

BARACK OBAMA'S VICTORY SPEECHES THROUGH ILLOCUTIONARY ACT

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Abstract

This research deals with the analysis of illocutionary act found in Barack Obama's victory speeches. The purpose of this research was to analyze the illocutionary act which produced by Barack Obama in his victory speeches. This research used descriptive qualitative method where the researcher analyzed one by one the type of illocutionary act which produced by Barack Obama in his victory speeches. The researcher used the theory from Alston for illocutionary act. From the research, the researcher found that there were 31 statements of illocutionary act produced by Barack Obama in his victory speeches. They were 20 statements for expressive, 7 statements of directives and 4 statements of commissive. The researcher did not find any exertive in Barack Obama's victory speeches. The result showed that the most dominant type of illocutionary act found in Barack Obama's victory speeches was expressive.

Keywords: speech, Speech act, Illocutionary act.

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Introduction

Speech is the ability to express thought and emotions through vocal sounds and gesture. Speech is usually performed by a person or a leader who gives speeches or statements about something important. According to Saputro (2015) speech is mostly used by politicians because it can be the media for establishing and maintaining social relationship, building an image, expressing feeling and selling idea, policies and program in any society. There are many phenomenal speech by politicians one of them is Barack Obama.

Barack Hussein Obama or known as Barack Obama was the first black American president over the century. He is the 44th president of United States, and he has won the election for two periods. The election of President Barack Obama makes history in United States as he was the first African-American president. His speeches are so phenomenal because his speeches are

expected to give a hope to whole union and spirit for having a better nation. In delivering the victory speeches Barack Obama reaffirms his commitment, promises and saying his gratitude when he has chosen as the United State President. Therefore, in his speech we can find the uttering that will be seen through as pragmatics.

Pragmatic is the study of how context contributes to meaning. It evaluates how human language is utilized in social interaction as well as the correlation between the speaker and the audience. Leech (2014) states that pragmatic is the study of language use and its meaning to speaker and hearer. While Richard and Schmidt (2002) argue that pragmatics is the study of the use of language in communication related to sentences and the context and situations in which they are used. Pragmatic itself consists of several major subfields such as deixis, reference, presupposition, implicature and speech acts.

Speech act is concerned with the use of utterance to perform an act. By mean of utterance, the speaker is able to get the hearer to do something. Aitchinson (2003) “speech act is the utterances that applied in action. He also adds that in uttering the words, the speaker usually get the effect from the utterance, in case the effect might be accomplished by action”. Moreover, Osisanwo (2003) “ states that the utterance that used by the speaker to deliver or perform an act such as giving an opinion or fact, making an offer and promises, asking a question and request, asking and giving permission, giving an advice, saying thank you and sorry to somebody.

Moreover, Alston (2000) adds that that there are three types of speech acts. They are sentential act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Sentential act is defined as uttering a sentence or some sentence surrogate. The concept of sentential act is the application of which to a person makes explicit what sentence he/she uttered. Then, illocutionary act is defined as the speaker’s intention in delivering an utterance, and perlocutionary act is defined as the effect of the utterance which the speaker said to the hearer.

Regarding the different types of speech act, it creates many function of speech act itself such as exchanging functual information, intelectual information, emotional atitudes, moral atitudes, and persuasion. It also causes the various communicative intention of speaker in producing communication, because sometimes the speaker conceives the utterance priciesly like the speaker actually mean or the hearer gets another perception from it.

Hence, it is necessary to analyze the actual meaning behind of the speaker saying. In this research, the researcher used speech as a media of analyzing the meaning. In terms of utilizing speech in

analyzing the illocutionary act, there are some previous related studies. The first study conducted by Larasati, Arjulayana and Novita (2020) on their thesis conducted by using library research with descriptive qualitative method. The description of their thesis is done by analyzing speech about illocutionary acts found on Donald Trump’s president candidacy speech by using Searle’s theory. From the research, they found that Donald Trump produced mostly assertive type of illocutionary acts.

Another related previous research was conducted by Hartati, Pulungan and Husein (2020). Their research was titled *Illocutionary Act in Jack MA’s Inspiring Speech in His Graduation at the University of Hongkong*. They focused the researched on illocutionary act. They used descriptive qualitative method and they used the theory from Searle in indetifying the illocutionary act. From their research, they found that the most illocutionary act was assertive, it took 62% from all the types of illocutionary acts. It means that it took more than a half from all the type of illocutionary acts.

Besides this two, there was other previous research which discussed in analyzing speech through speech act, that was the research from Baok, Jayanti dan Santika (2021). The title of their research is the analysis of illocutionary acts in Hillary Clinton’s speech. The focus on their research was on illocutionary act in the speech acts. The data were collected from the video and the script of Hillary Clinton’s speech. From the 5 types of illocutionary acts, they found that assertive was the most dominant of illocutionary acts in Hillary Clinton’s speech.

From the previous related study above, the researcher used two different speeches of Barack Obama’s victory speech. They are victory speech in 2008 and victory speech in the year 2012. Due

to the fact that both of the speeches were done in different condition and situation. Some differences of illocutionary act might appear in both of speeches. Therefore, the researcher analyzed the illocutionary act on Barack Obama's victory speeches.

The formulation of the questions in this research are what types of illocutionary acts performed by Barack Obama in his victory speeches? And which type of illocutionary act was the most dominant? And why was it the most dominant one?

The significances of this research are the firstly it could be used by the learners to increase their knowledge and skill in analyzing speech acts and then it could be used to give more information to the next researcher who was interested in discussing to related topic on speech acts especially in types of illocutionary acts.

Method of the Research

This study conducted the descriptive method with qualitative approach. Creswell & Creswell (2018) state qualitative approach relies on text and image data, have unique steps in data analysis and draw on diverse design

The object of this study was from the speech of Barack Obama's victory speeches. In this study, there were two victory speeches of Barack Obama. The first one in Barack Obama's victory speech in the year of 2008 and the second one in Barack Obama's victory speech in the year of 2012.

By this victory speeches, the researcher checked the utterance that was said by Barack Obama in his victory speeches, and the researcher found out the illocutionary act that was proposed by Alston (2000), they were directives, commissives, expressives, and exertives.

In collecting the data. The researcher did some steps bellow:

1. The researcher downloaded the speech from Youtube.
2. The researcher watched the speech of Barack Obama's victory speeches for several times
3. The researcher searched for the script of Barack Obama's victory speeches in the internet
4. The researcher watched the speeches while reading the script
5. The researcher determined the utterances that belongs to the types of illocutionary acts.
6. The researcher collected the utterances from the speeches that belongs to illocutionary acts.

In analyzing the data, it involves the interpretation of data gathered the use of analytical and logical reasoning to determine the patterns, relationship or trends.

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

1. The researcher identified the data that contain illocutionary acts from the speech of Barack Obama's in his Victory speeches
2. The researcher summarized the data based on the theory of Alston about illocutionary act into a table.
3. The researcher described the types of illocutionary act by using the theory of Alston (2000). They were directives. Directives had designed to get or to attempt the addressee to do something. This category desired that the hearer should do the directed act. and then, second is commissive. Commissive is an expression of speaker's intention to do something. Commissives commit to undertake the course of action represented in the propositional content. And the third is expressive. This category expressed the sincerity condition of the speech act. It was the

treatment of expressions of attitudes and feelings. The utterance used in this category are: Thank, apology, commiserate, compliment, congratulate, express, enthusiasm, contempt, interest, relief, desire, willingness, intention, opinion, opposition, agreement, determination, delight, expression of happiness, expression of sadness, expression of like, and expression of dislike. And the last was exertive. Exertive was the giving of a decision in favor of or against a certain course of action, or advocacy of it. It was verbal exercises of authority, verbal ways of altering the "social status" of something, an act that is made possible by one's social or institutional role or status. The utterance used in this category are: Hire, Fire, name, nominate, bequeath, sentence and approved.

4. The researcher found the most dominant type of illocutionary act found in Barack Obama's speeches.
5. The researcher interpreted and concluded the result of data in order to answer the problem formulation in this research.

Findings and Discussions

The data analyzed in this research were taken from Barack Obama's victory speeches. The total number of illocutionary act found in both speeches were 31 statements. It consisted the victory speech 2008 and the victory speech 2012. In Barack Obama's victory speech 2008, the researcher found that there were 2 statements of directives, 3 statements of commissives and 7 statements of expressive and no exertives. While, in Barack Obama's victory speech 2012 there were 2 statements of directives, 1 statement of

commissive, 13 statements of expressive and no statement for exertive.

Table 1. The result of Illocutionary act found in Barack Obama's victory speech 2008

No.	Illocutionary	Total
1	Directives	5
2	Commissives	3
3	Expressives	7
4	Exertives	0

Table 2. The result of Illocutionary act found in Barack Obama's victory speech 2012

No.	Illocutionary	Total
1	Directives	2
2	Commissives	1
3	Expressives	13
4	Exertives	0

And here were some illocutionary act found in Barack Obama's victory speeches.

1. Expressive

Victory Speech 2012, minute (00:30) Statement: Thank You. Thank You. Thank You So Much. Statement "Thank You. Thank You. Thank You So Much" in the data 1 could be identified as expressive illocutionary act speech of thanking category because in the speech the speaker clearly said the word "thank you". Moreover, the speaker expressed his feeling by saying "Thank You. Thank You. Thank You So much" where he expressed his gratitude to the audience / hearer.

2. Commissive

Victory Speech 2008, minute (8:47) Statement: I promise you, we as a people will get there Statement "I promise you, we as a people will get there" in the data 4 could be identified as illocutionary act of commissive category because in the speech the speaker clearly says the word "I promise you, we as a people will get there." Moreover the speaker said his intention or his promise

to do something or it can be said that the speaker got to do something.

3. Directives

Victory Speech 2012, minute (18:48) Statement: I ask you to sustain that hope Statement "I ask you to sustain that hope" in the data 6 could be identified as illocutionary act of directive category because in the speech the speaker clearly says the word "I ask you to sustain that hope." Moreover the speaker attempted the hearer / audience to do something

Based on finding and discussion above, it can be concluded that the illocutionary act found in Barack Obama's victory speeches were expressive, directives and commissives. The researcher found that the most dominant type of illocutionary act in Barack Obama's speeches was expressive type with the total number 20 statements. It could be seen from one of his statement "Thank You. Thank You. Thank You So Much. "(the victory speech of 2012, in the minute 00:30). From the statement, we could see that Barack Obama expressed his thanking to the hearer or audience, as Alston (2000) stated that expressive type of illocutionary act is used to express the sincerity condition of the speech act, it is used to show the attitudes and feelings.

Alston (2000) also added that utterance of expressive category could be thank, apology, commiserate, compliment, congratulate, express, enthusiasm, contempt, interest, relief, desire, willingness, intention, opinion, opposition, agreement, determination, delight, expression of happiness, expression of sadness, expression of like, and expression of dislike. Therefore, from the statement of his speech, Barack Obama said "Thank You" to the audience where the word " Thank You" belonged to illocutionary act of expressive category. And why it could

be the most dominant one, because in his speeches, Barack Obama mostly expressed about his feeling when he has chosen as the president of United States. Therefore, we found many utterances of thanking and congratulating in his victory speeches.

Then, the lowest type of illocutionary act found in Barack Obama's victory speeches was commissive category, with the total number 4 statements. It could be seen from the statement "I promise you, we as a people will get there" (the victory speech 2008, in the minute 8:47). From the statement, we could see that Barack Obama said his promise to the audience or showed his attention to do something. As Alston (2000) stated that commissive type of illocutionary act was defined as speaker's intention to do something or it can be said that commissive is designed to get the speaker to do something.

The utterances of commissive category are commonly promises, threats, refusals, bet, guarantee, invite and offer. And why this category could be the lowest one, because in his victory speeches Barack Obama's mostly expressed his gratitude when he was chosen as the president of United States, he just said some promises in this speech not as much as his gratitude or his feeling because he has said his promises or his attention to do something for united stated in his campaign speech.

And from both of speeches, the researcher did not find any exercitive type of illocutionary act because as Alston (2000) stated that exercitive is the giving of a decision in favor of or against a certain course of action. The utterance of exercitive that commonly used were hire, fire, name, nominate, and sentence. And this was not really suitable to the content of victory speech, where the speaker usually said his/her gratitude to the hearer or the audience

not giving a decision in favor to the audience or hearer.

Sugesstion

After analyzing all the data, the researcher concludes that there were 31 statements of illocutionary act found in Barack Obama's victory speeches. The writer found the type of illocutionary act in Barack Obama's speeches were expressive, directive, and commissive. The writer did not find any type of illocutionary act for exertive category because in Barack Obama's victory speech, he mostly said his expression about what he was feeling when he was chosen as a president of United States. And the writer also found the most dominant type of illocutionary act found in Barack Obama's speeches that was expressive category with the total number 20 statements and the second dominant type of illocutionary act found in Barack Obama's speeches was directives with the total number 7 statements and the lowest type of illocutionary act was commissive with the total number 4 statements.

From the conclusion above, the writer explained how illocutionary act occurs in Barack Obama's victory speeches. For the next researcher who want to analyze the pragmatic study especially in speech act, they can use another media such as movie, novel, newspaper or other media which can also be the object of pragmatic study analysis. The next researcher can also analyze another part of speech act such locutionary act and illocutionary act. Hopefully, this research can be useful for future researcher especially for the next researcher who is interested speech act.

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