
Illocutionary Acts in Retno Marsudi' Speech at the General Debate of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Abstract

This study focuses on analyzing the illocutionary acts present in Retno Marsudi's speech during the general debate of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. This study aims to describe the types of illocutionary acts employed, discerning the most and least frequent types as well as their implications. The data were analyzed by the descriptive qualitative method, and collected by finding out the video, watching the video, transcribing the speech video, and then identifying the data that were related to the theory. The writers used Searle's theory for the types of illocutionary acts, which categorizes illocutionary acts into five types: representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. The findings from the study revealed that there are a total of 87 data points found in the speech, with directive acts being the most dominant with a total of 37 (42,5%), followed by representative at 27 (31%), commissive at 13 (15%), declarative at 6 (6,9%), and expressive being the least dominant at 4 (4,6%). The findings indicate that directive acts are primarily used to convey urgent messages and prompt action, while expressive acts are the least dominant, reflecting Retno Marsudi's emphasis on advocating for action rather than expressing personal emotions or attitudes.

Keywords: speech act, illocutionary acts, Retno Marsudi' Speech

INTRODUCTION

Pragmatics, as defined by Yule in Rahmani & Dwiyuliana (2018) directive, declarative, expressive, and commissive. The initial type of speech acts is representative (34 words, is the study of how speakers convey meaning, including contextual meaning, how to communicate more than what is spoken, and how to express relative distance. Yule emphasizes the significance of pragmatics in considering the social and cultural influences shaping language usage across various situations. For example, the same sentence can yield different interpretations based on contextual cues and the speaker's intentions. Ultimately, pragmatic communication involves the speaker providing information about the listener, and the listener interpreting what the speaker meant, as noted by Tologana in Hanggarjito et al. (2021). Understanding pragmatics is essential for grasping the complexities of communication and language usage.

In pragmatics, there are several topics discussed, such as deixis, speech acts, implicature, politeness principles, politeness strategies, and so on. Among these, speech acts stand out as one of the most popular topics in pragmatic studies, as highlighted by Sesanti et al. (2021) the researchers aim at describing illocutionary acts and the most

frequently found in Anies Baswedan's speech dealing with Covid-19. The researchers used a descriptive qualitative method to choose the data. The researcher tends to analyze the data using the pragmatic theory specifically a speech act proposed by Searle (1979). The study of speech acts emphasizes how language is utilized by both speakers and listeners (Caniago & Afriana, 2022; Christianto, 2020). Hidayat (2016), further defined speech act as a pragmatic concept in which a speaker's intentions go beyond just the words or phrases they use. This perspective highlights the significance of considering not just the literal meaning of language but also the underlying intentions behind utterances.

The theory of speech acts, introduced by Oxford philosopher J.L. Austin and further elaborated by American philosopher J.R. Searle, outlines the various actions inherent in communication. Austin, as discussed in Ulla & Indhiarti (2018) Navidatul. 2018. An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts Performed by Susi Pudjiastuti in Kick Andy Talk Show on Kartini Modern Episode. Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Tanti Refa Indhiarti Keywords: Pragmatics, speech acts, illocutionary acts, implicature and talk show. This study deals with the illocutionary acts

performed by Susi Pudjiastuti in Kick Andy talk show on Metro TV. This study tried to find out the illocutionary acts that occur during the conversation in the talk show Kick Andy between host and guest star. Therefore the problems of this study are (1 in his book "How to Do Things with Words" delineates three distinct types of speech acts performed when someone utters a sentence: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. A locutionary act involves simply uttering words to convey a message to the listener, while an illocutionary act involves speaking with a specific purpose or intention. Additionally, a perlocutionary act refers to the speech effect that prompts the listener to take action. By categorizing speech acts into these three dimensions, Austin and Searle provide a framework for understanding the multifaced nature of communication.

Understanding illocutionary acts is the most important part of comprehending speech acts, as emphasized by Rosyidi et al. (2019). These acts are identified by considering factors such as the identity of the speaker, the recipient, the timing, and the location of the speech act. Additionally, Searle in Ramadhani & Mustikawati (2023) categorizes illocutionary speech acts into five distinct types, each serving a specific communicative purpose. These types are including representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. A thorough understanding of illocutionary acts enhances our grasp of speech acts.

In the study of speech acts, the surrounding context of an utterance holds significant importance. According to Nadar in Rosyidi et al. (2019) the speaker's intended meaning is best understood within a clear context. This mutual understanding of context between the speaker and the listener facilitates smooth communication and minimizes the occurrence of misunderstandings. Nadar further emphasizes that communication flows more smoothly when both parties comprehend the context of the conversation. Therefore, by grasping the contextual factors surrounding an utterance, the meaning conveyed becomes more accessible.

Some research had investigated the utilization of speech acts. In the present times, Salih (2022) analyzed illocutionary speech acts in Dickens *Hard Times*. This study focused on the speech act carried out by the novel's main characters in *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens. The study aimed to describe and analyze the various kinds of illocutionary acts that the protagonists engaged in. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used in this study. There were 473 speech acts uti-

lized, and they were distributed as follows: There are 174 expressive speech acts, 89 representative acts, and 85 commissive acts. The other types of speech acts were directive, which was utilized by 75, and declarative 77, both of which were hardly used. The study indicated that the purposes of the main characters speech acts differed according to the kinds of speech acts they performed throughout the novel.

In the same vein, Baok et al. (2021) tried to find illocutionary acts in Hillary Clinton's speech, *American for Marriage Equality*, delivered at the Human Rights Campaign. Using a qualitative method, the writer examined the data from Hillary Clinton's speech, utilizing both the speech's video and transcripts. This involved repeatedly watching the speaker's video and continuously reading the script before quoting the relevant passages that supported the theory. The analysis of Clinton's speech text revealed four different forms of illocutionary acts: directive 3 data, expressive 2 data, assertive 5 data, and commissive 1 data. Additionally, the writers discovered that convivial 3 data and collaborative 1 data served as the functions of the illocutionary act. In essence, this study revealed the varied communication strategies that Hillary Clinton utilized in advocating for marriage equality.

In Indonesia, Wijayanti & Yulianti (2020) also analyzed illocutionary acts in the main character's dialogue in the *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* movie. The data was analyzed by the writers using a descriptive qualitative method; they focused on the dialogue of the main actors in the movie. They watched the movie, obtained the transcript, categorized the dialogue using Searle's theory, and determined the meaning of the sentences. The analysis revealed 52 utterances containing illocutionary acts, with the most frequent type being representative (assertive) acts at 65%. Directive acts accounted for 19%, expressive acts for 8%, commissive acts for 6%, and declarative acts for 2%. Overall, the study showed the common illocutionary acts among the main characters in the *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* movie.

While the previous study only investigated kinds of illocutionary acts in specific speech acts, the present study gives more elaboration on both illocutionary act analysis and the implication of the choice of illocutionary acts in Retno Marsudi's speech. Moreover, Retno Marsudi's speech has not been analyzed yet, so it presents the newest analysis on illocutionary acts.

Based on the explanation that has been provided, this study intends to explain: What kinds of illocutionary acts are used in the video of Ret-

no Marsudi's speech at the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly?; What is the most and least frequent type of illocutionary act found in the video of Retno Marsudi's speech at the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly?; What is the implication of the most and least frequent types of illocutionary acts used in Retno Marsudi's speech at the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly?

METHODS

The writers employed the descriptive qualitative study method as the research study design for this study since the data that the writer analyzed was primarily in the form of descriptive sentences rather than numerical data. The reason behind this is that the data that the writers intends to analyze is taken from the video of Retno Marsudi's speech during the General Debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly on YouTube. Where the writers aims to describe the various kinds of illocutionary acts used in her diplomatic speech.

In this study, utterances in Retno Marsudi's speech were identified using Searle's theory. In this theory, illocutionary acts are defined as a speaker's intentional meaning or purpose behind their utterances. Speech act theory provides a systematic framework for classifying and analyzing these acts in a communicative context. So these findings will explain to us how illocutionary acts influence the discourse on international relations in the most prestigious diplomatic forums. Moreover, the study findings are given in the form of descriptive sentences.

The data used by the writers in this study was the video of Retno Marsudi's speech during the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly. In conducting this study, the writers analyzed each of the utterances of the data, in this case, Retno Marsudi's speech. The writers downloaded the study data from the United Nations official YouTube channel entitled "Indonesia: Minister for Foreign Affairs Addresses United Nations General Debate, 78th Session." The video lasted 12 minutes, 16 seconds. The video was presented in English.

The method of gathering the data involved a few steps. The following steps appear as follows:

Finding the video on YouTube

First, the writers searched for a video of Retno Marsudi's speech on YouTube, which took place at the general debate of the 78th session of

the United Nations General Assembly.

Downloading the video from YouTube

Then, download the video from the official United Nations YouTube channel.

Watching and listening to the video

After downloading, the writers carefully watched the video of Retno Marsudi's speech and tried to pay attention to every utterance that she produced.

Transcribing the video of Retno Marsudi's speech

Here, the writers transcribes all of the utterances of her speech during the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly.

Identifying the transcript of the speech based on the kind of illocutionary act

The final step taken by the writers in this study is to identify the utterances in the speech according to the kinds of illocutionary acts.

After the study data is gathered, this step presents how the writers analyzed the data. The following steps were taken for analyzing the data: The writers started by reading the speech transcript of Retno Marsudi; In the next step, the writers identified the speech utterances delivered by Retno Marsudi into the illocutionary acts types; After that, the writers classified the speech utterances delivered by Retno Marsudi in the video based on the kind of illocutionary act they are; The writers identified what kinds of illocutionary acts are most dominant and least frequently used in Retno Marsudi's speech by looking at the number and percentage of the data; Described the implications behind the illocutionary acts that Retno Marsudi used most and least frequently in her speech; Interpreted the results: This part includes some excerpts from the appendix (a list of written data), along with a brief explanation of each excerpt; The final step was drawing a conclusion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study's data analysis are presented in this section. The findings of the study are structured into three main points. The first point is to present the findings of the analysis of the various types of illocutionary acts found in Retno Marsudi's speech at the 78th United Nations General Assembly, as outlined by Searle (1969). These illocutionary acts cover representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and decla-

rative types. The second point is the identification of the most and least frequent illocutionary acts found in Marsudi's speech. And the last point is to present the implications of the most and least frequent types of illocutionary acts used in her speech at the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly.

To provide an overview of the findings, the writers presents the results of the study of the first point in the analysis of the various types of illocutionary acts in the following table 1.

Table 1. The Types of Illocutionary Acts

Types of Illocutionary Acts	Frequency	Percentages
Representative	27	31%
Directive	37	42,5%
Commissive	13	15%
Expressive	4	4,6%
Declarative	6	6,9%
Total	87	100%

As can be seen, Retno Marsudi's speech during the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly contained 87 points of data. Five types of illocutionary acts were identified in the data. Among these, directive accounted for 37 data (42,5%), representative numbered 27 (31%), commissive 13 (15%), declarative 6 data points (6,9%), and expressive 4 (4,6%). Furthermore, the following presents the detailed explanation of the data analysis:

Representative

Representative acts presents a state of affairs, based on Searle as referenced in Baok et al. (2021). In the video of Retno Marsudi's speech at the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly, various types of representative speech acts are observed.

Stating a fact

65/87: *"ASEAN has already managed to do this for the last five decades."*

This utterance included into representative Retno Marsudi is providing information about ASEAN's achievement over the past five decades. She is presenting a fact or stating what she believes to be true regarding ASEAN's ability to navigate through geopolitical dynamics and maintain unity, stability, and prosperity in the region, as previously expressed. Therefore, in this context, Retno Marsudi's utterance is classified as stating a fact, as it is presenting information about the

historical performance of ASEAN.

47/87: *"Global supply chain is being monopolised by certain countries."*

In this utterance, Retno Marsudi highlights the current condition of the global supply chain. She is emphasizing the fact that certain countries are monopolizing the global supply chain, indicating a situation where a few countries have significant control or dominance over it. This appears as a matter of fact.

55/87: *"Indonesia has led by example by fulfilling its international obligation including being among early signatories of the BBNJ Agreement."*

By signing the BBNJ Agreement, among other international obligations, Retno Marsudi is in this case making a statement about Indonesia's actions and commitments. She is presenting this as a factual representation of Indonesia's behavior and leadership in fulfilling its responsibilities.

Describing

6/87: *"The world now is at a strategic crossroad."*

In this utterance, Retno Marsudi is presenting a view of the current state of the world. She is describing the current state of the world, emphasizing that it is at a strategic crossroad. She is making a statement about the global situation, presenting it as a fact or an observation.

Reporting

46/87: *"Trade discrimination against developing countries continues to happen."*

In this case, Retno Marsudi is providing information about ASEAN's diplomatic efforts to foster stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific region. She is making a presentation of what ASEAN has done in terms of regional cooperation. By stating that ASEAN has initiated closer partnerships with the Pacific Islands Forum and the Indian Ocean Rim Association, Retno Marsudi is reporting a factual occurrence or action taken by ASEAN

Directive

Directive acts involve prompting the addressee to take action, as described by Searle in Baok et al. (2021). In Retno Marsudi's speech at the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly, various types of directive speech acts were identified in the video.

Encouraging

14/87: *"Instead, global leadership should be about listening to others, building bridges, respecting international laws consistently and put all nations*

equally.”

In this utterance, Retno Marsudi is urging or directing global leaders to change their approach to leadership. She is encouraging them to listen to others, build bridges, respect international laws consistently, and treat all nations equally. By using the word “should,” she is prescribing a course of action for global leadership.

Inviting

15/87: *“Mr. President, Excellencies,”*

In this case, by addressing “Mr. President” and “Excellencies,” Retno Marsudi is directing her speech towards the President and other esteemed individuals present at the assembly. Retno Marsudi is inviting these individuals to listen to her speech and participate in the discourse. This invitation implies a level of respect and expectation for their engagement with the content of her speech.

Asking

20/87: *“The question is, do we really have the commitment to rebuild trust, to reignite global solidarity, to attain the SDGs target together?”*

In this case, Retno Marsudi, she is prompting action or seeking a response from her audience. By posing the question, she is indirectly urging her audience to consider and reflect upon whether they genuinely possess the commitment to rebuild trust, reignite global solidarity, and work together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This directive serves as a call to action, encouraging her audience to assess their level of commitment and potentially take steps towards collective action.

Commissive

According to Searle cited in Baok et al. (2021), commissive acts involve the speaker committing to some future course of action. In the analysis of Retno Marsudi’s speech in this study, several types of commissive acts were identified, as outlined below:

Promising

40/87: *“Indonesia will not back an inch in our support for Palestinian statehood.”*

In this statement, Retno Marsudi is expressing Indonesia’s firm commitment to supporting Palestinian statehood. By using the phrase “will not back an inch,” she is making a strong commitment that Indonesia will steadfastly stand by its support for the establishment of a Palestinian state. This statement indicates a promise or commitment to take specific actions in the future to

support this cause.

76/87: *“ASEAN will spare no effort to ensure the people of Myanmar are not left alone.”*

In this case, Retno Marsudi is making a commitment to take action to ensure that the people of Myanmar are not left alone. By stating that ASEAN “will spare no effort,” she is expressing a strong commitment to supporting the people of Myanmar in their time of need. This statement implies a promise or commitment to actively engage in efforts to provide assistance or support to the people of Myanmar, indicating a future course of action

Pledging

12/87: *“The Bandung spirit enable Indonesia to listen and become part of solution.”*

The utterance above, which involves a commissive act, falls under the category of a pledge. It’s expressing a commitment expressed by Retno Marsudi on behalf of Indonesia to actively engage in listening and contributing to solutions, particularly in alignment with the principles of the Bandung spirit.

Expressive

Searle, as cited in Baok et al. (2021), defines expressive acts as illocutionary acts that express the speaker’s mental state or emotional condition. In the video of Retno Marsudi’s speech at the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly, various types of expressive speech acts are observed.

Greeting

1/87: *“Bismillahirrahmanirrahim”*

The utterance above made by Retno Marsudi at the beginning of her speech serves as an expressive illocutionary act and is categorized as a form of greeting. This Arabic phrase, commonly used by Muslims before undertaking any task or speech, translates to “In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.” It translates to “In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.” By starting her speech with this phrase, Retno Marsudi expresses her reverence and humility before beginning her address.

Thanking

87/87: *“I thank you very much”*

In the utterance above, Retno Marsudi is performing an expressive act, which involves expressing her psychological state or attitudes towards the hearer or the content of the utterance. Specifically, by saying “I thank you very much,” Retno Marsudi conveys gratitude towards the au-

dience for their attention and for listening to her speech.

Declarative

Declarative acts, as illocutionary acts, serve to establish the situation it is referring to, as defines by Searle in Baok et al. (2021). In Retno Marsudi's speech, various types of declarative act are evident.

Informing

68/87: *"Inclusivity will forever be the pillar of our region's architecture building."*

Retno Marsudi, by stating this utterance, is declaring inclusivity as a foundational aspect of their regional framework. In her speech, she is informing the audience about the foundational principle that she believes should guide the construction of their region's architecture, which is inclusivity. Therefore, the utterance serves the function of informing the audience about the enduring significance of inclusivity in their regional cooperation and development.

Asserting

32/87: *"The fate of the world cannot be defined by the mighty few."*

In this utterance, she is declaring her stance on the issue of the importance of collective responsibility and cooperation among nations. She is asserting that the fate of the world should not be determined solely by a select group of powerful nations or individuals. Instead, she is advocating for a more inclusive and equitable approach to global leadership.

Upon reviewing and comprehending the aforementioned findings, it becomes evident that the most dominant type of illocutionary act observed in the data is directive, totaling 37 data points (42.5%). Conversely, the least frequent type of illocutionary act identified in the data is expressive, comprising a total of 4 data points (4.6%).

The following are the discussion about the implication of the most and the least frequent types of illocutionary acts used in Retno Marsudi's speech at the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly. The directive act is becomes the most dominant type of illocutionary act in the data. It can happen because in her speech, Retno Marsudi wanted to encourage concrete actions from other countries, strengthen global cooperation, and emphasize the importance of collective responsibility in addressing global challenges. By using directives, Marsudi was able to communicate important and urgent messages

in a firm yet diplomatic manner, demonstrating Indonesia's determination to play an active role in advancing the international humanitarian and peace agenda. Furthermore, the use of directives allows Marsudi to directly invite other countries to take specific steps in support of a common goal. While expressive acts are the least common type that appear in her speech. This is because the main focus of the speech is on providing information, building arguments, and making calls for concrete action rather than simply expressing personal emotions or attitudes. In the context of a forum such as the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly, Retno Marsudi will maintain a professional and diplomatic impression rather than simply expressing personal emotions or attitudes directly. Therefore, expressiveness appears in lesser amounts in his speech.

The findings of this study are in line with the previous study by Nofitasari et al. (2023), who focused on identifying the kind of illocutionary act that was performed in Angelina Jolie's speech video. Similarly, this present study focused on identifying the illocutionary act in Retno Marsudi's speech during the general debate of the 78th United Nations General Assembly, as published on YouTube. In the previous study, Angelina Jolie produced representative acts such as informing, believing, announcing, and stating. Likewise, Retno Marsudi employed representative acts by describing, stating, and reporting. While the previous study highlighted directive acts like inviting, asking, and warning, Retno Marsudi also produced directive acts including requesting, commanding, asking, and inviting. Angelina Jolie produced commissive acts such as planning, convincing, and promising. Similarly, in this present study, Retno Marsudi employed commissive acts such as promising, convincing, and pledging. Expressive acts, such as appreciating, condoling, and amazement, were observed in Angelina Jolie's speech in the previous study, while Retno Marsudi in this present study expressed feelings through utterances such as thanking, appreciating, and greeting. Angelina Jolie in the previous study and Retno Marsudi in this present study exhibit similar intentions in employing various illocutionary act types.

Meanwhile, this finding is in contrast with the previous study from Pulungan & Ambalegin (2022), who only concentrated on the declarative type of illocutionary act in their study. Their study centered on identifying declarative illocutionary acts in the movie "Cruella". They utilized an observational method and a non-participatory technique for data collection. In contrast, in this

present study, Retno Marsudi employed all types of illocutionary acts, including declarative, representative, commissive, expressive, and directive, focusing specifically on Retno Marsudi's speech.

CONCLUSION

The writers uncovered various types of illocutionary acts in Retno Marsudi's speech, including representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative acts. Among these, the study revealed that directive acts stood out as the most dominant illocutionary acts, as they were primarily utilized to convey urgent messages and prompt action from the audience. Conversely, expressive acts were the least dominant illocutionary acts used, indicating that Retno Marsudi's speech was more focused on calling for action rather than simply expressing personal emotions or attitudes. However, it is important to acknowledge the limitation of this study, which focuses on one specific speech and speaker, Retno Marsudi, so the findings are limited to that specific context. To address this limitation, future studies are recommended to broaden their scope by considering other speeches from different speakers in more diverse contexts. Furthermore, analyzing illocutionary acts through different problem statements and theories proposed by other experts may offer additional insights for future studies on the subject.

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