COMMISSIVE SPEECH ACT IN INDONESIAN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Abdulloh Husain[1,*], Hamamah[2], Ika Nurhayani[3]

[1]Master Program of Linguistics, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya, Jl. Veteran Malang, 65145, Indonesia
[2]Master Program of Linguistics, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya, Jl. Veteran Malang, 65145, Indonesia
[3]Master Program of Linguistics, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya, Jl. Veteran Malang, 65145, Indonesia

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

A presidential debate is one of the campaign media which has a function to promote a presidential candidate to be a president. A linguistics theory of meaning was used to describe the utterances of the illocutionary act. This study was aimed to find a commissive speech act and its function in the first Indonesian presidential debate in 2019. The data source of this study was a video taken from Kompas TV channel on YouTube. The data of this study were utterances produced by the candidates. The data were collected by watching and note-taking techniques. As a result, 20 utterances belonged to the commissive speech act produced by Jokowi, Prabowo, and Sandi. However, there were no commissive speech act utterances produced by Ma'ruf. The conclusion is that the candidates mostly used promise act in producing utterances. The promise acts appear in the future tense, if clause condition sentence, and expression of InsyaAllah. Meanwhile, the function of producing utterances in this study is to show the candidates' capability to gain the consideration of society to vote one of them with a good sympathy.

* Corresponding Author:
  Email address: chusain313@gmail.com (A. Husain)

A. Introduction

Indonesia had a phenomenal political party in 2019. It was a presidential election for the 2019-2024 period which was to replace the previous president and vice president, Joko Widodo and Jusuf Kalla. There were two pairs of candidates in the presidential election in 2019, they were Joko Widodo (Jokowi) and KH. Ma'ruf Amin (Ma'ruf); and Prabowo Subianto (Prabowo) and Sandiaga Uno (Sandi).

Each candidate has the authority to promote himself in campaigns. Campaigns are going on contemporaneously among presidential and vice-presidential candidates and also parliamentary candidates. It has been

written in the Indonesia republic law number seven in 2017 part one paragraph 267. In paragraph 275, the regulation states that candidates can take several methods in their campaigns such as limited meetings, face-to-face meetings, debates, dialogues, definite meetings. Besides, campaigns can also be carried out through media such as television, radio, mass media, banner, and others.

The presidential debate is one of the media to advance presidential candidates because, in the debate, they are able to convey their background knowledge about self-candidacy. Moreover, they must convince the public of why should those who become president so that the public can understand the agenda or program proposed and end with the delivery of their vision and mission.

In the debate event, the presidential candidates produce sentences that have a meaning of future action. They have to use a good and simple language. A context must be considered as the public's condition. The target is to gain consideration of society to vote for him with a good sympathy. It can be obtained by producing speech acts in a good way, e.g., promising, offering, swearing, etc. to do something.[1] Furthermore, context and situation are the factors to understand the utterances clearly.

Pragmatics is linguistics studies that attempt to obtain the real purpose completely by considering the context and the situation of the utterances.[2] According to Austin in Nguyen, speech acts are actions intended to perform by a speaker on saying something.[3]

Speech acts in this study are used to interpret the utterances in presidential debates. It helps to find out the explicit and implicit meaning produced by the candidates. Because explicit and implicit instruction facilitates the production of suggestion speech acts.[4] Explicit instruction of the speech act improves its usage by the speaker significantly; however, males and females did not differ in this regard.[5] Illocutionary act is a challenging action to adjust the speaker's utterances and purposes, it belongs to a deep level of pragmatics study.[6]

---

[1] Suhair Safwat Mohammed Hashim, "Speech Acts in Political Speeches," *Journal of Modern Education Review* 5, no. 7 (2015): 699–706, https://doi.org/10.15341/jmer(2155-7993)/07.05.2015/008.

[2] Mohamad Jazeri, Kojin, and Dwi Astuti Wahyu Nurhayati, "Pragmatics Approach in Teaching 'Maharah Kalam' at Pondok Modern Darul Hikmah Tulungagung," *OKARA: Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra* 12, no. 2 (2018): 179, https://doi.org/10.19105/ojbs.v12i2.1949.

[3] Nguyen Quang Ngoan and Nguyen Thi Ngoc Dung, "Speech Act Types in Conversations in the 'New Interchange' Series," *VNU Journal of Foreign Studies* 33, no. 6 (2017), https://doi.org/10.25073/2525-2445/vnufs.4210.

[4] Azizeh Chalak and Samira Abbasi, "The Effects of Explicit and Implicit Pragmatic Instruction on Iranian EFL Learners ' Production of Suggestion Speech Act in the Context of Distance Learning," *Journal of Applied Linguistics and Language Research* 2, no. 4 (2015): 275–84.

[5] Mehdi Ghaedrahmat, Parviz Alavinia, and Reza Biria, "The Effect of Explicit vs. Implicit Instruction on Mastering the Speech Act of Thanking among Iranian Male and Female EFL Learners," *Latin American Journal of Content & Language Integrated Learning* 9, no. 2 (2016): 401–25, https://doi.org/10.5294/laclil.2016.9.2.7.

[6] Paina, "Commissive Speech Acts Can Reduce Conflict," accessed April 14, 2020, https://ugm.ac.id/en/news/5247-commissive-speech-acts-can-reduce-conflict.

The reasons for conducting commissive speech acts are the volume of usage of the commissive speech act in the Indonesian presidential debate is utterly productive, and there is the interaction between the presidential candidates with an immediate response.

Austin in Araki develops his argument to a general theory of speech acts into three; *locutionary act* (saying something), *illocutionary act* (what you are trying to do by speaking), and *perlocutionary act* (the effect of what you say).[7] Speech acts firstly written by Austin in his book entitled *How to Do Thing with Words*[8] then elaborated by Searle in 1976[9] and Kreidler in 1998.[10] Searle classifies speech acts into five broad types: commissives, declarations, directives, expressive, and representatives.[11]

The first is *commissives*. It refers to an act in which the speaker commits him/herself to do something with words such as offering, promising, refusing, threatening, vowing, and volunteering. The second is *declarations*, These are words that change the world by the utterance. They usually need to be uttered by a speaker of a special institutional role. The third is *directives*, an act in which the

words uttered by the speaker are aimed at making the hearer do something such as advising, commanding, forbidding, inviting, questioning, requesting, and suggesting. The fourth is *expressive*, it relates to an act that the words state what the speaker feels. In other words, it is used to express the speaker's strong emotion such as accepting, apologizing, congratulating, praising, regretting, and rejecting. And the last is *representatives,* these are acts in which the words state what the speaker believes to be the case. These allow the speaker to assert, confirm, or describe something such as claiming, describing, disagreeing, hypothesizing, and insisting.[12]

There are two relevant studies related to this study. First, Ahmad Zuhri Rosyidi; Mahyuni; Muhaimi entitled *Illocutionary Speech Acts Use by Joko Widodo in First Indonesian Presidential Election Debate 2019.*[13] In their study, it was only the Jokowi's utterances as the data. The result showed that there were 6 purposes of illocutionary speech act utterances in the first stage of the Indonesia presidential election debate 2019, namely giving information, opinions, prohibition, apologizing, promising, and criticizing.

Second, Silvia Ratna Juwita who studied *Expressive and Commissive Speech Acts in Indonesian Presidential*

---

[7] Naomi Araki, "Speech-Act Theory," *Bull. Hiroshima Inst. Tech. Research* 52 (2018): 1–5.

[8] John Austin, *How to Do Things with Words* (Cambridge: Oxford University Press, 1962).

[9] John R. Searle, "A Classification of Illocutionary Acts," *Language in Society* 5, no. 1 (April 1976): 1–23.

[10] Charles Kreidler, *Introduction to English Semantics* (London: Routledge, 1998).

[11] Ngoan and Dung, "Speech Act Types in Conversations in the 'New Interchange' Series."

[12] Ngoan and Dung.

[13] Ahmad Zuhri Rosyidi, Mahyuni Mahyuni, and Muhaimi, "Illocutionary Speech Acts Use by Jokowidodo in First Indonesia Presidential Election Debate 2019," *International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding* 6, no. 2 (2019): 735, https://doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v6i2.760.

Debate 2014: A Discourse Analysis Study.[14] Expressive and commissive speech acts were being the focus analysis of the study; both pairs of candidates haven't experience being a president. The result, the function of expressive speech act is to show the psychological attitude of the speaker. The whole utterances are gratitude, apology, sympathy, and acceptance; while the function of commissive speech act is the speaker commit himself to do action in the future. The whole utterances belong to commissive speech act of offer and promise.

This study focused on commissive speech act used by both pairs of presidential candidates in the first Indonesian presidential debate in 2019. The reasons are the researchers found data commit type of commissive speech act. Most of the data were found from the second pair, but they were not selected. No research of commissive speech act in all presidential candidates 2019. There is a set of analytical connections among the notion of speech acts, what the debater intends, what the debater means, what the hearer understands, and what the rules governing the linguistic elements are. Therefore, this study aimed to describe the commissive speech act and its function of utterances used by presidential candidates of the Indonesian presidential election debate in 2019.

B. Method

This is qualitative research because it describes the commissive speech act in the Indonesian presidential debate. Qualitative methods allow us to stay close to the empirical world.[15] The data are utterances produced by Indonesian presidential candidates containing commissive speech acts. The data source is the video of the first Indonesian presidential debate taken from Kompas TV channel on YouTube. The candidates are Jokowi, Ma'ruf, Prabowo, and Sandi.[16]

In this study, the researchers were the main instrument in data collection. Listening and taking-note techniques were used to identify utterances belong to the commissive speech act. Also, taking-note was the factor and the context outside of the utterances. Language, speaker, time, emotional, gesture, and situation were also being the attention point in collecting the data.[17]

The data analysis technique used in this study was descriptive techniques. The commissive speech act in the first Indonesian presidential election debate in 2019 is described by following some steps. The first is the identification of the data. It is applied to find out utterances in the Indonesian presidential election

[14] Silvia Ratna Juwita, "Tindak Tutur Ekspresif dan Komisif dalam Debat Calon Presiden Republik Indonesia 2014 : Studi Analisis Wacana," *Jurnal Eduscience* 3, no. 1 (2014): 37–48.

[15] Herbert Blumer, *Simbolic Interactionism: Perspective and Method* (Englewood: Prentice Hall, 1969).

[16] Kompas TV, *Debat Pertama Capres & Cawapres Pemilu 2019*, accessed in May 5, 2020, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6G85GvVdzw&t=3458s.

[17] John W. Creswell, *Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research* (Boston: University of Nebraska, 2012).

debate in 2019 which belongs to the commissive speech act. Second is data classification, collected speeches are grouped into six categories of commissive speech act. The third is the application of the theories related to purposes and the functions of the utterances of the commissive speech act. In this case, the researchers used the speech act theory to identify the purposes and functions of the speech act. Finally, making a conclusion based on the analyzed data.

C. Results

There were 20 utterances of the commissive speech act. The utterances were produced by Jokowi, Prabowo, and Sandi. However, no commissive speech act utterances produced by Ma'ruf in a bit of time he delivered arguments. Ma'ruf used statements that had no future meaning and had only information meanings. The data were classified into six types of commissive speech acts and six functions.

1. Commissive Speech Act in Presidential Debate

The results indicated that there were six types of commissive speech acts used by the Indonesian presidential debate. Those were offers, commit, promise, threat, guarantee, and bet. It could be seen in the following table. Commissive speech act used by Indonesian presidential debate.

The table 1 below was the analysis results of commissive speech act used by presidential candidates in Indonesian presidential debate.

Table 1.
Types of Commissive Speech Acts

Speech Act	Types	Total
Commissive	Offer	1
	Commit	4
	Promise	11
	Threat	2
	Guarantee	1
	Bet	1

Table 1. demonstrated about types of commissive speech acts and the number of commissive acts found in that presidential debate. Those types were offer, commit, promise, threat, guarantee, and bet. The detailed descriptions are in the following.

a. Offer

Offer is regarded as a common word in everyday usage of language for the purpose of presenting something to be accepted or refused.[18] *Offer* commissive speech act was found that produced by presidential candidates of Indonesian presidential debate 2019. This study revealed that there was a datum containing offer utterance in the event as present in datum (1) below.

"Visi kami adalah Indonesia Maju, kami **menawarkan** optimis dan masa depan Indonesia yang berkeadilan" – *Jokowi* (1).

*(Our vision is "Indonesia Maju", we **offer** an optimistic and the fairness of Indonesia in the future).*

[18] Hadher Hussein Abbood Ad-Darraji and Thomas Chow Voon Foo, "Offering as a Commissive and Directive Speech Act: Consequence for Cross-Cultural Communication," *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publication* 2, no. 3 (2012): 1–6, http://www.ijsrp.org/research_paper_mar2012/ijsrp-Mar-2012-89.pdf.

This datum was Jokowi's mission in the first presidential debate section. In his mission, he offered an optimist and justness in the future. Jokowi commit himself to do certain future acts. The effect of this act is assigned by Jokowi and the hearer, in this case, plays the role of an observer.[19]

This datum was an offering act. The speaker produced the word "offer" that had an implicit meaning of future action. The speaker had an idea to improve this country to be justness. From the context, the speaker was being a president who wanted to have more periods in his leadership. The purpose was to stimulate audiences to vote for him and Ma'ruf as the next president selected.

b. Commit

Commit in *Oxford Dictionary* is a promise sincerely that the speaker will definitely do something. It was found that commissive speech act of commit produced by participants of Indonesian presidential debate in 2019. The data occurred when the speaker commits in solving the problem, respect the greatest people and intend as present in data (2), (3), and (4).

> "Kami telah **berkomitmen** menyelaikan masalah Hak Asasi Manusia (HAM) ini, dan untuk menjamin hak-hak tersebut" - *Jokowi* (2).
>
> *(We have **committed** to solving the problem of human rights, and to guarantee it).*

Datum (2) was Jokowi's mission about law, human rights (HAM), terrorism, and corruption. He recognized that his previous leadership had numerous sparseness, and he had known what should be done. Therefore, he committed to solve the entire problem. By his commitment, there would be an act in the future. In this context, the speaker would totally do his utterance while the utterance was delivered to society. Society would not do anything of the utterance. The addressee should want the speaker to do so, and the speaker should have the intention of performing the action.[20]

This datum belonged to commissive speech act. The word "committed" is the evidence of commissive speech act of commit. It had a serious purpose in solving problems in future action. Implicitly, he needed one more period to lead this country to treat exhaustively entire problems.

> "Prabowo-Sandi **berkomitmen,** kita akan memastikan putra-putri terbaik bangsa yang difabel hidup untuk memenuhi potensinya" - *Sandi* (3).
>
> (*Prabowo-Sandi **commit**, we will ensure for the best disabled students to fulfill their potential*).

Datum (3) was produced by Sandi. It was Sandi's response to Jokowi's statement. Jokowi stated that he wanted to balance a rightful authority. Sandi recognized that Indonesian youths had great potential in creating jobs. Hence, Sandi committed that he would empower the Indonesian youths although they were 'disability'. Sandi was making an

---

[19] Ad-Darraji and Foo.

[20] Bushra Ni'ma Rashid, "A Pragmatic Analisis of Commissives in Some Selected American Political Texts," *International Journal of Current Research* 7, no. 12 (December 2015): 23805–14.

understood contract with a disability that would be carried out.[21] This utterance was specially delivered to disability. This datum belonged to commissive speech act. It was proven by the word "commit" which had an intended meaning in developing a fully potential plan in the future.

> "Banyak sekali masyarakat yang tidak bisa merasakan masa depan yang cerah, akhirnya terpapar, karena kebutuhan ekonominya. Oleh karena itu Prabowo-Sandi akan melihat peta-peta dimana resiko ini timbul, berdasarkan ideologi, motivasi dan psikologinya. Kita harus hadir untuk mereka untuk memastikan mereka tidak terjerumus pada terorisme. Itu yang menjadi **komitmen** adil, makmur bersama Prabowo-Sandi" - *Sandi* (4)."
>
> *(Many people cannot feel a bright future because of its economic needs. Therefore Prabowo-Sandi will find the risk arises based on their ideology, motivation, and psychology. We have to be present to ensure that they are not falling into terrorism. That is our **commitment** to being a fair, prosper with Prabowo-Sandi).*

Datum (4) was produced by Sandi. It was a commissive speech act of *commit*. The word "commitment", at the end of Sandi's arguments, indicated that in the future, he committed himself to set the regulation in Indonesia. He committed to eclipse risk based on ideology, motivation, and psychology. The purpose was to balance the financial aspect and life beatitude.

c. Promise

Promise is the act produced by speakers to addressee about the willingness to do an action. It can also mean a capacity for good, similar to a value that is to be realized in the near future.[22] It was found that promise was used to ask for forgiveness of making an error, convincing people, and explaining a mission. All data were presented in data (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9).

> "Banyak masyarakat yang masih mengeluh, itu pekerjaan rumah (PR) kita, dan bersama Prabowo-Sandi **insyaAllah** kita tegakkan hukum, kita pastikan tidak ada korupsi lagi, kita pastikan Indonesia jaya" - *Sandi* (5)."
>
> *(Many people complained, it's our homework, and with Prabowo-Sandi **God willing** we enforce the law, we ensure there is no corruption anymore, we make sure a glory in Indonesia).*

Datum (5) was a Prabowo-Sandi mission. Sandi considered that a low level of economic in Indonesia was caused low in job pitch. Therefore, Sandi had a great intention in upgrading a law and eclipsing a corruption. In the statement, Sandi produced "God willing we enforce the law, we ensure there is no corruption anymore". Sandi used the word God willing to convince society that he promised to do his utterance. The utterance belonged to commissive speech act. The word "God willing" was an expression to state an expectation or promise which had not been fulfilled yet. This indicated that he was not fully convinced to be able to make his

---

[21] Siti Ritonga, "Speech Acts in Indonesia Independence Day Speech," *AICLL: Annual International Conference on Language and Literature* 1, no. 1 (April 17, 2018): 57–61, https://doi.org/10.30743/aicll.v1i1.8.

[22] Doris Pierce, "Promise," *Journal of Occupational Science* 19, no. 4 (October 1, 2012): 298–311, https://doi.org/10.1080/14427591.2012.667778.

statement in the future. This utterance was called a *promise* act because of a high intention to eradicate corruption. Implicitly, it was upgrading low and sweeping a corruption that has not been ended yet.

”Kami **akan** menggabungkan fungsi-fungsi legislasi baik yang ada di PBAN, dirjen undang undang dan fungsi-fungsi legislasi yang ada di semua kementerian dan kita gabungkan dalam badan yang namanya pusat legislasi nasional, sehingga kontrol langsung oleh presiden sehingga tidak terjadi tumpang tindih” - *Jokowi* (6).

(*We **will** incorporate the legislation's functions among the PBAN, directorate, and ministries. We combine in the group namely the central of national legislation. Thus, it will be direct control by the president. Hopefully, there is no overlapping cases*).

In Datum (6), Jokowi opposed Prabowo's reaction of the panelist question of how to arrange a law which had been flared up. Jokowi intended to gather all law functions in his future leadership. It indicated that it belongs to a *promise* act. The speaker to carry out future action.[23] Furthermore, it was called commissive speech act by the word "will" in the previous sentence. Jokowi convinced that the power of his presidential policy was to be the number one to operate the whole system in Indonesia. In addition, Jokowi considered that his opposing candidate had not experienced yet in operating a country, despite that he had several experiences to be a leader. Meanwhile, Jokowi had been

---

[23] Rashid, "A Pragmatic Analisis of Commissives in Some Selected American Political Texts."

being a president. Certainly, he had more understanding of how to handle a country. Therefore, he delivered a statement "they will gather*…"* because he considered that those problems could not be solved easily in a short time and separately.

"Prabowo- Sandi manakala kita yang **akan** memimpin pemerintahan, kita akan benar-benar investasi besar-besaran dalam pendidikan, dalam kesehatan, untuk membantu rakyat yang paling bawah, paling miskin. Kita akan bantu pesantren-pesantren, madrasah-madrasah guru-guru dimana mana harus kita perbaiki kapasitasnya, kualitas hidupnya" - *Prabowo* (7).

(*When we are going to lead the government, we **will** be a massive investment in education and health to help the most people under the poorest. We will help pesantren and madrasah where we must improve their capacity and quality of life*).

Datum (7) was Prabowo's answer to panelist questions about the strategies that would be used in operating a program of preventing a terrorist effectively. The datum belonged to the commissive speech act of *promise* because Prabowo promised to make a big investment in education and health. Prabowo considered that a low of characters' education in Indonesia was the highest problem. Furthermore, Prabowo also wanted to help an Islamic boarding, Islamic school, and teachers. Prabowo wanted to maximize a finance country in education and health. In addition, Prabowo used if clause condition. The word "when we are going to lead the government" indicated that he would take steps when they became president in the next period.

"Saya **akan** melakukan revisi undang-undang yang menghambat berkembangnya usaha kecil menengah (UKM) kita" - *Jokowi* (8)."

*(I **will** revise laws that impede the development of our short for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).*

In Datum (8), Jokowi answered Prabowo's questions about low up and low flares which are affiliated by political parties. The utterance belonged to commissive speech act of *promise*. Jokowi promised that he would revise the entire law that obstructed in developing SMEs. The evidence was the word "will" that had an action in the future. While the word "revise" was the Jokowi's promise. Jokowi felt that his previous leadership had not perfect yet. He intended to increase prosperity and repair a weakness by leaning a mistake in his next presidential leadership.

"Kami **bertekad menghentikan** kebocoran, kami bertekad manaikkan *tax ratio*, kami yakin negara ini sangat-sangat kaya tapi terjadi kebocoran-kebocoran kekayaan, kekayaan kita mengalir keluar negeri" - *Prabowo* (9).

*(We **are determined** to stop the problem, we are determined to rise the tax ratio. We believe that the country is very rich but there is a problem with wealth. Our wealth flows out of the country).*

Datum (9) occurred in a closing moment. Prabowo stated that Indonesia could be a success by upgrading in law, district attorney, and police. Therefore, Prabowo promised that he would stop any problems which hampered a success. The evidence of commissive speech act was the word "are determined" which had a future plan to be bright. In his promise, he wanted to increase a salary and stop leakage. The reason for that was because he had been intrigued by problems in Indonesia, so he wanted to make a change.

d. Threat

Threat is a statement in which one tells somebody, that speaker will be punished or harmed, especially if speaker does not do what you want, to make threats against somebody.[24] It is found that threat was used in a warning act to the addressee. This data occurred when the speaker was going to extreme on his policy. All the data were presented in data (10) and (11)

"Aparat itu tanggung jawab kepala eksekutif, jadi kita harus jamin kalau ada pejabat yang menyimpang, **saya akan pecat**" - *Prabowo* (10).

*(The apparatus is the responsibility of the chief executive. Therefore, we must guarantee if there is a deviant official, **I will discharge them***).

Datum (10) was produced by Prabowo in the first question from panelist to Prabowo-Sandi. That's about human rights, which was a strategy that could solve the problem of discrimination and persecution. Before the datum was produced, Jokowi contradicted Prabowo's answer and he added an issue about Prabowo's party that some of Prabowo's members were corruptors. In the datum, Prabowo immediately threatened that all officials would be exhausted when carrying out irregularities.

---

[24] Rashid.

In Prabowo's response, there was an utterance that belonged to commissive speech act and the utterance was "I will discharge". This utterance had a future meaning since it was used "will" as future meaning. The word "discharge" was a threat sign. Threat means doing something in the future that is harmful to the hearer.[25] The purpose was to give an understanding that carrying out irregularities was totally forbidden to official.

> "Saya jamin partai Gerindra akan melawan korupsi sampai ke akar-akarnya, kalau ada anggota Gerindra yang korupsi, **saya yang akan memasukkannya ke dalam penjara sendiri**" - *Prabowo* (11).
>
> *(I guarantee that the Gerindra party will fight corruption. If there is a member of Gerindra who corrupts, **I will put him in prison by my self**).*

Datum (11) was Prabowo's answer to Jokowi's question about a permit of corruptor as parliament's candidates. Prabowo felt that he never got news from Indonesian Corruption Watch (ICW). Because of complaints that stated several Gerindra members as corruptors, Prabowo threatened to his members' party when there was corruption, he would carry them into jail. This datum belonged to a commissive speech act of *threat*. It could be proven by the sentence "I will put it in his own prison". The sentence would

be done in the future. Implicitly, he considered that no corruptors in his party.

e. Guarantee

In the act of guarantee, the speaker commits him/ herself to achieve certain things in the future.[26] It was found that guarantee was used in a great belief in the issue. Sometimes, it was followed by consequences related to the issue. This datum occurred when the speaker was backed bite at his party. The datum was presented in datum (12).

> "Saya **jamin** partai Gerindra akan melawan korupsi sampai ke akar-akarnya, kalau ada anggota Gerindra yang korupsi, saya yang akan memasukkannya ke dalam penjara sendiri" - *Prabowo* (12).
>
> *(I **guarantee** that the Gerindra party will fight corruption. If there is a member of Gerindra who are corrupt, I will put him in prison by myself).*

This datum was Prabowo's answer of Jokowi's question about a permit of corruptor as parliament candidates. As the context, Prabowo was the leader of Gerindra's party. All parliaments' candidates had to get a sign of the leader's party. While several parliaments' candidates from Gerindra party were corruptors. Prabowo felt that he never got news from ICW. Because of complaints about Gerindra members as corruptors, Prabowo guarantee that his party would fight corruptor seriously.

The word "guarantee" was the fact that the datum belonged to a commissive of guarantee. Guarantee is the speaker commits him/ herself to achieve certain

---

[25] Miftakhul Ulum and Djoko Sutopo, "A Comparison Between Trump's and Clinton's Commissive Speech Act in America's Presidential Campaign Speech," *English Education Journal* 8, no. 2 (2018): 221–28, https://doi.org/10.15294/eej.v8i3.21391.

[26] Rashid, "A Pragmatic Analisis of Commissives in Some Selected American Political Texts."

things in the future.[27] Furthermore, the utterance "will fight corruption" was commissive speech act that had a future action. In addition, the speaker added a cause-effect statement. Prabowo would take his member to jail when his members did corruption. It had a purpose to fight corruption seriously.

f. Bet

Bet in *Oxford Dictionary* is an arrangement to risk money, etc. It was found that bet was used when the speaker had a power at stake. The datum was presented in datum (13)

> "Jokowi-Amin akan **pertaruhkan** jabatan dan reputasi dan akan kami gunakan semua kewenangan yang kami miliki untuk perbaikan bangsa ini" - *Jokowi* (13).
>
> *(Jokowi-Amin will **risk** our position and reputation. We will use all the authority that we have for the improvement of this nation).*

This datum was produced by Jokowi at the end of the section. In this section, each candidate was given several times to deliver a closing statement that elaborated on the whole topic and respected another candidate. The utterance belonged to commissive speech act of bet. Jokowi entrusted his position in developing this nation. The word "risk" was evidence of commissive speech act. Speaker had a power at stake that was "position and reputation." Both powers became a bet to improve this country. In this case, he fought something by entrusting his position when becoming a president.

---

27 Rashid.

Implicitly, he had a great intention to repair this country sincerely.

2. The Function of Commissive Speech Act in Presidential Debate

The research indicated that six functions of commissive speech act were used by Indonesian presidential debate. Those types included information, capability, sympathy, apology, guarantee, and convince. It could be seen in table 2.

Table 2.
Functions of Commissive Speech Acts

Speech Act	Functions	Total
Commissive	Information	2
	Capability	6
	Sympathy	6
	Apology	1
	Guarantee	3
	Convince	2

Table 2. demonstrated about functions of commissive speech acts and the number of commissive acts found in that presidential debate. Those functions were information, capability, sympathy, apology, guarantee, and convince. The detailed descriptions are in the following.

a. Information

It was found that one of the functions of commissive speech act in Indonesian presidential debate was applied in the debate. In this case, the speaker used commissive speech act to convey information about something in the future which regarded to interlocutor as present in datum (1) and (2).

> "Kami berkomitmen kepastian hukum ini akan menjadi prioritas utama dibawah Indonesia menang, Prabowo-

Sandi Adil, Makmur 2019-2024" - *Sandi* (1)."

(We are committed to the low that it will be our top priority of Indonesia success, Prabowo-Sandi is a fair and prosper in 2019-2024).

Based on the context, datum (1) was Sandi's answer from the panelist question about the strategies in drawing up a regulation that had been flare-up. Sandi recognized that Indonesia had a great potential in strengthening a law. Indeed, Sandi was able to overcome all regulatory issues in Indonesia by making law a priority policy in his leadership.

"Kami akan memberdayakan badan pembinaan hukum nasional, kami akan perkuat dengan pakar-pakar hukum yang terbaik untuk melakukan sinkronisasi penyelarasan" - *Prabowo* (2).

(We will empower the national legal development agency. We will strengthen them with the best experts to do a synchronization).

Datum (2) was Prabowo's answer from panelist question about how to solve a number of problems in regulations. He considered that Indonesia had several experts in drawing up the regulation. He told the audience that he would involve those experts in his leadership.

b. Capability

The capability involves the ability of the speakers in organizing their intention in the future. Some of the capability functions contained in the Indonesian presidential debate candidates in this study were when the speaker conveyed the vision, commitment, and intention as stated in datum (3) and (4).

"Visi kami adalah Indonesia Maju, kami menawarkan optimis dan masa depan Indoensia yang berkeadilan" - *Jokowi* (3).

(Our vision is "Indonesia Maju", we offer an optimistic and the fairness of Indonesia in the future).

Based on the context of datum (3), it was Jokowi's mission in the first debate section. In his mission, he offered optimism and justness in the future. Implicitly, he showed his capability by showing an offer of optimism and justness. It could be seen in an utterance "we offer an optimistic and the fairness of Indonesia in the future".

"Kami telah berkomitmen menyelesaikan masalah HAM ini, dan untuk menjamin hak hak tersebut" - *Jokowi* (4).

(We have committed to solving the problem of human rights, guarantee it).

Datum (4) occurred in the continuance of the context of the previous datum. It showed Jokowi's mission in terms of the law, human rights, terrorism, and corruption. He recognized that his previous leadership had numerous sparseness, and he had known what must be done. Therefore, he committed himself to solve the entire problem. Jokowi was prepared to solve the problems in the next period by becoming a president in this country.

c. Sympathy

This sympathy involved the speaker's utterance that implicitly showed a sympathy to the interlocutor. Some of the capability functions contained in the Indonesian presidential debate candidates in this study were when the speaker was

apprehensive to disability, uneducated and unhealthy people as present in datum (5) and (6).

> "Prabowo-Sandi berkomitmen, kita akan memastikan putra-putri terbaik bangsa yang difabel hidup untuk memenuhi potensinya" - *Sandi* (5).
>
> *(Prabowo-Sandi commit, we will ensure for the best disabled students to fulfill their potential).*

Datum (5) was Sandi's response to Jokowi's statement. Jokowi stated that he wanted to balance a rightful authority. Sandi produced "we will ensure for the best disabled students to fulfill their potential" that indicated a sympathy. Sympathy is to say a sense of attention to what is happening.[28] Sandi attempted to find out public's attention especially disability people.

> "Prabowo-Sandi akan berpihak kepada rakyat. Prabowo-Sandi akan memastikan bahwa HAM juga mencakupi akses terhadap pendidikan, terhadap kesehatan dan terhadap mata pencaharian yang baik" - *Sandi* (6).
>
> *(Prabowo-Sandi will be on the sides of society. Prabowo-Sandi will ensure that human rights also include access to education, health, and good livelihoods).*

In datum (6), Sandi attempted to find out sympathy from society at a low level by a program of balancing HAM, especially those who were lack education, health, and finance. It could be seen in the utterance "Prabowo-Sandi will be on the sides of society. Prabowo-Sandi will ensure that human rights also include

access to education, health, and good livelihoods"

d. Apology

In apology, the speaker used a strategy of commissive speech act to ask forgiveness. The speaker realized his mistakes and needed forgiveness. The apology function contained in the Indonesian presidential debate in this study was when the speaker stated guilty that he made a mistake with the previous leadership as present in the datum (7).

> "Saya akan melakukan revisi undang-undang yang menghambat berkembangnya UKM UKM kita" - *Jokowi* (7).
>
> *(I will revise laws that impede the development of our short for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).*

Based on the context of datum (7), Jokowi answered Prabowo's questions about low up and low flares which was an affiliation to the politic party. Jokowi felt that he made big mistakes in his previous leadership. Therefore, he asked for forgiveness and he promised to revise them. Basically, apology is the attitude of accepting things.[29]

e. Guarantee

In the guarantee, the speaker used the strategy of commissive speech act to give a guarantee to the interlocutor about a dead certainty in the future. Some functions of guarantee contained in Indonesian presidential debate in this study were when there was the speakers' desire of being a president by oppressed

---

[28] Juwita, "Tindak Tutur Ekspresif dan Komisif Dalam Debat Calon Presiden Republik Indonesia 2014 : Studi Analisis Wacana."

[29] Juwita.

and in if clause condition statement as present in datum (8) and (9)

> "Saya jamin partai Gerindra akan melawan korupsi sampai ke akar-akarnya, kalau ada anggota Gerindra yang korupsi, saya yang akan memasukkannya ke dalam penjara sendiri" – *Prabowo* (8).
>
> *(I guarantee that the Gerindra party will fight corruption. If there is a member of Gerindra who corrupts, I will put him in prison by myself).*

In the context of datum (8), the speakers used if clause condition to deliver his statement. When there was a member of Gerindra party doing corruption, he would take steps to put into the jail by himself. He guaranteed that there would not be any corruption done by the members in his party.

> "Kalau saya memimpin negara ini, pemerintahan, saya akan perbaiki kualitas hidup semua birokrat dengan realistis" - *Prabowo* (8).
>
> *(If I lead this country, the government, I will improve the quality of life of all bureaucrats realistically).*

In the context of datum (9), the speaker gave a guarantee to bureaucrat that he would improve their life. The utterance "I will improve the quality of life of all bureaucrats" indicated that he promised to apply his intention to cover all problems in his future leadership. He also guaranteed salaries in overcoming corruption.

f. Convince

The last is convince. The speaker used the strategy of commissive speech act to convince society. The function of convince contained in Indonesian presidential debate was when the issues were about discrimination and calumny of corruptor as present in datum (10) and (11).

> "Saya jamin partai Gerindra akan melawan korupsi sampai ke akar-akarnya, kalau ada anggota Gerindra yang korupsi, saya yang akan memasukkannya ke dalam penjara sendiri" - *Prabowo* (10).
>
> *(I guarantee that the Gerindra party will fight corruption. If there is a member of Gerindra who corrupts, I will put him in prison by myself).*

In the context of datum (10), the speaker felt that he never got news from ICW. It was an issue of Gerindra's members who were being corruptors. Therefore, the speaker convinced the interlocutor that there would be no corruptor in his party. He intended to fight corruptor seriously.

> "Saya akan menatar seluruh aparat penegak hukum, saya akan intruksikan, saya akan tegaskan bahwa tidak boleh diskriminasi terhadap suku apapun, agama apapun, etnis apapun" - *Prabowo* (11).
>
> *(I will organize all the law enforcement officers. I will instruct. I will affirm that should not discriminate against any tribe, religion, and ethnicity).*

In the context of datum (11), the speaker wanted to remove a discrimination attitude that had been rampant. Therefore, the speaker convinced the society that he was ready to extirpate discrimination in Indonesia when he became a president.

Speech act was related to the study of the language used in the context of the presidential debate. Especially, the utterances which belong to the commissive speech act focused on the types and the function of the utterances. First, there were six types of commissive speech act used in the presidential debate. Those were offer, commit, promise, threat, guarantee, and bet. Second, there were six functions in the utterances. Those were informative, capability, sympathy, apology, guarantee, and convince.

This section tried to highlight the analysis of the findings. The researchers started by analyzing Jokowi's utterances containing commissive speech acts. In the types of commissive speech act, a datum of offer was used to stimulate audiences, a datum of commit was used to treat exhaustively entire problems, two data of promises were used in an intention to increase prosperity, and a datum of bet was used to fight a something by entrusting his position.

Moreover, the functions used by Jokowi in Indonesian presidential debate were only capability and apology. Four data of capability used by Jokowi in optimism and justness. He considered being able to drive this country more than the other candidates. He had learned several experiences and ideas from his previous leadership to develop this country. Meanwhile, one datum of apology was found when he was realizing the mistakes. Previously, Jokowi used an apology in his speech. It was his rhetorical strategy to advance his arguments.[30]

The analysis of Prabowo's utterances indicated that he produced nine utterances of the commissive speech act in Indonesian presidential debate. Those utterances consisted of six data of promise, two data of threat, and one datum of guarantee. He used promise speech act to develop the country by improving regulation, removing discrimination and corruption, and increasing a salary for employees since he felt highly piqued of entire problems in the previous president. In the threat speech act, he used it to convince the audience, while the guarantee speech act was used to fight corruption seriously.

On the other hand, he produced utterances that had an implied function, namely the capability to convince audiences to make improvements. The information in introducing Indonesian skills, sympathy in improving education & health, guarantees in eradicating corruption, and discharging deviated officials, and convince in extirpating discrimination.

The analysis of Sandi's utterances indicated that there were three data of commit and three data of promise. He used commit speech acts to give priority to a law, prefer good people, and overcome risk. While promise speech act

[30] Noermanzah, Emzir, and Ninuk Lustyantie, "President Joko Widodo's Rhetorical Technique of Arguing in the Presidential Speeches of the Reform Era," *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature* 7, no. 5 (September 1, 2018): 117–26, https://doi.org/10.7575/aiac.ijalel.v.7n.5p.117.

was used to upgrade a law & eradicate corruption, tend society, and overcome discrimination and persecution.

Furthermore, Sandi produced utterances that had implied functions, those were information in introducing his skill, capability in extirpating corruption, and sympathy of paying attention to disability and poor people.

In the current research had been done by Gusthini, Sobarna, and Amalia (2018) found that *threat* commissive speech acts related to the power dimension. The speaker talks can convince people (i.e. audiences/ listeners) and influence them to choose, in the case, the President during presidential debates.[31]

This current research had a different result from the previous research, which had been done by Juwita on Expressive and Commissive Speech Act in Indonesian presidential debate 2014: discourse analysis study. She said that presidential candidates mostly used speech act in Indonesian presidential debate 2014. The functions of the utterances were sympathy, threat, and apology. Also, Jokowi stated 'InsyaAllah' (God willing) in expressive speech act which has an expectation meaning.[32]

While the other research had been done by Rosyidi; Mahyuni; Muhaimi on Illocutionary Speech Acts Use by Joko Widodo in First Indonesia Presidential Election Debate 2019. They said that in commissive speech act, the speaker used promise act that had a sympathy function.[33]

D. Conclusion

To sum up, this study reveals that the commissive speech act is presented in Indonesian presidential debate. There are two points of commissive speech act used by candidates in the first Indonesian presidential debate. Those are a description of commissive and its function. Particularly, there are 20 data in this research which are produced by three presidential candidates.

This study found six types of commissive speech act: offer, commit, promise, threat, guarantee, and bet. Also, it has six functions: information, capability, sympathy, guarantee, convince, and apology. In the first Indonesian presidential debate, the candidates mostly used promise act in delivering statements. Their promise appeared in the future tense, if clause condition, and expression of InsyaAllah. While the function, the candidate mostly produced the statements to show their capability and gain the public's attention to voting him with good sympathy.

---

[31] Misyi Gusthini, Cece Sobarna, and Rosaria Mita Amalia, "A Pragmatic Study of Speech as an Instrument of Power: Analysis of the 2016 USA Presidential Debate," *Studies in English Language and Education* 5, no. 1 (2018): 97–113, https://doi.org/10.24815/siele.v5i1.6906.

[32] Juwita, "Tindak Tutur Ekspresif dan Komisif dalam Debat Calon Presiden Republik Indonesia 2014 : Studi Analisis Wacana."

[33] Ahmad Rosyidi, Mahyuni Mahyuni, and Muhaimi, "Illocutionary Speech Acts Use by Jokowidodo in First Indonesia Presidential Election Debate 2019,"

References

Ad-Darraji, Hadher Hussein Abbood, and Thomas Chow Voon Foo. "Offering as a Comissive and Directive Speech Act: Consequence for Cross-Cultural Communication." *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publication* 2, no. 3 (2012): 1–6.

Araki, Naomi. "Speech-Act Theory." *Bull. Hiroshima Inst. Tech. Research* 52 (2018): 1–5.

Austin, John. *How to Do Things with Words.* Cambridge: Oxford University Press, 1962.

Blumer, Herbert. *Simbolic Interactionism: Perspective and Method.* Englewood: Prentice Hall, 1969.

Chalak, Azizeh, and Samira Abbasi. "The Effects of Explicit and Implicit Pragmatic Instruction on Iranian EFL Learners ' Production of Suggestion Speech Act in the Context of Distance Learning." *Journal of Applied Linguistics and Language Research* 2, no. 4 (2015): 275–84.

Creswell, John W. *Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research.* Boston: University of Nebraska, 2012.

Ghaedrahmat, Mehdi, Parviz Alavinia, and Reza Biria. "The Effect of Explicit vs. Implicit Instruction on Mastering the Speech Act of Thanking among Iranian Male and Female EFL Learners." *Latin American Journal of Content & Language Integrated Learning* 9, no. 2 (2016): 401–25. https://doi.org/10.5294/laclil.2016.9.2.7.

Gusthini, Misyi, Cece Sobarna, and Rosaria Mita Amalia. "A Pragmatic Study of Speech as an Instrument of Power: Analysis of the 2016 USA Presidential Debate." *Studies in English Language and Education* 5, no. 1 (2018): 97–113. https://doi.org/10.24815/siele.v5i1.6906.

Jazeri, Mohamad, Kojin, and Dwi Astuti Wahyu Nurhayati. "Pragmatics Approach in Teaching 'Maharah Kalam' at Pondok Modern Darul Hikmah Tulungagung." *OKARA: Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra* 12, no. 2 (2018): 179. https://doi.org/10.19105/ojbs.v12i2.1949.

Juwita, Silvia Ratna. "Tindak Tutur Ekspresif dan Komisif dalam Debat Calon Presiden Republik Indonesia 2014 : Studi Analisis Wacana." *Jurnal Eduscience* 3, no. 1 (2014): 37–48.

Kompas TV. *Debat Pertama Capres & Cawapres Pemilu 2019*, 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6G85GvVdzw&t=3458s.

Kreidler, Charles. *Introduction to English Semantics.* London: Routledge, 1998.

Mohammed Hashim, Suhair Safwat. "Speech Acts in Political Speeches." *Journal of Modern Education Review* 5, no. 7 (2015): 699–706. https://doi.org/10.15341/jmer(2155-7993)/07.05.2015/008.

Ngoan, Nguyen Quang, and Nguyen Thi Ngoc Dung. "Speech Act Types in Conversations in the 'New Interchange' Series." *VNU Journal of Foreign Studies* 33, no. 6 (2017). https://doi.org/10.25073/2525-2445/vnufs.4210.

Noermanzah, Emzir, and Ninuk Lustyantie. "President Joko Widodo's Rhetorical Technique of Arguing in the Presidential Speeches of the Reform Era." *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature* 7, no. 5 (September 1, 2018): 117–26. https://doi.org/10.7575/aiac.ijalel.v.7n.5p.117.

Paina. "Commissive Speech Acts Can Reduce Conflict." Accessed April 14, 2020. https://ugm.ac.id/en/news/5247-commissive-speech-acts-can-reduce-conflict.

Pierce, Doris. "Promise." *Journal of Occupational Science* 19, no. 4 (October 1, 2012): 298–311. https://doi.org/10.1080/14427591.2012.667778.

Rashid, Bushra Ni'ma. "A Pragmatic Analisis of Commissives in Some Selected American Political Texts." *International Journal of Current Research* 7, no. 12 (December 2015): 23805–14.

Ritonga, Siti. "Speech Acts in Indonesia Independence Day Speech." *AICLL: Annual International Conference on Language and Literature* 1, no. 1 (April 17, 2018): 57–61. https://doi.org/10.30743/aicll.v1i1.8.

Rosyidi, Ahmad, Mahyuni Mahyuni, and Muhaimi. "Illocutionary Speech Acts Use by Jokowidodo in First Indonesia Presidential Election Debate 2019." *International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding* 6, no. 2 (May 30, 2019): 735–40. https://doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v6i2.760.

Searle, John R. "A Classification of Illocutionary Acts." *Language in Society* 5, no. 1 (April 1976): 1–23.

Ulum, Miftakhul, and Djoko Sutopo. "A Comparison Between Trump's and Clinton's Commissive Speech Act in America's Presidential Campaign Speech." *English Education Journal* 8, no. 2 (2018): 221–28. https://doi.org/10.15294/eej.v8i3.21391.