Illocutionary Act Analysis of Melati and Isabel Wijsen Speech at United Nations

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Abstract

This study was conducted to analyze the illocutionary act used in Melati and Isabel Wijsen's United Nations Speech. This speech was performed on World Oceans Day 2017. From the illocutionary act that was analyzed, the readers are able to learn that utterances also play role as actions that can influence people to do something. The qualitative descriptive method was used in this study to collect and analyze the data, followed the model from (Miles et al., 2014). This qualitative model consists of data condensation, data display, and drawing conclusion. The researcher used the illocutionary act types that were proposed by (Searle, 1976) as the grounded theory in making the classification of illocutionary utterances found in Melati and Isabel Wijsen' speech. As a result, researcher found 18 assertives (56, 25%), 7 declaratives (21, 88%), 4 commissives (12, 5%), 3 expressives (9, 38%), 0 declaratives (0%). From the results found, Melati and Isabel Wijsen tend to use their speech to convince the audience by informing, believing, reporting, showing, and stating. This study suggests that applying illocutionary acts could make a speech more powerful.

Keywords: Illocutionary Act, Utterance, Speech Act

INTRODUCTION

Melati and Isabel Wijsen are two youths from Bali who have been chosen as speakers in many countries and many big events. One of them was in front of the United Nations. They were chosen because of the way they speak and the content of their speeches were awesome. Their speech can influence the hearers although some of them were implicitly conveyed. According to this fact, it means that the illocutionary acts in their speech was successfully delivered to its audience. Therefore, it is important for us to know and also learn from their speech. Their speech was powerful but still easy to be understood. By analyzing

how they delivered the illocutionary acts in their speech can help us to realize that utterances can make people do things. It also can teach us to be future great speakers that can influence people by using our words.

Illocutionary acts from Melati and Isabel Wijsen were defined based on speech act theory from (Austin, 1962). According to him, speech act is the action that is done by producing utterances. When we are communicating and producing utterances, our utterances are considered as actions. There are many kinds of actions that we perform during make utterances, (Larasati et al., 2020) and (Praditya et al., 2014) have similar statement that speech acts are utterances made by speakers which applie certain actions as the purposes of the utterance. For example, when saying "Good morning sir, I am sorry for being late today", this utterance has two actions which are greeting and apologizing. The other types of common speech act are requesting, inviting, gratitude, rejecting, and so on. Sometimes the actions in the speaker's utterances can be interpreted differently by the hearer. (Ramayanti & Marlina, 2018) stated that the speech act theory developed by Austin is an effort aimed to explain how speakers and hearers are processing and then build the meaning from the utterances in their conversations.

Based on model that is proposed by (Austin, 1962) speech act consists of three types. They are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. First, locutionary act is whatever the utterances are conveyed by the speaker is the meaning. Second, illocutionary act is when the utterances have performative elements implied by the speaker. An utterance indirectly has force as its other meaning. Third, perlocutionary is the action taken by the hearer as the effect of illocutionary. For example: when a speaker says "the dress in that boutique is beautiful". This utterance only refers to the look of the dress is locutionary. But, in illocutionary it means that the speaker is requesting the hearer to buy that dress for her. Last, the hearer will buy that dress is the perlocutionary. However, in this study, the researcher only focused on the illocutionary act. Melati and Isabel Wijsen were invited to United Nations to speak about their advocacy. This speech is a call to reduce plastic waste as a form of taking care of our ocean. This speech is so powerful because it also plays as an act to influence people to do things that are mentioned in the Melati and Isabel Wijsen's speech. They give information, reports, and statements that could convince the audience. After the hearers are convinced, the speakers use their speech to instruct, request, and command the hearers. This can be happened because Melati and Isabel Wijsen are successfully delivered the illocutionary act in their speech. This analysis is expected could help language learners to understand more about the use of illocutionary in order to make impactful speech. Therefore, this study was conducted to analyze illocutionary act of Melati and Isabel Wijsen speech at United Nations, types of illocutionary acts of Melati and Isabel Wijsen Speech at United Nations, the less and more dominant illocutionary act of Melati and Isabel Wijsen Speech at United Nations.

METHOD

The method used in this study was descriptive qualitative research adapting the model that was proposed by (Miles et al., 2014). The research subject of this study was a video from youtube entitled Melati and Isabel Wijsen - World Oceans Day. This video was uploaded on the United Nations's Youtube Channel on June 9 2017. The video's duration is 6 minutes and

12 seconds. The research object of this study is the illocutionary acts used in their speech. The illocutionary acts classification from (Searle, 1976) was chosen as the grounded theory for this study. The classification includes assertives, directives, expressives, and declaratives. In collecting the data, when the video has been downloaded, the researcher watched the video repeatedly. After that, the data obtained from the video was transcribed. It was done by taking notes that contain all Melati and Isabel Wijsen's utterances that they produced in the video. The utterances were written in a list of data in order according to which one was spoken first. All utterances need to be written because the researcher did not want to lose any important things during data collection.

There were three main steps taken during data analysis. They were data condensation, data display, drawing and verifying conclusions. First, data condensation is a step to make the data stronger without losing any important things while processing the data through focusing, selecting, and simplifying. In this study, research first separated the data into 2 types which were the illocutionary ones and non-illocutionary ones. In separating the illocutionary and non-illocutionary utterances, researcher used the theory proposed by (Austin, 1962). The illocutionary utterances are indicated by act performed in the utterance. After that, the non-illocutionary data was removed. Second, data display is the data that has been organized and compressed to make it easier to be concluded. In this study, research made data display by organizing the illocutionary acts utterances based on their types. These utterances then written into several data. Researcher compared the data gotten from Melati and Isabel Wijsen'speech to the theory proposed by (Searle, 1976). Last is drawing and verifying conclusions. It is about the final interpretation from the researcher after analyzing all the data. Beside of the qualitative method proposed by (Miles et al., 2014), researcher also did data triangulation. Data triangulation is a method in qualitative research that aimed to help reduce biases that originate from gathering, reporting, and analyzing data, thereby improving the reliability and validity of the research, (Donkoh, 2023). Furthermore, The most typical technique of triangulation methos is to use both qualitative and quantitative data instruments, procedures, and data analysis in one study, (Donkoh, 2023). In analyzing the illocutionary act in Melati and Isabel Wijsen's utterrance, both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis procedures were employed. The qualitative data were the utterances found in the Melati and Isabel Wijsen speech at United Nation video that was being observed. The quantitative data were the frequency of each type of illocutionary. In this study, the researcher found out the percentage of each illocutionary type which were put in the table. It was aimed to conclude which illocutionary act types were less and more dominant used by Melati and Isabel Wijsen in their speech.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSIONS
Illocutionary act of Melati Wijsen and Isabel Wijsen Speech at United Nations

Melati and Isabel Wijsen's speeches at the United Nations were performed to influence the audience to follow the actions or advocacy that is told by them. It means that their utterance does not only have real condition meanings, but it also has implicit meaning. There are actions in their utterances. The actions can be in the form of informing, asking, instructing, informing, or requesting. This meaning was deliberately made by the speakers. It is what we call an illocutionary act.

In Searle's view that is cited in the book (Aitchison & Wardaugh, 1987), in delivering an illocutionary, the speakers have to do it intentionally. This has the function to make the explicit meaning conveyed by the speaker can be captured or understood by the listener. There are 2 important things in communicating illocutionary. They are (1) the utterances made must be good and correct with a certain conventional meaning that they have (2) the speech must be in accordance with the conditions that occur so that the listener cannot refute the truth of the utterances.

The researcher divided the illocutionary acts in Melati and Isabel Wijsen speech at the United Nations into 32 data. There are 4 types of illocutionary acts found in their utterances. Those types are assertives, directives, commissives, and expressive. Researcher did not find any declaratives type because the speech itself was not purposing to make any declaration. Types of illocutionary act in Melati Wijsen and Isabel Wijsen Speech at United Nations were analyzed based on the illocutionary act model by (Searle, 1976). It can be classified into five categories. They are assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives.

Assertives

(Searle, 1976) stated assertives is the utterance that speakers produced can commit them to the truth of the expressed proportion. In assertives, the speaker's statements or utterances can be tested to be true or false. Additionally, (Hidayat, 2016) said that speakers did an observation of specific things first in making the utterances. After that, the speakers will state what they believe according to their observation. In this case, speakers see what they said as fact or truth. Assertive utterances can be in the form of reporting, claiming, asserting, informing, and stating.

Table 1. Assestive Type

Assertive Type	*Utterances*	**Illocutionary**
Informing	**Data 1** *"The first, because it reminds us that almost every second breath we take come from the ocean. The very thing that has brought us here together this week. Second, it's a nice way to ground ourselves and connect everyone in the room and it also calms the butterfly."* **Data 2** *"For as long as I can remember, the ocean has been a part of our lives, is a part of all of our lives."* **Data 3** *"Not only does it produce 70% of the oxygen we breath but the ocean is also responsible for more than 3,5 billion people who still depend on it as a primary source of food."* **Data 4** *"It supports more than 80% of*	In the utterances from data 1 to data 4, the speakers informed that the ocean is crucial for all being's lives. The event that they attended also can be successfully conducted due to ocean has given them the air to breath. These utterances meant to inform that the ocean does not only benefit one individual but all of the species. All creatures are depending to the ocean. It could be said that the life on the earth will end if the ocean all are polluted. The utterances from data 1 to data 4 have implicit meaning which not only inform the importance of the ocean but also wanted to influence the people to have the awareness about taking care of the ocean.

	lives on earth"	
Believing	***Data 5*** *"I am sure we all know it's not easy, the issues and the policies are complex but it is worth it"* ***Data 6*** *"The time for change is never been better"* ***Data 7*** *"Each and every one of us has the power to be the change we want to be."* ***Data 8*** *"We hope and trust that Bali will be the game changer for the rest of Indonesian to follow."*	The utterances from data 5 to data 8 are assertives type, specifically believing. It is because they are considered as truths that the speakers believe. Melati and Isabel Wijsen believe that the 'bye-bye plastic bag' issue is very worth to follow due to its big impacts for the ocean. They also believe that awareness about this issue must be done as soon as possible starting from ourselves. Believing type is indicated by the words *sure* and *trust*. For data 8, it is specially contained their belief to Bali to become the leader that raises the importance of this issue. The implicit meaning from these utterances is to make the hearers see that their advocacy will be more successful if each one of them ready to support and follow the act.
Reporting	***Data 9*** *"We have been campaigning for almost five years now."* ***Data 10*** *"We have spoken over 16.000 students in 12 different countries and 8 different languages."* ***Data 11*** *"We have done a lot of works to reach the masses by doing 3 TED talks in the last year."* ***Data 12*** *"We mobilized over 12.000 people in 55 different locations all along the coastline."* ***Data 13*** *"We collected over 40 tons of trash in just one day which would have ended up in the ocean."* ***Data 14*** *"The top 3 categories of waste we collected were 30% plastic bags, 18% plastic bottles, and 13% plastic straws."*	In these utterances, Melati and Isabel Wijsen were reporting about the started in campaigning their advocacy which is 'bye-bye plastic bag' and the growth of it. These utterances also implicitly wanted to get the hearers' attention about how much was their effort to reduce plastic bag waste so far and how consistent was their advocacy. The utterances from data 11 to data 14 were reporting about the recent Bali biggest beach cleanup that was done by Melati and Isabel Wijsen and bye-bye plastic bag community. They contain about how many people were joined and the result of their action. From the result we knew that the utterances meant to make the hearers realized that most of the plastic wastes are single-used and people actually do not really need them. They can be removed by more eco-friendly ones which are better for the ocean.
Showing	***Data 15*** *"We stand here today to show exactly that youth can be more than inspiration allows us to be the*	This utterance meant to show, it is clearly indicated by the phrase "to show". The utterance showed about what they have done as youth. It has an implicit meaning which to tell the hearers

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	bridge for the future and the present."	to never underestimate youth.
Stating	**Data 16** *"It is not a rocket science but a change in mindset."* **Data 17** *"We are the water protectors, the climate changes activists. We are the innovators, entrepreneurs, and explorers."*	In data 16, the speakers stating that the movements they promote are simple. The speakers compared their movement to a rocket science which is expensive, very much complexity, and not everyone could make it. It tells that change in opposite of rocket science, it can be made by only change our mindset. It actually messaged the hearers to no longer waiting to start an environment-oriented habit.
	Data 18 *"We youth are only 25% of the world's population but we are 100% of the future."*	In data 17 and 18, these utterances were stating who they are. They state their role in making changes in this world. They were saying that they are the water protectors, climate change activists, innovators, entrepreneurs, explorers, and the future's hope. These utterances implicitly meant that the future is depending on youth, youth have the power to be anything to save the ocean.

Directives

Directives is the utterances that intentionally attempt to get the hearer to take an action, (Searle, 1976). It means that the speakers expect the hearer will do something because of their utterances. Directives utterances can be in the form of requesting, instructing, commanding, inviting, suggesting, advising, and begging.

Table 2 Directive Types

Directives Types	Utterances	Illocutionary
Inviting	**Data 19** *"Already 38 countries around the world said no to plastic bags and so only a few left to go and that is when you can come in."*	The directive illocutionary act in this utterance has the purpose of inviting the hearers. The speaker wanted other countries to join their movements to say bye to plastic bags after the country's representative heard their speech
Requesting	*Data 20* *"On the count of three, please join us in taking a deep breath"* *Data 21* *"Allow us to drive the decisions that you are making today! Allow us youth to be the voice that motivates your approaches for the solutions that create the world that us want to be a part of!"*	The utterances in data 20-22 are directives type requesting. The utterance in data 20 is requesting is indicated by the word 'please'. By saying this utterance, the speakers were asking the hearers to perform actions which are taking a deep breath and out. The utterance in data 21, Melati and Isabel Wijsen requested the hearers to allow youth to be the decision drivers and the voice for people.
	Data 22 *"We need you all to be the game changer that will reverse decline in health of our oceans."*	The utterance in data 22, Melati and Isabel Wijsen requested the hearers to become game changer who care and aware about the issues that they were presented, which was about the ocean.

Instructing	**Data 23** *"You can begin to ask yourself the question "why we still treat our oceans so badly."*	In the data 23, the speakers were instructing the hearer to do an action. The action that was meant to be done by the hearer was asking themselves question about people's habits that can destroy the ocean.
Warning	**Data 24** *"If you don't act during this conference, it will have much bigger consequence. It will be the biggest test we together have ever failed."*	The form of the directives in data 24 was warning. Melati and Isabel Wijsen warned the hearers to take actions after the conference. The action meant in their speech was to reduce plastic bags for the better ocean. They emphasized the consequence to force the hearers to act.
Commanding	**Data 25** *"Leave this room a game changer! Leave this room responsible, feel your duty and know you need to make a change!"*	The form of the directives utterances 25 was commanding. Melati and Isabel Wijsen command the hearers to make a change by seeing and taking care of the ocean as their duty. It strongly forced the hearers to follow their movements to stop using single used plastic bags.

Commisives.

Commisives is an illocutionary speech act that contains speaker's future commitments, (Searle, 1976). The speakers use their utterances to promise that someday or in the future they will do certain actions. Commisives utterances can be in the form of promising, offering, and committing.

Table 3. Commisives Types

Commisives Types	Utterance	Illocutionary
Committing	**Data 26** *"We feel we shouldn't spend more time going out the fact."*	As we can see from the utterances 26, the speaker committed to take actions since the day they realize that currently the ocean is facing the problem of plastic pollutions.
	Data 27 *"Our initiative is going global to over 15 countries as we speak all driven by youth."*	The utterance in data 27 contained the future actions that Melati and Isabel Wijsen want to do. They have a goal of going global over 15 countries in the future.
	Data 28 *"We have the commitment of the Bali Government to work to a final notes plastic bag on Bali 2018."*	In data 28 utterance contained the commitment from Bali Government which was requested by Melati and Isabel Wijsen. Since the speech took place in 2017, according to the commitments conveyed, the actions to stop using plastic bags will be carried out a year later.
	Data 29 *"Our story is not yet over and our team back home is doing something stronger every day to ensure that this commitment really follows."*	The utterance in data 29 contained the commitment from Melati and Isabel Wijsen to continue their advocacy about bye-bye plastic bags. They even committed to do something bigger and keep developing their community.

Expressives

Searle (1976) defined expressive as an illocutionary act that has function to express a speaker's psychology. The speaker will produce an utterance or attitude that is suitable with the condition or situation which the speaker is facing. Additionally, this type of illocutionary act is related to the speaker's feeling, (Drid, 2019). Expressives illocutionary can be in the form of greeting, regretting, apologizing, thanking, and congratulating.

Table 4. Expressives Types

Expressives Types	Utterance	Illocutionary
Greeting	**Data 30** *"Om Swastyastu"*	The utterance 'om swastyastu' is a greeting expression that is used in Bali. They greet the audience as an expression of humility because they have been warmly welcomed by the hearers when they were about to deliver their speech.
Parting	**Data 31** *"Om Santih Santih Santih Om"*	The utterance in data 31 is a leave taking expression that is used in Bali. This was the attitude that Melati and Isabel performed to show their politeness when leaving the place where they were speaking.
Thanking	**Data 32** *"Thank you"*	This utterance was meant to show Isabel and Melati Wijsen gratitude for the opportunities that were given to them. It was also delivered for the hearers for the attention and participation during Melati and Isabel Wijsen speech.

Declaratives

Declaratives is the utterances that have a significant change on the institutional state of affairs and rely on complex extra-linguistic institutions, (Searle, 1976). It means only by saying something, speaker can change the world that is what we call a declaration. The change can refer to any situation, in the small or big scope, like a person's life or a nation's life, (Puji Hariati et al., 2020). The researchers did not find any declaratives utterances because their speeches at the United Nations had nothing to do with making the declaration.

Percentage of Illocutionary act in Melati and Isabel Wijsen Speech at United Nations

There were 4 types of illocutionary acts found in 32 Melati and Isabel Wijsen illocutionary acts at their United Nations speech by the researcher. Those types were assertives, directives, commisives, and expressives. Melati and Isabel Wijsen used assertives in most of their utterances, followed by declaratives, commisives, and expressives. It can be seen at the table below to know more specific information about the percentage of Melati and Isabel Wijsen's illocutionary act classification.

Table 5. Illocutionary Act

Illocutionary Acts	Frequency	Percentage
Assertives	18	56,25%
Directives	7	21,88%
Commisives	4	12,5%
Expressives	3	9, 38%

From the findings of Melati and Isabel Wijsen illocutonary act as above, it can be concluded that Melati and Isabel Wijsen tend to use their speech to convince the audience by informing, believing, reporting, showing, and stating or emphasize the assertives. Their speech function was to introduce the hearers about their bye-bye plastic bag community. It was reporting what the activities were done by the community. It was also to inform the reason why Melati and Isabel Wijsen created that community, informed about the recent ocean's condition, and what youth can do as change makers with little forces for the hearers to follow their actions. After the hearers are convinced, the speakers use their speech to instruct, request, and command the hearers by only some directives illocutionary. It also can be seen by the illocutionary types frequency, assertives was the most dominant types, followed by directives, commisives and expressives was the least dominant. Similar things also found by (Saputri et al., 2021) in their article entitled "The Illocutionary Acts in Melati and Isabel Wijsen's Ted Talk". They found that the most dominant illocutionary acts in Melati and Isabel Wijsen Ted Talk were assertives types and less dominant were expressives. The difference was in this analysis commisives were more dominant than directives. These two similar findings were the proof that Melati and Isabel Wijsen tend to use assertive illocutionary acts in their speech.

CONCLUSION

Based on the researcher's analysis, there were 32 illocutionary acts found in Melati and Isabel Wijsen's United Nations Speech. There were 4 types of the illocutionary act contained in their speech. The types were 18 assertives (56, 25%), 7 directives (21, 88%), 4 commisives (12, 5%), and expressives (9, 38%). Thus, the most dominant type was assertives and least dominant was expressives. Declaratives type was not found in all of their utterances because their utterances were not meant to declare something. But, as we can see from the dominant type, most of their utterances aimed to inform the audience about their bye-bye plastic bag community and the power of youth. Since the illocutionary acts might be differently interpreted, further research can be conducted in order to find out whether it has the same or similar findings, or even different.

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