. The sentence "We built a great, great energy business in the United States, so we have tens a thousands of jobs." in the sample that has been explain means that the speaker talking about the reality of business in United States.

The second is exercitives. Exercitives is the imperative sentences, advicing, and giving advice to other. Similarly, Austin in Alston (1998:85) stated that exercitives is a kind of language action which is the result of powers, rights or influences. The sentences "it'll be good for our country, good for the airlines, good for a lot of people" in the sample that has been explain means that the speaker provided some goodness about their business for a lot of people. The speaker try to make sure a lot of people to be trust of their business.

The third type is commissives. Commissives is a word phrase or sentences that give a promise or be responsible for something. Similarly, Austin in Alston (1998:85) stated that commissives are typified by promising or giving an undertaking; they commit one to do a certain action, but also include declarations, intention, and so on. The sentences "And we are going to be in a position to do a lot to help them so that they keep their employees and they save their business, and that taking place I think you can say over the weekend" in the sample that has been explain means that the speaker promise something good a lot people to help them to save their business so a lot of people can keep their employees stay.

The fourth type is behabitives. Behabitives is the responses for someone the lead to forgive, greet, praise, curse, thanking, and so on. Similarly, Austin in Alston (1998:85) stated that behabitives is the act of language in doing something concerning sympathy, attitude, forgiveness, or congratulations, which always arise in social communication. The sentence "The oil industry does better than it's doing right now" in the sample that has been explain means that the speaker provide the value of the industry oil that their built. This kind of sentence refers to appreciate the quality of the product.

The last type is expositives. Expositives is explanatory sentences about something to someone related to giving explanations and details. Similarly, Austin in Alston (1998:85) stated that expositives are used in acts of exposition involving the expounding of views, the conducting of arguments, and the clarifying of usages and references. The sentence "As the New York metropolitan area continues its battle against the outbreak, the full power of the federal government is there to support them. As you know the Javits Center has now been fully converted into a 3,000 bed hospital, one of the largest anywhere in the country, and by the incredible professionals, I have to say the Corps of Engineers, what they can do is just incredible" in the sample that has been explain means that the speaker explain the detail of the government in New York. This sentences refers to expositives because in

this sentences consist of the explanation about the government.

#### **D. Conclusion and Suggestion**

Based on the result of the research there are 5 (five) types of illocutionary acts used in Donald Trump's speech in Coronavirus Task Force Briefing, they are verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives, and expositives. Those illocutionary found the speech tend to evaluate, suggest, advice, promise, appreciate, and explain. In addition, the data showed the number of types of expositives is the highest in this speech. The meaning of the illocutionary found were understood based on who the speaker is, the context of the utterances and speaker's feeling in Donald Trump's speech in Coronavirus Task Force Briefing.

Lastly, the researcher intends to give some suggestion regarding the study's focus. For readers/viewers, teachers generally, and next researchers with the same issue. The following suggestions will be made. The researcher hopes that this research can be useful for those who will conduct the same research about illocutionary act in the future.

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