

ABSTRACT

Direct Commissive Speech Act in President Joe Biden's Address to Congress

Odi Astaman
19111047

In a speech event, it is a common for the speaker may be hiding various meanings (pragmatic) from the audience in addition to just stating what they are saying (literal). As a result, there are breaks in communication and understanding for the listeners which can be discussed in illocutionary acts. Illocutionary acts has five types, they are representative/assertive, directive, commissive, expressive and declaration.

This study was conducted by using a qualitative method. The primary data source was the transcript of President Joe Biden's address to congress video. The data were collected through perusal of documents. The objective of this study was to identify the types of direct commissive act and the literal meanings and pragmatic effects in President Joe Biden's Address to Congress. The types of commissive illocutionary speech acts are promise, commit, guarantee, offer, bet, and threat were identified based on Searle's theory while the literal meaning as well as the pragmatic effects were identified by using locutionary and perlocutionary acts based on Austin's theory.

The findings revealed that all the six types of commissive acts—promise, commit, guarantee, offer, bet, and threat—were used in President Joe Biden Address. The literal meanings and pragmatic effects showed that not all of President Biden's states were true. This study suggested that this topic should be further examined using a variety of other theories and viewpoints. The next researcher might combine the fundamentals of illocutionary analysis with discourse analysis because those two theories are interconnected. According to both ideas, every statement made by the speaker, regardless of context or position, should be examined since what the speaker said could have a positive or destructive effect on the listeners, depending on their influence and status.

Key words: *Commissive Act, Illocutionary acts, Pragmatic approach, Speech Event*