IREELL
Indonesian Review of English Education, Linguistics, and Literature
P-ISSN: 3025-2369 **I** E-ISSN: 3021-8101
https://jurnalfaktarbiyah.iainkediri.ac.id/index.php/ireel/index

Speech Acts Analysis on King Charles III's First Speech as the King of England and the Commonwealth Countries

Iva Nurlaili*
English Education, Department, State Islamic Institute of Kediri
ivanurlaili474l@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

After Queen Elizabeth II passed away, Prince Charles was officially crowned King Charles III, the King of England and the Commonwealth countries. In his first public speech as a king, delivered at Buckingham Palace on September 9, 2022, he expressed deep sorrow over the Queen's passing, paid tribute to her lifetime of service as a queen, and pledged his dedication to the nation and the Commonwealth. This speech serves as a significant moment, marking the transition of leadership and strengthening the monarchy's role in modern society. This study's aim is to find out the types of illocutionary acts in King Charles III's first speech by using Searle's Speech Acts Theory. This study uses a descriptive qualitative research design. The study examines the official speech transcript to identify and categorize the speech acts used. The findings reveal 43 instances of illocutionary acts, which are divided into four categories: assertive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. These speech acts provide multiple functions, including expressing personal emotions, affirming commitments to the people, and reinforcing the monarchy's authority. The results of this study highlight the strategic use of language in royal speech. Understanding the illocutionary aspects of King Charles III's speech contributes to a broader analysis of political communication and pragmatics in leadership discourse.

Keywords: King Charles III's first speech, illocutionary acts, Speech acts

Copyright: © 2024 by Author.
This is an open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY SA) license (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

Introduction

Communication is the most important thing in life and social interaction. It plays an essential role in human life which acts as the foundation for social interaction and information exchange. It is a crucial aspect of everyday activities, allowing individuals to express thoughts, emotions, and intentions while facilitating relationships and collaboration. According to Laswell in Lestari (2020) communication is the soul of social interaction. It encourages individuals and groups to have meaningful interaction within a structured society. People transfer information to one another through communication. It involves a sender, a message, a medium, and a receiver, as proposed in Lasswell's communication model. It shows five important points of communication: who (sender), says what (message), in which channel (medium), to whom (receiver), and with what effect (outcome). This framework shows that communication is about speaking or writing and ensuring that the intended recipients effectively deliver and understand the message (Lasswell, 1948).

Effective communication helps in establishing personal relationships, social cohesion, and decision-making processes, making it a fundamental component of both individual and collective experiences. Communication is a person's way of conveying information between individuals with individuals, or individuals with groups. Information can be in the form of ideas, and feelings that are in someone's mind. According to Scheidel, cited by Kayaningsih (2018), the purpose of communication is to state and support self-identity to build social contact with people around us, and to influence others to think or behave as we want. To convey these ideas or feelings, a person needs to use language. Furthermore, Scheidel, as cited in Kayaningsih (2018), argued that three main functions of communication. First, establishing and supporting self-identity. It means people use communication to express who they are, what they believe, and how they relate to others. Second, building social contact, while communication is needed to strengthen relationships, also opens big potential for collaboration and creates a sense of belonging in society. Lastly, it influences others, with communication, individuals can persuade, inspire, and direct the actions and thoughts of others.

In order to communicate effectively, individuals rely on language, which acts as a structured system of symbols used for expression. Moreover, Wardhaugh in Umar (2020) states language is a symbolic system systematically used by humans for verbal and written

communication. Language is deeply rooted in culture and steadily changes to display historical changes, technological advancement, and social values. The existence of language allows each person to comprehend others by making sure that the communication serves a smooth interpersonal and group exchange.

There are 2 types of communication, namely verbal communication and written communication (Nagasubramani, 2018). Verbal communication is oral communication that occurs between two or more people in all forms of speech or by using words. This speech-based communication includes spoken words, discussions, conversations, presentations, sign language, coded information, and so on. Furthermore, written communication is a type of communication that takes place in writing. Usual forms of written communication are letters, notices, emails, messages, advertisements, etc. (Kurniati, 2016). Every day humans use language to talk about different things with different topics, situations, and times. When someone wants to convey information personally, they can have a dialogue in person or by telephone. If someone wants to convey information or thoughts to the general public, they can make speeches, debates, and so on.

Communication is related to pragmatics. It is the study of language which is related to the using of language in the context of its use. According to Searle, cited by Arifin (2000), speech acts are inseparable when communicating because every day, humans use speech acts to make statements, give orders, ask questions, and make requests. It can be a word, a phrase, a sentence, or a sound that can express the intention of the speaker. Searle in Rahardi (2005), in Searle's book Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language, stated that in practice the use of language, there are three kinds of speech acts those are locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts.

There are still many people who do not understand speech acts so they still cannot distinguish the type of speech act from the speech spoken by someone. Speech acts will have different meanings depending on the speaker, the interlocutor, and the topic, time, and place of a person delivering a speech. From the explanation above, the researcher wants to discuss more deeply related to the speech act in the speech. This study discusses speech acts in general, including locutionary and illocutionary. Researchers want to analyze more deeply the speech acts in the first speech of King Charles III after becoming king of Britain and the Commonwealth Countries. The first speech of King Charles III, delivered on September 9,

2022, contained huge historical and political significance. It was the first official speech following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. This signifies the transition of power of the British monarchy. Considering the emotional and political weight of the moment, the speech was carefully crafted to achieve multiple communicative goals.

There are several reasons why researchers chose this topic as research. First, King Charles III is one of the most influential figures in England and worldwide. As the new monarch of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth nations, King Charles III's words hold significant weight, not only within Britain but also worldwide. His speech was expected to calm the public, adjust stability, and honour the legacy of Queen Elizabeth II. Second, the speech delivered by King Charles III was the first speech after King Charles was appointed as the king. The speech symbolizes an important moment, where King Charles III firmly established his role as the new monarch and addressed both national and international audiences. Third, the speech tells the sorrow of the king and the queen's journey in serving her country. The speech shows both his grief and royal duty, acknowledging the passing of Queen Elizabeth II while also showing his commitment to the responsibilities of a king.

Based on the background of the study, the researcher would like to formulate the problems above as follows: What kinds of illocutionary acts were used in King Charles III's first speech as King of England and the Commonwealth Countries? This study focuses on analyzing the kinds of illocutionary acts that were used in King Charles III's first speech as King of England and the Commonwealth Countries. In order to avoid a discussion that is beyond the scope of the research discussion, the researcher limits this research to only analyzing the first speech of King Charles III as a king of England and Commonwealth Countries. The researcher focuses on the first speech of King Charles after becoming king of England and the Commonwealth. In this research, the researcher can find the kinds of illocutionary acts that were used in King Charles III's first speech as King of England and the Commonwealth Countries by using speech acts in Searles's theory. This research contributes to the field of pragmatics by offering a deeper understanding of speech acts in political discourse, particularly in royal speeches. It also offers insights into the rhetorical strategies used by King Charles III to address the public during a moment of national mourning. Lastly, this research may provide a practical framework for analyzing public speeches, which can be applied to other political and historical contexts. By examining how language is used

intentionally in leadership royal speech, this study provides knowledge on the power of speech acts in shaping public perception and emotional response.

Methods

This research used descriptive qualitative as the research design. According to Moleong (2016), this type of research design intends to understand the phenomenon of a research subject by describing it in words or writing. The source of the data used in this study is the first speech of King Charles III as king after his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, passed away. This speech took place in Buckingham Palace on September 9th, 2022, at 2.10 PM local time. The speech transcript was obtained from **www.rev.com**, ensuring the accuracy of the textual data used for analysis**.** The researcher analyzes the data by identifying, classifying, and describing the data. Specifically, the researcher implements a textual analysis based on Searle's speech acts theory. According to Searle (1969), speech acts can be classified into five categories: representatives, directives, commissives, expressive, and declarative. These categories help in identifying the functions of language in the speech.

The process of analysis follows the framework suggested by Wolcott (1996), which consists of three main stages. The first is identifying and extracting relevant segments of the speech that exhibit specific speech acts. The second is classifying and categorizing the extracted speech segments into one of Searle's five speech act types. Then, the last one is describing and interpreting, which analyses the context and intended meaning of each identified speech act to uncover underlying discursive patterns.

Result and Discussion

The result shows that there are four illocutionary acts found on his speech. They are assertive, commissive, expressive, and declaration. There are 30 out of 43 utterances (almost 70%) that indicate as representative or assertive in King Charles III's speech. These include stating and reporting. The researcher found 2 out of 43 utterances or in the percentage. Almost 5% of utterances are commissive in King Charles III's speech. There is promise. The researcher found 10 out of 43 utterances, or in the percentage, it is almost 23%, that were expressive in King Charles' speech. They are thanking, praising and condoling.

In Speech Act, assertive or known as representative speech act is defined as the most

dominant type in King Charles III's speech. In an assertive speech act, the speaker describes, argues, states, and reports something as true. In King Charles III's speech, assertive speech acts signify his feeling of sadness in losing his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. Additionally, he offered his condolence while remembering the Queen's lifelong dedication and contributions. He also reassured the public about his responsibility as the new monarch and his commitment to his duty. The high percentage of assertive speech acts shows that the speech is mainly focused on informing and reassuring the audience rather than making direct promises or requests.

The second most common illocutionary act in the speech is expressive speech acts, with 10 out of 43 utterances (about 23%). These speech acts are used to show emotions, feelings, or psychological states. In this speech, King Charles III shows his gratitude, admiration, and sorrow. For example, he thanks the Queen for her service, praises her dedication, and expresses condolences for her passing. The use of expressive speech acts makes the speech more personal and emotional, which helps to connect with the audience during a time of national mourning.

Following the second most commonly used illocutionary act, commissive speech acts are less frequently used in the new monarch speech, with only 2 out of 43 utterances (around 5%). This specific speech acts commonly used whenever the speaker makes promises. In this situation, King Charles III commits to a future action. He commits to show his responsibility by serving the people with faith and loyalty and pledges to dedicate his life to a king as the queen did. The small number of commissive speech acts suggests that the speech was not focused on policy commitments but rather on reassuring the public about his role as the new monarch.

While being the last to be used in the King's speech as the new monarch, with only 1 utterance found, the declarative speech act signifies an official statement that changes a situation. In this case, the only declarative act in the speech is when King Charles III formally acknowledges himself as the new King. Since the speech is mostly about honoring the Queen and reassuring the public, the use of declarative speech acts is minimal.

Findings of the Illocutionary Acts Types

No	Type of Illocutionary	Function of Illocutionary	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Representative/Assertive	Stating Reporting Claiming	27	63%
		Suggesting Boasting	3	7%
		Complaining Advising	0	0%
		Ordering Commanding	0	0%
		Requesting Recommending	0	0%
		Offering Promising Vowing	0	0%
2	Directive	Thanking Congratulating	0	0%
		Praising Blaming Pardoning	0	0%
		Condoling Resigning	0	0%
		Dismissing Christening	0	0%
		Naming Sentencing	0	0%
3	Commissive	Excommunicating Appointing	0	0%
			2	0%
			0	5%
4	Expressive		5	0%
			0	12%
			1	0%
			0	2%
			0	0%
			4	0%
5	Declaration		0	9%
			0	0%
			0	9%
			0	0%
			0	0%
			0	0%
			1	0%
				0%
				0%
				2%
		TOTAL	43	100%

There are problem statements proposed in this study, and the discussion only focuses on it. As mentioned in the previous chapter, the aims of the study are to analyze the kind of illocutionary acts that were used in King Charles III's speech by using a script taken from www.rev.com. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses Searle's theory of speech acts. Researcher found several types of illocutionary acts from 43 utterances in King Charles III's speech, such as 30 of assertive, 2 of commissive, 11 of expressive, and 1 of declaration.

This study resembles the research conducted by Mulyawati (2020). Her research also

found out the classification of illocutionary acts that were mostly used by Kim Nam Jun's speech by using Searle's theory. The findings show that assertive are mostly used with a percentage of 65.52%. It is similar to Umar's (2016) research that shows that there are 9 assertive illocutionary acts in Searle's theory. Other similarities are found in previous research by Rahman et al. (2018); the study aims to find the dominant type of illocutionary acts in Donald Trump's speech by using Yule's theory. The result shows that assertive became the dominant type of illocutionary used by Donald Trump, with a percentage of 46%. Violeta (2019) stated that the purpose of this research is to find the 5 types of illocutionary acts by Searle that are contained in the main character of the Maleficient movie script. The result of this study shows that there are 5 types of illocutionary acts that are used in this movie script. The last previous study was conducted by Putri et al (2019). The aim of this research is to analyze the speech acts contained in Harry Potter and Goblet Fire Movie by using 3 theories from Austin, Searle, and Parker. The finding shows that the movie uses 3 speech acts locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary.

Conclusion

This thesis analyzes the illocutionary act in King Charles III's first speech as King of England and the commonwealth countries. The aim of this analysis is to know the kinds of illocutionary acts that were used in King Charles III's speech. The context of the utterance is performed, and the interpretation of the speech act is achieved by understanding the context. This research uses the qualitative-descriptive method. The researcher found 43 utterances in King Charles III's first speech as King of England and the commonwealth countries. As a result, the researcher found four types of illocutionary acts. Those are assertive, commissive, expressive and declaration. This study is limited to the very first speech of King Charles III, which is analyzed with Searle's speech acts theory. Therefore, further researchers can explore more of His Majesty's speeches or discuss it with other speech acts theories.

References

Abdullahi, C. A. (2021). The Meaning and Scope of Pragmatics. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS),* Vol V, 102-105.

Al, P. I. (2019). An Analysis of Speech Act Used in Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire Movie. *International Journal of Language and Literature*. Vol. 3, 78-88.

RR. Ponco Dewi Kayaningsih, M. (2018). *Ilmu Komunikasi*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Samudra Biru.

Kurniati, D. P. (2016). Modul Komunikasi Verbal dan Non Verbal. Bali. Lestari, T. (2020). *The Impotance of The Role of Communication in People's Lives and Important in Aspect of Life*. 1-10.

Lestari, T. (2020). *Komunikasi sosial dalam perspektif modern*. PT Rajagrafindo Persada.

Huang, Y. (2017). *The Oxford Handbook of Pragmatics*. New York: Oxford University Press. Mogalakwe, M. (2006). The Use of Documentary Research Methods in Social Research. *African Sociological* Review , 221-230.

Morgan, P. C. (1975). Syntax and Semantics. New Yorck: *Academic Press*.

Mulyawati, F. (2020). An Analysis of Speech Act of Kim Namjun's Speech at The United Nation Genera Assembly 2018. 9-10.

Nagasubramani, R. a. (2018). Effective oral and Written Communication. *Journal of Applied and Advanced Research*, 29-32.

Najamuddin. (2018). Analisis Tindak Tutur Dalam Acara "Indonesia Lawyers Club" TV One . Putri I.A.P.A.D.P, R. D. (2019). An Analysis of Speech Act Used in Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire Movie. *International Journal of Language and Literature*, 78-88.

Rahman, N. S. (2018). Speech Acts Analysis of Donald Trump's Speech. *Professional Journal of English Education,* 125-132. Umar, T. F. (2016). The Analysis of Speech Act of President Joko Widodo at APEC. 28-45

Searle, J. R. (1969). *Speech acts: An essay in the philosophy of language*. Cambridge University Press.

Violeta, R. (2019). Speech Acts Analysis of The Main Character in Maleficent Movie Script by Jane Mctee.

Wolcott, H. F. (1996). *Transforming Qualitative Data: Description, Analysis, and Interpretation*. Los Angeles: Sage.

Yule, G. (1996). Pragmatics. Dalam H. Widdowson, Introductions to Language Study (hal. 3-4). New York: *Oxford University Press*.