

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes some points: the background of the research, the statement of the problem, the objective of the research, the research significance, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Illocutionary speech acts are concepts within pragmatics and speech act theory that pertain to the intended communicative functions or purposes behind an utterance. When individuals engage in speech, they not only convey literal meanings but also perform various speech acts with distinct illocutionary intentions. According to Austin's (1962), illocutionary acts are actions that occur through speech. For example, when someone utters a promise, the primary focus of intention lies in the illocutionary act. Austin clarified that the performance of an act takes on a new and secondary meaning.

Speech acts is a concept within pragmatics and the theory of language that refers to the action or function performed by a speaker's utterance beyond its literal meaning. According to Austin (1962), speech act divided into three categories: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. Locutionary involves the act of speaking or making an utterance. Illocutionary acts, which form the basis of speech act theory, involve the intended act of speaking. In contrast, perlocutionary acts have an impact on the listener's emotions, thoughts, or behavior.

Pragmatics is one of the linguistic parts commonly used in society and is a study of the relationship between the external contexts of a language and the meaning of speech. Yule (1996) defines pragmatics as the study of the meaning transmitted by the speaker and interpreted by the listener. Yule (2006) reiterated that pragmatics delves into the realm of the "unstated" aspects, uncovering how meaning is grasped even when left implicit. Pragmatics encompasses fundamental

topics like implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and deixis. This research specifically delves into the pragmatic branch of speech acts. Pragmatics fundamentally examines context and aims to discern the intended meaning of the speaker.

Individuals occupying certain social statuses, including politicians, utilize language to accomplish specific objectives. Politicians necessitate communication to inform the public about their programs, discourses, or ideas. Political language, characterized by authority, wields the power to shape public opinion. Political language is disseminated through both written and spoken discourse on various occasions, allowing politicians to express their intentions.

Political speech, a form of communication frequently wielded by politicians and leaders, significantly influences public opinion and political thought. Political institutions utilize political speech to shape societal perspectives. Political speech serves diverse purposes, including persuasion, impression, and, at times, manipulation.

In this research, the researcher applied Searle's theory on illocutionary acts to analyze Joe Biden's democracy speeches, utilizing the framework proposed by Searle to categorize and understand the different types and functions of illocutionary acts employed by Joe Biden. Searle (1969) has classified illocutionary acts into different categories. He divides illocutionary into five types of illocutionary acts. The first type assertive, which focuses on conveying information or making statements corresponding to reality. It includes stating facts, describing situations, or offering explanations. The second type is directive, which involves using language to direct or command others to take specific actions or behave in certain ways. The third type is commissive, which refers to committing to future actions or obligations. It involves making promises, pledges, or guarantees. The fourth type is expressive, which involves expressing personal emotions, attitudes, or psychological states. It includes expressing feelings, opinions, or beliefs. The last type is declarative, used to perform actions that

change the world by merely stating them. This includes pronouncing someone married, guilty, or adjourning a meeting.

YouTube, the world's third most popular online destination, has transformed from a video-sharing site into a job opportunity for content creators in both new and mainstream media Holland (2016). On YouTube, users are free to search and watch various videos for free; there are also many speech act videos; one example of a speech act in a speech video is contained in the video of Joe Biden's speech, such as the latest video of Joe Biden's speech on democracy which researchers are interested in analyzing. Joe Biden, or Joseph Robinette Biden, is one of the most notable politicians in the United States. Joe Biden ran as one of the United States presidential candidates, and he defeated Donald Trump as the sole rival by winning the election in 2020. He received his formal inauguration as president on January 20, 2021.

The Researcher is interested in investigating President Joe Biden's two political speeches about democracy. There are two locations where Joe Biden delivered political speeches which are used in this research, specifically at the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 1, 2022, entitled "President Biden Full Speech on Democracy", and at Union Station in Washington, DC on November 2, 2022, entitled "Watch Full: President Biden's Remarks On Protecting Democracy, Voter Intimidation". The researcher's interest in investigating President Joe Biden's two political speeches about democracy stems from the crucial significance of these speeches in the contemporary political landscape. Democracy stands as a foundational principle of the United States, and examining how the President articulates and communicates democratic ideals holds immense relevance. These speeches, delivered at significant locations and times, offer insights into how President Biden addresses key democratic issues and conveys his vision for the nation's future. Furthermore, as a prominent and influential political figure, President Biden's words carry substantial weight and potential impact on public perception and policy discussions. By delving into the illocutionary acts within these

speeches, the researcher aims to decode the nuances of President Biden's communication strategies, shed light on his intended messages, and contribute to a deeper understanding of how political leaders engage with democratic values through their speeches.

The reason for the selection of Joe Biden as the research subject is because these two videos are Joe Biden's newest videos about democracy which no one has researched, and the researchers took the two videos in order to be able to examine the illocutionary acts in Joe Biden's videos more fully. And the Researcher was interested in these videos because Joe Biden, president became the most important and influential person in the United States. Since becoming president, every statement he gives will be highly considered by the public because it can impact the government and the community's social life. Moreover, every sentence he utters has a specific meaning and purpose, especially when discussing crucial issues regarding the country, such as the issue of democracy, which is the identity of the United States.

The researcher's decision to select two videos of Joe Biden's democracy speeches serves to provide a comprehensive and well-rounded analysis. By examining speeches from different occasions, the researcher can capture the diversity of Joe Biden's communication strategies. Each speech may target distinct audiences, emphasize different aspects of democracy, or respond to unique contextual factors. This approach enables the researcher to identify patterns and variations in Joe Biden's use of illocutionary acts across multiple instances, lending depth and context to the analysis. Moreover, studying two videos enhances the validity of the findings, as consistent patterns or noteworthy discrepancies can be confirmed across different speeches. Overall, this method enriches the research by offering a broader perspective on how Joe Biden employs illocutionary acts in speeches related to democracy.

The theory of illocutionary speech act has gained so much attention that it has been the basis for several studies by a wide range of researchers. The first previous study was conducted by Octaviani (2022), entitled "A Pragmatic

Analysis on Speech Acts of Joe Biden's Presidential Campaign Speech 2020 Toward His Opponent". The study aimed to determine the speech acts and their classification and to understand the contextual meaning of the dominant speech acts performed by Joe Biden in his campaign speeches in Ohio and Georgia in 2020. In her study, Octaviani (2022) applied two theories to answer two research objectives. The first theory is Searle's (1979) speech act classifications theory which is used to analyze speech acts and their classification. The second theory is Cutting (2002) context theory which is applied to understand the context of the dominant speech acts. Based on Searle's theory, the study found two categories of speech acts in Joe Biden's campaign speech in 2020, specifically the locutionary and illocutionary acts. For the illocutionary acts, there were 28 declarations and 2 interrogatives, with declarative acts being the most prevalent finding. For the illocutionary acts, there were 25 assertions, 4 commissives, 4 directives, and 2 declarations, with assertive acts as the most dominant finding. Then, for the contextual meaning, it was found that Joe Biden encouraged people to vote for him as the next president of the USA.

The following related study was conducted by Kenneth (2021) entitled "An Illocutionary Act Analysis of Donald Trump's Speech Delivered on 12th March at CNBC". The study aimed to explore the types of illocutionary acts and the impact of dominant acts employed in Donald Trump's speech at CNBC on 12th March. The Researcher applied two main theories in this study, namely Searle's (2010) classification of speech acts and Leech's (2014) categorization of illocutionary act functions, to answer two research objectives. Based on the types of illocutionary acts proposed by Searle (2010), the analysis found that the assertive act was the most dominant finding with 46 utterances, followed by 15 commissions, 6 directives, 4 expressions, and 3 declarations. Moreover, based on Leech's (2014) analysis, there were 62 collaboratives, 7 competitive, 3 conflictive, and 2 convivial, with collaboratives as the most dominant finding. Furthermore, the possible impact of assertive and collaborative impacts delivered by Donald Trump was the reduction of cases during the pandemic, which can result in opening public facilities, schools, offices, tourist attractions, or travel agencies.

Besides Octaviani's (2022) and Kenneth (2021)'s studies, another study related to speech acts was also done by Yusanti et al. (2022). The "Speech Act Analysis on Joe Biden's Speech about Covid-19" study analyzed the utterances of particularized speech acts and illocutionary functions in Joe Biden's speech. The Researcher applied Searle's (1969) theory to examine the types and functions of illocutionary acts from the sentence uttered by Joe Biden. Based on Searle's (1969) theory, the analysis results portrayed assertive or representative acts as the most dominant type of illocutionary act. The Researcher also found five categories of illocutionary acts, namely assertive (42%), commissive (29%), directive (18%), expressive (9%), and declaration (2%). In addition, the most dominant function of an illocutionary act performed by Joe Biden is a promising function. The study also explored the kinds of gestures, facial expressions, body language, and posture shown by Joe Biden.

And this research stands out from the previous research due to its exclusive focus on President Joe Biden's democracy speeches delivered after taking office, highlighting his communication strategies on democratic principles. Unlike the prior study that covered various campaign topics, this research uniquely delves into how Biden employs illocutionary acts to convey his vision for democracy, providing timely insights into his governance approach. This research seeks to determine the types and functions of these illocutionary acts, shedding light on their intentions, impact, and potential policy implications by focusing on the specific theme of democracy and employing Searle's (1969) theory, this research offers a fresh analytical perspective, potentially revealing policy priorities and governance strategies, thus contributing to both academic understanding and contemporary political speech on democracy.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

It is important to correctly understand the speech acts contained in the president's speech, especially illocutionary because they play an important role in learning the hidden meaning in President Joe Biden's speech to avoid misunderstanding it. The public will highly appreciate every statement he gives

because it can impact the government and the people's social life. Moreover, every sentence he utters has a specific purpose, especially when discussing crucial issues concerning the country, such as the issue of democracy, which is the identity of the United States of America.

Based on the background of this research above, the Researcher concludes that there are two questions that will be the main focuses of this research, they are:

1. What types of illocutionary acts are used by Joe Biden in his democracy speeches?
2. How functions of illocutionary acts are used by Joe Biden in his democracy speeches?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the formulation of the research question above, the Researcher is intended:

1. To find out the types of illocutionary acts used by Joe Biden in his democracy speeches.
2. To analyze functions of illocutionary acts used by Joe Biden in his democracy speeches.

1.4 Research Significances

This research contributes to the use of language. This research significantly advances our understanding of language usage, specifically in the realm of pragmatic studies. By focusing on illocutionary speech acts, a crucial aspect of speech communication, this study enhances researchers' grasp of linguistic subtleties. It identifies how traditional and cultural themes are harnessed to convey concealed political, social, and cultural intentions. Moreover, the research uncovers how these elements amplify the speech's impact by integrating them with contextual factors, a critical facet of political discourse. Therefore, this investigation not only enriches the teaching of pragmatics, particularly the

analysis of illocutionary speech acts but also furnishes educators with supplementary material for instructional purposes.

For other studies, it is expected to be a contribution of thought to be critical and creative in addressing the development of types and functions of illocutionary speech acts, and the results of this study are practically expected to be a reference, source of information, and other reference material so that it can be further developed on other materials. In addition, speech acts are important to study, as stated by Hussein (2019) he asserts that EFL English speakers should study speech acts to improve their capacity for success in academic or social communication.

1.5 Definition of Terms

In order to give a clear definition and as guidance for the readers to understand the whole study, the definition of the key terms are given here.

1. Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that examines the meaning of an external utterance concerning the context.

2. Speech Act

Speech acts as the study of how we do things with utterances. The speech act, therefore, was a very important event in the study of pragmatics since speech means an action.

3. Illocutionary

An illocutionary act is called the act of doing something. It is not only used for informing something but also doing something as far as speech event was accurately considered.

4. Assertives

speech acts performed to assure listeners that the proposition being made is true. Searle stated that an assertive act is used to encourage speakers to speak the truth, as in "stating," "claiming," "reporting," "announcing," etc.

5. Directives

The statements alter the behavior of another person in order to suit the propositional element. It is typically used to convey instructions so the hearer will carry out a specific action, request, direction, or advice by asking, ordering, commanding, etc.

6. Commissives

The speakers commit to doing an action in the future by making promises, making an offer, swearing, etc.

7. Expressives

The expressions of the speakers convey a certain psychological state, such as thanking, congratulating, greeting, etc.

8. Declaratives

The statements are used by uttering something and making it happen. Examples include accepting, dismissing, proclaiming someone guilty, declaring war, etc.