

COMMISSIVE SPEECH ACT IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DEBATE OF R.I 2024

Irma Suriyani Malau¹, Febrika Dwi Lestari Lumban Toruan², Fenty Debora Napitupulu³

Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Universitas HKBP Nommensen

Email : irma.malau@uhn.ac.id

Abstract

This study is about the use of commissive speech acts used by presidential candidates Anies Baswedan, Prabowo Subianto and Ganjar Pranowo. This research aims to find the subtype of commissive speech acts used by presidential candidates and the most dominant subtype of commissive speech acts used by presidential candidates. The method used is Descriptive Qualitative Method. The data of this research are utterances that contain commissive speech acts. The data source is the video of the presidential candidates' debate. The instruments of this research are observation and documentation. The researcher used the theory of Miles, Huberman & Saldana (2014) to analyze the data and obtained the results that in the presidential candidate debate commissive subtypes were found, that is 5 subtypes of the 9 commissive subtypes proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985), the 5 subtypes were 31 promises, 1 commit, 1 threaten, 1 accept and 1 pledge. And the most dominant subtype in the presidential candidate debate is promise with a percentage calculation of 88.5% promise, 2.8% commit, 2.8% threaten, 2.8% accept and 2.8% pledge.

Keywords: *Commissive, Presidential Candidate Debate, Speech Act*

Introduction

Debate is an activity in which two individuals or two groups argue about something. A debate is a structured conversation about a certain topic that takes place in a legislative assembly or public forum. It often involves the presenting of competing viewpoints and concludes with a vote. A debate is an argument, particularly one conducted formally, on a topic.

Indonesia held a presidential and vice presidential debate once every five years, that was when the president changed. Therefore, this year Indonesia was holding a massive democracy party. The general election was held on February 14, 2024. All Indonesian people were obliged to participate in choosing presidential and vice presidential candidates. The presidential and vice presidential candidates took part in the debate held by the General Election Commission (KPU) via electronic media directly. Each candidate must convey their vision and mission to the public through the media, both electronic media, print media, and social media so that the public knows their vision and mission. Presidential candidates are public figures or figures who are widely recognized by the general public so that people will focus on them. What is seen from them is the use of subtypes of commissive speech acts.

Speech acts are divided into several parts, one of which is commissive acts. The action taken in saying something is a speech act according to Austin in Pipit (2023). In speech act, people are not only producing the utterances that contain grammatical structure and words, but also they are performing the actions by the utterances. This means that the speaker not only conveys the message but also establishes a social relationship with the listener. According to Yule (1996) and

Syafrayadin (2022) state that several types of speech acts that must be noticed by the speaker that is locution, illocution, and perlocution.

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985) there are five types of illocutions, that is assertive, commissive, directive, declarative and expressive. Then Searle and Vanderveken (1985) divides commissive into nine subtypes, that is, promise, guarantee, threaten, commit, accept, pledge, vow, consent, and covenant. A promise is an announcement to the audience that the speaker will do something specific later on. A speaker says that you will do something or that they are responsible for something is called a guarantee. Threaten is speech that contains a warning to the listener. Commit means the speaker is committed to doing something. The speaker accepts to take action in the future is called accept. Pledge is a pledge that does not necessarily have to be an effort to support or challenge the listener. The speaker swears to do something is called a vow. Agreeing to do something means receiving directions to do it, which is called consent. Then, the mutual agreement between the speaker and the listener is called a covenant.

Commissive is a statement that contains future action. The public can see the vision and mission of the candidates in the debate and see how often the candidates make statements that mean that the speaker will do something in the future. That way, the public will know the plans they will achieve when elected as leader so that it meets the voters' criteria.

This study focuses on presidential candidates' use of commissive speech acts during debates. Speech actions are employed in politics to gain political support; such as in the presidential candidate debates held in Indonesia. Each candidate must provide strong arguments in the form of speech acts to give confidence to their supporters to win the 2024 presidential

election. Presidential candidates are public figures or figures who are widely recognized by the general public so that people will focus on them. What they researched was the use of subtypes of commissive speech acts.

The first, third, and fifth debates are used as the topics of this research. The first debate discussed government, law, human rights, eradicating corruption, promoting democracy, improving public services and citizen harmony. Then, the third debate discussed Defense, Security, International Relations and Geopolitics. Then the fifth debate discussed Social Welfare, Culture, Education, Information Technology, Health, Employment, Human Resources and Inclusion. From these three debates, the public knows how they think about each candidate. They argue with each other using their words which are influenced by their ideology.

This research was conducted inseparably from the results of previous studies as comparison material. The research results used as comparison cannot be separated from the topic, that is commissive speech acts. Based on the results of research conducted by (Mahar Ditiwan et al., 2023), this research is about the Commissive Illocutionary Act Used in Turning Red Movie. This study's objectives are to categorize the many commissive illocutionary acts that the characters in the film Turning Red employ. The data source is the film Turning Red. The data in this investigation were analyzed using the descriptive qualitative approach. This research uses the theory of Searle & Vanderveken (1985). The most dominant commissive subtype in this research is Promise.

The second research is research by (Samosir & Afriana, 2023), entitled "Commissive Speech Act in Movie 'Army of the Dead' 2021". The purpose of this study is to identify the types

commissive speech acts in the film "Army of the Dead." 2021. This study classified the utterances that occurred in the data source into the various forms of commissive speech acts using Searle and Vanderveken's idea of the commissive speech act. Merriam's descriptive qualitative research approach was used in this study since the data were expressed as words and phrases. The data for this study were gathered using Creswell's observational approach. The observational method, according to Creswell (2014), is a technique in which the researcher watches and gathers data on the study object.

Literature Review

2.1 Pragmatics

According to Yule in (Wicaksono, 2018) state that pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning. The study of pragmatics is the expression of relative distance, the study of contextual meaning, and the study of how more is conveyed than is said. Furthermore, according to Crysta in (Fa'adillah Mustakim & Weda, 2022) the study of pragmatics focuses on the variables that influence our language choices in social situations and how those choices affect other people.

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics. According to (Fitria, 2019) states that the field of pragmatics studies how both the speaker and the listener make understandable statements. Meanwhile, (Wicaksono, 2018) states that the study of pragmatics examines how language is employed in communication. Thus, the speaker's meaning or how meaning is expressed depending on its context is what pragmatics studies. In line with Nurul's (2021) opinion, pragmatics is the

study of the link between language and the current cultural setting. It implies that without context, it will be challenging for the audience to grasp what the speaker is saying.

2.2 Speech Act

Speech acts are first introduced by Austin and then developed further by his student Searle. According to Austin in (Attamimy et al., 2020), A speech that incorporates action in communication while taking the speech's circumstances and context into account is called a speech act. When someone talks, there are a lot of things to consider, such the person speaking (the speaker), the person speaking about (the speech partner), the speech's purpose (the speaker's aim), and the speech's impact (its effect).

2.3 Commissive

According to (Tastier & Rohmah, 2023), state that commissive act is the speaker promises to do something in the future. The speaker's resolve to take action is the commissive e.g. promise, threaten, guarantee, commit, accept, pledge, vow, consent and covenant in a certain future.

There are nine subtypes of commissive, that are:

1. Promise

A promise is an assertion made to someone about what the speaker will do in the future. It is intended to be advantageous to the reader. In line with the opinion of (Farwati & Sofeny, 2023), who states that a promise is something that will be done, indicating that the aim is to eliminate the listener's doubts.

2. Guarantee

A guarantee is made when someone agrees to be legally accountable for something, guarantees that something will happen, or makes a commitment to do something. The speaker's emphasis on something's constative nature gives guarantee its force. A useful method for differentiating between a promise and a guarantee is an affirmation level. A guarantee is typically more solid than a simple promise. The speaker persuades the reader of something under promise.

3. Threaten

Speech acts of this type differ from promises. Threaten is a commissive action in which the speaker tells the hearer that the speaker will cause harm or trouble if the hearer does not do as the speaker wants.

4. Commit

Commit means an utterance in which the speaker commits to doing something in the future.

5. Accept

Accept is a speech act in which the speaker accepts in order to take action in the future. Accept is used to handle the acceptance of an offer, invitation, or proposal made by the speaker.

6. Pledge

A pledge is a speech act where the pledge does not have to be an attempt to support or challenge the listener.

7. Vow

Vow is a speech act in which the speaker swears to do something.

8. Consent

Agreeing to do something means receiving directions to do it, which is called consent.

9. Covenant

Utterance that means mutual agreement between the speaker and the listener is called a covenant.

Research Method

In this research, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method to describe the use of commissive speech acts contained in presidential candidate debates on the Kompas TV channel on YouTube. According to Virginia and Ambalegin (2021), "qualitative research is applied to get a specific and complete understanding of the phenomenon in society." The researcher used qualitative descriptive methods because the data in this study are utterances containing commissive speech acts contained in a presidential candidate debate, not in the form of numbers.

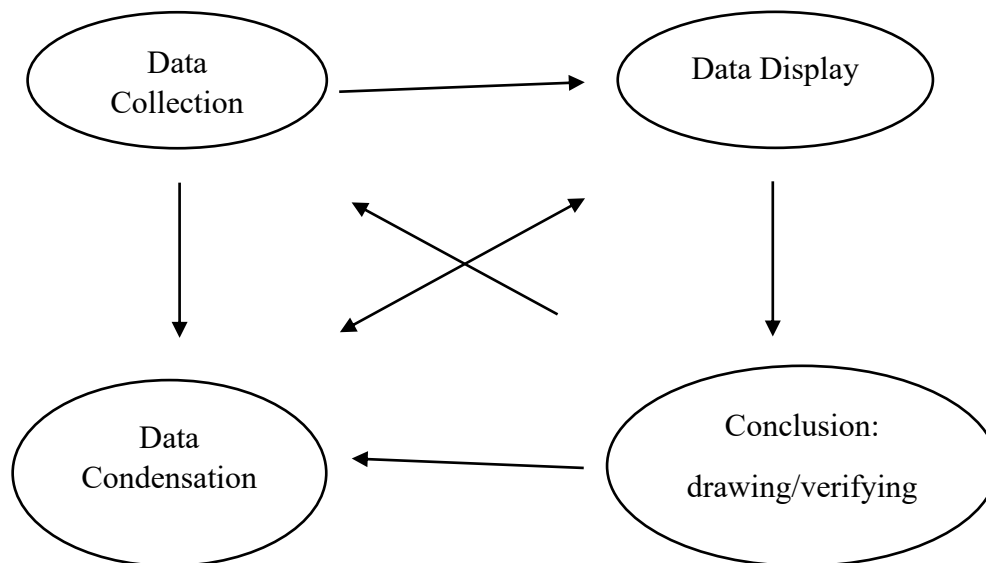
The subject in this research are the three presidential candidates that were Anis Baswedan, Prabowo Subianto and Ganjar Pranowo. The object in this research is utterances containing commissive speech act in presidential candidate debate.

This research used observation and documentation as instruments for collecting the data. The observation carried out by the researcher was watching the debate. After making observations by watching the presidential candidate's debate. Researcher carry out documentation by photographing commissive speech acts in debate.

The technique of collecting data is implemented by doing several steps.

1. Downloading a video of a presidential candidate's debate on the Kompas TV channel on YouTube.
2. Then watching the videos
3. Transcribing spoken text to written text
4. Collecting the utterance of commissive speech acts.

In analyzing data, researcher used the theory put forward by (Miles et al., 2014) that qualitative data analysis consists of three processes. The process are Data Condensation, Data Display, and Conclusion drawing/verifying.



3. Results and Discussion

Researcher analyzed data using the theory of Mile, Huberman, and Saldana (2014). There are three processes in analyzing data: the first is data condensation, consisting of several steps, namely selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming; the second is data display; and the last is conclusion drawing or verification.

3.1 Subtypes of commissive speech act

After analyzing the data in the first, third and fifth presidential debates, researcher found 35 data containing commissive speech acts. Including 31 promises, 1 commit, 1 threaten, 1 accept and 1 pledge.

No	Utterances	Subtypes of commissive								
		P	G	T	C	A	P	V	CS	CV
1	The rule of law places the law as the main reference to ensure that a sense of justice is present, providing benefits and providing certainty to all. This must be upheld by the holders of power both at the top and all levels but what happens is that many rules are bent according to the interests of those who are holding power. Will this continue? No. This must be changed , this must be restored	√								
2	At this time, if we look at the law, it should be upright, this is the law in reality, it is crooked, sharp downward, blunt upward, and this condition cannot be ignored and must change , therefore we encourage changes to restore the law to be upright to all	√								
3	And if we look at today there is one millennial who can become a vice presidential candidate but there are thousands of generation Z millennials who care about the nation's children who care about those who are marginalized when they express their opinions when they criticize the government, they are often faced with violence faced with collisions and even tear gas. whether this condition will be allowed or not we must make changes .	√								
4	Last but not least, we are witnessing an incident such as that of Mrs. Mega, Mrs. Mega Suryani Dewi, a housewife who experienced domestic violence who reported to the state that she was	√								

	not cared for and died as a victim of violence. No, this must be changed .								
5	Harun Arrasyid's father Harun Arrasyid is a son who died supporting Mr. Prabowo in the 2019 presidential election who demanded justice at that time protesting the election results what happened He was killed until today there is no clarity. Will this be allowed? No! This must be changed	√							
6	We restore the spirit of state life that places the law as the highest place and the provisions apply to all, including when it comes to ASN affairs concerning TNI and police affairs.)	√							
7	Therefore, we dedicate ourselves, dedicate ourselves to be present to give a commitment that from the top to the bottom we will uphold the law on anyone)			√					
8	We place human rights law, improvement of government services, eradication of corruption, protection of all groups in society as something very important, therefore in our vision and mission these things are placed at the very top)	√							
9	Ladies and gentlemen, Prabowo Gibran, we will fix what needs to be fixed, we will enforce what needs to be enforced and we are determined to eradicate corruption to its roots	√							
10	We are aware and I am aware that since I was young I have taken an pledge to defend Pancasila and the 45th Constitution, in the 45th Constitution where our founding fathers established a republic, the republic must be based on the law and the sovereignty of the people, that is my struggle so far and I risk my life and soul to defend legal democracy and human rights					√			
11	In Merauke, we found a pastor named Pak Leo who had to help a mother who wanted to give birth because there were no health facilities and he learned from	√							

	YouTube that health rights cannot be obtained, so we told Pastor Leo that we will build it and we will mobilize throughout Indonesia that one village is one health center or post with one health worker available.								
12	Mr. Md also conveyed to the teachers in Aceh in Sabang there, there are also religious teachers there, we want to build a great Indonesia with superior human resources but have we paid attention to them, of course the progress that has been there so far we must do it much faster and the attention must be given and that's why there we pay attention to the fate of teachers including religious teachers, we provide incentives to them so that they can teach noble character with existing religious moderation.	√							
13	So in Kalimantan, we found the Dayak people, the tribes that exist, so that we can get the same access, all of this can work if the government is clean, the government can be accommodating and we brush corruption not with words with seriousness	√							
14	Ladies and gentlemen, my respected and beloved countrymen and women, when the trust of you and me is given to us, we will , God willing , restore Indonesia's position as a major player in the global constellation	√							
15	We plan how the power of Indonesia, the power of culture, the power of art, the power of the economy to color the world scene	√							
16	We want our films, our artists, our cuisine, our diplomati, our diaspora to become a world phenomenon to color the international scene	√							
17	We want in such a way that what we do at the world level makes Indonesia a host in its own country as well as a charming guest in other countries and the president becomes the Commander of Indonesian diplomacy not only	√							

	present in forums but present to color, present to seriously fight for the mandate including the most important mandate to abolish colonialism on earth not just a statement in the ceremony but the president and all levels of diplomacy work hard for it, especially for Palestine.								
18	In recent years more than 160,000 people died not because of military attacks but because of virus attacks. Our cell phones, our computers are attacked by cyberattacks of more than 800 million cyberattacks, human trafficking, child trafficking How women children become victims of more than 3,000 people and drugs invade Indonesia 4.8 million people are exposed to drugs our families suffer because of these drugs and it is very painful at the family level fishing theft, sand theft it indicates that we are conceded and furthermore ironically the Ministry of Defense became the Ministry that was breached by hackers in 2023, an irony therefore we want to restore	√							
19	When more than half of our soldiers do not have official residence while the ministers according to Mr. Jokowi have more than 340 hectares of land in this Republic, this must be changed, plus the cassava food estate that benefits cronies damages the environment and does not produce this must be changed	√							
20	We will start with leadership that upholds the ethics of leadership that relies on serious capacity information data, we want this republic to play a role at the Global level to be taken seriously for the household, for the national so that our authority is authority based on strength, for that we need change.	√							
21	Ladies and gentlemen, 1000 friends is too few and one opponent is too many,	√							

	and we will conduct good neighborly politics.								
22	Ladies and gentlemen, we are determined to have a strong defense	√							
23	Ladies and gentlemen, as Minister of Defense, I adhere to the doctrine of national strategy and everything is based on the interests of the nation and the people of Indonesia and I am able to be accountable and I believe that only with a strong defense will we be respected, we will protect our national interests	√							
24	If we open the most basic science book, national power must have military power, without military power the history of human civilization teaches that the nation will be crushed like in Gaza today, its wealth will be taken, it will be expelled from its homeland			√					
25	Ladies and gentlemen, our foreign policy has traditionally been free and active since the beginning of our independence, Non-Aligned is impartial, does not participate in the blocs, does not participate in this fact, I will continue with good relations with all forces, we can secure our national interests				√				
26	Like later when I met with Mrs. Mary Hugeng, how Mrs. Mary told me that our police protect with the sincerity of our police living very simply and they have high integrity as a police officer's son I understand very well this is something difficult and we will definitely be able to do it and of course these are the achievements we will do by Ganjar Mahfud bismillah God willing we are ready	√							
27	What changes do we want to achieve? One, we will ensure that people live healthy lives and if they are sick, they get quick help, they grow smart at affordable costs, their families are prosperous because they earn decent wages, and if they are in need, they are	√							

	given social assistance according to their needs									
28	Ladies and gentlemen, Prabowo Gibran has a grand plan that we call the national transformation strategy. The core of this strategy, of course, is to increase the prosperity of the Indonesian nation and especially to improve the quality of life of the Indonesian people, all Indonesian people	√								
29	One of our strategic projects is essentially to provide nutritious food for all Indonesian children including those still in the womb of their mothers and during school from early childhood to adulthood, this will overcome maternal mortality at birth, this, will overcome child stunting, this will eliminate extreme poverty, this will absorb all the harvests of farmers and fishermen, this will increase our economic growth, at least around 1.5 to 2%.	√								
30	In Health, we will build modern hospitals in every district and city, and modern health centers in every village across Indonesia.)	√								
31	We will immediately accelerate the shortage of doctors in Indonesia, we are short of about 140,000 doctors and we will immediately overcome it by increasing the number of medical faculties in Indonesia from the current 92 we will build 300 medical faculties.	√								
32	We will also send 10,000 smart children from high school graduates to study medicine and another 10,000 to study science technology engineering and mathematics chemistry biology and physics, so we seize technology we seize science	√								
33	Ladies and gentlemen, we will also build 3 million houses for those who do not have houses, 1 million in rural areas, 1 million in coastal areas, 1 million in urban areas	√								

34	Ladies and gentlemen, these are some of our flagship programs in the context of our national transformation strategy, not just development, we want to transform our nation on the economic foundation that has been built by President Joko Widodo and previous presidents. Ladies and gentlemen, these are our thoughts, we are confident that we will implement them and we will achieve Indonesia Mas 2045	√								
35	Health being the first, preventive is something that is best we exercise, eat healthy and that will help in politics our health will be much better and of course the access to health that is needed in every village Why Ganjar Mahfud made one village, one health facility, one health worker because we want them to get the best and then mothers children elderly disabilities indigenous people will get the same role in health services where in isolated areas they need this access very good.	√								

Noted:

P : Promise

G : Guarantee

T: Threaten

C : Commit

A : Accept

P : Pledge

V : Vow

C : Consent

C : Covenant

3.2 Dominant of commissive speech act

The researcher calculated that the most dominant one is promise, through analyzing the number and it is percentage 31 utterances (88,5%). The detail result of the subtypes of commissive speech act can be seen in the following table:

No	Subtypes of Commissive	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Promise	31	88,5 %
2	Guarantee	-	-
3	Threaten	1	2,8%
4	Commit	1	2,8%
5	Accept	1	2,8%
6	Pledge	1	2,8%
7	Vow	-	-
8	Consent	-	-
9	Covenant	-	-
Total		35	100%

Conclusion

Commissive act is the speaker promises to do something in the future. The speaker's resolve to take action is the commissive. According to Searle and Vanderveken there are nine subtypes of commissive act that is promise, threaten, guarantee, commit, accept, pledge, vow, consent and covenant in a certain future. The data source for this research is a video of the presidential candidate's debate. The first debate was held on December 24 2023 with the theme "government, law, human rights, eradicating corruption, promoting democracy, improving public services and citizen harmony", the third debate was held on January 07 2024 with the theme "Defense, Security, International Relations and Geopolitics, and the fifth debate was held on February 4 2024 with the theme "Social Welfare, Culture, Education, Information Technology, Health, Employment, Human Resources and Inclusion" which was published on the Kompas TV channel on YouTube. Researchers found 36 data. The finding of this study is 31 promises, 1 commit, 1 threaten, 1 accept, and 1 pledge.

The percentage of this study is 88,5% of promise, 0% of guarantee, 2,8% of threaten, 2,8% of commit, 2,8% of accept, 2,8% of pledge, 0% of vow, 0% of consent and 0% of covenant. Promise

is a commissive subtype that is most often used by presidential candidates in the first, third and fifth debates that have been studied by researchers accounting for 88% of commissive subtypes. This is influenced by getting people's votes so that they often produce promise words to attract the attention of listeners so that listeners sympathize with the speakers.

References

- Ajeng, B., & Intan, F. (2018). *An analysis of speech acts in the croods movie*. 1(1), 1–8.
- Anggraini, R., & Ambalegin, A. (2020). The Refusal Speech Act in “Me Before You” Movie. *IDEAS: Journal on English Language Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature*, 8(2), 398–409. <https://doi.org/10.24256/ideas.v8i2.1565>
- Attamimy, H. F., Junining, E., & Khasanah, I. (2020). Speech Act Analysis of Jacinda Ardern About Covid-19. *Elite English and Literature Journal*, 7(2), 209. <https://doi.org/10.24252/10.24252/elite.v7i2a9>
- Fa’adillah Mustakim, N., & Weda, S. (2022). Illocutionary Acts in J.K. Rowling’S “Harry Potter: the Cursed Child.” *ELITERATE: Journal of English Linguistics and Literature Studies*, 2(2), 47–60.
- Farwati, R. J., & Sofeny, D. (2023). an Analysis of Commissive Speech Act Used By Daniel Forester As a Main Character in the Tomorrow War Movie By Chris Mckay. *Journal of English Education and Literature*, 4(1), 17–26.
- Fitria, T. N. (2019). an Analysis of Directive Speech Act Found in “Koi Mil Gaya” Movie. *Journal of Pragmatics Research*, 1(2), 89–99. <https://doi.org/10.18326/jopr.v1i2.89-99>
- Fitriani, N., & Pujiati, T. (2018). A Pragmatics Study of Indirect Speech Acts in President Joko Widodo’s State Address. *Journal of English Language Studies*, 3(2), 155. <https://doi.org/10.30870/jels.v3i2.3256>
- Kurniati, L. (2017). *Peningkatan Kemampuan Berbicara Mahasiswa Melalui Model Pembelajaran Debat*. 3(2), 224–232.
- Mahar Ditriwan, G., Nyoman Tri Ediwan, I., & Made Netra, I. (2023). Commissive Illocutionary Act Used in Turning Red Movie. *Jurnal Ilmiah Multidisiplin*, 2(7), 2023.
- Melga, C., Capah, J. J., Napitupulu, F. D., & Pakpahan, C. (2023). An Analysis Of Politeness Principle Of Main Character In “MOANA” Movie. *Samuel J Sinaga INNOVATIVE: Journal Of Social Science Research*, 3, 3908–3921.
- Miles, Huberman, & Saldana. (2014). *Metode Penelitian Miles, Huberman dan Saldana*. 48.