

**ILLOCUTIONARY ACT ANALYSIS IN GRETA THUNBERG'S SPEECH IN  
UNITED NATION CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT  
IN NEW YORK CITY**



**THESIS**

Submitted to The Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University as Partial  
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**THESIS**  
**ILLOCUTIONARY ACT ANALYSIS IN GRETA THUNBERG'S SPEECH IN**  
**UNITED NATION CLIMATE ACTION IN NEW YORK CITY**

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It has been examined before the Board of the Thesis Examination on  
Friday, 16<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 and is declared to have fulfilled the requirements.

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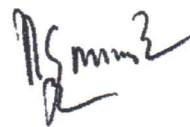
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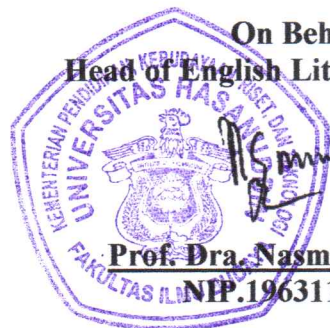
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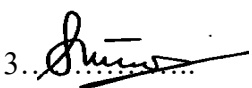
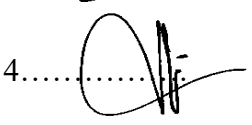


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**AGREEMENT**

On Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by FAGIL MUHAMMAD (F041171522) entitled, **ILLOCUTIONARY ACT ANALYSIS IN GRETA THUNBERG'S SPEECH IN UNITED NATION CLIMATE ACTION IN NEW YORK CITY**, submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S.) Degree at the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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**DECLARATION**

The thesis by **FAGIL MUHAMMAD (F041171027)** entitled, **ILLOCUTIONARY ACT ANALYSIS IN GRETA THUNBERG'S SPEECH IN UNITED NATION CLIMATE ACTION IN NEW YORK CITY** has been revised as advised during the examination on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by myself, This thesis does not contain any materials that have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotations and references.

Makassar, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024



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The writer realize that this thesis is still far from the thing we called perfection. Therefore, the writer would glad to receive both feedback and critic that can be useful in order to improve both the writer and the study of this thesis.

Makassar, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**Fagil Muhammad**



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## ABSTRAK

**FAGIL MUHAMMAD.** Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in Greta Thunberg's Speech in the UN Climate Action Summit in New York. (Dibimbing oleh Abidin Pammu dan Sitti Sahraeny).

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis tindak ilokusi dalam Greta Thunberg speech UN Climate Action Summit in New York. Selain mencari tau mengenai jenis tindak ilokusi dalam pidato tersebut, penulis juga mencoba untuk penggunaan diksi denotatif dan konotatif dalam pidato tersebut untuk menggolongkan jenis penggunaan tindak ilokusi dalam pidato dimaksud.

Didalam menyelesaikan skripsi ini, penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif, dimana pengumpulan data didalam penelitian ini melalui observasi literatur. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori dari Searle mengenai Speech Act sebagai teori utama. Kerangka berpikir dalam penelitian ini menekankan kepada diksi dan tindak tutur.

Hasil dari penelitian yang telah dilakukan menunjukkan bahwa pidato dari Greta Thunberg termasuk dalam tindak ilokusi karena termasuk Teknik menyampaikan suatu hal yang menunjukkan tujuan yang spesifik. Selain itu, diperoleh informasi bahwa Greta Thunberg dalam pidatonya menggunakan dua diksi yakni denotatif dan konotatif untuk menyampaikan isi pidatonya agar dapat diterima oleh pendengar. Selain itu, penulis juga menemukan bahwa jenis tindak ilokusi yang digunakan dan secara dominan disampaikan oleh Greta Thunberg adalah tindak ilokusi langsung (directives illocutionary act).

*Katakunci: PBB, pidato, tindak tutur, tindak ilokusi.*

## ABSTRACT

**FAGIL MUHAMMAD.** Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in Greta Thunberg's Speech in the UN Climate Action Summit in New York. (Supervised by Abidin Pammu and Sitti Sahraeny).

This study aims to analyse the illocutionary acts in Greta Thunberg's speech in the UN Climate Action Summit in New York. In addition to finding out about the types of illocutionary acts in the speech, the author also used denotative and connotative diction in the speech to classify the types of use of illocutionary acts in the speech.

In completing this thesis, the author uses a qualitative method, where data collection in this research is through literature observation. This research uses Searle's theory of Speech Act as the main theory. The framework in this research emphasises on diction and speech act.

The result of the research shows that Greta Thunberg's speech is included in the illocutionary act because it includes the technique of conveying something that shows a specific purpose. In addition, the information obtained is that Greta Thunberg in her speech uses two diction namely denotative and connotative to convey the content of her speech so that it can be accepted by the listeners. In addition, the author also found that the type of illocutionary act used and dominantly delivered by Greta Thunberg is directives illocutionary act.

*Keywords: UN, speech, speech act, illocutionary act.*

## **CHAPTER**

### **I INTRODUCTION**

In chapter one, the writer explained the background of the study, identification of the problem, research questions, objectives of the study, and the significance of the study.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

As a tool of communication, language is an essential thing in the society. According to Chomsky (1957:13), "Language was a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, which each finite in length and constructed out of a finite set of elements". Language occupies an important role in the society. We could express our feeling, thought or opinion through language, both written and spoken. According to Wardhaugh (1987:1), language is a system of vocal symbols used for human communication. Communication is an important thing in our society since we could establish our relationship to one another. While communicating, we also convey a message or an information that will be useful for the hearer.

Communication refers to the action, by one or more people who send and receive messages, occurs in a certain context, has a certain influence, as well as the opportunity for feedback (in DeVito, 2011:24), so communication is a tool to convey messages that are used to achieve certain goals and obtain a response or feedback. This makes communication an important thing in the use of language. There are a lot of ways for human kind to express their thought and convey a message and one of them is through speech.

Speech is an ability that humans have to speak in public in order to express their feeling, opinion or give the society an important information.

Speech is performed by a person that tend to gives or share their important statement that are critical and ought to be discussed. A good speech can give a positive impression to the people who heard the speech. Ability to speak a good speech or in public. Speaking up publicly is not just the matter of giving or sharing an idea or important message, but also the speaker tend to give the hearer an effect. When someone giving a speech, they are not just sharing a beneficial information but also they want to persuade the hearer to take an action from the speech that they have heard. Action that caused by a speech is called a speech act.

Speech acts theory is a subfield of pragmatics which studies how words are used not only to present or served an information but also to carry out an actions. The speech acts theory was introduced by J.L. Austin and further developed by American philosopher J.R. Searle. Austin (in Tsui, 1994: 4) explained that speech acts are acts that refer to the action performed by produced utterances. According to Searle (1969:17-18), “The speech act or act performed in the utterances of a sentences are in general a function of the meaning of the sentence.”

Historically, speech act theory developed since the middle of the twentieth century, where the use of utterances such as requests, warnings, prediction, apologies, and the like are used in everyday conversation. Since that time, speech act theory has become influential not only within philosophy, but also in linguistics, psychology, legal theory, artificial intelligence, literary theory, and feminist thought among other scholarly disciplines (Gorman, 1999: 97).

One of the most important forms of speech communication today is speech on climate action since the issues regarding climate are always increasing, from climate change problems and others. As quoted on National Centre for

Atmospheric Science, that it's important to know how the climate is changing, so that we can prepare for the future. Climate affects nearly every aspect of our lives, from our food sources to our transport infrastructure, livelihoods, health, and the future. Therefore, the speech regarding those issues become important nowadays.

In order to resolve climate issues, the United Nations is one of the main stakeholder as a world organization regarding that, considering that Climate Action is the Goal 13 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, the United Nations also initiated the Paris Agreement which was adopted by countries to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius. The United Nations then organized the 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit which held in New York. At that event, there is a speech from Greta Thunberg regarding climate change. Therefore, this study is try to figure out kinds of speech act that existed in Greta Thunberg's speech in United Nation climate action summit in New York City. The reason why the writer chose this topic because speech has a powerful effect to persuade people. That's why I kind of interested to choose this topic since Greta Thunberg speech became a phenomena and shock much of politician around the world and many people supported what Greta has been spoken.



### **A. Identification of the Problems**

1. It is hard for some people to understand the concept of speech acts theory.
2. It is hard for some people to identify kinds of illocutionary acts in a sentence.
3. It is hard for some people to classify the dominant illocutionary acts of utterances of speech.
4. It is difficult to understand the direct and indirect illocutionary act used in Greta Thunberg's speech.

### **B. Research Questions**

This research is conducted to discover the answers to the research questions that have been formulated as follows :

1. What are the types of illocutionary acts found in Greta Thunberg's speech?
2. What are the meanings (direct and indirect illocutionary act) used in Greta Thunberg's speech?

### **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the research questions that have been formulated, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To find out what are the direct and indirect illocutionary acts used in Greta Thunberg speech
2. To reveal what are the types of illocutionary acts that found in Greta Thunberg's speech.

### **D. The Significance of the Study**

Theoretically, the writer expects that this study will give information about illocutionary acts that found in Greta Thunberg's speech in United Nations

Climate Action Summit in New York City. In addition, the writer also hope that this research add information to the reader in terms of the dominant illocutionary acts that found in this speech.

Practically, the writer hopes that this research could give a contribution in a certain field of science. Moreover, the writer also expect that this research could be a reference for those who are studying the same subject

## **CHAPTER**

### **II REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

In chapter two, the writer provides the review of literature; in this case the previous studies and the theoretical framework which provide information about semantics, figurative language and kinds of figurative language, and lastly diction and kinds of diction.

#### **A. Previous Studies**

In conducting a research, it is necessary for the writer to find and read some references that related to the writer research as a comparison. Therefore, the writer had search some previous studies that similar to the writer's research. As the writer found that there are a lot of previous research in the pragmatics field which discussed about the speech acts in many objects. Some of them are Fatmalasari (2012), Umar (2016), and Tutuarima, dkk (2018).

Fatmalasari (2012) studied about "Pragmatic Analysis of Indirect Speech Acts in "The Help" Film by Tate Taylor". The result of her study was she found out that there are 87 utterances that contains indirect speech act. She also concluded that the types of indirect speech act used by the character in The Help film are mostly directive and commissive. The character used these indirect speech act in requesting, questioning, threatening, and offering.

Umar (2016) studied about "The Analysis of Speech Act of President Joko Widodo in APEC Forum". The result of his study was he found out that the kinds of communication function in illocutionary act and perlocutionary act, there were 9 assertive (stating), 2 expressive (thanking), and commissives (offering and promise). Declarative utterances are not found in this research. . The researcher

concluded that assertive of stating and commissives of offering were usually used by President.

Tutuarima, dkk (2018) studied about “An Analysis of Speech Act Used in London Has Fallen Movie”. This research figures out the kinds of speech act and the classification of the illocutionary act used in London Has Fallen Movie. The result of the research shows that there are 76 utterances of speech act used, which is the most dominant is illocutionary act consist of 37 utterances. There are 99 utterances of the classification of the illocutionary act, and the most dominant categories are directive with 32 utterances and expressive with utterances.

After reading some previous studies above, the writer found out that there are several similarities and differences as well between the previous studies and the writer. The similarities between second previous studied and the writer research is the object of the research which is focusing on the speech. Then, another similarities also found between the third previous study and the writer research, which is both research is finding the most dominant type of illocutionary acts used in the object of the research. Beside those similarities, the writer also figure out the differences between the previous studies and the writer research. The first differences is found in the first previous study. The first previous study focusing on finding the indirect speech, while the writer research is focusing on finding the illocutionary acts. The writer also found another differences between the previous studies and the writer research is the first and the third previous studies chose film as the object of their research while the writer chose speech as the object of the research

## **B. Theoretical Framework**

### **1. Pragmatics**

Pragmatics is a field of linguistics that studied our choice of language in doing a conversation in society. The pragmatics also see the intention of the speaker utterances. According to Levinson (1983:1), “ Pragmatic is the study of the relation of signs to interpreter”. Another ideas in terms of pragmatics was come from Yule (1996:3). He stated that there are four areas which pragmatics concerned with; Pragmatics is the study of meaning, Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning, Pragmatics is the study of how to get more communicated than it is said, and lastly, Pragmatics is the study of the expression of relative distance.

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, “Pragmatic is relating to matter fo fact or practical affairs often to the exclusion of intellectual or artistic matters”. Pragmatics is consider of how to induce more communicated than it is said. This approach too essentially investigates on how the hearer can make impacts to what is said in arrange to reach at an interpretation of the speaker’s intended meaning. Levinson (1983:3) explained that pragmatics is the study of relation between langauge and context.

According to Rohali (2001:113) states that “pragmatics can also be said to be a study of the branch of linguistics that studies the pragmatics can also be said to be a study of the branch of linguistics that studies the how linguistic units are communicated in order to express intentions as the background to the utterance of an utterance.” Context determined speakers according to the situation of human language use. Pragmatics is used to know and understand the intentions of speech partners.

Therefore, pragmatics are showing how the meaning conveyed by a word or sentence depend on aspects of the context in which it is used. In pragmatics,

there is a specific approach to understand the meaning of a language. It is called speech acts which is the action that performed through the speaker's utterances.

## **2. Speech Act**

The speech act theory is reputable pragmatic concept that has imbued with research since its first appearance in 1962 until now. The historical tracers of this theory state that it has first engendered by Wittgenstein, the German philosopher, but has given some linguistic tint by Searle, later on.

### **1. Speech Act Theory by Searle**

Searle is a major proponent of the speech act theory inherits his ideas from Austin. According to Searle (1969:17-18), "The speech act or act performed in the utterances of a sentences are in general a function of the meaning of the sentence." The meaning of a sentence does not in all cases uniquely determine what speech act is performed in a given utterances of that sentence, for a speaker may mean more than what he actually says, but it always in principle possible for him to say exactly what he means. Therefore, it is in principle possible for every speech act one performs or could perform to be uniquely determined by a given sentence (or set of sentences), given the assumptions that the speaker is speaking literally and that the context is appropriate.

Since every meaningful sentence in virtue of its meaning can be used to perform a particular speech act (or range of speech acts), and since every possible speech act can in principle be given an exact formulation in a sentence or sentences, the study of meanings of sentences and the study of speech acts are not two independent studies but one study from two different points of view.

Searle in Rahardi (2005:35-36) in the Searle's book, "Speech acts An Essay in the Philosophy of Language", stating that in practice the use of language there are at least three kinds of speech acts. These are three kinds of speech acts that can be described as follows: Locutionary acts, Illocutionary acts, Perlocutionary acts.

**a. Locutionary Act**

Locutionary acts are a speech with words, phrases, and sentences, according to the meaning contained by words, phrases, and sentences that. This speech act may be cited as the act saying something. In a locutionary act are not question the purpose and function of the speech delivered by the speaker, so the speech of my hands itch for example, solely intended to inform the partner said that at the time at hand speaker said that the speaker said that the speech is in a state of itching. The following is the example of locutionary act : (Illustration : the student coming late to class) Teacher : What time is it? What the teacher said is called the locutionary acts since the teacher conveys a message to the student.

**b. Illocutionary Act**

Illocutionary act is an act of doing something with a purpose and a specific function anyway. Speech acts can be considered as the act of doing something. Speech my hands itch spoken speaker is solely intended to inform the partner said that said the speech was itching was lodged in hands of the speaker, but the speaker wants hearer to perform certain actions associated with itching on his hand.

According to Hurford (2007:273), Illocutionary act carried out

by a speaker making an utterance is the act viewed in terms of the utterance's significance within a conventional system of social interaction. One way to think about the illocutionary act is that it reflects the intention of the speaker in making the utterance in the first place. Illocutions are acts defined by social conventions, acts such as accosting, accusing, admitting, apologizing, challenging, complaining, condoling, congratulating, declining, deploring, giving permission, giving way, greeting, leavetaking, mocking, naming, offering, praising, promising, proposing marriage, protesting, recommending, surrendering, thanking, toasting.

Illocutionary acts are a concept from the field of pragmatics, a branch of linguistics, and they refer to the intended function or purpose of an utterance when spoken. The concept was introduced by the philosopher J.L. Austin and further developed by John Searle.

When someone performs an illocutionary act, they are not just saying something but are doing something with their words. For example, when someone says, "I apologize," they are not merely stating something but are actually performing the act of apologizing. Similarly, when a judge says, "I sentence you to five years in prison," the judge is not merely describing something but is actually issuing a sentence.

Furthermore, Searle in Rahardi (2005:35-36) classifies the communication function in illocutionary act divide into seven types. The fifth forms of speech that shows the functions that can be summarized as follow:



### **a. Representatives**

Representatives are types of illocutionary act that commit the speaker believe about something the truth or not. In performing this type of illocutionary act, it can be noted by some performative verbs, such as: state, tell, assert, correct, predict, report, remind, described, inform, assure, agree, guess, claim, believe, conclude, etc.

Examples:

1. *The Mars is the 4th planet in our solar system.* (Stating a fact)
2. *It was raining yesterday.* (Stating a fact)

### **b. Directives**

Directives are illocutionary act that attempts by the speaker to get the hearer to do something. They express about what they want directly to the hearer. It is commonly appear with some performative verbs such as: requesting, demanding, questioning, asking, proposing, advising, suggesting, interrogating, urging, encouraging, inviting, begging, ordering, and etc.

Examples :

*It is hot!* (Complaining, commanding, requesting) .

### **c. Commissives**

Commissives are kind of illocutionary act that is commit the speaker to some future course of action. In performing this type of illocutionary act, commonly using performative verbs such as:

ask, order, command, request, beg, plead, pray, entreat, invite, permit, advise, dare, defy, and challenge. In the case of commissives, the world is adapted to the words via the speaker him or herself.

Examples:

*I will come to your party.* (Promising)

#### **d. Declaratives**

Declaratives are kind of illocutionary acts that change the world via their utterances. As the example below, the speaker has to have special institutional role, in a specific context such as to pronounce, declare, baptize and sentence. The words that can be indicated into this type are curse, announce, declare, define, appoint, call, bless, nominate, and authorized.

Examples:

*The priest said "I now pronounce you husband and wife."*  
(Pronouncing)

#### **e. Expressives**

Expressives are kind of illocutionary act that state what the speaker feels. They express psychological states and can be statements of pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy or sorrow, surprise, apologize, thank. In using an expressives, the speaker makes words fit the world (of feeling). In performing an expressive, it can be noted with some performative verbs: greet, surprise, like, fear, apology, thank, regret, and praise.

Examples:

*Congratulation on your success! (Congratulating)*

**f. Perlocutionary Act**

Perlocutionary act is a follow growing influence (effect) to the hearer. This speech act can be called by the act of affecting someone. Speech my hands, for example, can be used to regenerate the effect (effect) to the hearer. Fear arises, for example because the speech said it works as a bouncer who in their daily activities very closely with hitting and injuring others.

**g. Direct and Indirect Illocutionary Act**

The direct illocutionary act of an utterance is the illocution most directly indicated by a literal reading of the grammatical form and vocabulary of the sentenced uttered. The indirect illocutionary act of an utterance is any further illocution the utterance may have other than what it expresses literally. According to Hurford (2007:291), here are some examples of direct illocutionary act and indirect illocutionary act.

*Why don't we go to Portugal this summer?*

Direct illocution: Asking why speaker and hearer do not (or will not) go to Portugal

Indirect illocution: Suggesting that the speaker and the hearer go to Portugal

Simply, locutionary act is when the speaker utter the utterance, while illocutionary act is the intention of what the speaker utter, lastly, perlocutionary act is the effect of the speaker utterance.