Illocutionary Speech Acts in Political Discourse in the 2024 Presidential Debate

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Abstract

The presidential debate is a crucial moment in the democratic process, where candidates convey their vision, mission, and work programs directly to the public. This study aims to analyze the form and function of illocutionary speech acts in the Indonesian presidential candidate debate in 2024. The approach used is descriptive qualitative with the theoretical basis of pragmatics, in the category of speech act forms using the theory of Ibrahim (1993), while the category of speech act functions using the theory of Yule (2006). The data were obtained from the transcript of the presidential debate broadcast by the General Election Commission (KPU RI) through the official YouTube channel. This research focuses on three sessions, namely, the first, third, and fifth debates involving the three presidential candidates. The analysis shows that there is a variety of categories of forms and functions of illocutionary speech acts. Among these categories, commissive speech acts are most dominantly used, showing the candidates' efforts to build political commitment and shape their self-image before the public. The findings confirm the importance of the strategic function of speech acts in political communication and contribute to the study of pragmatics and political discourse in Indonesia

1. Introduction

Presidential candidate debates are a form of political communication that has a strategic position in the democratic process in Indonesia. Through debates, candidates convey their vision, mission and work programs to the public in an open, competitive and persuasive communication format. In the 2024 General Election, the presidential debates were in the public spotlight and received wide attention, including on social media, especially YouTube. The official channel of the General Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia (KPU RI) became the main medium for disseminating debate recordings, which brought together candidates with millions of viewers from various backgrounds. In this context, the presidential candidate debate is not only a place to debate ideas, but also creates linguistic phenomena in the form of speech events that can be analyzed pragmatically. The utterances delivered by the candidates are not only informative, but also havecertain purposes that can be studied through speech act theory. In line with Searle's (1969) view, every utterance contains actions intended by speakers in certain situations.

Based on the speech acts realized by speakers, speech acts are divided into three kinds, namely, (1) locutionary speech acts, (2) illocutionary speech acts, and (3) perlocutionary speech acts (Wijayana 1996) Of the three speech acts, illocutionary speech acts are classified as the most important study, because these speech acts discuss the purpose and function of an utterance. Illocutionary speech acts are also related to who the speaker is, when and where something is spoken. Illocutionary speech acts are also found in the political sphere. In politics, an utterance is not only used as a form of communication, but can also be used as a means in politics to achieve certain goals, or it can be said that the speaker has a purpose in his speech. One example of the use of illocutionary speech acts in politics is the presidential debate. At the debate, an utterance becomes a means to get a lot of sympathy from the public. This happens because the debate is used as a means for presidential candidates to create a good image through political promises, so that they can change negative views into positive ones and ultimately win the presidential election. Thus, the 2024 presidential candidate debate is an interesting object to study from a linguistic point of view, especially to reveal the forms and functions of illocutionary speech acts used by presidential candidates in an effort to build self-image, convey political promises, and influence public opinion. This kind of study is important to understand how language is used strategically in contemporary political communication.

Seeing the importance of the communication function in the presidential debate, a critical question arises. What are the forms of illocutionary speech acts used by the presidential candidates in the debate? In addition, what function of speech acts is the most dominant. from the analysis of forms and functions, what patterns of communication can be in terms of pragmatics? These questions are important to answer so that we can understand further how language is used strategically in the electoral political arena, not only as a tool to convey messages, but also as a means to shape self-image and influence public perception. For the public, the function of speech in the debate will provide views related to the presidential candidate who will be elected later. Speech acts in the presidential candidate debate will also be a track record that remains of interest for the next 5 years or more by the public, with the aim that each elected presidential candidate can be accountable for his speech if after being given the authority of the position does not match what is spoken.

Therefore, this research focuses on analyzing the form and function of illocutionary speech acts in the 2024 presidential debate broadcast through the KPU RI YouTube channel. This research not only aims to describe the linguistic forms that appear, but also to reveal how these speech acts work in building political discourse and persuasive communication in the midst of general election competition.

The study of speech acts in political debates has been the concern of a number of previous researchers. One of them is Juwita (2017) in her research entitled "Expressive and Commissive Speech Acts in the 2014 Presidential Candidate Debate of the Republic of Indonesia: A Discourse Analysis Study." The research focuses on identifying the forms of speech acts, especially expressive and commissive, in the 2014 presidential debates. Although it provides a good overview of the types of speech acts used, this study has not explored the function of these speech acts in the context of political communication. This is where the difference and important contribution of this research lies, namely by not only describing the form, but also examining the function of illocutionary speech acts more deeply based on Searle's (1969) speech act theory. Another study by Wati, et al. (2018), entitled "Commissive Speech Acts in the Public Debate of Singkarawang Mayor and Deputy Mayor Candidates in 2017," is also relevant because it discusses commissive speech acts in the context of political debates.

2. Method

This research uses two approaches, namely descriptive qualitative and pragmatic approach. The descriptive qualitative approach aims to describe and understand the phenomenon in depth regarding the 2024 presidential candidate debate in the context of illocutionary speech act. Meanwhile, the pragmatic approach occurs in the context of historical, social, political, and other contetext, thus describing social justice as well as political goals from a theoretical point of view (Rasyid, 2022). This is in line with the object of this research, which is about the presidential candidate debate wich is included in the scope of politics. In addition, the pragmatic approach was chosen because the data of this research is in the form of utterances that are included in pragmatic.
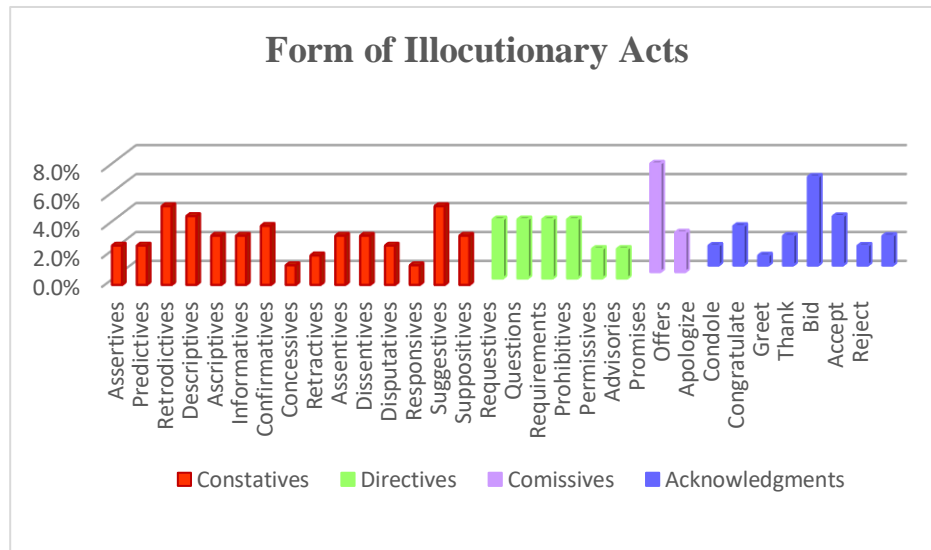
Haryoko et al. (2020) argue that data collection procedures are methods or stages in obtaining data, compiling it systematically, and processing existing data in accordance with research needs. Data collection procedures are carried out through several stages, including watching and viewing the 2024 presidential debate videos on the Indonesian General Election Commission's YouTube account. Transcribing speech into written form. Identifying candidate data obtained from the 2024 presidential debate video on the Indonesian General Election Commission's YouTube account. Coding the classified data. Classifying data related to the form and function of illocutionary acts in the 2024 presidential debate video on the Indonesian General Election Commission's YouTube account. Creating data tables.

Qualitative research data can include photographs, important notes, manuscripts, and other documents that can support the research (Saleh, 2017). Meanwhile, data sources are the origin of objects that can provide information relevant to research. In qualitative research, data sources can be obtained in the form of verbal descriptions or actions (Moleong, 2014). In this study, the data source is a video of the 2024 presidential debate form the KPU RI YouTube account. This transcription is based on the dialogue that took place during the debate and forms the basis for the data analsis process.

The data analysis process refers to the stages in qualitative research as described by Miles and Huberman (2014), which include data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Researchers conduct data reduction based on the objectives to be achieved. The main objective of qualitative research is to find evidence. This evidence is taken from data sources, which in this study are videos of the 2024 presidential debate on the YouTube channel of the General Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia. In this study, the data sources use spoken language, so the data needs to be transcribed to make it easier to analyze and identify. Data presentation is the second step after reduction. Data presentation in qualitative research can take the form of descriptions, graphs, charts, and the like. The most commonly used form of data presentation in qualitative research is descriptive. After data presentation, the next step is to draw conclusions. These conclusions are presented in the form of a description of the research object, thereby illustrating the research results.

3. Findings

The results show that the illocutionary speech in the 2024 presidential candidate debate is divided into 2 parts, namely the form and function of illocutionary speech acts. The classification of illocutionary speech acts according to Ibrahim (1993) consists of four categories and has 31 subcategories. The following is a bar chart based on the category of illocutionary speech acts in the 2024 presidential candidate debate on YouTube KPU RI.

Form of Illocutionary Acts

a. Form of Constatives Speech

Constative speech acts are illocutionary speech acts in the form of expressions of trust, in which there is an intention thet the speech partner has the same belief as the speaker.

1) Assertives

Constative speech that has the intention of stating or conveying a matter in forming belief in something, with the initial situation of the speaker not believing.

Data 01

"...But **believe me**, first of all, there is no democracy without political parties. There is no such thing, whether we like it or not. Want it, don't want it..."

(BTK.A.2025)

Data 01 includes a form of assertive sub-category constative speech acts. It can be seen in the utterance, "trust me." Ganjar Pranowo directs the establishment or strengthening of trust in Anies Baswedan. This indicates that Ganjar Pranowo realizes that there is a rejection of the context of political parties in relation to democracy.

2) Predictives

Constative speech that expresses belief in something that has not yet happened, but is expected to happen. The utterance uses the words possibility, because it concerns the future.

Data 01

"Any violation of the law should not go unpunished. **Because, if left unpunished, it will become contagious** and will be considered as something right..."

(BTK.B.2025)

Data 02 includes a form of constative speech act, predictive sub-category. It appears in the utterance "Because, if left unchecked, he will be contagious," which shows a prediction about something. Anies Baswedan expressed his belief regarding what would happen if lawbreakers were left unpunished.

3) Retrodictives

Constative speech that has the intention of reporting about something the speaker knows. The speech expresses belief based on something that has happened. Retrodictive has the purpose of making the speaker believe the speech.

Data 03

"Then we see that these days the order in which we govern is often **not in accordance with the principles** of law that we hold"

(BTK.C.2025)

Data 03 it is included in the form of constative speech acts, retrodictive sub-category. This can be seen in the utterance. "Not in accordance with the principles of law." Anies Baswedan conveyed events that had occurred, but were not in accordance with legal principles. The utterance leads the public to believe through the current conditions.

4) Descriptives

Contstative speech that includes assessing, diagnosing, categorizing, or describing something objectively Speech that expresses an explanation of something discussed with the intention of increasing the trust of the speaker.

Data 04

"...This country **is a** state of law not a state of power, in a state of law power is governed by law, in a state of power the law is governed by the ruler...."

(BTK.D.2025)

Data 04 is included in the form of constative speech acts, descriptive sub-category. The utterance is a description characterized by the use of the word "is". The utterance is used to explain to the speaker the difference between the state of law and the state of power.

5) Ascriptives

Constative speech that conveys prediction and attribution by reference. It conveys information by referring to the relevant context so that the listener or interlocutor can believe it.

Data 05

"...And this separatist movement we have been **following for quite some time**. We see foreign interference there..."

(BTK.E.2025)

Data 05 includes a form of constative speech act. ascriptive sub-category. It can be seen in the utterance, "following for quite some time." Prabowo Subianto revealed the time span of his efforts in investigating the separatist movement. This is the reason why the problem of separatist movement in Papua has not been resolved.

6) Informatives

Constative speech used to announce, show, or inform. Informative speech is neutral and objective. with the intention of providing new information to speakers.

Data 06

"…**When Christians wanted to build a church**, they couldn't get permission from the community. I spoke up, and in the end, they all got permission to worship..."

(BTK.F.2025)

Data 06 includes a form of constative speech act, informative sub-category. It can be seen in the utterance "When Christians want to build a church," which refers to the time when the incident occurred. Anies Baswedan recounted the difficulties of Muslims and Christians in establishing places of worship, so Anies Baswedan came down to speak to the public.

7) Confirmatives

Constative speech used by speakers in expressing value, validation, decision, conclusion, or confirmation. The speaker expresses the intention of the speech based on the truth analysis procedure, so that the speaker can believe it

Data 07

"...There are always different perspectives that people can judge. **Therefore, opposition is important** and equally honorable..."

(BTK.G.2025)

Data 07 includes a form of constative speech act, confirmative sub-category. It appears in the utterance, "Therefore, opposition is important." The utterance is a marker of the result of reasoning from the previous argument. Based on the context of the speech, Anies Baswedan concludes the reasons for his opinion regarding the government and the opposition are equally important.

8) Concessives

Constative speech used by speakers in agreeing to a condition, but still maintaining a different opinion or action. Speech that expresses belief in something with conditions that do not support other points of view.

Data 08

"...I think what Mr. Anies said **makes sense, even though it is normative**. Indeed, it goes back to saying that the state must play a role..."

(BTK.H.2025)

In data 08, it is included in the category of constative speech acts in the consensive sub-category. It can be seen in the utterance, "It makes sense, even though it is normative." Prabowo Subianto admitted Anies Baswedan's opinion made sense as the main claim, but at the same time pointed out that the opinion was a general principle without concrete implementation.

9) Retractives

Constative speech used by speakers in refuting, denying, rejecting, justifying, or retracting. The purpose of retraction is to retract and justify the speech that has been delivered.

Data 09

"Before I answer that question. I clarify the data that was missed, sorry Mr. Prabowo, the numbers were too small. **Not 320 hectares, but 340 thousand hectares**. I clarify..."

(BTK.I.2025)

Data 09 includes a form of constative speech act. retractive sub-category. It appears in the utterance. "Not 320 hectares, but 340 thousand hectares." There is an admission of error in providing information. Anies Baswedan corrected the previous speech regarding the land data owned by the minister is 340 hectares.

10) Assentives

Constative speech used by speakers in accepting, agreeing, or agreeing to something. It gives an expression that the speaker agrees with the speaker's point of view.

Data 10

"...However, I **agree** that we must uphold justice, we must dialog, this is a matter of the nation."

(BTK.J.2025)

Data 10 includes a constative speech act in the assentive sub-category which is characterized by the use of the word "Agree." The word expresses Prabowo Subianto's agreement with Anies Baswedan's response in the effort to resolve the human rights issue.

11) Dissentives

Constative category speech which means to disapprove or distinguish something that is described or done. It is a polite form of refusal, implying that the reality does not fully match the claim.

Data 11

"...**I think more than just political parties,** people don't trust the democratic process that is happening now..."

(BTK.K.2025)

Data 011 includes a form of constative speech act, sub-category dissentive. Seen in the utterance, "I think more than just political parties." Anies Baswedan expressed his disagreement subtly. The utterance has a different opinion, but does not make a direct refutation.

12) Disputatives

Constative category speech that means objecting, rejecting, protesting, or questioning. The utterance is a firm rejection by the speaker of something.

Data 12

"...We want to lead, we want to bring the agenda, we want to tell the story, talk, omon-omon. **We can't**..."

(BTK.L.2025)

Data 12, the utterance, "We can't," is classified as a form of constative speech act in the disputative sub-category. Prabowo Subianto's speech implies that to lead and bring change, it is not enough to just talk or make empty promises, but must set a good example and carry out what has been said.

13) Responsives

Constative category speech which means replying or answering the question asked, requires speakers to convey their views on a matter.

Data 13

"**I think regarding the Constitutional** Court the rules are clear. We are also not small children, our people are also smart..."

(BTK.M.2025)

Data 13 includes a form of constative speech act, responsive sub-category. It can be seen in the utterance "I think regarding the Constitutional Court, the rules are clear." The utterance expressed Prabowo Subianto's response to a question asked by Ganjar Pranowo regarding the Constitutional Court's decision.

14) Suggestives

Constative speech that has the intention of hypothesizing, guessing, speculating, or guessing. The utterance encourages the speaker by providing another plausible point of view.

Data 14

"...**It is true that** there must be justice, **but I want to say that it is not** that simple, Mr. Anies. There are other factors, Mr. Anies."

(BTK.N.2025)

Data 14 belongs to the form of constative speech acts in the suggestive sub-category. It can be seen in the utterance, " It is true that..., but I want to say that it is not." Prabowo Subianto agrees with the principle of justice, but not entirely with the method or approach proposed by Anies Baswedan, because there are other factors that need to be considered.

15) Suppositives

Constative speech that implies a conjecture about something that is believed with consideration of certain consequences: It usually describes a situation or possibility that is not certain, but could happen under certain conditions.

Data 15

"...All of this can work **if then the government is clean**, the government can be accommodative..."

(BTK.O.2025)

Data 15 includes a form of constative speech act, suppositive sub-category. It can be seen in the utterance, "If then the government is clean." Ganjar Pranowo said that there will be equality if certain conditions, namely if the government is clean and accommodative.

b. Forms of Directives Speech

Directive speech acts in the form of expressing the speaker's attitude of the action to be performed by the speech partner.

1) Requestives

Directive speech in the form of asking, pressing, inviting, begging and encouraging. This speech aims to make the speaker do something according to the speaker's wishes.

Data 16

"...Dayak people are tribes. **Involve us**, so we can get the same access!"

(BTD.A.2025)

Data 16 includes a form of directive speech act, sub-category request. It can be seen in the utterance "Involve us." Ganjar Pranowo expressed a request from the Dayak community to involve them in the government's program.

2) Questions

Directive speech in the form of asking, inquiry (the science of obtaining information). or interrogation. The speech has the intention that the speaker can convey the information that the speaker wants.

Data 17

"...My **question is** simple. do you agree with the dialog model that I offer?"

(BTD.B.2025)

Data 17 includes a form of directive speech acts, sub-category questions. It can be seen in the utterance, "Question ..., is ...?" Ganjar Pranowo's utterance begins with "Question" and is followed by the word "Is" which is a question element to draw a response from Prabowo Subianto regarding the dialog model for resolving human rights issues.

3) Requirements

Directive speech in the form of wanting, demanding, ordering, dictating, organizing, directing, and instructing. Speech that aims to make the speaker do something that the speaker wants.

Data 18

"...Leaders **must** be cool, Leaders must be mature."

(BTD.C.2025)

Data 18 includes directive speech acts in the requirements sub-category. The utterance is characterized by the use of the word, "must." The word shows emphasis or requirement. Prabowo Subianto believes that being a leader must be cool or calm in making the right decisions and mature in carrying out responsibilities.

4) Prohibitives

Directive speech in the form of restricting or prohibiting. The speech expresses the speaker's refusal in the form of a prohibition on the speaker in doing something.
Data 19

"...The distribution of fertilizer must be able to reach and be right on target. At the same time. the fertilizer quota **should not be** limited..."

(BTD.D.2025)

Data 19 includes a form of directive speech act, sub-category of prohibition. It can be seen in the speech marked by the use of the phrase, " should not be." The phrase means a prohibition related to quota restrictions in the distribution of fertilizers. The speaker (Ganjar Pranowo) hopes that it can be a solution to the complaints of farmers who feel that fertilizer subsidies are not on target.

5) Permissives

Directive speech in the form of forgiving, granting, agreeing, releasing, allowing, granting, and permitting. Speech that describes the relationship of speakers under the speaker, by giving the speaker's trust in the speaker.
Data 20

"**Right, I totally agree**, we should have a dialog approach. **Right, well and I also agree**..."

(BTD.E.2025)

Data 20 includes a form of directive speech acts in the all-allowing sub-category. It can be seen in the utterance, " Right, I totally agree... Right, well and I also agree." The utterance is in accordance with Ganjar Pranowo's opinion, in other words Prabowo Subianto allows dialog to solve the problem.

6) Advisories

Directive statements that suggest, propose, advise, or warn about something positive, thereby having an impact in line with the purpose of the advice.
Data 20

"**So be careful if you want to take on debt,** especially for infrastructure that carries high risk. We must calculate carefully, we must be truly prudent..."

(BTD.E.2025)

Data includes directive speech acts, a subcategory of advisory speech acts. This can be seen in the utterance, "So be careful if you want to take on debt." The purpose of this utterance is to make the listener cautious and wise in making decisions.

c. **Forms of Commissives Speech**

Commissive speech acts are illocutionary speech acts that express the speaker's will which requires doing something in the future.

1) Promises

Commissive speech used to promise, which is binding on speakers in carrying out actions in accordance with their speech. Promising functions to convince speakers of something that happens in the future according to their words.
Data 21

"**We dedicate ourselves to being** there **to provide commitment** from the top to the bottom..."

(BTO.A.2025)

In data 21, including the form of commissive speech acts in the sub-category of promising. This can be seen in the utterance, " We dedicate ourselves to being … to provide commitment." Anies Baswedan expressed his commitment to uphold the law consistently from the top to the bottom, without exception. This premise reflects the seriousness of the speaker.

2) Offers

Commissive speech used to make an offer to speakers regarding something. The form of speech that gives the speaker's commitment to something that is offered. The utterance expects the speaker's response to the offer given.

Data 22

"...I am willing to **invite Mr. Anies in a place that Mr. Anies likes, we will discuss, I will bring data**. I will bring the true data..."

(BTO.B.2025)

Data 22 includes a form of commissive speech act in the sub-category of offering. This can be seen in Prabowo Subianto's utterance, "inviting Mr. Anies to a place that Mr. Anies likes. we will discuss, I will bring data." Prabowo Subianto's offer in response to Anies Baswedan's comments regarding the country's defense equipment.

d. Forms of Acts of Acknowledgments

Statement speech acts are speech acts that express the speakers' feelings with the aim of meeting social expectations. The use of these speech acts is expected in certain situations, for example, thanking is a situation of gratitude.

1) Apologize

The acknowledgments speech used in fulfilling a social expectation is in the form of acknowledgment and expressing regret. The utterance expresses regret for having done something wrong to the speaker.

Data 23

"...Mr. Prabowo's commitment is extraordinary. But in the current context I am forced to **apologize** sir. I am forced to ask..."

(BTP.A.2025)

In data 23, the utterance is marked by the use of the phrase, "I apologize." The phrase expresses the fulfillment of social expectation, that Ganjar Pranowo showed respect to Prabowo Subianto before expressing an inappropriate confession or criticism that was deemed sensitive. Of course, the utterance is included in the statement speech act, sub-category of apologizing.

2) Condole

The acknowledgments speech used by someone in expressing sympathy for the speaker's calamity or suffering. Speech that does not emphasize understanding and emotional support, because it is delivered after a difficult situation.

Data 24

"...In Merauke, we found a pastor named Mr. Leo. He had to help a mother give birth. Because **there were no health facilities** and he learned from YouTube..."

(BTP.B.2025)

Data 24 can be categorized as a form of speech act statement sub-category of pity speech. It can be seen in the utterance, "There were no health facilities." The utterance reflects Ganjar Pranowo's concern for the suffering of the people. Through the story of Pak Leo, a pastor who helped in childbirth, due to the absence of health facilities.

3) Congratulate

The acknowledgments speech used by a person to express the joy that the speaker feels. This joy is a form of social expectation that one can also be happy for the joy of others.
Data 25

"...In the context of terrorism, 2023 is relatively non-existent. **We give that appreciation to the police**..."

(BTP.C.2025)

In data 25, it contains utterances that include a form of speech act statement in the congratulatory sub-category. Seen in the utterance. "We give that appreciation to the police." The utterance is in the form of feeling happy for the achievements of other parties. Ganjar Pranowo gave a congratulation with a form of appreciation. Because according to him, when talking about regional security. it is in the police.

4) Greet

The acknowledgments speech used by someone in expressing a happy expression to meet the speaker. Speech.
Data 26

"Bismilahirahmanirrahim **Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, peace be upon us all, Shalom, Om swastiastu, Namo culture, greetings of virtue**..."

(BTP.D.2025)

Data 26, there is a form of speech act statement in the sub-category of greeting. This can be seen in the utterance "Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, peace be upon us all, Shalom, Om swastiastu, Namo culture, greetings of virtue." The speech was delivered by Prabowo Subianto as an interfaith greeting that reflected an attitude of tolerance to the people who were watching the 2024 presidential candidate debate.

5) Thank

An utterance is a acknowledgments category utterance that describes gratitude or returning the favor for having received something positive from the speaker. The following data includes the sub-category of thank you
Data 27

"...**Thank you.** for giving me the opportunity to present my vision and mission..."

(BTP.E.2025)

Data 27, the speaker uses the phrase "thank you," which reflects appreciation for the opportunity given to convey his vision and mission to become president. the speaker starts the delivery with a positive expression that is in accordance with social expectations. Therefore, the speech can be categorized as a form of speech act statement sub-category of thank you.

6) Bid

The acknowledgments speech used by a person in the fulfillment of social expectations about a person. Speech that expresses good wishes when something is related to the future.
Data 28

"...Equality in development planning is what we **expect**, to be able to present what they **expect**..."

(BTP.F.2025)

Data 28, Ganjar Pranowo's speech is characterized by the use of the word "expect." Ganjar Pranowo in his speech conveyed the hope of the community for equality in development in Indonesia. Thus, the speech includes a form of statement speech act, sub-category of hope.

7) Accept

The acknowledgments speech used by someone in the fulfillment of social expectations that reflects an acceptance of the speaker's response. Speech that describes the speaker's success in making the statenient expected from the speaker.

Data 29

"Actually. I wanted to talk about defense and defense equipment, **but okay. I guess**, **thanks for the answer**..."

(BTP.G.2025)

Data 29, Ganjar Pranowo's speech includes a form of speech act statement in the sub-category of acceptance. It can be seen in the utterance. "But okay. I guess, thank you for the answer." The speech is a form of acceptance or agreement from Ganjar Pranowo with Anies Baswedan's response, even though the speech is like a compromise. However Ganjar Pranowo wants to continue the conversation and does not impose his wishes.

8) Reject

The acknowledgments speech that describes the speaker's failure to make a statement that is expected from the speaker. The statement contradicts the speaker, but is in accordance with the speaker's wishes or represents his/her disagreement with something.
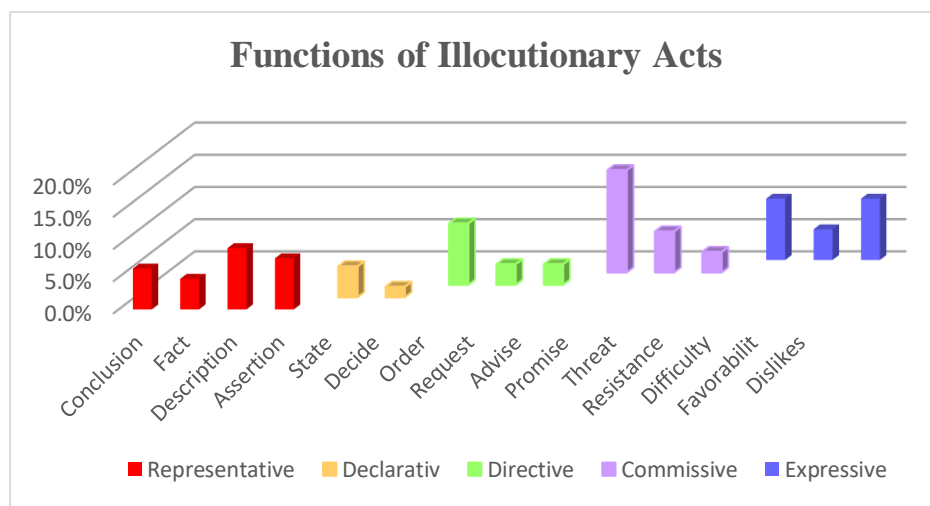
Data 30

"...Now, you talk about ethics, I **object** because I think, I'm sorry, because you urge me…"

(BTP.H.2025)

Data 30 includes a form of statement speech act, sub-category rejecting. It appears in the utterance, "object." Prabowo Subianto expressed his rejection of what Anies Baswedan was talking about. The rejection covered Anies Baswedan's attitude, which continued to insist on ethics.

This research also discusses the category of illocutionary speech act functions, an utterance conveyed by the speaker, not only in the form of words and grammatical structures. However, speech is also used for communicative purposes in the hope that speech partners can understand the (2006) reveals that the function of illocutionary speech acts is classified into five parts and each has a subcategory. The following is a bar chart based on the category of illocutionary speech acts in the 2024 presidential candidate debate on YouTube KPU RI.

a. Function of Representative Speech

Representative functions in explaining ideas, excuses, and communication when stating something that the speaker believes, whether it is a case or not.

1) Conclusion

Representative speech used by speakers to convey the final result, final opinion, or summary of an argument, explanation, or discussion.

Data 31

"...Our thoughts are the same, our words are the same. **So if the actions are not the same, it is we who are punished by the people**..."

(FTR.A.2025)

Data 31 includes the function of representative speech acts, sub-category conclusions. It appears in the utterance " So if the actions are not the same, it is we who are punished by the people." Ganjar Pranowo's speech has the meaning of summarizing the commitment of his opinion, Prabowo Subianto and Anies Baswedan. Their commitments include eradicating corruption.

2) Fact

Representative speech used by speakers to express something that is classified as a fact that has occurred. Speech that states something that can be verified or accounted for objectively.

Data 32

"...**In the 45th Constitution,** our founding fathers established a republic. That republic must be based on law and popular sovereignty..."

(FTR.B.2025)

Data 32 includes a representative speech act function in the fact sub-category. It can be seen in the utterance, "In the 45th Constitution." Prabowo Subianto's speech contained facts because he delivered a statement that was in accordance with history. The use of references to the 1945 Constitution which is the basis of law in Indonesia.

3) Description

Representative function speech used by speakers to express a description or description of something. The description explains the nature, characteristics, and others in detail so that speakers can understand what is meant.

Data 33

"...Corruption **is a** betrayal of the nation, corruption must be eradicated to its roots..."

(FTR,C.2025)

Data 33 includes the function of representative speech acts, the sub-category of describing speech acts. It is characterized by the use of the word "is." Prabowo Subianto explained that corruption must be eradicated, because it is a form of betrayal to the nation.

4) Assertion

Representative speech to emphasize something that has been done or said before. Affirmative speech is used by speakers to reinforce, clarify attitudes, or reject doubts.

Data 34

"...**The main problem is the** lack of justice in Papua. **That's the main problem, okay**..."

(FTR.D.2025)

Data 34 includes the function of representative speech acts, sub-category of affirmation. Seen in the speech, " The main problem is the.... That's the main problem, okay." Anies

Baswedan conveyed the affirmation of the previous explanation regarding the main problem in Papua is injustice.

b. Function of Declarative Speech

Declarative speech functions in decision making. In accordance with its function when using the speech, the speaker can change the world using speech.

1) State

Declarative speech used to explain or describe something that the speaker believes to be true. Although it does not always have a direct impact, it serves to explain a certain attitude, point of view, or situation

Data 35

"...I want to **state clearly**, 7% economic growth is mandatory. The allocation of 1-2% of GDP in my opinion is a must in order to be strong..."

(FTD.A.2025)

Data 35 there is the utterance, " state clearly." The utterance indicates a strong intention to make a firm statement. Ganjar Pranowo implies strategic steps, namely, economic growth and budget allocation. Thus, the speech can be categorized as a declarative speech act function in the sub category of stating.

2) Decide

Declarative speech that is used to make a decision or establish something officially. It has performative power, as its utterance directly results in consequences or actions.

Data 36

"…**We put law,** human rights, improving government services, fighting corruption, protecting all groups in society **as very important** …"

(FTD.B.2025)

Data 36, it is included in the function of declarative speech acts with the sub-category of deciding. It can be seen in the utterance "We put the law, … as very important" The speaker has made an official decision regarding priorities or things that are considered important in the context which is the vision and mission.

c. Function of Directive Speech

Directive functions in expressing statements due to influence or power. In accordance with its function, the speaker uses the speech to tell the speech partner to do something.

1) Order

Directive speech is used by the speaker to ask or tell the speaker to do something and expects a response in the form of real action from the speaker

Data 37

"...Corruption, **must be** an anti-corruption movement, must be a universal movement that involves all the people..."

(FTI.A.2025)

Data 37, the utterance includes the function of directive speech acts, sub-category orders. The speech is characterized by the use of the word "must be." Anies Baswedan's speech emphasizes the important thing to do in eradicating corruption. The speech has the meaning of an order to the people to continue to voice the anti-corruption movement.

2) Request

Directive speech used by speakers to politely request something from the speaker. The request can be in the form of help, attention, or certain actions to the speaker.

Data 38

"Mr. Mahfud is my partner who has been executing well as Coo: Jinating Minister We will do that, **we ask for the support of the people**..."

(FTI.B.2025)

Data 38 includes the function of directive speech acts in the request sub-category. It can be seen in the utterance, "we ask for the support of the people." Ganjar Pranowo's speech contains a request to get support in getting a position to become president.

3) Advise

Directive speech used by speakers to give advice or suggest something that is well-meaning. The speech is soft or non-coercive, with the intention that the suggestion can be considered or carried out.

Data 39

"...But **what needs to be given is an example from the leader that he is living simply**. he is not luxurious..."

(FTI.C.2025)

Data 39 includes the function of directive speech acts, the sub-category of giving advice. It can be seen in the utterance, "what needs to be given is an example from the leader that he is living simply." Ganjar Pranowo's speech contains a suggestion to a leader who is not forceful but encourages for goodness.

d. Function of Commissive Speech

The commissive functions in expressing the speaker's promise to carry out a certain action that is binding on the speaker in carrying out the action for the future.

1) Promise

Commissive speech used to express the speaker's willingness or commitment to do something in the future. Speech that binds the speaker to an action or obligation.

Data 40

"…Where Prabowo-Gibran and the Advanced Indonesia Coalition with the permission of God Almighty, God Almighty, **receive a mandate from the people, we will be** national leaders for all the people of Indonesia. I will be the president for all the people of Indonesia...”

(FTK.A.2025)

Data 40 can be categorized in the function of commissive speech acts, sub-category of promise. It appears in the utterance, "receive a mandate from the people, we will be" Speech in the form of a conditional commitment. The speaker expresses a promise in the form of an offer that if he becomes president, he will become president for all the people.

2) Threat

A commissive utterance is used to make a statement about something potentially dangerous or unpleasant or undesirable. The utterance has the intention of influencing or occupying the speaker's actions with its words.

Data 41

"...When there is a violation of ethics and you continue with a vice president who violates ethics. **This means that there is a compromise on ethical standards**. This ethical standard is a fact..."

(FTK.B.2025)

Data 41 includes the function of commissive speech acts, sub-category of threats. It can be seen in the utterance, "This means that there is a compromise on ethical standards." Anies Baswedan impliedly pressured or cornered Prabowo Subianto for his actions that kept Gibran Rakabuming as his vice president when there was a violation of ethics.

3) Resistance

Commissive speech is a commitment to refuse an invitation, idea, offer or something that the speaker does not agree with. The speech sounds negative, because it contradicts the speaker.

Data 42

"**Even that is wrong, even that is wrong**. Mas Ames, don't convey wrong data"

(FTK.C.2025)

Data 42 includes the function of commissive speech acts, sub-categories of rejection. It can be seen in the utterance, " Even that is wrong, even that is wrong." Prabowo Subianto's statement shows rejection, because it contains an expression of disagreement or direct denial of the data presented by Anies Baswedan.

e. Function of Expressive Speech

Expressive functions in taking a stance that expresses the speaker's feelings. Therefore, these speech acts reflect the psychological speech of the speaker.

1) Difficulty

Expressive speech is used by speakers to express a constraint, obstacle or inability related to something. This type of speech reflects problems, limitations whether related to physical, mental or situational.

Data 43

"...The queue was so long that it was never finished, and **then many religious groups from Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity had difficulties** setting up their places of worship..."

(FTE.A.2025)

Data 43 includes a form of constative speech act, informative sub-category. It can be seen in the words "then many religious groups from Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity are experiencing difficulties." Anies Baswedan told the speakers about the difficulty of licensing to make quite a lot of places of worship.

2) Favorabilit

Expressive speech used to express positive feelings towards something. Speech that reflects the speaker's emotional expressions such as satisfaction, happiness, relief, and others.

Data 44

"…How **happy I was to** meet someone who struggled so hard to be equal…"

(FTE.B.2025)

Data 44 includes the function of expressive speech acts in the pleasure sub-category Ganjar Pranowo's speech is characterized by the use of the phrase, " happy I was to." The word expresses the speaker's pleasure in meeting people who do not give up in fighting.

3) Dislikes

Expressive speech used to express negative feelings towards something. It reflects the speaker's emotional expression such as dislike, annoyance, disagreement, and others.

Data 45

> "**I think Mas Anis is a bit excessive.** Mas Anis complains about democracy about this and that, Mas Anis was elected as Governor of DKI to face the government in power, I who carried you..."

<div align="right">(FTE.C.2025)</div>

Data 45 includes expressive speech act functions, sub-categories of dislike. It appears in the utterance, "I think Mas Anis is a bit excessive." Prabowo Subianto's utterance expressed a negative assessment or criticism by reminding Anies Baswedan's position as Governor for his support.

4. Discussions

Form of Illocutionary Acts

In the 2024 presidential debate event in the Youtube Video of the General Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, 147 data were found that can be categorized as forms of illocutionary speech acts. Based on the classification, it shows that the most dominant form of illocutionary speech acts in the 2024 presidential debate is the commissive speech act of the promising subcategory. This speech act is used by the three candidates, Anies Baswedan, Prabowo Subianto, and Ganjar Pranowo as a strategy to convey long-term commitments to the vision, programs, and policies that they will implement if elected. The dominance of this speech act can be explained through Ibrahim's (1993) theoretical framework, which states that commissive speech acts involve speakers' commitment to future actions. In the context of political debates, this form becomes an important rhetorical tool to build credibility, strengthen ethos, and attract voters' trust.

In line with Juwita's (2017) opinion, promises or commitments in the commissive form not only convey plans, but also form the speaker's self-image as a trustworthy leader. This is in line with the main purpose of political debates, namely as a demonstration of vision and leadership capacity in front of the public. In addition, the use of commissive speech acts also reflects the communication structure facilitated by the time-limited and competitive format of the debate, which encourages candidates to display firm and committed statements directly. Furthermore, speech acts such as commissiveness have a significant political impact, as they play a role in shaping public opinion and voter expectations. The promises expressed in debates become a reference for public evaluation of the credibility and consistency of candidates, both during the campaign period and after taking office. Therefore, the choice of speech acts is not just a linguistic choice, but also part of a planned political communication strategy aimed at shaping public perceptions and political preferences. Thus, the use of speech act forms and functions in presidential debates not only reflects the dynamics of language in an institutional context, but also shows how language is used strategically to influence public discourse, shape political images, and direct democratic processes through persuasive communication.

Function of Illocutionary Acts

Based on the classification and analysis of the research, 63 data were found that can be categorized as the function of illocutionary speech acts in the 2024 presidential candidate debate on the Youtube Video of the General Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia. The data shows that the most dominant illocutionary speech act function in the 2024 presidential candidate

debate is the commissive function, especially in the promise subcategory, with a total of 10 data. This function shows the tendency of the candidates, Anies Baswedan, Prabowo Subianto, and Ganjar Pranowo to use utterances that commit them to future actions. In Yule's (2006) theoretical framework, commissive speech acts signify speakers' commitment to an action, and in the political context, this is a form of performative linguistic contract, promises being the main tool for building public expectations and trust.

This finding is in line with the research of Khasanah Rima, et al (2024) which states that the commissive function is dominant in political communication because it is closely related to the ethics of representation and the social responsibility of prospective leaders. Explicitly expressed promises create an image that the candidate is a decisive, visionary, and trustworthy figure. Within the framework of political rhetoric, this strategy also strengthens the ethos of the speaker, while fulfilling audience expectations in a debate format that prioritizes the narrative of solutions and policy directions. Different from this study. Cahyani Tiara & Gunawan Hafiz (2024) found that the dominant allocutionary function is declarative. This difference reflects that the method of speech act classification is highly dependent on the analytical framework used. In this study, many statements that convey data and information are included in the representative function, which includes conclusions, explanations of facts, and program descriptions. This is based on the representative function as a way for speakers to state something that is believed to be true (Yule, 1996), not to directly stipulate something as in declarative.

This categorization also takes into account the institutional context of presidential debates, which structurally are not decision-making forums, but rhetorical events. Therefore, subcategories within declarative functions such as "decide" rarely appear, as debates do not authorize candidates to make final decisions, but rather only state positions or plans. This confirms that the pragmatic structure of political debates restricts certain illocutionary functions and encourages the dominance of promotional, persuasive and credible types, such as commissive and representational. Sociolinguistically, the dominance of the commissive function shows how language is used as a tool for political legitimacy. These promises not only contain personal commitments, but also emphasize leadership claims before the public as the owners of votes. Thus, the presidential debate becomes a strategic space where commissive speech acts act as a symbolic tool to build future narratives, direct public perception, and redefine political credibility through communication.

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

This study reveals that in the 2024 presidential candidate debate aired through the KPU RI's official YouTube channel, the most dominant form and function of illocutionary speech acts is the commissive category with the subcategory of promising or pledging. The dominance of commissive speech acts shows a consistent pattern in the use of linguistic strategies by candidates to convey political commitments, convince voters, and build a trustworthy self-image. This strengthens the argument that illocutionary speech acts, especially commissives, have a strategic role in the context of political communication. From a pragmatics perspective, these findings contribute to the understanding of how language structures are functionally used in public political discourse to influence audiences.

This research is still limited to analyzing the form and function of illocutionary speech acts. Therefore, further research is recommended to integrate the analysis of language politeness and impoliteness, for example using Brown and Levinson's theory, to see the face strategies used by

candidates when delivering criticisms, attacks, or clarifications. Future researchers can also involve more data across debates and compare between sessions or between candidates systematically, to reveal the dynamics of political communication more comprehensively. Thus, this kind of study can contribute more broadly, not only at the level of theoretical pragmatics, but also in the study of political communication, applied linguistics, and media studies.

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