

**THE FUNCTION OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN JOE BIDEN'S SPEECH IN MIDST
OF THE UKRAINE AND RUSSIA CONFLICT**



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BY:

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LEGITIMATION

THESIS

**THE FUNCTION OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN JOE BIDEN'S SPEECH IN MIDST OF
THE UKRAINE AND RUSSIA CONFLICT**

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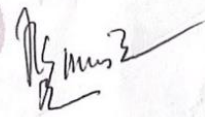
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On January 30, 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Umy Keyla (F041191044) entitled *The Function Of Illocutionary Acts By Searle & Austin In Joe Biden's Speech In Midst Of The Ukraine and Russia Conflict* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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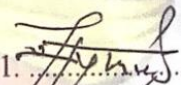
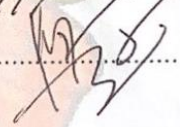
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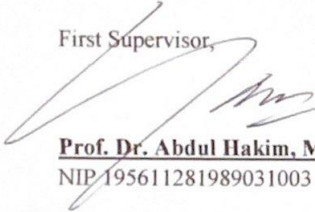
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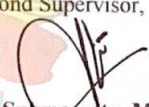
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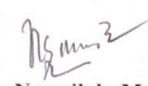
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Makassar, January 20th, 2023

The Writer,

(Umy Keyla)

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ABSTRACT

Umy Keyla Functions of Illocutionary Acts by Searle and Austin in Joe Biden's Speech in the Middle of the Ukraine and Russia Conflict. (Supervised by Abdul Hakim Yassi and Sukmawaty).

This study **aims** to: 1) identify the categories of illocutionary acts found in the narrative speech by Joe Biden in the middle of the war conflict between Russia and Ukraine; and 2) analyze the prominent sorts of illocutionary acts in Joe Biden's speech.

This research use a descriptive qualitative research methodology. The research data was collected from the narrative text of Joe Biden's speech which was officially distributed on the White House website. The category of illocutionary acts use the theory from Austin and then refined by John R. Searle. Data analysis was carried out in many steps, first gathering the narrative from Joe Biden's speech and then solving and summing up the speech acts. The second stage was to investigate each speech act and determine the illocutionary act. Last, calculate the percentage of types of illocutionary acts and establishing the dominate forms of illocutionary acts in Joe Biden's speech.

Based on the research results, five types of illocutionary acts are found, namely Assertive, Commissive, Directive, Declaration, Expressive in Joe Biden's speech. Furthermore, the percentage values for each type of illocutionary act are found as follows; Assertive (51.29%), Commissive (17.94%), Expressive (7.70%), Directive (12.82%), and Declaration (10.25%).

Keywords: speech, Joe Biden, illocutionary act, Russia, Ukraine.

ABSTRAK

Umy Keyla Fungsi Tindak Ilokusi Oleh Searle dan Austin Dalam Pidato Joe Biden Di Tengah Konflik Ukraina dan Russia. (Dibimbing oleh Abdul Hakim Yassi dan Sukmawaty).

Penelitian ini berfungsi untuk: 1) mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis tindak ilokusi yang ditemukan dalam narasi pidato oleh Joe Biden di tengah konflik perang antara Russia dan Ukraina; dan 2) menganalisis tipe tindak ilokusi yang dominan di dalam pidato Joe Biden.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Data penelitian diambil dari teks narasi pidato Joe Biden yang dirilis secara resmi di halaman website White House. Kategori tindak ilokusi menggunakan teori dari Austin lalu dikembangkan oleh John R. Searle. Analisis data dilakukan dengan beberapa langkah, pertama mengumpulkan narasi dari pidato Joe Biden lalu memisahkan dan menjumlahkan tindak tutur. Langkah kedua, yaitu menganalisis setiap tindak tutur dan menentukan tindak ilokusi. Terakhir, menghitung presentase jenis-jenis tindak ilokusi dan menentukan jenis tindak ilokusi yang dominan pada pidato Joe Biden.

Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, ditemukan lima jenis tindak ilokusi, yaitu Assertive, Commissive, Directive, Declaration, Expressive di dalam pidato Joe Biden. Selanjutnya, ditemukan nilai presentase setiap jenis tindak ilokusi sebagai berikut ; Assertive (51.29%), Commissive (17.94%), Expressive (7.70%), Directive (12.82%), dan Declaration (10,25%).

Keywords : pidato, Joe Biden, tindak ilokusi, Rusia, Ukraina

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

According to Buck and Arthur (2002: 522-528), types of communication are divided into two, namely verbal and non-verbal. Verbal communication is conveying messages through spoken words as a basis. While nonverbal communication is conveying messages or communicating through body movements, for example, eye blinks, facial expressions, etc.

There are various branches of linguistics, one of the branch is pragmatics.. Based on Betty J. Birner in the book 'Introduction to Pragmatics' (2013), in order to use language correctly, pragmatic knowledge is needed. Then like the field of linguistics in general, it is implicitly known in a certain arrangement but on explicit examination sometimes it cannot be found. Although many scholars have described the science of pragmatics, but without changing the conception or remaining the same in providing information about pragmatics (Thijittang, 2010).

Pragmatics plays a role in the use of communication. In addition to communication, in pragmatics there is also the concept of speech acts. In its use, it is possible for the speech act to produce the same meaning that the speaker intended, but it is also possible for it to form a meaning that is different or even completely opposite. This, of course, gives rise to a variety of speech acts, each of which is influenced by a

variety of circumstances, including the context in which it is delivered and the speaker's intended goal in delivering it.

Speech acts can be analyzed into three parts, namely locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. Even if a person only speaks, there is an implication for the listener. Quoted from Wardaugh (1986: 287), Searle (1983) states that this illocutionary act is usually done intentionally. Furthermore, the requirement for communication to be understood by other speakers is that the first one is spoken correctly and also standardly. Then the second is to fulfill the five classifications in illocutionary acts so that the truth can be stated. In addition, the five parts of illocutionary acts are assertive, directive, commissive, expressive and declaration. To determine what illocutionary acts are performed, we must determine in what way we use locutions: ask or answer questions, provide information or guarantees or warnings, announce decisions or intentions, say sentences, make promises or appeals or criticisms, make identification or provide information, and numerous like. (Austin 1962:98)

As an example of the use of speech acts that occur in Thailand based on Thijittang (2010), the explicit display of the apology strategy, in particular, 'khawthot' (ขอโทษ) literally meaning 'to apologize', is considered the most common and means 'to apologize'. socially neutral in Thai. This implies that in Thai society, when a violation has occurred, the expression 'khaw thot' (ขอโทษ) is commonly used. Also, the short word 'thot' (โทษ) is used when the situation at hand is informal.

In this research, the writer takes Joe Biden's speech as the object of illocutionary act analysis. For information, Joe Biden is a political figure in the United States and served as President who won the election vote in November 2020 defeating Donald Trump.

Many controversial statements were conveyed in Joe Biden's speech, especially his speech on the issue of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. It was previously known that in early 2022 the conflict between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was raised again. For that, Joe Biden said he would help Ukraine along with other countries that are members of an international organization called NATO.

As a result, the Russian President is increasingly launching an invasion of Ukraine.

Then in the midst of the commotion of this cold war, Joe Biden gave a speech containing various criticisms of the Russian state to stop the attack on Ukraine. One of the controversial parts of Joe Biden's speech is as follows:

"In today's actions, we have now sanctioned Russian banks that together hold around \$1 trillion in assets.

We've cut off Russia's largest bank — a bank that holds more than one third of Russia's banking assets by itself — cut it off from the U.S. financial system.

And today, we're also blocking four more major banks. That means every asset they have in America will be frozen. This includes V.T.B., the second-largest bank in Russia, which has \$250 billion in assets.

As promised, we're also adding names to the list of Russian elites and their family members that are sanctioning — that we're sanctioning as well."

"Some of the most powerful impacts of our actions will come over time as we squeeze Russia's access to finance and technology for strategic sectors of its economy and degrade its industrial capacity for years to come.

Between our actions and those of our Allies and partners, we estimate that we'll cut off more than half of Russia's high-tech imports." (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/02/24/remarks-by-president-biden-on-russias-unprovoked-and-unjustified-attack-on-ukraine/>)

Supposedly as president of a country that has a lot of power, Joe Biden seems to be taking sides and choosing not to be neutral in this conflict. Even in this case, he made the conflict even more complicated with the statement he gave in his speech. To get a more detailed explanation of Joe Biden's speech, a pragmatic meaning approach is required. For example, in the speech, despite the full support of Joe Biden and the threat to Russia, this cold war has not been resolved. Therefore, this study analyzes the illocutionary acts in Joe Biden's speech about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Researchers have a reason for choosing Joe Biden's speech, namely because the case discussed by Joe Biden is contemporaneous and ongoing. Furthermore, in the linguistic phenomenon, the contents of the American president's speech contain various meanings to be conveyed to the public, even if they appear controversial.

B. Identification of Problem

The researcher identifies some problems which relate to her study in the Speech of Joe Biden's :

1. It is difficult to understand the function and the type of illocutionary acts in the utterance.
2. There is a possibility that people misinterpret the message delivered in the speech.
3. The obscurity in identifying the dominant type of illocutionary act in Joe Biden's narrative speech.

C. Scope of Problem

The researcher is interested in examining the illocutionary acts that were utilized in Joe Biden's address in the midst of the war between Ukraine and Russia. This interest is based on the identification of the problem. Therefore, in order to be more particular, the researcher focuses more on examining the five different forms of illocutionary acts based on Searle's theory and types of Illocutionary that are employed in the speech. Moreover, the writer aims to determine which illocutionary acts predominates in Joe Biden's narrative speech. The fact that the speech was delivered by one of the most powerful people in the world is another reason why researcher are interested in evaluating it.

D. Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the author would like to conduct research in line with these research question as follows:

1. What is the most dominant type of illocutionary act from the data sample of Joe Biden's speech?
2. How many types of Assertive, Commissive, Directive, Declarative, Expressive in Joe Biden's speech?

E. Objectives of the study

1. To analyze the most dominant type of illocutionary act from Joe Biden's speech data sample.
2. To analyze how many types of Assertive, Commissive, Directive, Declaration, Expressive in Joe Biden's speech.

F. Significances of The Study

It is anticipated that the outcomes of this research will be helpful for students and readers, in particular for students of the Department of English who seek to enhance their understanding of illocutionary activities.

Furthermore, the writer hopes that students or readers can broaden their horizons about the illocutionary act and identify the illocutionary act. Overall, the

author hopes to assist future studies interested in the study of illocutionary acts and desiring references from this study's findings.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter provides an explanation of the description of the literature that is pertinent to the subject of the research. Some examples of this description include pragmatics, speech actions, felicity requirement, and topic framework.

It also gives the outcomes of similar research that had been undertaken in the past. Each is described as follow :

A. Previous Study

The study of speech acts, particularly illocutionary acts, has been the subject of a great number of research. These research are highly helpful in establishing the theory of speech acts, which is the thesis of the study. The theory of speech actions in this chapter, some relevant articles from journals and theses have been quoted, also a comparison of their similarities and differences has been conducted. These are 3 researches results reviewed by the author as follows:

1. Ahmad Zuhri Rosyidi; Mahyuni; Muhaimi in 2019. Illocutionary Speech Acts Use by Jokowi in First Indonesia Presidential Election Debate 2019

The research in inquiry was qualitative and descriptive. This project aims to classify the many illocutionary tactics employed by Joko Widodo during the 2019 Indonesian presidential election's first debate. It utilized a descriptive qualitative approach, which consisted of observing the discussion and collecting data from the argument, combined with references to the linguistics of theories derived from relevant literature

sources. The data for this study was extracted from a speech delivered by Jokowi during the 2019 Indonesian presidential election debate. This discourse contains elements of illocutionary speech activities. A lot of significant facts have been uncovered through the research. The author discovered and analyzed thirteen instances of illocutionary conduct. The author of this study owns data on illocutionary acts that will be used in the 2019 presidential election discussion, and this paper contains such data. There were 6 data included in the Assertive illocutionary speech act, 3 data included in the Directive illocutionary act, 3 data included in the Expressive illocutionary speech act, and 1 data included in the Commissive illocutionary speech act.

2. Ardita Dylgjer in 2017. ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ACTS IN POLITICAL SPEECHES

The assigning of meanings to the material presented in political speeches is greatly aided by the recognition of the many sorts of speech actions that are used. To put it another way, the speech acts are what bring the meaning of the speeches to the forefront. As can be seen, the process of saying anything, or the act of saying something, itself involves the performance of additional speech acts. The character of the speaker can be inferred from the speech acts that are included in a text. The examination of the winning candidate Edi Rama's speech reveals that it is characterized by the employment of commissive speech acts. This is especially true after a lengthy political campaign that filled the people's hearts and minds with high aspirations, expectations, and promises of a better future. At this point, all that is left

for him to do is display enthusiasm, express thanks, make pledges to the people, and push them to work even more in order to fully realize his electoral objective. As a result, the commissive acts constitute the biggest proportion of illocutionary acts committed, followed by the aggressive acts and the expressive acts. The application of the Speech Act Theory as a framework for analyzing the selected speech allows us to explore the linguistic choices made by this political figure.

3. Hazhar Ramadhan Ahmed, Shamaila Amir, Fayyaz Ahmad in 2020. A Speech Act Analysis of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan's Speech at UNGA with respect to Islamophobia.

Data analysis indicates that in this section of Imran Khan's speech, representative speech acts were utilized more frequently than any other kind of speech acts. The data also revealed that, while discussing islamophobia, Imran Khan offered questions to the audience prior to elaborating on their perception, showing that he meant to challenge or reject the responses he imagined were in their minds. The selected speech segment has a total of 94 speech acts, 83 of which were illocutionary and so investigated.

The overlap between speech act classifications was also investigated. The study also examined the direct and indirect speech act categories. As representative acts were utilized frequently (52 out of 83 times), the usage of representations may symbolize the factual, informative, and supportive nature of Imran Khan as well as what he considers to be true or not. Through the use of largely direct speaking, it is evident that

the Prime Minister was very clear in his aims and notions as he shared facts and information with the audience.

The second most common behavior (20 out of 83) was expressive, which reveals the Prime Minister's thoughts and psychological state, as well as the method in which he conveyed pain, wrath, or sorrow in regard to Islamophobia. Khan demanded only two measures, namely that Muslim leaders communicate the true nature of Islam to the world and that the western world refrain from actions that inflict suffering on Muslims and compel them to respond.

Consequently, it can be concluded that the majority of the Prime Minister's speech consisted of facts and information intended to express his feelings and psychological state as a representative of his people, while demanding certain actions from the representatives of various nations in UNGA to cater Islamophobia, i.e. the west should not defame, insult, or ridicule the Prophet of Islam Muhammad (PBUH).

Based on the three previous studies, the researchers of this study found differences between this study and previous studies. The difference lies in the object of study and the theory used. Illocutionary acts were used in all studies as research subjects. The results of all studies show the similarity of what the research wants to investigate. All studies try to capture several types of illocutionary acts used and their meanings in each speech context such as in speech texts. Each researcher found differences in the use of each type of illocutionary related to the context of the subject. In the first study, Ahmad Zuhri Rosyidi; Mahuni; Muhaimi (2019) uses the speech of act theory from Searle as the basis for their research results. For the second study,

Ardita Dylgjer (2017) used the speech act theory by Austin as the material for his research. While in the third study by Hazhar Ramadhan Ahmed, Shamaila Amir, Fayyaz Ahmad (2020) it was found that the speech of act theory by Austin and Searle was used as the theoretical basis in this research. Then, in research one and two, both of them used qualitative methods in the study. However, the third study used mixed methods, namely qualitative and quantitative.

B. Theoretical Background

1. PRAGMATIC

One of the subfields of linguistics that developed in the 1970s is known as pragmatics. In this study, participants were placed in a basic speaking context and asked to analyze and construct a communicative act, also known as a speech act. The study of meaning as it is delivered by a speaker or writer and as it is understood by listeners or readers is the focus of the academic discipline of pragmatics, stated by Yule (1996: 46). In addition, he provided a definition of pragmatics that included (1) the investigation of the speaker's aim, (2) the significance of the surrounding environment, (3) the manner in which more information is communicated than is explicitly expressed, and (4) the representation of relative distance. In addition, he mentioned that the study of the connection between linguistic forms and the people who employ them is known as pragmatics. According to him, the benefit of studying language using a pragmatic method is that it teaches us about the meaning, assumptions, and goals that persons

have when they communicate, as well as the many types of actions that they do when they do so. According to Mey (1993:18), pragmatics is a subject of linguistics and semiotics that investigates the ways in which context affects the interpretation of signs. More specifically, pragmatics focuses on how context influences the meaning of words. Talk in interaction, conversational implicature, speech act theory, and other approaches to the study of language behavior from the fields of philosophy, sociology, linguistics, and anthropology are all included in the study of pragmatics, which is the study of language behavior. Austin questioned the conventional philosophical premise that "the task of a phrase can only be to 'report' some state of events or 'claim some fact,' which it must accomplish either correctly or fraudulently." Austin's criticism was published in 1962 and was mentioned in Cutting: 14. He came to the conclusion that there are many ways to employ words that, at first glance, are similar to declarations of fact, but which, on closer inspection, are very different. Explicit performatives, such as "You're fired" and "I quit," are not used to make simple claims; rather, they are used to convey the meaning of implicit performatives, such as "You're making an error that we cannot allow." "You should search for new work." and "I wish to gain more experience at a different company because I cannot find it here."

According to the preceding definitions, pragmatics is the study of the speaker's intentions or goals behind the words they stated in relation to their context. Moreover, one of the pragmatic branches, speech acts, is devoted to the investigation of the speaker's intended meaning.

2. SPEECH ACTS

The word "speech acts" refers to the actions that are carried out in the process of making an utterance, as stated by Austin (1962, as cited in Cutting 2002: 16), and the concept was coined by Cutting (2002). For instance, when a person says "I will invite you to the party," they are conveying their desire to carry out the action of inviting at some point in the not-too-distant future, such as when they say "I will invite you to the party." Speech acts were described as "activities done by utterances," according to Yule (1996: 47), who offered a definition of speech acts in a similar fashion. For instance, when a person says, "I like you," that person then anticipates that whatever it is that they have to say will have an effect on the person who is listening to them. This is due to the fact that the speaker feels that his or her words have the ability to bring about the desired effect. According to Austin (1962), as cited in Cutting 2002: 16, the action that is carried out when an utterance is created can be broken down into three distinct levels, which are referred to as locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts respectively.

3. Illocutionary Acts

An action that is successful in accomplishing an objective for either the speaker or the hearer is referred to as an illocutionary act. According to Leech (1983: 199), the performance of an act in which one says anything is considered an illocutionary act. It is also feasible to speak of an inferred level when referring to an act of illocutionary

speech. "The illocutionary act is achieved via the communicative face of an utterance," Yule said in 1996 (page 48), and this is the meaning that a speaker had in mind when they made their remark. To illustrate this point, let's imagine that someone in a room says something along the lines of "It is quite dark here," with the intention of convincing the listener to switch on the light. In addition to this, he stressed the fact that it is not always easy to recognize the particular illocutionary acts that the speaker engages in while carrying on a discussion. In this example, the speaker use a number of different signals to not only give the audience an indication as to what he plans to do, but also to explain how the statement should be perceived. These cues range from the most obvious, like unambiguous performative verbs, to the more obtuse, like numerous paralinguistic aspects, like stress, timbre, and intonation, and word order. The most obvious cues are unambiguous performative verbs. Illocutionary Force Indicating Devices, or IFID for short, are what Yule refers to as all of these signs or, more accurately, components that have an effect on the interpretation of the speech. He refers to them in this manner in allusion to the work that Searle has accomplished in the past. On the basis of Austin's theory (1969), Searle (1975; 52-56) classified illocutionary acts into the following five categories: declarative, assertive, expressive, directive, and commissive. Searle's classification was based on lines 52-56, Yule (1996) provides further elaboration on these categories by stating them as follows:

1) Declaratives

Declaratives are utilized in situations in which the speaker wants to encourage the audience to take some sort of action. The speaker's intention in these types of speech

actions is to have their words have an effect on the outside world. To correctly perform declarations, the speaker needs to have a specific institutional position inside a particular context that may be used to represent it. This allows the speaker to correctly represent the declaration. Following is an illustration of this speech act: The jury has come to the conclusion that the defendant is guilty. The statement that was stated above is an example of a speech act that was performed by the foreman of the jury. He announces that the defendant is to be found guilty. (Yule, 1996: 53).

2) Representatives

The speaker is able to make the words correspond to the world or the thought by engaging in symbolic actions (Yule 1996:53). The purpose of a representative speech is to persuade the person giving the speech that the propositional content of the utterance is accurate. This is accomplished by presenting evidence to support the speaker's perspective. Statements of fact, assertions, conclusions, and descriptions are all examples of acts of communication that fall under this category. The example that follows serves to explain the application of the type:

- a) Our planet is flat.
- b) Chomsky did not publish any works on peanuts.

These two instances are widely accepted truths around the world. The earth is indeed flat, and Chomsky did not write about peanuts (Yule 1996: 53).

3) Expressives

Verbal activities known as expressives are those that allow the speaker to communicate their sentiments. Either the person who is speaking or the person who is listening can bring it about. They are able to convey a variety of mental states, including pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, contentment, or despair (Yule, 1996: 53). The speaker's mood may be responsible for these actions of expressive behavior. The speaker conveys their feelings through the use of this category of speech act (disapproval, dissatisfaction, fury, etc.). The examples of this speaking act are presented in the following paragraphs.

a) I sincerely apologize!

b) Many felicitations!

Example (a) is used to express pity or remorse towards a person, while Example (b) is used to congratulate someone (Yule, 1996: 53).

4) Directives

When someone gives a direction, they are trying to persuade the listener to commit to doing something specific. The desires of the speaker are communicated through directives. The expression "directives" can refer to either commands, requests, or suggestions. Examples of directions can be found in the following sentences:

a) *You may ask*

b) *Would you make me a cup of tea? Don't touch that.*

In the first illustration (a), the language serves the purpose of making a request to the hearer in an effort to convince them to do what the speaker proposes. In the second

illustration (b), the speaker makes use of a question to inquire as to whether or not the listener will be preparing a cup of tea. In this particular scenario, the speaker is not expecting an affirmative or negative response from the hearer. The final illustration is a command that compels the hearer to act in a manner consistent with the expectations of the speaker (Yule, 1996: 54).

5) Commissives

If a speaker makes use of commissives, it is reasonable to assume that they will eventually carry out an action at some point in the future. It is possible that it will take the form of threats, promises, pledges, and threats. It is up to the speaker to decide whether they will carry out these tasks on their own or as part of a larger group. This method of communication is demonstrated by the following example:

- a) I will be right back.
- b) I'm going to get it right next time.
- c) We will not perform that action.

It is possible to deduce, based on the three examples that were shown earlier, that the content of the commissive is related to the future and an action that the speaker plans to take in the near future. The use of the modal "will" or "to be going to" in certain regulations, conditions, and situations signifies a promise in which it is considered to be a commissive (Yule, 1996: 54).

Furthermore, Searle (in Rahardi, 2005:36) classifies illocutionary speech acts into five types of speech forms, each of which has a communicative function. The five types of speech forms that show this function can be summarized as follows:

1. Assertive namely the form of speech that binds the speaker to the truth of the proposition being expressed, for example, stating, suggesting, boasting, complaining, and claiming.
2. Directives, That is, the way of talking that the speaker wants to get the other person to act, like ordering, commanding, begging, advising, and recommending.
3. Expressives is a form of speech that functions to express or show the speaker's psychological attitude towards a situation, for example, thanking, congratulating, pardoning, blaming, praising, or condoling.
4. Commissives, namely the form of speech that functions to express promises or offers, for example, promising, swearing, and offering something
5. Declarations, That is the form of speech that connects the content of the speech with reality, for example, resigning, dismissing, baptizing, naming, appointing, excommunicating, and punishing.

C. Theoretical Framework

