

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

It is important to mention that language has a performative potential. This is because language is not only used to communicate ideas, feelings and opinions, it is also used to do things or perform actions. In emphasizing the potential of some acts in language use, Kempson (1977, p.50) asserts that: "...we use language to do things, that describing is only one of the things we do, we also use language to promise, to insult, to agree, to criticize..." Similarly, Searle (1979, p.23) summarizes this view as recorded: "We tell people how things are, we try to get them to do things, we commit ourselves to doing things, and we express our feelings... attitudes...bring about changes through our utterances." This performative potential of language is what is summarized in the Speech Act Theory.

Illocutionary Acts is central to Speech Act Theory. In fact, Speech Act Theory has become synonymous with Illocutionary Acts. According to Thomas (1995, p.51) "Illocutionary Act, illocutionary force, pragmatic force, or just Force are used to mean the same thing because the communicative purpose of utterance has been seen as the focal point in the performance of Speech Act".

Political communication involves a focus on meaning, the understanding of which is largely on a function of reaching the illocutionary force of a speaker's

utterances. One of manifestation of political communication is presidential speech. It can be seen in this example:

Obama: *As many people know, our current Ambassador to China, Jon Huntsman, has decided to step down from his current job.* (Obama in “Ambassador”)

The statement above contains Obama’s report about resignation of Jon Huntsman as U.S. ambassador to China. The speaker wanted the listeners to understand and make sure that the President would select and introduce a new ambassador to China.

Through the speeches like above, a leader is expected to reveal the roadmap of actions as policy-maker. It is also likely effects of such future actions on the people. Moreover, these speeches can give some insights to the people about what will be happened based on the speaking delivery.

The research of presidential addresses has not only attracted the interests of political scientists and historians, but also attained the attention of linguists. Concerning with the use of speech acts for human activities, understanding the speaker’s intention is essential to capture the meaning. Thus, the utterance which is produced by Donald Trump is not merely to say something usual. It indicates that when he says something, it implies some actions behind his statements.

The understanding of the speech is largely a function of reaching the illocutionary force of a speaker’s utterances. Usually, in political communication, politicians seek to form public perception of themselves and their programmes, and

raise support through their political speeches and campaign activities, and various rhetorical strategies.

Despite the fact that, the ability of the voters to interpret rightly the political messages and intentions of the politicians and then respond appropriately is a function of how effective these candidates are in deploying the linguistic competences available to them. Politicians articulate a lot of intentions in their speeches: they inform, inspire, assure, accuse, promise, direct, suggest, incite, apologize, disagree, criticize, etc. Some scholars have analyzed such speeches from diverse perspectives, including linguistic perspectives. It is mainly conducted on presidential speeches that have received significant attention.

This research investigates and describes the phenomena of assertive illocutionary acts used by Trump on presidential declaration speech. The Trump's presidential declaration was conveyed on June 16, 2015 in Republican Primary field. It was significant and attracted a lot of attention particularly because of the numerous controversial issues like Mexican's immigrants and Islamic Terrorism. Mr. Trump also performed intense critiques for Obama managerial of administration and American politicians in general.

The speech was then popularized by name "Our Country Needs a Truly Great Leader". The study is based on speech act theory proposed by J.L. Austin (1962). Furthermore, various assertive illocutionary acts identified by Searle (1969) and

Chankova (2012) are significant in the speeches. They include informing acts, supposing acts, suggesting acts, claiming acts and etc.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

In this speech, Trump declared that he was running for president of The United States. Trump indicates several actions through language in his speeches; he informed, inspired, assured, accused, promised, directed, suggested, incited, apologized, disagreed, criticized, etc. Therefore, the main focus of this research is to identify and analyze the types of assertive illocutionary acts in the speeches based on Searle's Speech Act Theory (1969) and Chankova (2012) It is formulated in the following research question :

What are the types of assertive illocutionary acts in Donald Trump's utterances that contain critics toward Obama's government as found in Presidential Declaration Speech?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In general, this study tries to understand the complexity of political language and discourse in certain situation. It is interesting to be done because political speech contains several aspects and contexts that could bring various alternative meaning.

Within this study, the real meaning of the speaker will be examined through assertive illocutionary act analysis.

In brief, the objective of the study is to identify the types of assertive illocutionary acts that contains critics towards Obama's government used by Trump on his presidential declaration speech. The types of assertive illocutionary acts were derived from Searle's theory on illocutionary acts (1969) and Chankova (2012). For this research, there are assorted types that represent the action intended in speaker's utterance.

1.4 Methods of the Research

In conducting this research, the writer applied the linguistics research method by Sudaryanto (1993:135). They are collecting the data, analyzing the data, and presenting the data. The data were taken from Donald Trump's Presidential Declaration Speech which was entitled "Our Country Needs a Truly Great Leader". The writer got this recording on video sharing platform Youtube (www.youtube.com), precisely in PBS Newshour channel. It has 46 minutes and 45 seconds duration, and viewed over 475,000 people around the world.

In collecting the data, the writer downloaded the video in a website (www.youtube.com) and took the transcription of the video from the online newspaper, *the Huffington Post*. The writer applied observational method (Sudaryanto, 1993). The first technique is non-participatory observational is that the

researcher acts only as a listener or observer and does not involve directly into the conversation occurs and where the situation happens. The writer watched the video and read the transcription several times, and the writer did verification for the transcription by comparing the utterance in the script and the video. Another purpose is to know the general topic of the speech. Then, the writer isolated the utterances that contained assertive acts which criticized Obama's government. The writer identified all the data which contain the assertive illocutionary act. The writer found 23 data to be analyzed.

In analyzing the data the writer used pragmatic identity method as proposed by Sudaryanto (1993). The data were analyzed by applying some theories proposed by some linguists. They are theory on the types of illocutionary act by Searle (1969). In this research, the assertive illocutionary acts developed by Searle and then developed in subclasses by Chankova (2012) are used. Theory of context proposed by Leech (1983) is also applied to assist the writer in identifying and classifying the types of assertive illocutionary acts which contains Trump's critics towards Obama's government.

In presenting the result of data analysis, the writer explained descriptively and argumentatively each utterance in accordance to the subclasses of assertive illocutionary acts found. Finally, findings were recapitulated in the form of table.