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A Pragmatic Analysis of Illocutionary Act in a Selected Presidential Speech on COVID-19

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Abstract

This paper aims at studying the illocutionary speech acts: direct and indirect to show the most dominant ones in a presidential speech delivered by the USA president. The speech is about the most critical health issue in the world, COVID-19 outbreak. A descriptive qualitative study was conducted by observing the first speech delivered by president Trump concerning coronavirus outbreak and surveying the illocutionary acts: directive, declarative, commissive, expressive, and representative. Searle's (1985) classification of illocutionary speech acts is adopted in the analysis.

What are the main types of the illocutionary speech acts performed by Trump in his speech?; Why does Trump perform illocutionary acts?; and What is the purpose behind using the most dominant acts?

The study is of significant value as it displays how the USA's leader addresses his people linguistically using the illocutionary acts. It helps to

understand how language is used to deal with certain actions and how it affects the hearers' viewpoints.

The study concludes that two types of illocutionary acts show a significant frequency of occurrence: representatives and declarative. Such result appears due to the purpose behind the discourse under analysis. The other three types of illocutionary acts are of very low frequency. The purpose of the speech and the identity of the figure who delivers it significantly influence the choice of the illocutionary acts. Since the figure who delivers the speech is the president, he has the authority to declare the issue, give instructions concerning the actions that will be taken in the light of this issue and clarify the situation.

Keywords: COVID-19, Pragmatics, speech acts, , illocutionary acts, representative speech act.

Introduction

Speech acts denotes actions performed through utterances. Speech act theory was first established by Austin (1962). Then, Searle (1969) who states that speech acts are the elementary components of the language manipulated to express intention and meaning. Speech acts occurs when the speaker says something, and the listener recognizes the intended purpose.

When we speak or write, we perform different acts: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. The difference between them is related to the difference between "saying" and "doing". Searle (1976) mentions that locutionary act is the main act of utterance when producing a meaningful linguistic expression. It is an act of saying. Sometimes, whereas, illocutionary acts denotes the speaker's type of function when producing the utterances. It takes place when the speaker says something to the addressee. There are many subtypes of illocutionary acts such as describing, commanding, promising, declaring, claiming, requesting, refusing, condoling, approving, stating, predicting, suggesting, praising, naming , etc. He adds that perlocutionary act refers to the production of effects upon the listeners' behaviours, feeling and thoughts

through the use of locutionary and illocutionary acts.

The research is about the illocutionary acts found in Trump's speech. Illocutionary acts is used as the approach in this research because it is can be used to analyze what and why the speaker perform certain utterances.

Theoretical Background

1.1 COVID-19

WHO announces in its official website that Covid-19 is a very dangerous infectious disease caused by the last discovered virus of the Coronavirus strain. No one knows about the existence of this new virus before the outbreak, which began in December 2019. COVID-19 has spread from Wuhan to the rest of the world. It has now turned into a outbreak affecting the whole world.

1.2 Pragmatics

Levinson (1983) states that pragmatics refers to the study of language in use. It deals with language and the context in which the language is used. It is the study of the meaning of the utterance and how the addressee understands it. Widdowson (1996, p.130) argues that pragmatics is the study of the intention behind using certain words in the social life context.

Verschueren (1999, p.2) defines pragmatics as "a general cognitive, social and cultural perspective on linguistic phenomena in relation to their usage in forms of behavior". It explores the speaker's intention when communicating through a specific utterance within a particular context. To Cruse (2006, p. 3), the essential part of the language in use is what speakers do when they speak, whether they are declaring, informing, promising, criticizing, stating, lamenting, clarifying, and so on.

People do not only produce utterance containing words, meaningful and grammatical sentences, but also perform actions through this utterance. The actions performed by these utterances are named speech acts. The theory of speech acts is one of the basic components of pragmatics. It was

first introduced by Austin (1960s) in his lecture at Harvard University as a reaction to some earlier linguistic theories that ignored the functional aspect of the language. Later on, speech acts theory has been adopted and developed by Searle (1969) in his book "Speech Acts" (Verschueren, 199, p.22)

1.3 Speech Acts

Austin (1962, p. 12) uses speech acts theory for the first time as he argues that speech conveys performing acts. He argues that the speakers express their intentions by through the utterances or as he mentions "to say something is to do something". He states that people deliver their speech to perform actions such as, promising, welcoming, advising, affirming and so on.

However, some speech acts are not basically used for communication. They have the function of influencing the institutional states of affairs. Thus, this theory was developed by Searle (1969, p.16), who considers speech acts the principal part of the language that is used to express meaning. He refers to the importance of speech acts analysis because any linguistic communication involves linguistic acts and for this reason we study speech acts. He states that "speaking a language is performing speech acts". The principle of Searle's theory of speech acts implies that the unit of linguistic communication is not the sentence, word or symbol but it is their production in the speech acts performance under specific condition. He adds that speech acts are the principal units of linguistic communication. Yule (1996) shares Searle the same viewpoints.

Speech acts have three faces: locutionary act, which refers to the speech uttered; illocutionary act, which conveys the direct and indirect force; and perlocutionary act, which expresses the effects of the acts on the listeners or addressees (Austin, 1962, p.35).

1.4 Illocutionary Acts

To Searle (1976), the illocutionary act denotes the speaker's type of function when producing the utterances. It takes place when the speaker says something to the addressee. There are many subtypes of illocutionary acts such as describing, commanding, promising, declaring, claiming, requesting, refusing, condoling, approving, stating, predicting, suggesting, praising, naming , etc. Searle (1985) presents a classification of speech acts which includes directive, representatives, expressive, commissives, and declaration.

2. Searl's Felicity Conditions

Searle (1969: 36) states that speaking means performing actions per particular rules. He presents four kinds of felicity conditions: preparatory, sincerity propositional content, and essential conditions.

2.1 Preparatory condition

Searle (1980: 322- 323) mentions that the preparatory condition of an utterance means that such utterance has a clear purpose for uttering them. Likewise, Thomas (2005: 95) state that the preparatory rules require conditions that are considered preconditions to the speech act performance.

Lyons (1977: 733) claims that achieving the preparatory condition implies that the speaker has the full authority to perform speech acts. For example , when performing an act of command, the speakers must be in a superior status to the addressee.

2. 2 Sincerity condition

Sincerity condition implies that the speaker has the tendency to do the anticipated speech act properly. Searle (1980: 323) claims that the sincerity condition, for example, of the act of 'promising' involves that the speaker must have the intention to do the act. Similarly, Thomas (2005: 95) state this condition specifies what will be obtained if the speech act is performed sincerely. Yule (1996: 51) displays that 'warn' in

the light of sincerity condition involves that the speaker should sincerely have faith that the warned act will involve a beneficial effect on the addressee.

2.3 Propositional content condition

Searle (1969, p.37) shows that the propositional content means that the structure of the utterance should satisfy the performed act. Henceforth, 'order' can not be expressed by uttering 'promise'.

2.4 Essential condition

Searle (1980: 323) mentions that this condition necessitates the commitment of speakers to fulfill the actions expressed by the utterance. Yule (1996: 51) suggests that the essential condition of speech acts of 'warning' is that the utterance modifies the speaker's state to realize that there will be certain bad happenings estimated in the future. In the same line, Lyons (1977: 734) states that this condition means that the speaker committed himself by the illocutionary force of his utterance to a specific belief.

3. Direct and Indirect Speech Acts

Searle (1969, p.60) asserts that there is an indirect link between the linguistic form and the function of the utterance. People tend to use indirect speech acts to convey various communicative intentions. An indirect speech reflects a meaning in the utterance that is different from the intended force. When the speaker delivers a speech, he does not mean what he says precisely, but something exceeds the limit of the words mentioned. Yule (1996, pp.54-55) clarifies that an utterance's hidden meaning can be deducted from its literal meaning.

Searle (1985, p. 12) manifests, in his theory of speech acts, that when using indirect speech act, the speaker gives the hearer other than what he says, while direct speech acts are introduced whenever there is a direct relation between the structure and the function.

2.3 Model Adopted and Data under Analysis

Donald Trump's speech, President of the United States, addressing the USA population to make them acquainted with the new critical situation that comes as a result of COVID-19 outbreak. The study investigates the first speech delivered to the people by Trump addressing this health issue on 13 March 2020. The speech was downloaded from the internet. The speech will be analyzed per the classification of illocutionary acts as set by Searle 1985. This classification covers five kinds of illocutionary acts which includes directive, representatives, expressive, commissives, and declaration with their subclassification such as describing, commanding, promising, declaring, claiming, requesting, refusing, condoling, approving, stating, predicting, suggesting, praising, naming , etc. as mentioned earlier. .

2.4 Analysis of Illocutionary Speech acts.

Utterance 1 (Sentence)

“My fellow Americans, tonight I want to speak with you about our nation’s unprecedented response to the coronavirus outbreak that started in China and is now spreading throughout the world”. (Trump , 2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 2

“, the World Health Organization officially announced that this is a global outbreak.”(Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (reporting)

Utterance 3

“We have been in frequent contact with our allies, and we are marshaling the full power of the federal government and the private sector to protect the American people”. (Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (clarifying)

Utterance 4

“This is the most aggressive and comprehensive effort to confront a foreign virus in modern history”. (Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (describing)

Utterance 5

“I am confident that by counting and continuing to take these tough measures, we will significantly reduce the threat to our citizens and we will ultimately and expeditiously defeat this virus.” (Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (clarifying)

b. Indirect: commissive (promises)

Utterance 6

“From the beginning of time, nations and people have faced unforeseen challenges, including large-scale and very dangerous health threats”. (Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (reporting)

b. Indirect: representative (stating)

Utterance 7

“This is the way it always was and always will be. It only matters how you respond, and we are responding with great speed and professionalism”. (Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary:a. Direct: representative (clarifying)

b. Indirect: commissive (promises)

Utterance 8

“Our team is the best anywhere in the world”. (Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (informing)

b. Indirect: declarative (declaring)

Utterance 9

“And taking early intense action, we have seen dramatically fewer cases of the virus in the United States than are now present in Europe”. (Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 10

“The European Union failed to take the same precautions and restrict travel from China and other hot spots”. (Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. **Direct:** declarative (declaring)
b. **Indirect:** representative (informing)

Utterance 11

“As a result, a large number of new clusters in the United States were seeded by travelers from Europe”. (Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. **Direct:** representative (informing)
b. **Indirect:** representative (stating)

Utterance 12

“After consulting with our top government health professionals, I have decided to take several strong but necessary actions to protect the health and well being of all Americans”.

(Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. **Direct:** directive (suggesting)
b. **Indirect:** declarative (declaring)

Utterance 13

“To keep new cases from entering our shores, we will be suspending all travel from Europe to the United States for the next 30 days.” (Trump,2020:1)

Illocutionary: a. **Direct:** directive (suggesting)
b. **Indirect:** declarative (declaring)

Utterance 14

“The new rules will go into effect Friday at midnight”. (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. **Direct:** declarative (declaring)
b. **Indirect:** representative (informing)

Utterance 15

“These restrictions will be adjusted subject to conditions on the ground”. (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: : a. **Direct:** declarative (declaring)
b. **Indirect:** representative (informing)

Utterance 16

“Earlier this week, I met with the leaders of health insurance industry who have agreed to waive all co-payments for coronavirus treatments, extend insurance coverage to these treatments, and to prevent surprise medical billing”. (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: : a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 17

“We are cutting massive amounts of red tape to make antiviral therapies available in record time”. (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 18

“These treatments will significantly reduce the impact and reach of the virus.” (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (clarifying)

Utterance 19

“Additionally, last week, I signed into law an \$8.3 billion funding bill to help C.D.C. and other government agencies fight the virus and support vaccines, treatments and distribution of medical supplies”. (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 20

“Testing and testing capabilities are expanding rapidly, day by day”. (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (informing)

b. Indirect: representative (stating)

Utterance 21

“We are moving very quickly”. (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (describing)

b. Indirect: representative (stating)

Utterance 22

“The vast majority of Americans: The risk is very, very low. Young and healthy people can expect to recover fully and quickly if they should get the virus”. (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (informing)

b. Indirect: representative (stating)

Utterance 23

“The highest risk is for elderly population with underlying health conditions”.

(Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (clarifying)

b. Indirect: representaive (informing)

Utterance 24

“The elderly population must be very, very careful.” (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (clarifying)

b. Indirect: directive (ordering)

Utterance 25

“In particular, we are strongly advising that nursing homes for the elderly suspend all medically unnecessary visits”. (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: directive (suggesting)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 26

“In general, older Americans should also avoid nonessential travel in crowded areas”.

(Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: directive (ordering)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 27

“My administration is coordinating directly with communities with the largest outbreaks, and we have issued guidance on school closures, social distancing and reducing large gatherings.” (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 28

“Smart action today will prevent the spread of the virus tomorrow”.

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (predicting)

Utterance 29

“Every community faces different risks and it is critical for you to follow the guidelines of your local officials who are working closely with our federal health experts — and they are the best.” (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (informing)

b. Indirect: representative (convincing)

Utterance 30

“For all Americans, it is essential that everyone take extra precautions and practice good hygiene” . (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (informing)

b. Indirect: directive (ordering)

Utterance 31

“Each of us has a role to play in defeating this virus”. (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 32

“Wash your hands, clean often-used surfaces, cover your face and mouth if you sneeze or cough, and most of all, if you are sick or not feeling well, stay home.” (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: directive (ordering)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 33

“To ensure that working Americans impacted by the virus can stay home without fear of financial hardship, I will soon be taking emergency action, which is unprecedented, to provide financial relief”. (Trump, 2020:2)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: commissive (promises)

b. Indirect: declarative (declaring)

Utterance 34

“This will be targeted for workers who are ill, quarantined, or caring for others due to coronavirus”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: i. . Direct: commissive (promises)

b. Indirect: declarative (declaring)

Utterance 35

“I will be asking Congress to take legislative action to extend this relief”.
(Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: i. . Direct: commissive (promises)

b. Indirect: declarative (declaring)

Utterance 36

“Because of the economic policies that we have put into place over the last three years, we have the greatest economy anywhere in the world, by far”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declares)

b. Indirect: representative (clarifying)

Utterance 37

“Our banks and financial institutions are fully capitalized and incredibly strong.” (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declares)

b. Indirect: representative (clarifying)

Utterance 38

“Our unemployment is at a historic low”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declares)

b. Indirect: representative (clarifying)

Utterance 39

“This vast economic prosperity gives us flexibility, reserves, and resources to handle any threat that comes our way.” (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declares)

b. Indirect: directive (clarifying)

Utterance 40

“This is not a financial crisis, this is just a temporary moment of time that we will overcome together as a nation and as a world”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (informing)

b. Indirect: commissive (promises)

Utterance 41

“However, to provide extra support for American workers, families, and businesses, tonight I am announcing the following additional actions” (Trump, 2020:3)

- Illocutionary:** a. **Direct:** declarative (declaring)
b. **Indirect:** representative (informing)

Utterance 42

“I am instructing the Small Business Administration to exercise available authority to provide capital and liquidity to firms affected by the coronavirus”. (Trump, 2020:3)

- Illocutionary:** a. **Direct:** declarative (declaring)
b. **Indirect:** directive (ordering)

Utterance 43

“Effective immediately, the S.B.A. will begin providing economic loans in affected states and territories.” (Trump, 2020:3)

- Illocutionary:** a. **Direct:** declarative (declaring)
b. **Indirect:** commissive (promises)

Utterance 44

“These low-interest loans will help small businesses overcome temporary economic disruptions caused by the virus”. (Trump, 2020:3)

- Illocutionary:** a. **Direct:** representative (informing)
b. **Indirect:** representative (clarifying)

Utterance 45

“To this end, I am asking Congress to increase funding for this program by an additional \$50 billion.” (Trump, 2020:3)

- Illocutionary:** a. **Direct:** directive (requesting)
b. **Indirect:** representative (informing)

Utterance 46

“Using emergency authority, I will be instructing the Treasury Department to defer tax payments, without interest or penalties, for certain individuals and businesses negatively impacted”. (Trump, 2020:3)

- Illocutionary:** a. **Direct:** declarative (declaring)
b. **Indirect:** commissive (promises)

Utterance 47

“This action will provide more than \$200 billion of additional liquidity to the economy.” (Trump, 2020:3)

- Illocutionary:** a. **Direct:** declarative (declaring)
b. **Indirect:** representative (clarifying)

Utterance 48

Finally, I am calling on Congress to provide Americans with immediate payroll tax relief.

(Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: commissive (promises)

Utterance 49

“Hopefully they will consider this very strongly”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (predicting)

Utterance 50

“We are at a critical time in the fight against the virus”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declarative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (stating)

Utterance 51

“We made a lifesaving move with early action on China” (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (informing)

b. Indirect: representative (stating)

Utterance 52

“Now we must take the same action with Europe”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: directive (suggesting)

b. Indirect: representative (stating)

Utterance 53

“We will not delay”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: commissive (promises)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 54

“I will never hesitate to take any necessary steps to protect the lives, health, and safety of the American people”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: commissive (promises)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 55

“I will always put the well being of America first”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: commissive (promises)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 56

“If we are vigilant — and we can reduce the chance of infection, which we will — we will significantly impede the transmission of the virus”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 57

“The virus will not have a chance against us and no nation is more prepared or more resilient than the United States”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (informing)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 58

“We have the best economy, the most advanced health care, and the most talented doctors, scientists and researchers anywhere in the world”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declaration (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (informing)

Utterance 59

“We are all in this together”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: declaration (declaring)

b. Indirect: representative (stating)

Utterance 60

“We must put politics aside, stop the partisanship and unify together as one nation and one family”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: directive (suggesting)

b. Indirect: representative (stating)

Utterance 61

“As history has proven time and time again, Americans always rise to the challenge and overcome adversity.” (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (clarifying)

b. Indirect: representative (stating)

Utterance 62

“Our future remains brighter than anyone can imagine”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: representative (stating)

b. Indirect: commissive (promises)

Utterance 63

“Acting with compassion and love, we will heal the sick, care for those in need, help our fellow citizens and emerge from this challenge stronger and more unified than ever before”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: directive (requesting)

b. Indirect: commissive (promises)

Utterance 64

“God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you”. ”. (Trump, 2020:3)

Illocutionary: a. Direct: directive (requesting)

b. Indirect: expressive (thanking)

3. Interpretation of the analysis:

The analysis carried out above was handled according to Searle's (1985) classification and interpretation of illocutionary acts.

Table No. 1: Frequencies of occurrence of illocutionary speech acts

| Directives | | Commissives | | Declaratives | | Expressives | | representative | |
|------------|--------|-------------|--------|--------------|--------|-------------|-------|----------------|--------|
| No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 14 | 10.937 | 13 | 10.156 | 35 | 27.343 | 1 | 0.781 | 65 | 50.781 |

Table No.1 shows that only 14, 13, 1 out of 128 direct and indirect speech acts function as directives, commissives, and expressive, making respectively 10.937 %, 10.156%, and 0.781% frequency of occurrence. This frequency can be understood only when the relationship between the nature of the text and the issue conveyed are explained. The text under study is a speech announcing the outbreak of COVID-19. It was delivered by the USA, President Trump, in March 2020. In this speech, Trump declared the most critical health issue along with some instructions and plans that will be handled to overcome this situation which lasts till recently.

Very few orders are given in a very gentle way to best deal with the situation. Directive speech acts appear in commands or request forms that do not seek any response from the audience. Such requests or orders function as declaration, informing and stating to convey certain propositions to the hearers.

Examining the commissive speech performances and their low frequency of occurrence, it is found that this low frequency directly relates to the purpose of the speech. As all commissives (10.156% which is a low rate) express promises, the president has not intended to make his speech full of promise. Such a matter will weaken the intention behind his speech. It is true, promise about issues within the state capacity is something important as it gives relief to the people but stating and declaring facts and how to deal with them is something more important.

The least percentage goes to expressives because they convey the addresser's feelings. There is only one expressive speech acts in the speech since the one who delivered the speech is not intended to express his feelings other than declaring the health issue and how to overcome it

The fair frequency of occurrence goes to declarative, which shows 35 out of 128 illocutionary direct and indirect speech acts and a percentage of 27.343% since declaratives are used to declare a world and a state most critical issue as most declarative speech acts in this texts are used to announce events. This ascertains a reasonable correspondence between the speech communicative nature and the declarative category of the speech acts since declarative speech acts are used to announce something that might change the world.

One of the strategies used in this speech is to deliver representative illocutionary speech act as the speech is intended to describe, state, inform, predict and clarify all the unknown matters to relieve people who feel panic. The majority of Trump's speech acts are representative as he uses 65 representative speech acts, the highest frequency, which is 50.781%.

Table No. 2: Frequencies of occurrence of declarative speech acts

| declaratives (35) | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Declaring | |
| No. | % |
| 35 | 100 |

By examining the relationship between the speech under study and the declarative category of illocutionary purpose, one can manifest the second level percentage frequency of concurrence in table 2.

Table No. 3: Frequencies of occurrence of representative speech acts

| Representative (65) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|----------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|
| inform | | state | | Clarify | | describe | | predict | | report | | convince | |
| No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 31 | 47.692 | 16 | 26.229 | 11 | 18.032 | 2 | 3.278 | 2 | 3.278 | 2 | 3.278 | 1 | 1.639 |

Assertive speech reflects both the speaker and the narrative belief. Searle confirms that the assertive act, which is called the representative act, indicates the speaker desires to make the listener believe in the speech delivered. Such speech acts reveal the speaker's belief concerning the external world. (Searle, 1985, p. 39).

Most representative speech acts in the speech are used to transmit information via the words to the others. Therefore, via a representative speech act, the speaker conveys a piece of information to correct the reader's knowledge of the world

The highest level percentage of representative categories of illocutionary acts is 'informing,' which is 31 of 47.692% frequency of occurrence. Highlighting the connection between the speech communicative aim, one can conclude that such speech is delivered mainly to inform the people about a specific issue, which is the COVID-19 pandemci. The other two categories are state and clarify, which make 16 and 11 out of 65 and show frequency of 26.229% and 18.032%, respectively give great support to the highest used representative

category, which is “inform.” ‘State’ and ‘clarify’ add facts and information to what the speaker wants to convey with clarification to make the matters clearest and easiest.

The least level percentage goes to describe, predict, report, and convince, which produce (2, 2, 2, and 1) out of (65) representative speech acts and show the frequency of occurrence of (3.278%, 3.278%, 3.278%, and 1.639% respectively). Such illocutionary acts do not have anything to do with such speech due to the purpose behind the speaker's communicative intention.

Table No. 4: Frequencies of occurrence of Direct and Indirect Illocutionary Speech Acts

| Directives 14 | | Commisives 13 | | Declaratives 35 | | Expressives 1 | | Representative 65 | |
|------------------|----------|------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Direct | Indirect | Direct | Indirect | Direct | Indirect | Direct | Indirect | Direct | Indirect |
| No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| 10 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 30 | 5 | / | 1 | 19 | 46 |
| % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| 71.428 | 28.571 | 46.153 | 53.846 | 85.714 | 14.285 | 0 | 100 | 29.230 | 70.769 |

Table No.4 displays the frequencies of the direct and indirect speech acts of the five illocutionary acts. The table makes it clear that representative direct and indirect illocutionary acts show the highest percentage of occurrence (19 -29.230%) and (46 - 70.769%) for both acts, respectively, while declarative speech acts label (30- 85.714%) for direct act and (5-14.285) for indirect speech act. These high frequencies of representative and declarative are related to the speaker's strategy for stating the issue and draw the public attention to the critical issue and make them aware of all the events and matters on the table.

Most of the used direct illocutionary speech acts are declaratives and representative. They are used for declaring, reporting, informing and describing the concerned health issue. By examining Trumps' speech

through applying the four felicity conditions, it is clear that all these conditions are fulfilled.

Though examining the preparatory felicity condition, It is manifested that all utterances have clear purposes. In addition, the speech is delivered by the person who has the full authority to declare, put in action, suggest, request, order and promise. In the same line, sincerity condition can be shown through the commissive and directive illocutionary speech acts as Trump promises his people to do certain actions sincerely in order to lessen the bad effects of this pandemic. Moreover, by examining the propositional as well as essential felicity conditions, It is clear that Trump uses proper linguistic forms in which the structures of his utterances satisfy the performed action and that he committed himself to fulfill the required actions to get out of this issue with the minimum losses.

Conclusion

In light of the analysis of the frequency of the occurrence of the illocutionary act in Trump's speech as he addresses the COVID-19 issue, it is concluded that the text under analysis is declarative, and informative. Trump seeks to make his people understand the change in the world. He uses declarative illocutionary acts as to declare the health issue and inform the people about its consequences. Fulfilling the preparatory condition, he is fully aware of the purpose of his speech. Thus, the text reflects that the highest occurrence of illocutionary speech acts labels for both representative and declarative acts followed by the directive speech act. The directive speech act is used to form requests in a very gentle way to convince people to take specific actions for the sake of avoiding the hurt. Trump uses his authority to order people to do certain actions to lessen the human losses. The rest of illocutionary speech acts label a very low occurrence due to the nature of the speaker's communicative purpose. It is the time of knowing and understanding the world, not the time of expressing feelings or even giving orders or threats.

Trump uses commissive illocutionary speech acts as he gives promise to the people to make tax relief give. He committed himself to do certain actions that help people in this critical circumstances.

Due to the representative, declarative nature of the speech under study, representative acts represented by “informing” have the highest percentage of occurrence, then declarative acts categorized by declaring category shows the second stage of the frequency of occurrence.

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Appendix

President Trump's Speech on Coronavirus Outbreak: Full Transcript

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2020/mar/13/trump-declares-national-emergency-over-coronavirus-outbreak>

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تحليل تداولي لأفعال الكلام في خطاب رئاسي مختار عن كوفيد 19

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المستخلص

الهدف من هذا البحث هو دراسة أفعال الخطاب الانجازية المباشرة أو غير المباشرة لبيان النوع الاكثر استخداما في خطاب رئاسي ألقاه رئيس الولايات المتحدة للإعلان عن أكثر القضايا الصحية الحرجة في العالم كوفيد-19 . تم اجراء للدراسة للموصفية للنوعية من خلال تحليل الخطاب الأول للرئيس ترامب بشأن فيروس كورونا المستجد من خلال دراسة أنواع الأفعال الانجازية : التوجيهية والتصريحية و التفويضية و التعبيرية و التمثيلية و تُعتمد نظرية سيرل (1985) لأفعال الكلام وتصنيفه لأفعال الكلام الانجازي إنموذجاً تحليلياً.

تحاول الدراسة الإجابة عن الأسئلة التالية: ما هي الأنواع الرئيسية للأفعال الانجازية التي استخدمها ترامب في خطابه؟ لماذا استخدم ترامب الافعال الانجازية؟ ما هو الغرض من استخدام نوع معين في خطابه؟

توصلت الدراسة إلى نتيجة مفادها أن نوعين من الأفعال الانجازية من أصل خمسة اظهرا تواتراً مميزاً للاستخدام وهما الافعال الخطابية التمثيلية والتصريحية وهذا يعود الى الهدف التواصلية للمتحدث اما بالنسبة للأنواع الثلاثة الأخرى من الأفعال الانجازية كانت نسبة استخدامها منخفضة حيث تبين تأثير الغرض من الخطاب وهوية الشخص الذي ألقاه بشكل كبير على تنوع الأفعال المستخدمة فالذي ألقى الخطاب هو رئيس دولة لذلك ، لديه سلطة الإعلان عن المشكلة وإعطاء التعليمات المتعلقة بالإجراءات التي سيتم اتخاذها في ضوء هذه المسألة وتوضيح الموقف.

الكلمات المفتاحية: كوفيد-19 ، علم التداول ، أفعال الكلام ، الأفعال الانجازية ، فعل الكلام التمثيلي.