The Analysis of President Biden's Twitter Account's Representative Illocutionary Act

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ABSTRACT
Representative illocutionary acts are speech acts that convey truth values based on the actual meaning of the spoken or written utterances. This research aims to identify the types and purposes of representative illocutionary acts contained in President Biden's Twitter account. The present research is grounded in John R. Searle's theory, which posits that a representative illocutionary act refers to a statement made by a speaker that is believed to be either true or untrue, depending on a prior event witnessed by the speaker. This study employs a qualitative research methodology. The subject of investigation in this research consists of President Biden's tweets, which are utilized as the primary data source. The statements are classified and examined based on the categories of representative illocutionary acts and their roles. The research findings identify various types of representative illocutionary acts that serve distinct roles based on their respective types. The act of recommending, as a typical illocutionary act, holds a significant impact due to Joe Biden's position as the president of a mighty nation. As the leader of a country with substantial capital, advanced industry, and a formidable military, Biden wields considerable global influence. Hence, the tweets of President Biden are not only monitored by American citizens but also by global citizens. Furthermore, President Biden's statements are currently a prominent global concern. President Biden frequently offers recommendations to the citizenry, who are an audience impacted by various issues or challenges, to resolve them.

Keywords: Illocutionary Act; President Biden; Representative Act; Twitter Account.

INTRODUCTION

Language has become a very effective tool for connecting people and providing information. It is also vital as a differentiator between humans and other creatures (Saussure, 1988). Risdianto (2016) states that one must have a common understanding of language to communicate well. This understanding is not limited to recognizing the meaning of words in an utterance but also understanding what the speaker meant. Therefore, each utterance's meaning is seen in terms of its meaning and with the situation and conditions.

Communication is not just a symbol, word, or sentence but will be more accurately referred to as a product of the result of symbols, words, or sentences, which is a speech act. In this case, the speech act attempts to explain how a speaker uses language to achieve the intended action and how a hearer infers the intended meaning from what he implied (Searle, 1969; Coulthard & Condlin 2014; Leech, 1993). In line with this, Yule (2022) states that communication not only depends on the meaning of words in an utterance but also on recognising what the speaker means in his speech so that it can be interpreted. It is said because it has the intention that the speaker wants to give to the hearer so that the hearer can try to identify what the speaker meant by the utterance and its context. That way, speakers and hearers must have a good understanding of the language used as a tool to communicate so that there are no misunderstandings.

The context used in communicating is critical to understand because the meaning of an utterance will differ according to the context. The meaning of each utterance depends on the context behind it. Pragmatics is a linguistic study that discusses language structure externally, which can then be used to determine how linguistic units are used in communication. The function is for communication and the study of the relationships between language and context that underline explanations of understanding (Levinson, 1983). One of the sub-sectors in it is the speech act, which can be found in our daily lives, especially in oral and written communication. In learning, every utterance made by someone is a speech act. This is a human ability to use language as a tool to communicate and have a specific purpose following certain situations. From this definition, the speech act emphasizes the meaning of the action in the speech. Speech acts have three types: elocutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts (Yule, 2022).

A locutionary act is an act of saying something that is to be conveyed. Then, illocutionary is speech that has a purpose for the hearer to do something; there is a message in the speech delivered. The last is perlocutionary speech, where the result of the action is caused by the illocutionary act (Rohmadi, 2017; Wijaya, 2019, January). Speech acts play a significant role in human life. Because humans have reason and the ability to communicate with other humans, speech acts are very much needed (Wijaya, 2019, January). Speech act theory is a branch of pragmatics that deals with the meaning of an action performed in a person's speech in a particular context (Purwadi & Sihombing, 2012).

The type of illocutionary act is divided into five parts; the first is representative, in which the speaker believes something that has happened based on his understanding. Then, the directive is where the speaker asks what was said to the listener, and then the listener takes action. The third is the commissive type, in which the speaker is asked to do something that will happen in the future. The fourth is expressive, which is an act that shows how the speaker feels about the surrounding

situation; the last is a declarative act, which is usually used to change something with the resulting utility (Searle, 1979).

A representative is a speech act that states what the speaker believes to be the case or not. The essence of the representative illocutionary act is to do the speaker truth for the expressed propositional content. Representative illocutionary acts are very commonly used in communication and are applied in human life and literary works such as novels, plays, short stories, and films. They are often found on social media, including Twitter (Violeta, 2019). In line with that point, the representative illocutionary act is to commit the speaker to something that is the case, to the truth of the expressed proposition. All representative illocutionary act class members are assessable on the true and false dimensions (Searle, 1979). The researcher uses the theory from Searle (1969) based on his theory of representative illocutionary act, which is a type of speech act that carries actual values. The speaker expresses his belief, including stating, reporting, concluding, suggesting, and complaining. In real-life communication, the actions of representatives can never be separated because whether they are directly related or not, everyone has to act representatively in communication. This type of representative illocutionary act is prevalent in oral or written forms of communication. It is also explained further by Searle & Vanderveken (2005), that the representative illocutionary act is a speech act that presents the situation of an affair based on reality. Speakers say an utterance about something they believe to be true or not.

In this case, the researcher uses the utterances in the form of tweets made by President Biden on his Twitter account. President Biden is an official Twitter account belonging to the 46th President of the United States, Joe Biden, which the United States government officially manages as of 9 June 2021. President Biden's account already has 11.6 billion followers and has made 870 tweets containing reliable information. Moreover, some of the utterances made by a president are impossible to lie; of course, they must be in the form of facts that have occurred. The researcher will analyze representative acts of his tweets from the beginning of February 2021 to the end of July 2021. In his tweets, he discussed many issues or topics regarding Covid-19, the economy, society, justice, and the United States. To make it more specific, the researcher analyzed only one topic regarding Covid-19. From the explanation in the background above, there are several kinds of representative illocutionary acts and their functions related to understanding the meaning of speech acts in a conversation or statement. The problems in this study are formulated as follows: What kinds of representative illocutionary acts are found on President Biden's Twitter account? Moreover, what functions of the representative illocutionary act are found on Twitter for President Biden's account?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pragmatics in linguistics investigates how context influences the meaning that language conveys. According to Yule (2022), pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between linguistic forms and how they are used. Pragmatics allows the hearer to interpret the meaning or utterances conveyed by the speaker regarding their assumptions, intentions, and goals based on the types of actions they take while speaking. Context plays a vital role in pragmatics because utterances are only considered pragmatic with it. Context is defined as the language spoken by the speaker and the location, time, and situation (Savoy & Wehren, 2022).

The speech act is a part of pragmatics related to certain utterances or sentences with specific actions. Speech acts give a confident attitude in communicating, such as expressing a statement as something that is believed (Sulastri & Saptiany, 2023). Speech acts are interesting because they go beyond simple word usage. They investigate how language is used to carry out acts during communication. Speech acts are linguistic behaviours that occur during speech (Rahayu, et al., 2019; Körner, et al., 2022). Other theories of speech actions suggest that there are three main components to every utterance: locution, illocution, and perlocution. Locution is the significance of what the speaker says, illocution is the purpose of what the speaker says, and perlocution is the effect of what the speaker says. Speech Act, according to John R. Searle in his book "Speech Act: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language", suggests that pragmatically, there are at least three types of actions taken by speakers, namely illocutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. Locutionary acts are utterances, illocutionary acts contain different speaker intentions, and perlocutionary acts are actions taken by hearers according to the intent.

Searle (1969) identified five illocutionary acts that can be used in spoken and written speech. He developed his theories of speech acts, naming them the five basic types of illocutionary acts. They are representative, directive, expressive, communicative, and declarative.

1) Representative Illocutionary Act

A representative illocutionary act is an action that involves the truth of the utterance with the speaker (Shukur & Hattab, 2023). Alternatively, it can also be defined as the truth of the actual conditions in spoken or written speech. The purpose of a representative illocutionary act is to bind the speaker about what he is saying, for example, stating, reporting, concluding, suggesting, or complaining about something through his speech (Searle, 1969). In line with this, Yule (2022) argues that the representative act states what the speaker believes to be true. Based on the data, the speech conveyed by the speaker to the hearer serves as information. The essence of a representative illocutionary act is to bind the speaker to something that is happening on the truth of the proposition expressed.

2) Directive Illocutionary Act

These are claims that force or shape another person's behaviour to satisfy the propositional element. It is commonly used to give instructions by compelling the listener to perform a specific action, make a request, issue a directive, or provide guidance.

3) Expressive Illocutionary Act

The purpose of expressive utterances is to convey the sincerity of the speech act, such as how much one feels sorry for someone.

4) Commissive Illocutionary Act

These assertions obligate the speaker to take specific actions going forward. It might serve as a promise.

5) Declaratives illocutionary act

These declarations, which include pointing out the mistake that someone has made and initiating a war, are to make a point and demonstrate that point.

METHOD

Several methods are needed to carry out research and conclude an invention. The research method is the first step; a form or plan is needed to study the object. Creswell (2017) states that qualitative research is an approach to exploring and understanding the meaning of individuals or groups regarding human and social problems. Nugrahani (2014) states that the qualitative research method is a research procedure that produces descriptive data such as speech, writing, and behaviour of objects. The researcher used the theory of John R. Searle and Yule to answer research questions. There are two research questions from this research. The first question is determining the kinds of representative illocutionary acts on Twitter of President Biden's account. The second question is determining the functions of President Biden's account's representative illocutionary act on Twitter. The source of data in this research is Twitter. More specifically, it is the Twitter of the President of the United States, Joe Biden.

The research data is from President Biden's Twitter account, which the government manages with the username @POTUS President Biden. The researcher analyzed the representative illocutionary act of his tweets from the beginning of February 2021 to the end of July 2021. The researcher took data sources with the theme of COVID-19 because it was happening. The main problem of this study was finding out the kinds and functions of the representative illocutionary act on Twitter, which is President Biden's account.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section aims to discover the kinds and functions of representative illocutionary acts on Twitter of President Biden's account. Searle (1969) stated that representative illocutionary acts are divided into five types: stating, reporting, concluding, suggesting, and complaining. The researcher uses tables to make knowing the kinds of representative illocutionary acts more accessible. There are 68 utterances in the form of tweets taken from President Biden's Twitter account. The researcher analyzed the data and then classified it through the table as the result of the research to find out the kinds of representative illocutionary acts on Twitter of President Biden's account.

Table 1. The Kinds of Representative Illocutionary Acts

No.	Data	Stating	Reporting	Concluding	Suggesting	Complaining
1.	February	2	3	4	4	2
2.	March	3	3	2	2	2
3.	April	3	3	1	4	2
4.	May	3	-	1	3	3
5.	June	3	2	1	3	-
6.	July	2	1	1	4	1
	Total	16	12	10	20	10

After the researcher analysed and classified the data, it was found that the kinds of representative illocutionary acts contained in the Twitter account of President Biden from February 2021 until July 2021. There are 16 utterances of stating, 12 utterances of reporting, 10 utterances of concluding, 20 utterances of suggesting, and 10 utterances of complaining included in the representative illocutionary act used by President Biden on his Twitter account.

The analysed data results suggest the kinds and functions of representative illocutionary acts that President Biden used more frequently.

Stating

Stating has subjective content because the speaker conveys information based on his understanding. Express something definitely or clearly in speech.

Figure 1. Datum 1

Based on the utterance shown in Figure 1, it is categorized as a representative illocutionary act of state. In this case, President Biden wants to emphasize that vaccines are only an effort to reduce the risk of COVID-19, not drugs that can eliminate the risk of transmission. Vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of the virus. Vaccination will give the body a solid immune system and increase immunity against viruses; therefore, when we have been vaccinated and exposed to the virus, we will not feel it and will not cause serious illness because the vaccine will stimulate the formation of immunity against certain diseases in the body. So that the body's metabolism will increase and they know how to fight it. In this case, he stated that even though vaccination has been carried out widely and can reduce the number of patients with COVID-19, we must not be careless because vaccines take time to build immunity in the body. Even though you have been vaccinated, it does not mean you can travel freely without implementing health protocols. Therefore, vigilance must still be carried out by following the procedures recommended by health experts/epidemiologists.

The function of the representative illocutionary act in this utterance is stated. In this case, President Biden issued an utterance that served as information regarding the COVID-19 vaccination to the public to alert them and carry out health protocols in addition to vaccination according to applicable regulations. For example, the Biden president stated that "COVID-19 vaccinations are up and cases and hospitalizations are down" to clarify the actual situation and conditions based on existing data as a form of information conveyed to the public so that they know that vaccinations that take place have a good impact on health. Public health with the decline in the number of Covid-19 cases. He also reminded us that "now is not the time to relax" In this case, the public is expected to remain vigilant and adhere to the recommended health protocols. It is not that you feel calm and safe because you have been vaccinated, but vaccination is not a total cure for the virus.

Reporting

Reporting means that the speaker intends or informs the results of an action. Speakers use this speech act to tell something that the speaker knows. The speaker gives a speech about something the speaker has observed, heard, or investigated.
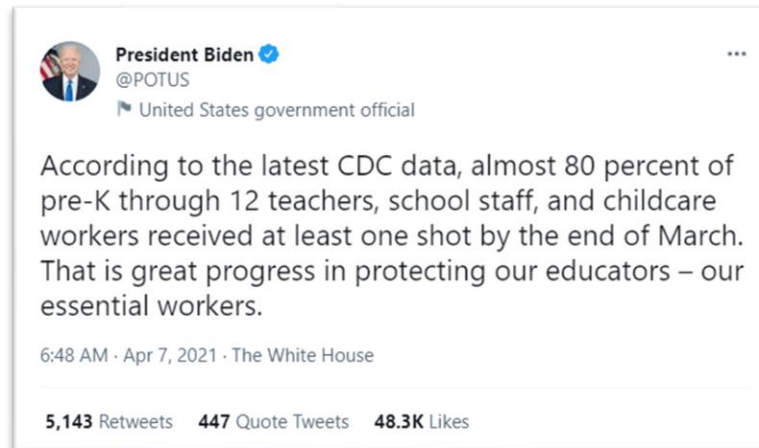

Figure 2. Datum 2

Based on the utterance in Figure 2, it is categorized as a representative illocutionary reporting act. In this case, President Biden informs the public about the progress of vaccinations that have been carried out. He informed the news based on data from the CDC, which, according to data, almost 80% of pre-K through 12 teachers, school staff, and childcare workers received at least one injection by the end of March 2021, which is to ensure that teachers, school staff and child care workers open avenues for safer hands-on learning. This is inseparable from Biden's directives to states where eligible essential workers have increased by more than 50 per cent. Many jurisdictions are making significant efforts, including holding school-specific vaccination events, which have contributed to the success of this national effort, in addition to priorities in pharmacy programs. Over 2 million teachers, school staff, and childcare workers underwent vaccinations administered by the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program in March 2021. In addition, 5-6 million were vaccinated through their state programs through the end of March. The CDC received nearly 13,000 responses from education staff and nearly 40,000 from childcare workers. The responses fit well with available national race/ethnic and demographic data on this particular workforce. According to President Biden, this is a significant step in protecting influential educators and workers in the United States.

The Function of the representative illocutionary act in this utterance is reporting, which aims to state an information fact based on the results of an incident. In this case, President Biden issued the utterance to function as information on the progress of vaccinations that have been carried out. He informed the news based on data from the CDC, which, according to data, almost 80% of pre-K through 12 teachers, school staff, and childcare workers received at least one injection by the end of March 2021, which is to ensure that teachers, school staff and child care workers open avenues for safer hands-on learning. People will be more enlightened and feel safe for their children who go to school, and they will not have to worry too much about being exposed to the coronavirus.

Concluding

Concluding means that the speaker wants to make a speech based on the previous description or (something). Speech that arrives at an assessment or opinion by reasoning.

Figure 3. Datum 3

Based on the utterance in Figure 3, it is categorized as a representative illocutionary act of concluding. In this regard, President Biden concluded that the economic movement is improving, marked by the decline in unemployment, driven by the relatively fast national COVID-19 vaccination program, thus convincing business owners to start working usually. According to a FactSet survey, the US has added more than 540,000 jobs per month this year. The Labor Department report is forecast to show nearly 863,000 jobs in July 2021. Overall, 13 million Americans received unemployment assistance as of 17 July, down from 13.2 million the previous week and 32 million the previous year. It is the hard work that President Biden and the House of Representatives have put into implementing and supporting the American Rescue Plan, the 2021 bill, also known as the COVID-19 stimulus package, designed to provide relief to Americans and boost the post-demic economy. He also thanked @SpeakerPelosi or Nancy Pelosi, the United States House of Representatives chairman, for their leadership in supporting the *American Rescue Plan*.

The Function of the representative illocutionary act in this utterance is concluding, which aims to conclude something based on previous descriptions or events. In this case, President Biden issued an utterance that concluded the improvement of economic growth and the progress of the national vaccination program. Thus, he aims to conclude several things that have happened recently as the conclusion of a series of work programs.

Suggesting

Suggesting is a speech given to other people who are affected by problems or difficulties, in essence, suggestions are used to provide solutions. Suggestions may be submitted for consideration.

Figure 4. Datum 4

Based on the utterance in Figure 4, it is categorized as a representative illocutionary suggestion act. In this case, President Biden wants to suggest that his citizens consistently implement health protocols by washing their hands, maintaining distance, wearing masks, and vaccinating when their turn comes. He often suggested and reminded his citizens to strengthen immunity and improve the economy by slowly rising against COVID-19. According to him, wearing a mask, keeping your distance and washing your hands is not enough. However, there is something more important than that: vaccination. He invited all components to implement health protocols, including strict sports activities. For example, remember always to wear a mask outside the house. It does not have to be medical; they can use a cloth mask. However, ensure its use follows health standards for wearing cloth masks and a two-layer mask. This also applies to children so they can protect themselves and prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Always maintain a physical distance of one to two meters from other people. This aims to prevent us from exposure to the coronavirus when other people sneeze, cough, or spit near us. Always maintain good personal and family hygiene. Therefore, he suggests that his citizens remain vigilant and always comply with health protocols.

The Function of the representative illocutionary act in this utterance is suggesting, which aims to suggest something to solve problems. In this case, President Biden issued an utterance that suggests to the public that they always implement health protocols by washing hands, maintaining distance, wearing masks, and vaccinating when it's their turn. With this utterance, he hopes that the public will always remain alert and not be careless about complying with the health protocols suggested by the experts.

Complaining

Complaining tends to be subjective because the speaker intends to express the complaint that he feels to the hearer. It can be about dissatisfaction or annoyance about a situation or event. When the speaker feels disappointed about something, the speaker can complain to the hearer.

Figure 5. Datum 5

Based on the utterance in Figure 5, it is categorized as a representative illocutionary act of complaining. In this regard, President Biden complained about the violence against Asian Americans. Therefore, he took a stance to respond to issues that occurred as they were very wrong and did not reflect American values, and he had to stop. Biden and the U.S. government to forge new efforts to enforce hate crime laws and laws against those crimes through the Ministry of Justice. This action was taken by the Biden administration after incidents of violence targeting the Asian community in America have continued to increase, mainly since the coronavirus pandemic occurred. Previously, President Donald Trump often referred to the coronavirus as the "Wuhan virus" or "China virus", which was considered to more or less form a public stigma against the Asian community in the United States. As reported by CNN Indonesia, the racist acts and shootings that occurred at three massage parlours in Atlanta in early March became the peak point of anger in the Asian community in America. The incident killed eight people, including six Asian women. Therefore, President Biden complained about the violence and racist issues that occurred.

The Function of the representative illocutionary act in this utterance is complaining. The purpose of this is to complain about something that feels disappointing. In this case, President Biden issued an utterance that serves to complain about the violence that has occurred to Americans of Asian descent. According to him, this is not true, and he must take action on the current issue because such cases do not reflect the United States of America.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, the researcher found five kinds of representative illocutionary acts in President Biden's utterances. Each of these kinds of representative illocutionary acts has different functions according to its kinds. However, the most influential of the five is the kind and function of the representative illocutionary act of suggesting because Joe Biden is a superpower country president with a significant global influence with his large capital, developed industry, and strong army. Therefore, President Biden's tweets are not only followed by citizens of the United States but also

by citizens of the world. In addition, what President Biden says is a hot global issue. Naturally, President Biden gives many suggestions to the citizens as an audience who are affected by problems or difficulties as a solution.

Further research on speech acts using a more varied theory is suggested, for example, by comparing speech act theories using John L. Austin's theory or Geoffrey Leech's theory to refine and clarify various types of speech acts so they are easy to understand. The last suggestion for further researchers interested in the same field is to choose other objects as the materials, such as conversations, newspapers, speeches, interviews, and so on related to language.

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