

## CONSTATIVE AND PERFORMATIVE UTTERANCES IN JOKOWI'S SPEECHES

Mutia Hafifah

lirahadidah@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

This study deals with constative and performative utterances in Jokowi's speeches. It was aimed at investigating the types of constative and performative utterances in Jokowi's speeches, to describe the realization of constative and performative utterances in Jokowi's speeches and to state the reason why constative and performative utterances used in Jokowi's speeches. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research were the utterances of Jokowi's speeches held on 10 January 2016 in Jakarta about "Pembangunan Nasional semesta Berencana untuk Indonesia Raya" and Jokowi's speech held on 17 February 2016 in San Fransisco with theme "Diaspora Indonesia". The sources of data of this study were taken from Jokowi's speeches videos downloaded from youtube. Based on the data analysis, there are eleven types of constative used by Jokowi in his speeches; affirming, alleging, announcing, answering, concurring, disclosing, identifying, informing, predicting, reporting and stipulating. In performative utterances, Jokowi used all types of performative utterances; verdictives, exertives, commissives, behabitives and expositives. In the realization of constative utterances, Jokowi used the form of indirect speech act. In performative utterances, he used direct and indirect speech act. Jokowi used constative and performative utterances to persuade the listeners to participate in the improvement of Indonesia.

**Keywords:** *Constative, Performative, Speech acts.*

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### INTRODUCTION

Speech act is an action performed via utterances and speech act is concern with the speaker's communicative intention in producing an utterance. It is defined by the purpose for which the speakers use the language, for example to make a request, to apologize, and to report. (Yule, 1996:54) based on the statement, the study of speaker's intentions and what the speakers mean when they use the particular linguistics in context.

Speech act can be divided for some parts. Austin (1962) states that communicating a speech act consist of three elements: the speaker says something, the speaker signals an associated speech act, and the speech act causes an effect on her listeners or the participants. First, Locutionary act is the literal meaning of what is said or by which meant as the act of saying something that makes sense in a language. Example: 'It's hot in here', second, Illocutionary act, the action intended by the speaker, or the uses to which language can be put in society, example: 'It's hot in here' could be; an indirect request for someone to open the window because is cold or a complaint implying that someone should know better than to keep the windows closed and third perlocutionary act concerned with what follows an utterance: the effect of what is said or 'take-up' of an illocutionary act. Example: 'It's hot in here', could result in someone opening the windows.

Shiffrin (1994) also says that Austin in his early thinking about speech act, he began this theory by distinguishing the types of declarative sentences into what he called "performative utterance" from "constative utterance." So, constative and performative are part of speech act theory. He identified a constative as an utterance which states a fact that is true or false. Meanwhile, performative seems

not to describe anything in the world at all, and so seems not to be true or false. Instead, it seems to perform an action in saying utterances.

Beck (1985) states that constatives are a class of "fact-stating" utterances, which "constate" something true or false. This includes reports, statements, descriptions, assertions, predictions etc. A simple example is "that books are white and blue". Meanwhile, a performative utterance is doing something rather than saying something.

Unfortunately, not all speakers or listeners have sufficient knowledge and understanding about this utterances type. Some people may not understand well what types of utterances they produce or listen, whether the speaker describes about something or performs an action with his words, as a consequence they cannot interpret and understand the intended meaning of all utterances well (Beck, 1985).

For example in Jokowi speech:

- *"Tantangan yang kedua adalah kemiskinan di depan mata kita"*

(The second challenge is poverty in front of our eyes).

Some listeners may interpret this is a constative utterance because the speaker stating the truth about the poverty in Indonesia but, thi is the performative utterance because that speaker persuade the listeners to eradicate poverty in the society.

### **Constative and Performative Utterances**

Mace (2009) states that constative utterance is from Latin language (constate 'to be manifest; to be an established fact'). The term constative denotes statements or utterances that describe or depict facts or states of affairs and so may be either true or false. In other words, constatives are utterances or prejudices in that they are used to describe or state something, and which thus are true or false.

In addition, Beck (1985) also says that constatives are a class of 'fact-stating' utterances, utterances that 'constate' something true or false. This includes reports, statements, descriptions, assertions, predictions etc. Furthermore, Cummings (2005) states that constative is defined as utterances that describe or report events and state of affairs in the

world. As such, they can be said to be true or false. Besides, constatives are true or false depend on their correspondence (or not) with the fact.

Meanwhile according to Oliver (2007), performatives refer to utterances in uttering of performatives in appropriate circumstances, one performs actions. The uttering of a performative is part of the doing of a certain kind of action; it is not just to "say" something, but rather to perform a certain kind of action (Austin later dealt with them under the name illocutionary acts), and the performance of performative would not normally be described as just "saying" or "describing" something. Beck (1985) also says that performatives, although grammatically indiscernible from constatives that have two distinctive properties: performatives do not state something true or false, and a person makes a performative utterance for doing something rather than saying something.

Allan (1986) states that constative utterance has the property of being true or false. The performative utterance, by contrast, can never be either: it has its own special jobs, it is used to perform an action. To issue such an utterance is to perform the action, perhaps, which one scarcely could perform, at least with so much precision, in any other way. He also stated naturally there are strong limitations on what can be performative utterances. First, the subject of the sentence must be I or we. The utterance "*He advises you to study hard*" is not a performative utterance because it uses another pronoun subject "he". Second, the verb must be in the present tense. And, perhaps most important, the speaker must be recognized as having the authority to make the statement and the circumstances must be appropriate, for example the utterance "*I open this meeting by reciting basmalah*" is valid if it is spoken by an appropriate person in socially determined situations. Thus many performatives take place in formal settings and are concerned with official acts.

### **Types of Constative**

Devitt and Hanley (2003) state that the types of constatives utterance are:

1. Affirming (to state something is true or correct formally or confidently).

2. Alleging (to accuse someone).
3. Announcing (to announce something).
4. Answering (to answer the question).
5. Concurring (to express agreement).
6. Denying (to deny something).
7. Disclosing (to make something is known).
8. Identifying (to identify something).
9. Informing (to give information).
10. Predicting (to predict about something).
11. Reporting (to make a report).
12. Stipulating (to state something clearly and firmly as requirement).

### Types of Performatives

Wardhaugh (1986:276) divides performatives into five categories:

- 1) Verdictives, is performative in which the speaker makes an assessment or judgement about the acts of another, especially the addressee.
- 2) Exercitives, is the exercising of powers, right or influence exemplified by appointing, ordering, voting, urging, warning, or advising.
- 3) Commisives is typified by acts which commit the speaker to do something in the future, but also include declaration or announcements of intention.
- 4) Behabitives is reaction to other people's behaviour and fortunes having to do with such matters as apologizing, congratulation, blessing, cursing, or challenging.
- 5) Expositives, is a term used to refer expounding of views, the conducting of arguments and the clarifying usages and references.

### The Way of Performing Speech acts

#### a. Direct Speech Act

Yule (2006:54) states that direct speech acts will happen if there is direct relationship between the structure and the function of the utterance. The structure refers to the three structural forms; namely declarative, interrogative and imperative.

Stewart and Vailette (2001: 223) also states that direct speech act is the relationship between the structure and the function of some utterances. It occurs when a particular sentence type is being used to serve its typical function. It is based on the literal meaning of the sentence. For example:

1. You wear a seat belt. (Declarative sentence type; Assertion)
2. Do you wear a seat belt? ( Interrogative sentence type; Question)
3. Wear a seat belt! (Imperative sentence type; Order/request).

The direct speech acts have function to make an order or a request of doing the acts wanted by the speaker. These speech acts are uttered *on record*.

#### b. Indirect Speech acts

Yule (2006:55) states that indirect speech acts will happen if there is indirect relationship between the structure and the function of the utterance. Stewart and vailette (2001:225-226) states that indirect speech acts are generally considered to be more polite than direct ones. Indirect usages are not rare or marginal. It takes little reflection, however, to notice that in most cases, some notion of politeness plays a role. The direct imposition can be ameliorated by avoiding a direct demand and instead asking whether the addressee is willing to or capable of carrying out the act. This gives the addressee the option of not carrying out the implied request without losing face. Hence "Would you pass the salt?" or "can you pass the salt?" are more polite than "Pass the salt!".

For example:

- Direct : Please close the door.  
(Imperative sentence type; Order/ request)
- Indirect :Do you think you could close the door? (Interrogative sentence type; Order/request).

Akmajian, et al (2001) states that sometimes when people speak they are not only performing some direct form of communication but also speaking indirectly. When people speak indirectly, they mean something more than what they mean directly and they want the hearer to guess or to conclude what they mean by saying the utterance.

In contrast with the direct speech acts, the indirect speech acts are made by making a demand or request, a command, and offers in the forms of persuasion indirectly. It means that the speakers made the utterances by saying them *off record*.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study was applied qualitative method with descriptive design which is basically interpretative research to purposefully select informants either document or visual materials that might be the best answer to the research problem. It is chosen due to qualitative research has the natural setting, as the direct source of data and the researcher is the key instrument (Bodgan and Biklen, 1982). Descriptive qualitative design is one of research designs which the researcher takes a part in the observation. The researcher enters and spends considerable time in the location.

Bodgan and Biklen (1982) assert that descriptive means the data collected in the form of words rather than numbers. Descriptive qualitative design tries to analyze the data with all their richness as closely as possible to the form in which they will record and transcribe, and the written result of the research contains quotation from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation. In this study, the researcher analyzed Jokowi's speeches by using descriptive research design to find out the types, the realization and the reason of constative and performative utterances used in Jokowi's speeches.

The data of this research were the utterances from Jokowi's speeches which was held on 10 January 2016 in Jakarta about "Pembangunan Nasional Semesta Berencana untuk Indonesia Raya" with duration 31 minutes 40 seconds and Jokowi's speech in San Fransisco was held on 17 February 2016 with duration 34 minutes 15 seconds. The sources of data was taken from the website [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Findings

After the analysis conducted, some findings were found as the answer for the questions in chapter one, it was found that:

1. During the speeches in Jakarta and San Fransisco, Jokowi used constative and performative utterances in his speeches. There are eleven types of constative used by Jokowi in his speeches, such as affirming, alleging,

announcing, answering, concurring, disclosing, identifying, informing, predicting, reporting and stipulating. In performative utterances, Jokowi used all types of performative utterances, such as verdictives, exertives, commissives, behabitives and expositives. In constative utterances, Reporting dominantly used in Jokowi's speeches. Meanwhile, in performative utterances, Commissives dominantly used in Jokowi's speeches.

2. The realization of constative and performative utterances in speech acts used in Jokowi speeches. Jokowi used the form of indirect speech acts in constative utterances. In performative utterances, he used direct and indirect speech act.
3. Jokowi used constative and performative utterances to persuade listener to participate in the improvement of Indonesia.

### Discussion

Devitt and Hanley (2003) state that there are twelve types of constatives utterances; they are affirming, alleging, announcing, answering, concurring, denying, disclosing, identifying, informing, predicting, reporting and stipulating. After reading and focusing the data. Researcher found that eleven types of constative used by Jokowi in his speeches, such as affirming, alleging, announcing, answering, concurring, disclosing, identifying, informing, predicting, reporting and stipulating. Reporting dominantly is used in Jokowi speeches. Denying can not found in Jokowi speeches, because the speaker did not use deny utterances in his speeches.

Based on Utami's (2014) in his thesis "Illocution Performative Utterances in O'neil's Beyond The Horizon" found that in O'neil's Beyond The Horizon drama there are four types of performative utterances; those are representatives, directives, commissives, and expresives. The declarative act was not found in the dialogues as there are no speech situation and speech event that requires this illocutions. It was contrast from the analysis in Jokowi's speeches, Jokowi used all types of performative utterances, such as verdictives, exertives, commissives, behabitives and expositives.

Commissives dominantly is used in Jokowi speeches.

In the realization of constative and performative utterances, Jokowi used indirect speech act. It match with the theory of constative utterances suggested by Devitt and Hanley (2003) that the types of constatives utterances in form of indirect. In performative utterances, Jokowi used direct and indirect speech act.

Jokowi used constative and performative utterances in his speeches because he gave some information to his audience first and then filled their minds with some information about what he would talk about later. Jokowi used constative and performative utterances to persuade listener to participate in the improvement of Indonesia.

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