



ELITE: English and Literature Journal
Volume 10 Number 1 June 2023 Page 99-109
Print ISSN: [2355-0821](#), Online ISSN: [2580-5215](#)
Doi: [10.24252/elite.v11i1.42120](#)

ASSERTIVE ACT IN JOE BIDEN'S FIRST INTERVIEW AS PRESIDENT ON THE 60 MINUTES YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Heni Nurlela¹, Tuty Handayani^{*2},

¹English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities.
State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta, Indonesia.

heny.nurlela19@mhs.uinjkt.ac.id, ^{2*} tuty@uinjkt.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This research examines the assertive acts employed by Joe Biden during his first interview as President on the 60 Minutes YouTube Channel. Using Searle & Vanderveken's theory of speech acts, the study adopts a qualitative descriptive approach. Data collection involved watching videos, reading the transcript, and note-taking. The analysis identified 20 utterances which are categorized into eight types of assertive acts: admit, assure, claim, criticize, inform, rebut, report, and predict. The most frequently used of assertive act was "inform", with 7 utterances, followed by "assure" with 3 utterances. Other acts such as "report", "predict", "claim", and "admit" each appeared twice, while "criticize" and "rebut" were used once each. The study found that all assertive acts, except "criticize," were conveyed directly and literally. In conclusion, Joe Biden conveyed assertive acts by utilizing direct speech and literal meanings to effectively convey his message, particularly in assuring the public of his plans to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: *Assertive Acts, Direct Speech Act, Literal Meaning, Non-Literal Meaning, Speech Act.*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui macam-macam tindakan asertif dan bagaimana tindakan asertif yang disampaikan oleh Joe Biden dalam wawancara pertamanya sebagai Presiden di Channel YouTube 60 Minutes dengan menggunakan teori Searle & Vanderveken. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk mendeskripsikan data. Untuk mengumpulkan data digunakan teknik dokumentasi dengan cara menonton video, mendengarkan, membaca, dan mencatat untuk kemudian dimasukkan ke dalam kartu data. Penelitian ini menemukan 20 ujaran yang diklasifikasikan ke dalam delapan macam tindak asertif, yaitu; mengakui, meyakinkan, mengklaim, mengkritik, menginformasikan, membantah, melaporkan, dan memperkirakan. Tindak asertif yang paling banyak digunakan adalah tindak menginformasikan yang berjumlah 7 ujaran, disusul dengan tindak meyakinkan yang berjumlah 3 ujaran. Masing-masing tindakan melaporkan, menjamin, memperkirakan, mengklaim, dan mengakui terkandung dalam 2 ujaran. Tindakan asertif yang paling sedikit digunakan adalah mengkritik dan membantah, masing-masing tindakan terkandung dalam 1 ujaran. Berdasarkan tindak tutur asertif yang ditemukan dalam penelitian ini, hanya tindak tutur mengkritik saja yang mengandung tindak tutur tidak langsung dan makna yang tidak harafiah. Tindak asertif selebihnya mengandung tindak tutur langsung dan makna harafiah. Kesimpulannya, Joe Biden berusaha meyakinkan rakyatnya bahwa ia bisa mengatasi pandemi COVID-19 dengan memanfaatkan ucapan langsung dan makna literal untuk menyampaikan pesannya secara efektif.

Kata Kunci: *Tindak Asertif, Tindak Tutur Langsung, Tindak Tutur Tidak Langsung, Makna Literal, Makna Non-Literal.*

Received: 22 October 2023

Revised: 16 June 2024

Accepted: 26 June 2024

How to cite: Nurlela, H., Handayani, T, (2024) *Assertive Act in Joe Biden's First Interview as President on the 60 Minutes YouTube Channel.* ELITE: English and Literature Journal, 11(1). 99-109.

This is an open-access article under



INTRODUCTION

Nowadays political interviews become a spectrum to create a shifting of public opinion, especially to political parties and politicians in the United States. The political interview has a broad landscape that not only reflects rational debate, but rather, emphasizes image, emotion, and political style. Language plays a pivotal role in political interviews, essential for organizing, advocating, motivating, and managing all political activities (Pramadya & Rahmanhadi, 2021). Effective communication hinges on language, ensuring smooth interactions among people. Political interviews wield significant influence and can provoke substantial reactions from the audience. For instance, Joe Biden's declaration during his 60 Minutes interview that the COVID-19 pandemic was over sparked controversy in the United States. This statement prompted questioning among Americans about the current status of the pandemic, despite ongoing challenges faced by the country

Political interviews conducted by the president aim to capture the public's attention and address pressing issues, such as declaring the end of a pandemic in the United States. These interviews frequently employ political rhetoric as a strategic tool in political discourse. Joe Biden, for instance, utilized political rhetoric across various actions to influence public opinion, particularly in managing the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He assured the American people that the crisis would be resolved, emphasizing the importance of leaders' rhetoric in crisis management (Montiel et al., 2021). Moreover, Joe Biden also used political interviews as media to lead many political leaders and journalists in the running of the COVID-19 pandemic standpoint based on policies in the United States (Abdel-Qader & Al-Khanji, 2022). Political interviews often serve as a framing lens, presenting facts that highlight political issues. Members of political parties use these platforms to propose solutions that align with their party's interests and appear suitable for the current situation at hand.

Speech acts phenomenon often happens in political interview activities. Speech act often seen from the meaning of the action of speech act like apologies, greetings, requests, complaints, compliments, etc. Further, speech acts are divided into three types which are the locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act (Haucsa et al., 2020). Furthermore, this research focused on types illocutionary act, as we know illocutionary act as an important part of speech act because the main central of linguistics as the element of communication. The important things of political interview is to show certain attitude political language process that incorporates a variety of influences on public assumptions is that need further investigation using assertive acts theory (Cerovac, 2020). Assertive acts are utterances describing certain states of affairs. These are the kinds of speech acts are based on what the speaker believes to be the case or not (Milal & Kusumajanti, 2020). Furthermore, Assertive act is speech that the commit the speaker to the truth of propositional content in the world of utterance and representation of reality. In the case of assertive act utterances, the words must correspond to the objects of reference as they stand in the world (Vanderveken & Kubo, 2002).

Assertive acts are being studied by the researchers due to problem that still exists today. Assertive acts have the power to deliver meaning and messages to the hearer. Therefore, this research on assertive acts has attracted the attention of researchers, especially regarding Joe Biden's controversy in the 60 Minutes interview. It examines Joe Biden's interview as an object of the study because as we know Joe Biden as President of the United States certainly has big power to influence people around the world. Therefore, understanding the meanings and messages conveyed in his interviews is crucial. This research specifically examines assertive acts in Biden's inaugural interview on the 60

Minutes YouTube Channel.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Speech act theory is strongly related to the study of pragmatics. A speech act is an action that is performed via utterance delivered by the speaker to the hearer (Yule, 1996). Speech acts may also speech there are certain actions in communication by considering the speech context and situation (Attamimy et al., 2020). Moreover, a speech act expresses something by an individual not just delivering information but expressing the meaning of the act of the speaker to the hearer. Speech acts as the basic unit of language that is used to express meaning. Actually, without realizing it, speakers often perform speech acts in their social life such as when the speaker uttered something to the hearers with direct meaning or indirect meaning. Thus, the speaker does not only say something but also forces the hearer to do something or gives affecting the hearer to do something (Fitriani et al., 2020). A speech act is the embedded of everything done by expressed using language as a medium to convey meaning to the audience. In political interviews, speech acts are vital components of communication, particularly within the political sphere. Language serves as a fundamental tool in everyday activities, facilitating social connections worldwide (Li & Jeong, 2020). As we know, language may be used to deliver the meaning in two ways there are direct and indirect (Tania Caroline et al., 2021). Then, what people express through language typically carries meaning, which can be either literal or non-literal. Literal meanings directly convey the intended message of the speaker, reflecting what is explicitly stated. Conversely, non-literal meanings often imply a hidden message, where what is said differs from what is meant. Speakers may employ non-literal meanings to convey messages indirectly, aiming to communicate their intentions subtly or metaphorically.

Speech acts can be categorized into three main types: locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Locutionary acts refer to the basic utterances made by a speaker using correct grammar and understandable vocabulary. In this type of act, the speaker provides information without necessarily expecting a response from the listener (Chakim & Dibdyaningsih, 2019). On the other hand, illocutionary acts involve saying something to do something with a purpose and a specific function. When a speaker performs an illocutionary act, the listener is expected to respond or act in accordance with what was uttered. Illocutionary acts are further classified into five types: assertive (making statements), directive (issuing commands or requests), commissive (making commitments or promises), expressive (expressing emotions or attitudes), and declarative (bringing about changes in the external world through speech) (Sembiring & Ambalegin, 2019). In contrast, perlocutionary acts refer to the effects that speech acts have on the listener. These effects can include convincing, influencing, amusing, or embarrassing the listener (Wardana et al., 2019). Perlocutionary acts highlight the impact of speech on the audience beyond the act of speaking itself.

Illocutionary acts play a crucial role as they seek to impact the listener through deliberate speech, driven by specific intentions and goals (Subandi et al., 2020). This study specifically centers on assertive acts within the realm of illocutionary acts. Assertive acts are aimed at making statements and asserting propositions, highlighting their role in communicating information or asserting beliefs.

To analyze assertive acts in political interviews, it is essential to first understand what assertive acts are. An assertive act is verified in conversation if the hearer considers it to be objectively true (Vanderveken & Kubo, 2002). An assertive act is a type of speech that commits the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition. Furthermore, in an assertive act, the speaker conveys a belief that a particular proposition is true (Zheni, 2020). According to Searle and

Vanderveken's theory, there are eight types of assertive acts: claim, report, assure, predict, rebut, admit, criticize, and inform (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). This theory provides the basic guideline to analyze the assertive acts utilized by Biden in his political interview.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive analysis to examine the types of assertive acts and how Joe Biden conveyed these acts in his first interview as President on the 60 Minutes YouTube Channel. Qualitative descriptive analysis provides a straightforward description of a phenomenon and aims to explain the data based on the research focus (Lambert & Lambert, 2012). This approach collects and interprets the meaning of data verbally, rather than using numerical data (Ivana & Suprayogi, 2020). Qualitative descriptive analysis also includes guidelines and principles to guide the data analysis process.

To gather the data on the utterances conveyed by Joe Biden in the 60 Minutes interview, this research uses a documentation technique. This involves reading the transcript, listening to the audio, watching the video, and note taking. The focus of the study is the utterances performed by Joe Biden in the 60 Minutes interview. The data source for this study includes the video of Joe Biden's interview, which was downloaded from YouTube, and the transcript from the CBS News 60 Minutes interview. This research analyzes the data based on the theory of assertive acts proposed by Searle and Vanderveken

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The data findings pertain to the types of assertive acts performed by Joe Biden in his first interview as President on the 60 Minutes YouTube channel. This research found 20 utterances that are classified into eight types of assertive acts: admit, assure, criticize, claim, report, inform, rebut, and predict. This study examines the types of assertive acts and how Joe Biden conveyed them in his first interview as President on the 60 Minutes YouTube channel. The following sections will explain these eight types of assertive acts, along with examples.

A. Predict

This research identified two instances where Biden used the assertive act of "predict" during the interview. Predictive assertive acts involve forecasting future events based on the speaker's experience, knowledge, and careful consideration of relevant factors. Strong evidence typically supports such predictions. Below is an example of how Biden used the predictive assertive act.

In this example, Biden is making a prediction about the future state of the economy, based on his understanding of economic policies and consumer behavior.

Data 1

“... And then along came to the industry saying they'd produce another million barrels a day by the spring. So, I think we're in relatively good shape.”

Based on the data, the speaker performed the acts of predict. In this instance, Joe Biden made a prediction when discussing how to manage gasoline prices amidst Vladimir Putin's energy supply constraints. Biden's statement suggests optimism about the future situation, predicting that the United States will fare well because the industry plans to increase production by one million barrels per day by spring.

The utterances of "predict" above are categorized as direct speech acts. The speaker conveyed the prediction directly through declarative sentences. Declarative sentences serve the function of directly communicating the speaker's prediction to the listener. Furthermore, the

utterance "So, I think we're in relatively good shape" carries a literal meaning because it presents the actual meaning of what the speaker intended. In this context, the real meaning conveyed is that if the industry produces an additional million barrels, it can lead to an improvement from a challenging situation to a favorable one.

B. Claim

Based on the research, Biden utilized the assertive act of "claim" twice during the interview. In assertive acts, a claim is closely tied to a fact or the speaker's belief. To make a claim, the speaker must provide strong evidence to support it for the listener to accept it as valid. Below is an example of a claim conveyed by Biden.

Data 2

"The pandemic is over. We still have a problem with COVID. We're still doing a lotta work on it. It's but the pandemic is over. If you notice, no one's wearing masks. Everybody seems to be in pretty good shape..."

The utterance above is considered a claim because Joe Biden tried to claim the pandemic is over regardless of the fact that the pandemic is not over yet, but still, Joe Biden believes that the pandemic is over. Biden holds the belief that the pandemic is over, supported by factors such as enhanced patient care, widespread availability of vaccines, and a high vaccination rate of 65% in the United States. He bases this claim on observations such as the lack of mask-wearing among Americans.

The utterance of the claim above is categorized as a direct speech act because the speaker delivered his claim by using a declarative sentence. It aligns with function of delivering a claim directly to the hearer. Furthermore, the utterance "the pandemic is over" carries a literal meaning because it directly presents what the speaker intends to convey. In this context, the real meaning of the speaker's intention is that the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the United States can be managed effectively.

Data 3

"Sure he is. But, you know, **we, the United States are in much better shape than – than anyone else is, and relative to Russia particularly.** But – he's been trying that for a while. He's not gonna succeed."

The utterance above functions as a direct claim to the hearer. The utterance '*we, the United States are in much better shape than – than anyone else is, and relative to Russia particularly*' was said by Joe Biden when he was asked by the interviewer about Vladimir Putin's use of high prices energy to break Joe Biden's will on Ukraine. This utterance is categorized as a claim because Joe Biden tried to claim that the United States is superior to any others, particularly to Russia. He conveyed his claim to show that the United States is self-contained, although without any help from Russia. The United States, as a recognized superpower, has the ability to affect other nations.

The utterance of the claim act in datum 3 is indeed categorized as a direct speech act. The speaker uses a declarative sentence, which aligns with the function of directly stating a claim to the listener. Furthermore, the utterance "we, the United States are in much better shape than – than anyone else is, and relative to Russia particularly" carries a literal meaning because it directly presents what the speaker intends to convey. In this context, the true meaning of the speaker's intention is that the United States holds a stronger position compared to any other nation, especially in comparison to Russia

C. Assure

This research found that Joe Biden used the assertive act of "assure" in three utterances. In assertive acts, to assure means to make the hearer feels certain or confident about what the speaker is saying. The speaker does this by providing reassurance or confidence-building statements. Here is an example of an assure act conveyed by Biden.

Data 4

"I have not personally spoken to anyone on that -- in that regard. I'm sure my administration is aware of all of that, and so is the Nation Security Council. But I have not."

The data shows that the speaker performed the act of assure. The utterance '*I have not personally spoken to anyone on that -- in that regard. I'm sure my administration is aware of all of that, and so is the Nation Security Council*' showed assure because Joe Biden tried to make sure the hearer feels so sure. He said he did not know about the storage of the ex-president's documents, but he was convinced that his administration and the United National Security Council know about it. In such a case, the action of the speaker could be called as assure because the speaker is trying to convince the hearer the information reliable and known by competent authorities.

The statement above is classified as a direct speech act since the speaker directly conveyed assurance through declarative sentences. It suits with the function of delivering assure directly to the hearer. Further, the utterance '*I have not personally spoken to anyone on that -- in that regard. I'm sure my administration is aware of all of that, and so is the Nation Security Council*' showed literal meaning because the sentences presented the real meaning of what the speaker meant. The real meaning is Joe Biden does not know about the storage document of the former president to anyone else, especially to the hearer

D. Admit

During the interview as President on the 60 Minutes YouTube Channel, Joe Biden used the assertive act of admit twice. In assertive acts, to admit means acknowledging a true situation that affects the speaker negatively or presents a challenging circumstance. Below is an example of this act.

Data 5

"... I've had tragedies. **I've lost part of my soul when I lost my son Beau, I lost my wife and my daughter in an accident.** I think of all the people who've gone through what I've gone through and a lot more without what I had."

The speaker performed the act of admit. The utterance '*I've lost part of my soul when I lost my son Beau, I lost my wife and my daughter in an accident*' showed an admit because the speaker tried to admit that he felt shattered in pieces and helpless when he lost his family in an accident. The speaker's action can be concluded as admitted because what happened to the speaker is a true situation but represented as an unexpected situation to happen in his life. In this case, Joe Biden admits lost his family like lost everything in his life.

By utilizing assertive act admit, Biden also delivered the act directly. It suits with function to delivered admit directly to the hearer. Furthermore, the utterance '*I've lost part of my soul when I lost my son Beau, I lost my wife and my daughter in an accident*' showed true meaning because the sentences presented the real meaning like what the speaker means. The true meaning

is the speaker admits that he was very sad when he lost his family like lost part of his soul.

E. Rebut

This research found only one instance where Joe Biden used the assertive act of rebut. In assertive acts, to rebut means to argue against something that contradicts what the speaker believes. To effectively rebut, the speaker must provide arguments or evidence to support their objection. Below is an example of this act.

Data 6

“Well, I don't think it's impossible, but it's changed. What we do today, think about it, it's all personal attacks. It's about motive. It's not about, **I disagree with you on the subject matter. And secondly, I think it's fair to say that we've not had a president like the last president, who has made all of it so personal. I've had six Republican senators...**”

The utterance above is categorized as rebut act because the speaker tried to argue the contrary argument about him. The speaker disagrees with the interviewer's view, that shown by two reasons; Firstly, he disagrees with the subject matter about the old guy, Joe Biden as the old guy who impossible can change the district in the United States to be distinguished. Secondly, Joe Biden said that he is not abusing his power as president to keep it for personal gain. He also said that he is not the last president of the United States, so he concluded that the US does not have last president.

The statement using "rebut" is classified as a direct speech act because the speaker uses a declarative sentence to express disagreement. This aligns with the function of directly conveying disagreement to the listener. Furthermore, the utterance '*I disagree with you on the subject matter ...*' means the speaker disagrees with the hearer's view. The action by the speaker can be called as literal meaning because the sentence presented the true meaning like what the speaker wanted to say to the hearer.

F. Report

To convince his people, Biden also employed the assertive act of report. In assertive acts, to report means to convey information about an event, achievement, issue, etc. Reporting typically involves relating the content to a specific timeframe, whether it pertains to the present or the past. In this instance, Biden reported on the increase in job opportunities in the USA.

Data 7

“We created all these jobs and – and prices – have – have gone up, but they've come down for energy. The fact is that we've created 10 million new jobs. We're in – since we came to office. We're in a situation where – the unemployment rate is about 3.7% one of the lowest in history.”

Biden's use of the assertive act of reporting serves to inform and persuade his audience regarding the economic situation and job creation during his tenure. The report highlights achievements, such as the creation of 10 million new jobs, and addresses economic concerns, including fluctuations in energy prices. The use of specific data, such as the unemployment rate of 3.7%, aims to bolster Biden's argument and demonstrate positive outcomes under his administration. This strategic use of assertive acts contributes to shaping perceptions and influencing public opinion on economic policies and performance.

In this occasion, Biden conveyed his message directly by using a declarative sentence.

The function of a declarative sentence is to deliver a report about his achievements directly to the hearer. Further, the utterance ‘...we’ve created 10 million new jobs ... the unemployment rate is about 3.7% one of the lowest in history’ showed literal meaning the sentence presented the real meaning of what the speaker means. The real meaning of what the speaker means that he is succeeded to reduce the unemployment rate by creating ten million new jobs.

G. Criticize

The present study found that Biden once utilized the assertive act of criticize. Criticize, within assertive acts, involves the speaker expressing disapproval or disagreement with something or someone's viewpoint, often based on the speaker's beliefs. In this instance, Biden criticized Russia regarding the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Data 8

“Winning the war in Ukraine is to get Russia out of Ukraine completely and recognizing the sovereignty. They’re defeating Russia. **Russia’s turning out not to be as competent and capable as many people thought they were gonna be. But winning the war? the damage it’s doing, and the – and the citizens, and the innocent people are being killed, it’s awful hard to count that as winning.**”

Biden's use of the assertive act of criticize demonstrates his disapproval of Russia's actions in the conflict with Ukraine. By critiquing Russia's competence and the humanitarian toll of the conflict, Biden emphasizes the severe consequences and challenges the notion of victory under such circumstances. This statement reflects Biden's stance on the conflict and underscores the complexities and human costs involved in military engagements. Joe Biden said it is hard to say that Russia is winning the war because many innocent people are being killed in Ukraine. Joe Biden questioned Russia's victory because in fact, the victory actually does not destroy innocent people.

In conveying his critique, Biden employed an indirect speech act. The speaker used an interrogative sentence, but its function was not to ask a question. Instead, the interrogative sentence serves the purpose of indirectly expressing criticism towards Russia. Furthermore, the utterance "But winning the war? the damage it's doing, and the – and the citizens, and the innocent people are being killed, it's awful hard to count that as winning" conveys a non-literal meaning because it presents a hidden implication beyond the literal words spoken. The real meaning intended is that Russia is not actually achieving victory in the war. This non-literal meaning arises because the speaker conveys a subtle critique rather than stating it explicitly, leaving room for interpretation by the listener.

H. Inform

Inform is the most frequently used assertive act by Joe Biden in his first interview as President on the 60 Minutes YouTube Channel, employed seven times. In assertive acts, to inform means to provide information to the listener, particularly when they are unaware of it. Biden informed the audience about various current issues in the USA, including highlighting the inflation occurring in the United States of America.

Data 9

“**No, I’m telling the American people that we’re gonna get control of inflation.** And their prescription drug prices are gonna be a hell of a lotta lower. Their health care costs are gonna be a lot lower. The basic costs for everybody, their energy prices are gonna be lower. They’re gonna be in a situation where they begin to gain control again. I’m more

optimistic than I've been in a long time.”

Biden's frequent use of the assertive act of informs underscores his effort to provide new information and updates on critical issues affecting the country, such as inflation and healthcare costs. By informing the public about his administration's plans and goals, Biden aims to convey optimism and reassure the American people about future improvements in these areas. This strategic use of assertive acts contributes to shaping public perception and addressing concerns through direct communication in the interview setting. The direct speech act and literal meaning in his statements serve to clarify his intentions and provide clear messages about his plans and priorities as President.

Data 10

“Ukraine, through their -- the significant help we and our allies are giving them and the incredible bravery and the incredible determination of the Ukrainian people, are not losing a war, and they're making gains in certain areas.”

The utterance above is considered an act of inform because Joe Biden aimed to convey that Ukraine is receiving substantial support from the United States and its allies to aid in their efforts to achieve success in the war. This includes meeting supply chain needs such as delivering weapons and enhancing Ukraine's military capabilities. Moreover, the United States has been providing significant assistance to the Ukrainian people. Additionally, Ukraine is not losing the war and has gained advantages in certain areas. The speaker's action can be termed as an act of inform because he provided information to the listener who may not have been aware of these details.

In this statement, the speaker, presumably Biden, employs the assertive act of inform to provide direct information about the situation in Ukraine. By highlighting the support given to Ukraine and the bravery of its people, the speaker aims to emphasize Ukraine's resilience and progress in the conflict. The use of declarative sentences and specific details underscores the speaker's confidence in the information conveyed and emphasizes the positive impact of international assistance on Ukraine's efforts in the war.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of Joe Biden's first interview as president on the 60 Minutes YouTube Channel, the research identified that Biden utilized eight types of assertive acts: claim, predict, report, rebut, admit, criticize, assure, and inform. These utterances were analyzed based on their directness and intended meanings. The application of assertive acts theory by Searle & Vanderveken provided deeper insights into Biden's use of these assertive acts in his statements.

The most frequently used assertive act was "inform," which occurred 7 times, followed by "assure" with 3 occurrences. "Predict," "report," "admit," and "claim" each appeared 2 times. The least used assertive acts were "rebut" and "criticize," each appearing once. Among these assertive acts, only "criticize" involved indirect speech acts and non-literal meanings. In contrast, assertive acts like "assure," "claim," "predict," "report," "rebut," "admit," and "inform" predominantly utilized direct speech acts and conveyed literal meanings. Joe Biden's frequent use of direct speech acts and literal meanings suggests his intent to clearly persuade the public and the international community of his administration's accomplishments, particularly in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. Direct speech acts are effective in conveying messages clearly and unequivocally, aligning with Biden's communication strategy to assertively communicate his policies and achievements.

REFERENCES

- Abdel-Qader, L. M., & Al-Khanji, R. R. (2022). Conceptual Metaphor in COVID-19 Speeches of the American President Joe Biden. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 12(4), 810–818. <https://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.1204.24>
- Attamimy, H. F., Junining, E., & Khasanah, I. (2020). Speech Act Analysis of Jacinda Ardern About Covid-19. *Elite English and Literature Journal*, 7(2), 209. <https://doi.org/10.24252/10.24252/elite.v7i2a9>
- Cerovac, I. (2020). John Dunn interview. *Croatian Journal of Philosophy*, 20(59), 133–138.
- Chakim, M. A., & Dibdyaningsih, H. (2019). An analysis of teacher speech act in giving motivation for english students. *JELTHI (Journal of English Language Teaching and Islamic Integration)*, 2(2), 218–229. <https://doi.org/10.31227/osf.io/yzh34>
- Fitriani, S. S., Achmad, D., & Rasmita, F. (2020). An analysis of illocutionary acts in a fantasy movie. *Studies in English Language and Education*, 7(1), 170–180. <https://doi.org/10.24815/siele.v7i1.13635>
- Haucsa, G. M., Marzuki, A. G., Alek, A., & Hidayat, D. N. (2020). Illocutionary Speech Acts Analysis in Tom Cruise's Interview. *Academic Journal Perspective : Education, Language, and Literature*, 8(1), 11. <https://doi.org/10.33603/perspective.v8i1.3304>
- Ivana, P. S. I., & Suprayogi, S. (2020). the Representation of Iran and United States in Donald Trump's Speech: a Critical Discourse Analysis. *Linguistics and Literature Journal*, 1(2), 40–45. <https://doi.org/10.33365/lj.v1i2.293>
- Lambert, V. a., & Lambert, C. E. (2012). Qualitative Descriptive Research: An Acceptable Design. *Pacific Rim International Journal of Nursing Research*, 16(4), 255–256. <http://antispam.kmutt.ac.th/index.php/PRIJNR/article/download/5805/5064>
- Li, P., & Jeong, H. (2020). The social brain of language: grounding second language learning in social interaction. *Npj Science of Learning*, 5(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41539-020-0068-7>
- Milal, A. D., & Kusumajanti, W. (2020). Assertive Speech Acts Performed by Teacher in EFL Classes. *NOBEL: Journal of Literature and Language Teaching*, 11(1), 83–100. <https://doi.org/10.15642/nobel.2020.11.1.83-100>
- Montiel, C. J., Uyheng, J., & Dela Paz, E. (2021). The Language of Pandemic Leaderships: Mapping Political Rhetoric During the COVID-19 Outbreak. *Political Psychology*, 42(5), 747–766. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12753>
- Pramadya, T. P., & Rahmanhadi, A. D. (2021). A day of history and hope: A critical discourse analysis of Joe Biden's Inauguration speech. *Rainbow : Journal of Literature, Linguistics and Culture Studies*, 10(2), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.15294/rainbow.v10i2.45383>
- Searle, J. R., & Vanderveken, D. (1985). *Foundations of Illocutionary Logic* (Vol. 21, Issue 3). Cambridge University Press.
- Semiring, W. A., & Ambalegin, A. (2019). Illocutionary Acts on Aladdin Movie 2019. *Jurnal Basis*, 6(2), 279. <https://doi.org/10.33884/basisupb.v6i2.1419>
- Subandi, Pangesty, H. E., & Wibisono, G. (2020). Illocutionary Acts in Lost in Thailand Detective Humor Movie. *Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Arts and Humanities (IJCAH 2020) Illocutionary*, 491(Ijcah), 738–746. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.201201.124>
- Tania Caroline, R., Sitorus, U., Sinurat, B., & Silalahi, D. E. (2021). An Analysis on the Speech Act of Mark Zuckerberg in English Speeches YouTube Channel. *Zien Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 1(1), 175–181. <https://zienjournals.com>
- Vanderveken, D., & Kubo, S. (2002). Essays in speech act theory. *Essays in Speech Act Theory*, 345. <http://books.google.com/books?id=Pa9GzY1A8XUC&pgis=1>

- Wardana, M. K., Roy, S., & Ariska, J. (2019). Illocutionary Acts in President Rodrigo Duterte's Speech. *International Journal of Culture and Art Studies*, 3(1), 40–46. <https://doi.org/10.32734/ijcas.v3i1.2514>
- Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics* by George Yule. In *Spain: OUP Oxford*. (1st ed.). Oxford University Pres.
- Zheni, T. (2020). Functions of Character in Indonesian Folklore Princess of the Runaway Valley: A Study of Vladimir Propp Narrative Structure Theory. *International Journal of Language and Literary Studies*, 2(4), 215–235. [https://doi.org/Received: 51/55/2020](https://doi.org/Received:51/55/2020) Accepted: 12/12/2020
Keywords: hegemony, illocutionary force, <http://doi.org/10.36892/ijlls.v2i2.476> Abstract