

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

In linguistics, speech acts are an essential area in linguistics that analyze how language is utilized to perform actions. According to Searle, in all linguistic communication there are speech acts. Communication is not enough only in the form of symbols, words, or sentences, but also includes the results of the implementation of speech acts.¹ Since its introduction by J.L. Austin and further development by John Searle, the concept of speech acts has become an essential analytical tool for understanding the pragmatic dimension of language.²

One of the main components of speech acts is the illocutionary act, which is an action performed through the utterance of an expression, such as ordering, requesting, or explaining. This concept has been widely applied in various contexts, including educational, political, and social settings, where interaction management strategies such as giving commands, making requests, or stating opinions play an important role in effective communication.

Most previous studies on illocutionary speech acts have analyzed speeches delivered by Western political figures such as Donald Trump³, Hillary Clinton, and Barack Obama. However, the use of speech act strategies by Indonesian political figures has not received much attention. In the Asian context, leaders such as Shinzo Abe also show unique patterns in their use of illocutionary acts compared to Western politicians. This situation shows that local studies focusing on Indonesian figures are still limited.

¹ Literature Journal, "An Analysis of Illocutionary Act and Perlocutionary Act Towards the Queen Elizabeth ' S Speech Entitled We Will Succeed And Better Days Will Come" 3, no. 1 (2021): 24–33.

² Andreea-Veridiana Farcasel-Jensen, "Discourse Analysis from the Perspective of Austin's Speech Act Theory and Searle's Taxonomy of Illocutionary Acts: A Case Study of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper*," *International Journal of Languages, Literature and Linguistics* 7, no. 4 (2021): 198–203, <https://doi.org/10.18178/ijll.2021.7.4.312>.

³ T. Ruru, T. A. N., Sulistyono, "Journal of Research on English and Language Learning (J-REaLL)," *Journal of Research on English and Language Learning (J-REaLL)* 2, no. 1 (2021): 156.

In Indonesia, political discourse plays an important role in shaping public opinion and representing the nation's stance in international relations. Through speeches, politicians not only convey policies and visions but also use language strategically to persuade, justify, and strengthen their authority. This pragmatic use of language reflects the illocutionary intentions behind every utterance. Therefore, the study of illocutionary acts in political speeches provides a valuable insight into how language functions as a tool of influence and diplomacy.⁴

Prabowo Subianto, as the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia, has become one of the key figures representing Indonesia's perspective on international peace and security. His speeches often highlight Indonesia's commitment to global cooperation, defense diplomacy, and humanitarian values.⁵ Among these, his speech at the IIS Shangri-La Dialogue 2024 gained significant attention for its clarity, firmness, and rhetorical strategies, particularly in addressing ongoing global conflicts.

The 2024 Shangri-La Dialogue served as an important platform for world leaders to discuss current geopolitical tensions, including issues in Ukraine, the South China Sea, and Palestine. In this forum, Prabowo's remarks became the subject of international discussion, especially when he touched upon the attack on Rafah, an issue that had sparked worldwide debate due to its humanitarian implications. His statement was widely reported by both domestic and international media and drew diverse responses from political observers, emphasizing Indonesia's stance on peace and humanity.

The researcher chose this speech because it represents a moment when Indonesia's voice was expressed in a global setting, involving complex political and moral considerations. By referring to the attack on Rafah, Prabowo

⁴ John Langshaw Austin, *How to Do Things with Words* (Harvard university press, 1975).

⁵ Lestary Jungjunan Effendy and Ervina CM Simatupang, "Illocutionary Acts In The 1st 2023 Indonesian Presidential Candidate Debate By Prabowo Subianto: A Pragmatic Analysis," *Jurnal Onoma: Pendidikan, Bahasa, Dan Sastra* 10, no. 4 (2024): 3992–4001, <https://doi.org/10.30605/onoma.v10i4.3929>.

demonstrated a balance between political diplomacy and humanitarian concern. From a linguistic perspective, such expressions are not only politically significant but also rich in pragmatic functions that can be analyzed through illocutionary speech act theory.⁶

This research brings novelty by analyzing illocutionary speech acts in Prabowo Subianto's speech at the IIS Shangri-La Dialogue 2024, which has not been widely studied in the context of Indonesian politics. In contrast to previous studies that mostly discuss the speeches of world figures such as Donald Trump, this study focuses on how Prabowo used language to convey Indonesia's views on the “Serangan di Rafah” and influence international audiences.⁷

Analyzing the illocutionary acts in Prabowo’s speech helps reveal how language operates to express authority, empathy, persuasion, and negotiation in international diplomac.⁸ Each utterance may serve multiple functions—asserting national values, urging cooperation, or committing to peacebuilding efforts. These dimensions are crucial to understanding the pragmatic power of language within political discourse.

Moreover, this analysis contributes to the broader field of pragmatics by showing how speech acts can be applied in multilingual, multicultural contexts like international forums. It highlights how political figures tailor their speech to reach various audiences and cultural backgrounds.⁹ Through this approach, the research not only identifies the types of illocutionary acts used but also interprets their communicative purposes within the framework of international relations.¹⁰

⁶ George Yule, *Pragmatics* (Oxford university press, 1996).

⁷ Akhyar Rido, Heri Kuswoyo, and Rameliya Ayu, “Interaction Management Strategies in English Literature Lectures in Indonesian University Setting,” *Indonesian Journal of EFL and Linguistics* 5, no. 2 (2020): 315, <https://doi.org/10.21462/ijefl.v5i2.286>.

⁸ Diana Kartika et al., “Depicting Reflections of Power on Illocutionary Acts of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe’s Speeches on Covid-19,” *Indonesian Journal of Applied Linguistics* 13, no. 2 (2023): 284–93, <https://doi.org/10.17509/ijal.v13i2.63078>.

⁹ Geoffrey N Leech, *Principles of Pragmatics* (Routledge, 2016).

¹⁰ Yule, *Pragmatics*.

In conclusion, the study of Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 2024 Shangri-La Dialogue provides an opportunity to understand how illocutionary acts are used to construct meaning, assert diplomatic positions, and promote peace-oriented narratives. This research thus focuses on identifying and describing the types of illocutionary speech acts found in his speech, emphasizing their frequency and function in shaping political communication within a global forum.

B. Identification of Problem

Based on research background above, the identification the problem are:

1. Many students do not understand how illocutionary acts (such as ordering, requesting or explaining) are used in formal speech to convey hidden intentions, influence audiences and achieve communication goals.
2. Not many studies have looked at how Prabowo uses illocutionary acts in his speeches at international forums, such as the Shangri-La Dialogue 2024, to convey Indonesia's strategic views on global issues, including the attack on Raffah.
3. Students often find it difficult to connect pragmatic theories, such as illocutionary acts, with real-life examples. This speech analysis can help students understand how the theory works in everyday communication or political speech.

C. Scope and Limitation of the Problem

This research focuses on the introduction of illocutionary speech acts and analysis of Prabowo Subianto's speech at the IIS Shangri-La Dialogue 2024 on 'Alluding to "Serangan di Raffah"'. The purpose of the study is to identify illocutionary speech acts such as assertive, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative in order to improve the understanding English Education students at UIN SMH Banten about pragmatics in political discourse. This research is limited to one speech without covering other pragmatic aspects such as perlocutionary speech acts or conversational implicatures.

D. Formulation of Problem

From the information provided above regarding the problem's background, its identification, and its limitations, research problems can be formulated as follows:

1. What types of illocutionary speech acts are identified in Prabowo's speech related to IIS Shangri-La Dialogue 2024 on “Serangan di Raffah”?
2. What is the frequency and the dominant type of illocutionary speech acts found in Prabowo Subianto’s speech transcript at the IIS Shangri-La Dialogue 2024?

E. Objective of Study

The researcher determines the research objective based on the formulation of problem as follows:

1. To identify and analyse the types of illocutionary speech acts used in Prabowo's speech related to the IIS Shangri-La 2024 dialogue on “Serangan di Raffah”.
2. To determine the frequency and identify the dominant type of illocutionary speech acts found in Prabowo Subianto’s speech transcript at the IIS Shangri-La Dialogue 2024.

F. Significance of Study

The researcher expects that the current study will be useful to society, particularly in light of the importance of teaching and learning in the educational system.

1. For students: This research is expected to help students of the English Education programme at UIN SMH Banten to better understand illocutionary speech acts, so that they can better analyse political communication.
2. For teachers: Teachers can use the findings of this study to understand how pragmatics is used in political speech, which can help them to design better teaching strategies.
3. For researchers: This research provides a basis for further research on the use

of illocutionary speech acts in political contexts, which can be developed for future studies.

G. Writing Organization

This study is structured into five chapters, each of which offers a number of several points.

Chapter I Introduction consists of the Background of the Problem, Identification of the Problem, Scope and Limitation of the Problem, Formulation of the Problem, Objective of Study, Significance of the Study and Organization of the Writing.

Chapter II Theoretical Framework includes the Theoretical Foundation, the Concept of Illocutionary Speech Acts and Practical Implications in Analysing Political Speeches.

Chapter III Research Methodology covers the Research Design, Research Instrument, Location, Participants, Data Collection Techniques and Data Analysis Techniques.

Chapter IV Research Findings and Discussion

Chapter V Conclusion and Suggestions