

ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS ANALYSIS IN PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S FAREWELL SPEECH

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Abstract:

This research uses qualitative research method. The objectives of study are to analyze that there are some locutionary acts and some illocutionary acts in Barrack Obama's farewell speech. The researcher uses qualitative method to analyze Barrack Obama's speech. The researcher applies Searle's illocutionary acts to analyze that speech. Searle's categories of illocutionary acts are representatives, directives, commissives, expressives and declaratives.

Representatives include describing, stating, boasting, affirming, concluding, claiming, assessing, asserting, etc. While, directives include warning, commanding, ordering, requesting, inviting suggesting, , forbidding, etc. Then, commissives are promising, vowing, planning, threatening, offering, warning, refusing, etc. On the other hand, expressives are thanking, apologizing, welcoming, condoling, congratulating, regret, like, dislike, statement of joy and sorrow, etc. The last, declaratives are excommunicating, declaration of war, christening or baptizing, resigning, etc.

The researcher found that President Barack Obama's farewell speech consists of locutionary acts and illocutionary acts as well. Locutionary acts in President Obama's farewell speech are declaratives, imperatives and interrogatives acts. Most of illocutionary acts in Obama's farewell speech are representatives. Directives, commissives, expressives are not as many as representatives. However, the researcher did not find any declaratives acts in that speech.

Keywords: Speech act, Barack Obama's farewell speech, Illocutionary act

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of devices for communication used by people in order to make easier communication. Fromkin, (1995) stated in *'An Introduction to Language'* that humanbeings apply language in their life as it empowers them in life . Language also distinguishes humanbeings and animals as almost all of humanbeings characteristics can be found in animals but the language. It is also a natural process of humans being to communicate and to converse with others just to express what they have in mind. Brown (1994) stated in Pinker's *'The Language Instinct'* that: language is advanced, specialized expertise, which creates within childhood naturally, without cognizant exertion or official instruction, is conveyed without mindfulness of its basic rationale, it is particular from more common capacities to handle data carry on intellectuals, and it is subjectively the same in each person.

Siemund (2018) in *Speech Acts and Clause Types: English in a Cross-Linguistics Context*, also stated that language expresses something needed or

demanded by its users. It is shaped by the language users. As a social interaction tool, it is prominent to comprehend the surface and the deeper meaning of language as part of social activity.

Anderson (1972:35) said, in *Pragmatics Teaching* that there are eight principles about Language. They are language is a system, a sound, an arbitrary symbols, it is unique, it is developed by habitual action, it is a tool for communication, it is related with culture, and it always changes. Furthermore, in a communication happens a language event between the speaker and the listener or hearer. In this event, the changes of both part moves so fast (Tarigan, 2009:6). Then, the movement of the changes between the speaker and the listener is called conversation. If the conversation happens smoothly, it means that the function of the language for communication is well done. There is a good understanding from the speaker to the listener and vice versa. Good communication works well when the speaker offers the information, conviction, and presumption.

Communication or interaction among human beings, as a matter of fact, can be oral, written and or through body movements (body language and gestures). Human beings interact and converse one and others in direct and indirect relation. In the aim of communication whether direct or indirect way, people use language very much. They use it for many functions related to their purpose of mentioning words and to chain it as a sentence. Furthermore, in mentioning some sentences into a paragraph (in a fiction or non fiction story), to create many literary creation such as novels, poems, and songs.

Speech is one form of oral communication that is one-way. Speech is one form of communication that is enable to influence others. A speech from someone can motivate and even encourage someone or group to do something according to the content of the speech delivered. In this case, language indicates that the words or sentences that are conveyed are not only things to be understood, but can be used as a means of persuasion. In fact, Hittler (in Dwihartanti) revealed that "every major movement in this world was developed by speech experts and not by writers." This is in line with Gama's opinion that the speech related to rhetorica is also interpreted as the art of persuasion, namely art by using effective language as an art of persuading or influencing the audience. This illustrates that oral communication skills (speech) can cause large movements, such as arousing conscience to fighting for independence carried out by Bung Tomo.

Language is a wide scope that we can always generate more topic to be discussed. The study about language will never end as time goes by. Both in written and spoken, people can express everything they have in mind by language. But sometimes, what the speaker say might have many perception for the listener. Searle (1969:12) mentioned that "uttering a code is dealing with an extremely sophisticated type of well-managed behavior." The speaker can say an utterance intending to a specific meaning, but the listeners have the different interpretations. For example: someone utter the words."be careful on the way home!". This utterance may not only give a suggestion but also means that she or he must aware to the traffic sign along the road to reach home safely. From the example above, it can be concluded that utterance has more than one meaning. It makes the writer anxious to investigate it. The researcher decides to use Austin and Searle's speech acts to get understanding about the meaning of utterance because among them may have same perception about it.

The researcher chose to study about speech. Speech is usually done by someone to pursue his/ her idea to the audience. Speech is the activity of speaking in front of audience to convey ideas, ideas, thoughts, information, intentions or goals from the speaker to the audience verbally. Speeches are usually used by a leader to give speech in public to express an important matter or event. Speech is not a simple matter because in the speech related to several important elements such as: speaker, listener, method, purpose, content of speech, preparation, technique and ethics in the speech. Speech is a means for expressing ideas / ideas, presenting information to raise awareness of the audience, so as to do deepening and follow up on the topic of discussion. A good speech can give a positive impression to the audience who hears it. Organizing a speech is like building a bridge that is a bridge between giving a speech with an audience or audience (Gama:1).

Locutionary acts are always altogether with the illocutionary acts. There must be locutionary acts in every speech act. In addition, there must be locutionary acts in every illocutionary acts. So, both acts need to be analyzed as well. Though speech acts consists of locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts, the researcher chose the analysis of locutionary and illocutionary acts in order to narrow down the elaboration of Barack Obama's speech acts. On the other side, the well known sayings said, " every place is a school, everyone is a teacher, every book is knowledge". By conducting this study, the researcher intends to raise locutionary and illocutionary acts in the real world from great person as a great lesson for anyone. It is going to inspire the knowledge and life skills toward education. First, Barack Obama is a low profile person, well known president and an outstanding public speaker as well. Second, professional speechwriters mostly produced the content of presidential speech gorgeously. Both combinations made the speech are so powerful. Third, there are lots of good reviews about Obama's farewell speech although his farewell speech is not really compulsory speech rather than Obama's other presidential speech. The political condition is that it was a ten days transition to the next elected president. However, the facts show that the speech is so powerful, influencing and inspiring. Those all reasons make the speech is worth to analyze.

In this case, based on the theory, then the researcher chose a speech presented by Barrack Obama in his last presidential speech and then elaborate it into a research entitled " Illocutionary Acts Analysis in President Barack Obama's Farewell Speech Act".

Speech Act

Speech act theory significantly affects the field of discourse research, which elaborates the correlation of form and function. Austin (1975) described that "Social activities performed via words are commonly called as speech acts". In a perception that when someone says an utterance or a sentence it means that he/she expresses many things happen around the utterance and causes an effect to the listener or hearer. The three elements of speech acts above always happen when words are uttered. Those elements are what we call locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. Sullam in *Micropragmatics* stated that "speech act is verbal action that is occurring in the reality.

The researcher mentions that all of utterances have actions and influence the other (the hearer). Any utterances including a general act that the speaker performs, uttering words, making reference, predicating and also producing of particular effects in the addressee is also called as speech act. .

Searle (1969:21) argued, in *Approaches to Discourse* by Schrifin that the speech acts are the fundamental parts of communication (1994:54). For from divorcing speech acts from the study language, however, this view places at the very crux of the understanding, language research, and communication, in fact, speech act rules area argued to be part of linguistic competences”.

The spoken language demands the speaker to think fast from one utterance to another utterance spontaneous. It has facility or the tools to propose the goal in speaking. It needs prosodic: intonation, stress, rhythm, high and low voice. Other tools to help the spoken language in a proportional way are paralinguistic: gestures, mimic, body language (Sandayana and Aziz, 2004:6.4) while the speech acts are inside the spoken language. All of the elements in the spoken language enable to influence the speech acts. We use the language to do many acts.

Locutionary Act

This seems to capture the properties of the original constative group, the Austin (1976:100) stated that speech act is an act of saying something”. Clearly, it describe that it is an action in uttering something. For the example: Dany says: “ I will pick you up at seven”. So, when someone says something, or utter something, he/she has made a locutionary act.

Illocutionary Act

Schrifin (1994:51) in *Approaches to discourse* described that illocutionary act is the producing of an utterance with conventional communicative force achieve ”in uttering something”. This level captures the acts initially viewed as performative, these acts are conventional in that they could be made explicit by a performative formula”. The researcher described the illocutionary act as actions inside the meaning words mentioned by the speaker.

Austin (1976) stated that when someone says something, he/ she expresses many acts. Those acts are the spirit of the words since it has many presuppositions. Inside those words the speakers do many acts, as mentioned by Schrifin (1994:53).

Here are the categories of illocutionary acts, as mentioned by Peccei (2001:51):

(1) Representatives function to present the acts inside the words such as hypothesis, suggest, and swear. Speaker affirms and convinces that something is true based on his belief, Mey (2001:120). It means representing the thing by utterances that is suitable with what the speaker believes. If the speaker is with the theory of flat earth, his speech is also best delivered and addressed to the people who support the flat earth theory.

The type of representatives are stating, describing, affirming, boasting, concluding, claiming, assessing and etc.

e.g: “*the earth is flat*”

. (2) Commissive functions to present the acts inside the words such as undertake, promises, and threaten. Commisives are the speaker's commitment to on going

activity, the types of commissives are promising, vowing, planning, threatening, offering, warning etc.

for example: *I promise I'll be in five minutes*

(3) Directives function to present the acts inside the words such as commands, requests, invite. The types of directives are commanding, ordering, requesting, warning, suggesting, inviting, and etc.

For example, *please give me your biography*

(4) Expressives presents the acts inside the words such as thanks, congratulate, welcome. Expressive includes act in which the word states what the speaker feels, cutting (2002:17). It means concern with the expression of psychological. For example "*I apologize*"

(5) Declaratives presents the acts inside the words such as declare name. (Searle: 1990:357 - 363) in Finegan, 1992:307. Based on the theories above, it is concluded that the declarative relates with act changing the world immediately. The types of declaratives are excommunicating, declaration war, firing, christening, and etc.

For example utterance: "*I pronounce you prince of Brighton*"

Perlocutionary Act

Austin (1976:102) stated, as mentioned by Schriffin (1994:54) that there are some consequences effects when the speaker says something. The hearer perhaps does an action as the effect of what the speaker has said.

Another opinion was stated by Peccei in *Pragmatics* describes perlocutionary act / perlocution as the effect of those words on the hearer(1999:44). It means that the perlocutionary act as the reactions of the hearer to the words produced by the speaker.

Speech

Since this research talks about a speech, the writer needs to explain about speech meaning. Talking about speech is the same way with talking about unrestricted verbal communication. Speech usually used by leader to delivered information or important things to people.

According to Longman Dictionary, there are five definitions of speech. First, speech is a talk, especially a formal one about a particular subject, given to a group of people. Second definition of speech is the ability to speak. Third, speech is spoken language rather than written language. Fourth, speech is the particular way in which someone speaks. Fifth, speech is a set of lines that an actor must say in a play.

Speech has many functions. Speech can make conducive situation, speech make calm listener, and speech can be motivation for someone or people.

METHOD

In this part the researcher explained how he got the data. He got the data as follows: the writer has known about Obamas's farewell speech from internet. Since the writer knew this speech, he had a curiosity to study the meaning inside the speech using the classification of speech act. Next, the writer found the text in internet and in a book. Then the writer read and understood the text carefully. The researcher segmented the sentences which view the speech act in some utterances.

Furthermore, the researcher separated the words in to different analyzing of the illocution.

Data Analysis

The researcher explained the method of data analysis after some explanation about the data gathering above. The researcher applies several steps to analyze the data and he started from analyzing utterance by utterance inside. The researcher took discourse as process viewed because the writer studied deal with the content of the speech. First of all, the writing down numbered utterances of the speech. Secondly, the writer categorized the first classification of the speech act, that is a locution. The writer also categorized the sentence in each form of declarative, imperative and interrogative sentences. The third, the writer categorized the second part, it is an illocution which is continued with the five classifications..

RESULTS

In this study, researcher used the library study with descriptive qualitative approach. The researcher collected the data from utterances of Obama's farewell speech transcript that contains the locutionary and illocutionary act. After the data are collected, then the researcher analyzes and interpreted the data.

The researcher read Obama's farewell speech transcript. The researcher found at least 293 utterances contain illocutionary act used by Obama at his farewell speech. The utterances are 121 of representatives, 46 of directives, 43 of commissives, 40 of expressive and 0 of declaratives. The researcher found that mostly Obama's illocutionary are representative acts. While others researcher found several of representative acts, directive acts, commissive acts, expressive acts. However the researcher could not find any declarative acts in that speeches. The researcher has tabulated the data collection of illocutionary act categorization from Obama's farewell speech transcript as described in *appendices*.

Analysis

In this section, the researcher presented the analysis of the data derived from the research questions. First, to analyze kinds of locutionary acts applied by Obama at his farewell speech. Second, to analyze the illocutionary act used by Obama at his farewell speech.

The researcher presents the utterances of locutionary act used by Obama at his farewell speech and the illocutionary act used by Obama at his farewell speech as well. Then, the researcher directly analyzed the data as follow.

Locutionary Act Used by Obama's Farewell Speech

This part explains the finding of the research regarding of types locutionary act used by Obama's farewell speech consist of three utterances. The utterances are declaratives, imperatives, and interrogatives.

Declarative

A declarative is kind of sentence typically functions as 'statements'. They have a particular kind of grammatical structure. It consists of at least 'subject' and 'verb'. They are as assertion and description. In his farewell speech, Obama

uttered many declarative sentences. Those declarative sentences are explained as follows.

Data

For 240 years, our nation's call to citizenship has given work and purpose to each new generation.(Data 1.a.1)

It's what pulled immigrants and refugees across oceans and the Rio Grande.
(Data 1.a.2)

Imperative

In imperative sentence, which characteristically function as 'orders', there is with or without any subject presents although it is 'understood' as you. Obama uttered several imperative sentences as below.

Data

I am asking you to believe. Not in my ability to bring about change – but in yours. (Data 1.b.1)

I am asking you to hold fast to that faith written into our founding documents; that idea whispered by slaves and abolitionists; that spirit sung by immigrants and homesteaders and those who marched for justice; that creed reaffirmed by those who planted flags from foreign battlefields to the surface of the moon; a creed at the core of every American whose story is not yet written: Yes, we can.
(Data 1.b.2)

Interrogative

An interrogative sentence typically functions as 'questions'. Some interrogatives begin with WH questions words such as *what, whom, which, why, where, how, etc..* The other one is called as Yes-No question. The signs of Yes-No questions are the question simply enable the hearer to answer with merely 'yes' or 'no'. It uses auxiliary verbs in the beginning of the question. Obama in his last speech as president uttered interrogative sentences as below.

Data

And we'll make common ground and compromise impossible. And isn't that part of what so often makes politics dispiriting? (Data 1.c.1)

From the previous statement Obama implied a question to the audience that threat of democracy are when american people debating the ideas without any facts, without a compliance to accept new data from the opponent, and threat of science. The question is aimed to the answer of agreement that those threat makes politics discouraging.

How can elected officials rage about deficits when we propose to spend money on pre-school for kids, but not when we're cutting taxes for corporations?
(Data 1.c.2)

The question is aimed to the answer of agreement that the policy for children education is prioritized and no cutting taxes for corporations although Obama's government underwent deficits of money for that reason.

Illocutionary Act Used by Obama's Farewell Speech

This part explains the finding of the research regarding of types Illocutionary act used by Obamas's farewell speech consist of five utterances. The utterances are representatives, directives, commissives, expressive, and declaratives illocutionary speech acts.

Representatives

Representatives have the idea of what speakers believe to be true. They consist of stating, describing, affirming, boasting, concluding, claiming, assessing. There are two kinds of representative acts found in Obama's speeches is stating and affirming. Those types of representative are explained as follows.

The first type of representative act is stating. In delivering a speech, Obama performed many acts of stating. The stating acts of President Obama shows that his policy and authority are not that compulsory to the US' citizens anymore in the ten days transition to the next president. Here are some samples of information presented by Obama in his farewell speech.

Data

You can tell me that I'm a lame duck, because nobody is following instructions. (Data 1.a.1.a)

After thanking to all the audiences several times, Obama unpredictably gave statement or stating about a little joke in his opening farewell speech (which is a presidential speech) that he is a lame duck. It is a saying which means a leader is not really has significant power anymore to release a policy. It is because of ten days left to be officially president is over. Before the next elected president works, ten days are the transition for transfer of power process.

It was on these streets where I witnessed the power of faith, and the quiet dignity of working people in the face of struggle and loss. (Data 1.a.1.b)

This Obama's statement is describing his past daily experience of his hometown which is inspiring him about the power of people faith and working etos

The second type of representative act is affirming. The data show that Obama affirming that good revolution only occurs when all the American citizen participate. Obama want people involved to make a change for better democracy. This is supported by the following data below.

Data

Now this is where I learned that change only happens when ordinary people get involved, and they get engaged, and they come together to demand it. (Data 1.a.2.a)

After eight years as your president, I still believe that. And it's not just my belief. It's the beating heart of our American idea. (2.a.2.b)

Obama is showing his affirming, that his agreement about his belief of being a president for eight years is because of and on behalf American people's idea and value.

Directives

Directive is used by the speaker to make the hearer do something. The speakers intend to create some impacts through action on the hearers by performing this act. The types of directives are commanding, ordering, requesting, warning, suggesting, and inviting. The directive act found in the speech are suggesting, commanding, warning, and requesting. They are explained as follows.

The first type of directives act from Obama's farewell speech is suggesting. He is suggesting people to change and build better life, to be more perfect country by conducting good democracy. This act explained as follows.

Data

It's the insistence that these rights, while self-evident, have never been self-executing; that We, the People, through the instrument of our democracy, can form a more perfect union. (Data 1.b.1.a)

... Not that our nation has been flawless from the start, but that we have shown the capacity to change, and make life better for those who follow. (Data 1.b.1.b)

The second type of directives act from Obama's farewell speech is commanding. Obama is commanding audience to seat at their chairs.

Data

Everybody have a seat. (Data 1.b.2.a)

The next type of directives act from Obama's speech is warning. Obama is warning about the relationship of economic problem and democratic idea. There are still many families in central cities and village counties do not gain wealth and good income while some of American people have bigger share of wealth and income. Obama gives a warning that this gap possibly becomes big problem in American democratic life. This matter needs to be solved.

Data

That's the economic argument. But stark inequality is also corrosive to our democratic idea. While the top 1 percent has amassed a bigger share of wealth and income, too many of our families in inner cities and in rural counties have been left behind. (Data 1.b.3.a)

Requesting is the next type from directives act. Obama's previous statements are about equality of rights and justice for all citizen in United States. Some of them are blacks, minority groups, refugee, the immigrant, rural poor, transgender American, etc. In his speech, Obama is requesting the audience to pay attention and listen to their freedom and rights.

Data

We have to pay attention and listen. (Data 1.b.4.a)

Commissives

Commissives are acts which obligate the speaker to some future actions. The type of this act is promising, vowing, planning, threatening, and offering. The type of commissives performed by Obama's speech is planning, refusing, promising, and offering. This is supported by the following data.

The first type of commissive in Obama's speech is planning. The audience are giving applause and long standing ovation before Obama delivering his farewell speech. That makes Obama thank many times and he is planning to calm down the audience to start delivering speech.

Data

We're on live TV here, I've got to move. (Data 1.c.1.a)

Second type of commissive in Obama's speech is refusing. Obama is refusing something with the following sentence. While Obama is delivering speech, Obama stop for a moment since there is crowd chanting "four more years" from the audience. The regulation told Obama cannot go more than two period as United States president.

Data

I can't do that. (Data 1.c.2.a)

The next type of commissive in that speech is promising. Obama is promising and rise the spirit of American people altogether hold democracy to be more perfect country.

Data

It's the insistence that these rights, while self-evident, have never been self-executing; that We, the People, through the instrument of our democracy, can form a more perfect union. (Data 1.c.3.a)

Offering is the next type of commissive in Obama's speech. Obama is offering to American people to keep their faith about American democracy dream and value by quoting the wise words from a enormous spirit in American fiction, Atticus Finch.

Data

But laws alone won't be enough. Hearts must change. It won't change overnight. Social attitudes oftentimes take generations to change. But if our democracy is to work the way it should in this increasingly diverse nation, then each one of us need to try to heed the advice of a great character in American fiction, Atticus Finch, who said "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it. (Data 1.c.4.a)

Expressive

Expressives are speech acts that convey a psychological circumstance. These acts convey the speaker's inner state and it says nothing about the world. The acts which belong to this category are thanking, apologizing, welcoming, state of pleasure, greeting, saluting, and expression of feeling, etc. They are elaborated below. The kinds of expressive act in Obama's speech are greeting/welcoming, thanking, and feeling.

Greeting is stated in the beginning of the speech. In the beginning of the speech, Obama greeted the audience. The sentences and phrases which are showing greeting are presented as follows.

Data

Hello Skybrook! (Data 1.d.1.a)

The second type of an expressive act found in Obama's speech is a state of thanking. Obama expressed his thanking after greeting to audience since the audience keep giving long applause for him.

Data

Thank you, everybody! Thank you (Data 1.d.2.a)

Several type of an expressive act found in Obama's speech is feeling. Obama delivered his feeling in his speech. Obama feels relieved and tries to rise the pride and the bond of people in his hometown.

Data

It's good to be home! (Data 1.d.3.a)

Obama also states his feeling, that he appreciates and feel so pleased and proud about the good economic achievement during his government period that economy is growing, rising salary for workers, pension accounts, and home values. They show better wealth under Obama's government.

And the good news is that today the economy is growing again. Wages, incomes, home values and retirement accounts are all rising again. Poverty is falling again. (Data 1.d.3.b)

Declarative

Declaratives are speech act that present utterances and expressions that modify the world by their utterances. Declarative relates with act changing the world immediately. The types of declaratives are christening, baptizing, declaration war, excommunicating, firing, and etc. The researcher do not find any declarative to analyze in President Barack Obama's farewell speech

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