

## **A PRAGMATICS ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN MICHELLE OBAMA'S SPEECHES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research is aimed to find the classification of illocutionary acts, and the way it is conveyed by Michelle Obama in delivering her political campaign speeches in supporting Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine in United States presidential election in 2016. The researcher used qualitative analysis approach in analyzing and interpreting the data. The data source of this research was Michelle Obama's political campaign speeches that were held in Manchester, New Hampshire on October 13, 2016 and in Phoenix on October 20, 2016. Through the finding of the analysis, there were 267 data of illocutionary acts. They are divided into four types, namely representatives, directives, commissives, and expressives. And from all the data of illocutionary acts found in the speeches, there were 230 data conveyed in direct way and there were 37 data conveyed in indirect way.

**Keywords:** speech acts, illocutionary acts, political campaign speeches

### **ABSTRAK**

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan klasifikasi tindak ilokusi, dan caranya disampaikan oleh Michelle Obama dalam menyampaikan kampanye politiknya dalam mendukung Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine dalam pemilihan presiden Amerika Serikat pada tahun 2016. Peneliti menggunakan pendekatan analisa kualitatif dalam menganalisa dan menginterpretasikan data. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah pidato kampanye politik Michelle Obama yang diselenggarakan di Manchester, New Hampshire pada 13 Oktober 2016 dan di Phoenix, Arizona pada 20 Oktober 2016. Berdasarkan temuan penelitian, terdapat 267 data tindak ilokusi. Mereka terbagi menjadi 4 tipe, yaitu representatif, direktif, komisif, dan ekspresif. Dan dari semua data tindak ilokusi yang ditemukan pada pidato tersebut, terdapat 230 data yang disampaikan secara langsung dan terdapat 37 data yang disampaikan secara tidak langsung.*

**Kata kunci:** Tindak Tutur, Tindak Ilokusi, Pidato Kampanye Politik

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

Language plays a very important role in human life and cannot be separated from their everyday life. It is always used by people to communicate with each other in their daily life. Clark and Clark (1977) said that language stands at the centers of human affairs, from the most prosaic to the most profound.

In a communication process, people produce utterances in a particular context. The meaning of an utterance might be different between the speaker and the listener if they have a different context of the utterance. Therefore, to avoid misunderstanding of the meaning of an utterance between the speaker and the listener, studying the speaker's meaning of an utterance becomes important, and it is called as pragmatics.

Furthermore, Yule (1996) said that to express and convince utterances, people do not only produce it containing grammatical structures and words, they also perform actions via those utterances. Actions that are performed by the speaker through her utterances are known as speech act. Further, there are 3 related acts of speech acts according to Austin (1962), namely locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act.

One of the communication forms that consist of many utterances is political campaign speech. A speech that is used for political campaign usually uses political language that deals with the use of power to organize people's minds and opinions. It is an instrument used to control society in general. Political speech can be seen as a medium to establish and maintain social relationships, express feelings, and convey ideas, policies, and programs in any society as well as function to persuade people.

This research investigates further about phenomenal political campaign speeches delivered by Michelle Obama in United States Presidential Election 2016 to support Hillary Clinton that were held in two different regions. The first speech was held in Manchester, New Hampshire on October 13, 2016. And the second speech was held in Phoenix, Arizona on October 20, 2016. This research also limits the theory that used to analyze the speeches. Where, this research focused on the speech act issue, specifically the illocutionary acts theory from Searle.

The biggest reasons why the researcher chose Michelle Obama's political campaign speeches as the object are because Michelle Obama's voice greatly affected the voters' voice in United States Presidential Election in 2016, especially women voter's voice and in her speeches contains many the types of illocutionary acts which can be analyzed.

The objectives of this research were to find out the types of illocutionary acts performed by Michelle Obama in her speeches. And to explain Michelle Obama's way in conveying the illocutionary acts she used in her speeches, where it is directly or indirectly.

## **B. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **1. Pragmatics**

According to Yule (1996), pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). In addition, there are some definitions of pragmatics according to Yule (1996). He stated that pragmatics is the study of 1) speaker meaning, 2) contextual meaning, 3) how more gets communicated than is said, and 4) the expression of relative distance. Furthermore, he states that pragmatics is the study of the relationships between linguistic form and the users of those forms. He also stated that by studying language via pragmatics we may know people's (speaker) intended meanings, their assumptions, their purposes or goals, and the kinds of actions (for example, request) that they are performing when they speak.

By those definitions, it can be concluded that pragmatics is the study that learns about how to recognize what is meant by a speaker of her/his utterance even when it is not said by knowing the context of that utterance.

### **2. Speech Acts**

Austin (1962) defined speech acts as the actions that are performed by the speaker in saying (uttering) something. Similarly, Yule (1996) stated when people produce utterances, they do not only produce them which contain grammatical structure and words, but they also perform actions through those utterances. Utterances that perform actions are generally called as speech acts (Yule, 1996).

Based on those definitions above, it can be said that speech acts are the actions that are performed by a speaker in producing and uttering utterances.

According to Yule (1996), the actions performed by producing utterances will consist of three related acts, they are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act.

#### **a. Locutionary Act**

Locutionary act is the first or the basic act of utterance. It is the form of the words that are uttered by a speaker. Austin in Mey (2004) defined locutionary act as the simply activity that speaker engage in when say something. Similarly, Leech (1996) stated that locutionary act is performing the act of saying something. Further, there are three kinds of locutionary acts namely *a declarative* when it tells something, *an imperative* when it gives orders, and *an interrogative* when it asks questions (Austin, 1962).

#### **b. Illocutionary Act**

Illocutionary acts are the functions of the locutionary act or the words which is uttered by the speaker. According to Yule (1996) by uttering something, someone does not just produce well-formed utterances without any purposes. He formed an utterance with some kind of function in mind. Austin (1962) defined illocutionary act as an utterance which has a certain (conventional) force. Further, Austin (as cited in Mey, 2004) stated that illocutionary force is

intimately related to the very form the utterance may have: stating, wishing, promising, etc.

### **c. Perlocutionary Act**

Perlocutionary act is the effect of an utterance to the hearer. According to Yule (1996), depending on the circumstances, a speaker will utter an utterance, on the assumption that the hearer will recognize the effect the speaker intended. This is generally known as the perlocutionary effect. Similarly, Austin (as cited in Mey, 2004) stated that perlocutionary act such the further effects depend on the particular circumstance of an utterance, and are by no means always predictable. Leech (1996) also defined that perlocutionary act is performing the act by saying something.

### **3. Searle's Categorization of Speech Acts (Illocutionary Acts)**

Searle (1969) divided illocutionary acts into five basic categories. Those are representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

#### **a. Representative**

According to Yule (1996) representative or also known as assertive is a kind of speech acts that states what the speaker believes to be the case or not. Similarly, Kreidler (1998) added that representative acts are performed by speakers and writers to tell what they know or believe. In other words, representative acts deal with facts. According to Seken (2015) by performing representative acts, the speaker makes the word fit the world or belief.

#### **b. Directive**

In a communication process, the speaker often intends to get the hearer to do something. In this case, the speaker has performed directive acts. According to Searle (in Seken, 2015) these acts are concerned with directing the hearer towards doing something to the fulfillment of the speaker's want or wish through the speaker's utterances. He added that directive acts may include some actions, namely commanding, forbidding, inviting, requesting, questioning and suggesting. As expressions of what the speaker wants to affect others by making them doing something, Yule (1996) suggested that by performing directives, the speaker makes the world to fit by words. With regard to directive acts, Leech (1996) defined it as the speaker's intention to produce some effects through the action by the hearer.

#### **c. Commissive**

When the speaker uses commissive speech act, it means that he will commit some future course of action. Basically, it expresses what the speaker intends. As same as the direction of directives, commissives are also has a world to word fit. According to Searle (1969), commissive acts include promising, vowing, offering, threatening, and refusing. In addition, Kreidler (1998) said that commissive acts can be expressed using some verbs such as agree, ask, offer, refuse, swear, all with following infinitives. A predicate of commissives is the

verbs that can be used to commit or refuse to commit oneself to some future actions whereas the subject of the sentence or utterance is most likely to be *I* or *We*. Further, the modal *will* or *be going to* in certain rules, contexts, and situation signifies a promise which is considered as commissive acts.

#### **d. Expressives**

Expressive is a kind of speech acts that states what the speaker feels. The form of expressive can be statements of pleasure, pain, like, dislike, joy, or sorrow. According to Yule (1996) in this act, the speaker makes the words fit with the world (the situations of the speakers' feeling). Acts such as, greeting, thanking, apologizing, and congratulating are the examples of expressives. Kreidler (1998) added that the most common expressive verbs are acknowledge, admit, confess, deny, and apologize.

#### **e. Declaratives**

Declarative is a kind of speech acts that change the situation via the speaker's utterances. The point of this act is to bring something about in the world. In using a declaration, a speaker changes the world via the the words. Verbs of declaration are dismiss, resign, excommunicate, name, appoint, sentence, declare, approve, etc. In order to perform a declaration correctly, the speaker has to have a special institutional role, in a specific context (Yule, 1996).

### **4. Direct and Indirect Speech Acts**

In addition to the classification of speech acts based on the locution, illocution, and perlocution there is also another classification proposed by Searle. This classification of speech acts based on the syntactic and semantic aspects of an utterance. In other words, it is the relation between the literal sentence meaning and the speaker's intended meaning. Furthermore, Yule (1996) stated that a different approach to distinguish types of speech acts can be made based on the structures. In English, a fairly simple structural distinction between three general types of speech acts is provided by the three basic sentence types. By those explanations, it can be said that an utterance can be classified as a direct or indirect speech act through its relationship between the three structural forms (declarative, interrogative, imperative) and the three general communicative functions (statement, question, command/request).

#### **a. Direct Speech Act**

A direct speech act occurs when there is a direct relationship between a structural form and a communicative function of the utterance. Thus, to make a statement people have to use a declarative form, to make a question they formulate it in the interrogative form, and to make commands they will use an imperative form (Yule, 1996).

## **b. Indirect Speech Act**

In contrast to the direct speech act, an indirect speech act occurs when there is no direct relationship between the grammatical structure and the communicative function. According to Searle (1969), an indirect speech act is one that is performed by means of another. For example, declarative and interrogative forms are used to make commands in an indirect speech act.

By those explanations, it can be concluded that in indirect speech act the speaker does not explicitly state the intended meaning behind the utterances. It is the hearer's task to analyze the utterance to understand its meaning.

## **C. RESEARCH METHOD**

### **1. Research Design**

According to Bogdan & Biklen (1982) there are five characteristics of qualitative research. One of them is descriptive, which means the collected data take the form of words or pictures rather than number. Related to the statement above, this research is categorized as a qualitative type of research. Because the nature of this research is to describe the types of illocutionary acts found in Michelle Obama's speeches in the forms of words, phrases, and sentences.

### **2. Data and Data Sources**

The data sources in this research are speeches. The speeches that are used by the researcher are from two speeches of Michelle Obama to support Hillary Clinton in the presidential election of United States 2016 which were held in New Hampshire and Phoenix.

Furthermore, the data in this research are the utterances of Michelle Obama in the form of words, phrases, and sentences which consist of illocutionary acts.

### **3. Research Instrument**

Barrett (2007) stated that in interpreting qualitative data, the researcher has a significant role as a primary instrument for making sense of the phenomenon under study. Related to Barrett's statement, it can be said that the researcher is the main controller in her research.

### **4. Data Collection**

In order to obtain the valid data, the researcher used documentation as the data collection technique that will be summarized, as below:

- a. Browsing and downloading steps. Those are the first two steps in collecting data in this research. In these steps, the researcher browsed and downloaded two political campaign speeches of Michelle Obama in supporting Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine in the United States presidential election 2016 from the internet.
- b. The next step is collecting the data. In this step, the researcher collected all the data from Michelle Obama's utterances in her speeches in the form of words, phrases, and sentences that consist of illocutionary acts.

## **5. Data Analysis**

After collecting the data, the next process is data analysis. In this research, the data is analyzed by applying 3 steps of data analysis of qualitative research method by Miles & Huberman (1994). They are data reduction, data display, and verification/conclusion drawing.

### **a. Data Reduction**

In this step, the collected data is selected, focused, simplified, abstracted, and transformed. In this research, the researcher focused on the data and then selected and simplified the data that consist of the speech acts classifications based on the theory of Searle (Illocutionary acts: declaratives, representatives, expressives, directives, commissives).

### **b. Data Display**

In this research, all the data is presented in the form of words, phrases, and sentences from the two speeches of Michelle Obama that have been transcribed into written texts. This research has two research questions that are related to each other. The first question talked about the categories of illocutionary acts, and the second one is talked about the way illocutionary acts conveyed by Michelle Obama in delivering her speeches. The result of this research is displayed to find out the types of illocutionary acts and to explain the way illocutionary acts are conveyed by Michelle Obama.

### **c. Conclusion Drawing**

The researcher had the picture of a conclusion about this research, since the researcher decides to choose the object and the approach to this research. And since the researcher has done this research, the conclusions of this research have been shown in the last chapter of this research.

## **6. Triangulation**

According to Denzin (1978) triangulation is not a strategy of validation, but it is an alternative to validation. Further, Denzin (1978) defines triangulation into four basic types, those are data triangulation, investigator triangulation, theory triangulation, and methods triangulation.

From those four basic types of triangulation above, the researcher applied one of them which is data triangulation. It is because in conducting this research, the researcher is using two speeches of Michelle Obama's political campaign as the data sources to validate the accuracy of data findings and to know what type of illocutionary acts that mostly used by Michelle Obama in delivering her political campaign speeches.

## **D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **1. Types of Illocutionary Acts Found in Michelle Obama's Speeches**

This part explains the findings of the research regarding the types of illocutionary acts found in Michelle Obama's two political campaign speeches in supporting Hillary Clinton in United States Presidential Election 2016.

In reference to the research data, the researcher has found 267 types of illocutionary acts used by Michelle Obama according to Searle's theory. Those

data are divided into four types, namely representative acts, directive acts, commissive acts, and expressive acts. Furthermore, those data show different frequency in terms of their occurrences. The detail frequencies of the illocutionary acts found in Michelle Obama's speeches are presented in table 1 below.

**Table 1: The frequency of illocutionary acts in Michelle Obama's speeches**

No.	Illocutionary Acts	Indicating Acts	Frequencies	Percentage (%)
1.	Representative	a. Informing	48	61.80%
		b. Stating	11	
		c. Convincing	68	
		d. Recognizing	2	
		e. Affirming	28	
		f. Retelling	6	
		g. Reminding	2	
2.	Directive	a. Inviting	18	26.22%
		b. Requesting	33	
		c. Forbidding	8	
		d. Questioning	11	
3.	Commissive	e. Promising	2	0.75%
4.	Expressive	a. Greeting	2	11.23%
		b. Thanking	11	
		c. Expression of feeling	11	
		d. State of Pleasure	6	
5.	Declarative	-	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>267</b>	<b>100%</b>

From the table 1 above, it shows that the most dominant illocutionary act is representative act. Where, there are 165 occurrences (61.80%) of this type. And then, it is followed by directives, expressives and commissives which occur 70 (26.22%), 30 (11.23%), 2 (0.755%) in succession.

Later on, the different types of illocutionary acts which found in Michelle Obama's political campaign speeches would be explained as follows.

### a. Representatives

Representative is an illocutionary act which has the idea of what the speaker believes to be true. In this research, there are 165 data of representative acts found in Michelle Obama's speeches which divided into seven kinds of acts. Accordingly, informing was the first kind of representative illocutionary acts found in this research. The data indicated was presented as follows.



### Data I (No. 57)

*In fact, someone recently told me a story about their six-year-old son who one day was watching the news – they were watching the news together. And the little boy, out of the blue, said, “I think Hillary Clinton will be president.” And his mom said, “Well, why do you say that?” And this little six-year-old said, “Because the other guy called someone a piggy and,” he said, “You cannot be president if you call someone a piggy.” (line 118-123)*

The displayed above was analyzed as informing illocutionary act. Where, it showed that through statements Michelle Obama wanted to give information to the audience by telling a story that she got from a mother of six-year-old son during her campaign. She specifically informed the audience about a six-year-old boy's opinion concerning who would be the future leader of United State and how a president should act and behave. Therefore, the statement above is classified as informing act.

### b. Directives

Directive is a type of illocutionary acts that used by the speaker to get the hearer to do something. By performing this act, the speaker intends to produce some effects through the action by the hearer. There are 4 kinds of directive act found in Michelle Obama's political campaign speeches in this research, namely inviting, requesting, forbidding, and questioning. In regard to the research data, inviting was the first type of directive illocutionary acts found in this research as displayed below.

### Data II (No. 109 & 112)

*So here's what I'm asking. Don't just tweet about my speech last week. **If you liked that speech, then go vote. If you want to stand up for yourself and your fellow Americans, then go vote. If you want to get Hillary elected, vote. Vote early. Vote right now.** (line 229-232)*

*This is critical. **We need you all to find Hillary campaign folks who are here, sign up to make calls, knock on doors, get people to the polls on Election Day.** (line 233-235)*

From the statements above, it shows that Michelle was inviting the audience to vote Hillary Clinton if they liked her speech and wanted to stand up to the United States citizens. Michelle also invited all the audience to make calls and knock on doors to get more people to go to the polls on the election day to support Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine.

### c. Commissives

Commissive is a type of illocutionary acts which commit the speaker to do some future actions. Based on the research findings, the only commissive act that used by Michelle Obama is promising. In this research, there are only 2 data which identified as commissive acts of promising.

The following speech excerpts are the data of promising act found in both of Michelle Obama's political campaign speeches.

**Data I (No. 127)**

*So for the next 26 days, we need to do everything we can to help her and Tim Kaine win this election. **I'm going to be doing it.** Are you with me? Are you all with me? You ready to roll up your sleeves? Get to work knocking on doors?* (line 250-252)

**Data II (No. 110)**

*If you want to stand up for yourself and your fellow Americans, then go vote. If you want to get Hillary elected, vote. Vote early. Vote right now. And here's the thing, **I promise one of the volunteers.** We need people to sign up to volunteer.* (line 230-233)

As shown in the bold expressions the displayed data above, in stating that statements, Michelle was also promising to the audience. Where, in Data I (No. 127) she promised that she would doing anything she can to help Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine to win the election. Still in the same meaning as data I, in data II (No. 110) Michelle promised to the audience that she would be one of the volunteers who voted Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine in United States Presidential Election 2016.

**d. Expressives**

The last type of illocutionary acts found in this research is expressives. This act expresses the inner state and feelings of the speaker. The acts which belong to this category found in this research are greeting, thanking, expression of feeling and state of pleasure. Regardingly, as shown on the table 1 above, greeting was the first expressive illocutionary acts found in this research. This act is used to welcome someone. In a speech, the speaker often greets the audience in the beginning and in the end of a speech. In delivering her two speeches, Michelle was only greeted the audience once in each speech, where she only did it in the beginning of her speeches. Therefore, there are only 2 data of this act found in this research, as shown in the data below.

**Data I (No. 2)**

*Well, let me just say hello everyone.* (line 2)

**Data II (No. 2)**

*Hello Everyone* (line 1)

## 2. Direct and Indirect Speech Acts of Illocutionary Acts Found in Michelle Obama's Speeches

This part explains the findings of the research regarding Michelle Obama's way in conveying the illocutionary acts in her speeches to the audience, whether it is directly or indirectly.

An utterance can be classified as a direct or indirect speech act through its relationship between the three structural forms (declarative, interrogative, imperative) and the three general communicative functions (statement, question, command/request).

By knowing how the illocutionary acts conveyed by Michelle Obama, it can help the audience to understand the meaning of an utterance that is uttered by Michelle Obama in her speeches.

In reference to the research data, the different frequencies are found from those two ways. The detail frequency is presented in table 2 below.

**Table 2: The frequency of direct and indirect speech acts in Michelle Obama's speeches**

No.	How It Conveyed	Frequencies	Percentage (%)
1.	Directly	230	86.14%
2.	Indirectly	37	13.86%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table 6 above shows that the most way Michelle Obama used in conveying the illocutionary acts in delivering her speeches is in direct way, where it shows there are 230 (86.14%) times Michelle Obama using this act. This number contrasts sharply with the other one, which is the indirect speech act, where it is only used 37 (13.86%) times by Michelle Obama.

Furthermore, the different ways Michelle Obama used in conveying her speeches, whether it is directly or indirectly will be elaborated as follows.

### a. Directly

The relationship between structure and function is the criterion to distinguish direct speech and indirect speech. In direct speech act the speaker explicitly states their intended meaning behind the utterances. So, the speaker utterances can be understood by the hearers directly.

As shown on the table 2 above, in this research, the researcher found that there are 230 occurrences of direct speech acts used by Michelle Obama in conveying the illocutionary acts when delivering her speeches to the audience. The speech excerpts below are some samples of direct speech acts used by Michelle Obama in her first speech.

**Data I (No. 8)**

*I want to start by thanking your fabulous governor, your next US senator, Maggie Hassan. I want to thank her for that lovely introduction. (line 6-7)*

**Data I (No. 19)**

*See, on Tuesday, at the White House, we celebrated the International Day of the Girl and Let Girls Learn, and it was a wonderful celebration. (line 22-23)*

**Data I (No. 21)**

*It was the last event that I'm going to be doing as first lady for Let Girls Learn. (23-24)*

In reference to Michelle Obama's utterances in her first speech on the data above, it is clearly seen from the structures of those utterances that Michelle was thanking to someone, and also retelling, and informing the audience about something. All of those data was delivered directly by Michelle Obama. For thanking, it is clearly seen when she used word 'thank'. For retelling, it is also clearly seen that Michelle directly retelling the audience about the event she held on Tuesday at the White House by using past tense, afterward she directly inform the audience that it would be her last time to celebrate it as a First Lady of United States. Through those statements, the audience did not have to analyze it deeply to know the intended meaning of those utterances, because it was already uttered by Michelle Obama explicitly.

**b. Indirectly**

In contrast to the direct speech act, the indirect speech act occurs when there is an indirect relationship between a structure and a function. In indirect speech act the speaker does not explicitly state the intended meaning behind the utterances. It is the hearer's task to analyze the utterance to understand its meaning.

As mentioned before, there are 37 occurrences of indirect speech acts used by Michelle Obama in conveying the illocutionary acts when delivering her speeches to the audience found in this research. Here are some samples of indirect speech acts used by Michelle Obama in conveying the illocutionary acts when delivering her second political campaign speech.

**Data II (No. 1)**

*Wow! Whoa! Look at those guys! (line 1)*

**Data II (No. 3)**

*Wow! Look at you all, there are a lot of you all in here. (line 1-2)*

The two displayed data above are classified as indirect speech acts. It is because the communicative function of those statements has an indirect relationship with their structural form. Where, as seen on those data, the structural form of those data is directives and a declarative. However, through those statements, Michelle Obama was trying to express her feeling of

surprised by seeing so many attendees coming to her political campaign in supporting Hillary Clinton.

Another data of indirect speech act that found in Michelle Obama's second speech is elaborated as follows.

## **Data II (No. 29)**

*See and when you grow up like us -- doing your best to keep it all together -- you come in contact with all kinds of people. And yes, you witness a lot of struggles and hardships. But let me tell you, you also see so many triumph, so much beauty so much joy. (line 59-62)*

The data above is also an indirect speech act found in Michelle Obama's second speech. Different from the previous explanations of the data of indirect speech acts. In this data, the structural form and its communicative function is in a same line. Where, its form was a declarative, and its function was to make an information. But, the information that Michelle was trying to give to the audience is not same as seen on the statement above. However, through that statement, Michelle was trying to inform the audience that she, Barack Obama, and Hillary Clinton grew up just like what she said before that statement. She also wanted to inform the audience that they witnessed a lot of struggles and hardships, and also saw so many triumphs.

Referring to the all the data of indirect speech acts above, the intended meaning of those utterances are not expressed explicitly by Michelle Obama, where the audience have to analyze it first to know the intended meaning of those utterances.

## **3. Discussions**

This part presents discussion section based on the findings of this research. The research is concerned on the classification of the type of illocutionary acts used by Michelle Obama in delivering her political campaign speeches in supporting Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine in Presidential Election of the United States 2016 based on John R. Searle's theory. Further, this research also focused on determining the way she conveyed the illocutionary acts when delivering her speeches to the audience, whether it is directly or indirectly.

Based on Searle's theory, there are five types of illocutionary acts which are known as representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. As shown in findings section, from all of those types, there are only four types used by Michelle Obama in delivering her political campaign speeches. The declarative type of illocutionary acts is not found in the data studied. There are 268 data belong to the practice of illocutionary acts which classified into each type through comprehensive analysis. These findings were similar with three previous researches as mentioned by the researcher in the second chapter. Those researches entitled *The Analysis of Illocutionary Acts of Jokowi's Speeches* (2015) conducted by Eko Prasetyo Nugroho Saputro; *Speech Acts and Communication Strategies Used by Donald Trump's Presidential Campaign in Tampa, Florida* (2017) by Mochamad Dicky Kurniawan; *A Pragmatics Analysis of Illocutionary' Acts in*

*English Teaching-Learning Process at SMAN 1 Wates Kulonprogo* (2015) by Destra Wibowo Kusumo. Those three previous studies also discovered the types of illocutionary acts on the objects using Searle's theory. And the final results of those studies also showed that there was no declarative act found. However, the other case discussed in this research is different with those three studies. Because in the first research, Eko focused on the reason of performing the illocutionary acts viewed from the context of situation underlying president Jokowi's speeches; In the second research, Mochamad focused on the communication strategies used by Donald Trump in his campaign; In the third research, Destra focused on identifying the illocutionary functions used by English teachers in teaching-learning process at SMAN 1 Wates Kulonprogo. Meanwhile, in this research, the researcher focused on the way Michelle Obama conveyed the illocutionary that she used in delivering her speeches.

As said on the paragraph above, there is no declarative act found in Michelle Obama's political campaign speeches. As explained in the chapter 2, this illocutionary act is special. Where, the performers of this illocutionary act must have the institutional role in specific context to perform this act appropriately. Further, this act also performed in very specific place and events (settings) e.g. a priest when pronouncing a couple as husband and wife, a judge in a court when sentencing a defendant guilty or not, a director of a company when firing her employee, and a major when opening a new city bridge. Furthermore, the declarative act uses specific illocutionary force indicative device, e.g. "I declare that...", "I pronounce that...", "I sentence that...", etc.

In a speech, especially a political campaign speech, the declarative acts is rarely found. It can be performed, for instance, when the orator open or close the campaign speech (e.g. "I declare this campaign is opened" and "I declare this campaign ends"). Nevertheless, Michelle Obama simply used greeting and leave-taking function (expressive act) to open and close her political campaign speeches, therefore there is no declarative acts found in this research.

Later on, as said in the previous paragraph above, this research is also focused on determining the way Michelle Obama conveyed the illocutionary acts that she used when delivering her speeches to the audience. According to Searle's theory, there are two ways to convey the illocutionary acts, namely directly (direct speech act) and indirectly (indirect speech act). As shown in the findings of this research, those two ways were used by Michelle Obama.

Furthermore, as shown on table 6 in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that Michelle mostly conveyed the illocutionary acts she used in a direct way to help the audience to understand the intended meanings of each utterance she gave in delivering her political campaign speeches.

After classifying the types of illocutionary acts as well as determining the way Michelle Obama delivered her political campaign speeches, the researcher realizes that it is not easy to determine the classification of the type of illocutionary acts, because there would be a possibility that one sentence contained two or more illocutionary acts and can be interpreted interchangeably. Thus it also pinpoints the idea that language has no fixed

meaning, it is arbitrary and the interpretation is based on the context, setting and the speaker. Hence, by conducting this research, the researcher has deeper ideas on how language works in the society related to the background knowledge that the researcher has studied.

## **E. CONCLUSIONS**

First, from 267 data that have been analyzed by the researcher there are only four types of illocutionary acts found in Michelle Obama political campaign speeches in supporting Hillary Clinton in United States presidential election 2016 which held in New Hampshire and Arizona. The first type is representative acts which consist of informing, stating, convincing, recognizing, affirming, retelling, and reminding. The second type is directive acts that consist of inviting, requesting, forbidding and questioning. The next type is commissive act which consists only promising. The last type is expressive acts which indicate thanking, greeting, expression of feeling, and state of pleasure. Further, from those 267 of illocutionary acts used by Michelle Obama, the researcher found that 230 data of illocutionary acts were conveyed in direct way and 37 data are conveyed in indirect way. Therefore, it can be said that the most way that Michelle Obama used in conveying the illocutionary acts when delivering her political campaign speeches were directly.

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