

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

The modern president's governing plan must include speeches, also a mainstay of American political literature. In addition to addressing the public at times of internal or international crisis, presidents utilize speeches to assume the role of head of state by extending invitations to foreign heads of state and victorious support teams (Husain et al., 2020). In a speech event, speech is speaking in public in a certain way to accomplish a particular aim. The concept may be conveyed in a speech to the right by employing simple language and making it easy for the audience to understand. Beyond only transmitting data in the form of utterances and sentences, speech has a variety of other functions (Baok et al., 2021; Fadilah & Kuswoyo, 2021).

Speech act is a linguistic phenomenon that most people should be able to understand, and when a speaker gives a speech, they intend to impart meaningful information to the audience. As a result of speakers' utterances, the phrase "speech act" is created (Kuswoyo et al., 2021; Yokossi, 2022). Furthermore, in a critical speech event such as a speech to Congress, speakers' utterances typically contain more than one meaning; they usually have clear goals they hope to accomplish. However, the speaker may be hiding various meanings (pragmatic) from the audience in addition to just stating what they are saying (literal) (Sari & Pranoto, 2020; Mufiah et al., 2018). As a result, there are breaks in communication and

understanding for the listeners. Additionally, it might be challenging for listeners to judge whether or not the audience understands the speaker's context. These problems may lead to misunderstandings, especially for the listener; therefore, literal and pragmatic meanings should be implied to understand the speaker's real intentions (Rido, 2020; Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020).

Luh et al. (2021) agreed that speakers must be truthful and willing to uphold their commitments. It compels the speaker to carry out his speech's instructions exactly. In order to effectively communicate verbally or in writing, one must comprehend the commissive speech act. The writer's attention was drawn to the direct commissive speech act. A direct commissive speech act, such as a pledge or an offer, is a speech act made to oblige the speaker to act in the future (Sari & Pranoto, 2020). It refers to an act in which the speaker commits him/herself to do something with words such as offering, promising, refusing, threatening, betting, and guaranteeing.

Several researchers have previously studied speech act analysis. These investigations have been conducted in several instances of speech act analysis and the meaning of words concerning political and social issues. Husain et al. (2020) focused on the commissive speech act in the first Indonesian Presidential Debate in 2019. The study aimed to find a commissive speech act and its function in the first Indonesian presidential debate in 2019. The data shows that 20 utterances belonged to the commissive speech act produced by Jokowi, Prabowo, and Sandi. However, there were no commissive speech act utterances produced by Ma'ruf. The gap between the previous studies and this current study is; first, the topic is new and has never been touched by previous studies before. Secondly, this study focuses more

on direct commissive acts to complete the shortcomings, which the other studies have analyzed in a general way (illocutionary).

This topic will be crucial for further study and comprehension of the effects of a sentence's or utterance's meaning. This study tries to determine the commissive speech act types. Also, what are Biden's real intentions, whether in literal or pragmatic ways will also be impacted by this study, particularly on all of the individuals who were still confused by the issues that emerged in Biden's speech at the time

This study examines President Joe Biden's address to Congress at the yearly state of the Union states on March 1st, 2022. The president spoke about various domestic concerns in his inaugural address. However, he started by discussing the Russian invasion of Ukraine and vowed to continue providing military, economic, and humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian people. President Biden continued discussing the American economy, highlighting the bipartisan infrastructure bill's passage and the American Rescue Plan (ARP). In addition, he discussed immigration and border security, financing for the police, and the COVID-19 epidemic. Throughout Joe Biden's address, several essential ideas needed to be explained. According to Sakwa (2016), it is clear from the speech's substance that its primary goal is to comfort the audience (legislative) beyond the literal meanings of each statement and word in President Joe Biden's State of the Union address to Congress. This can be done through the study of the commissive speech act. Whether the speaker's goal is literal or pragmatic, their words must convey their intent.

1.2. Research Questions

Under the problem in the introduction, the research question is; what are the types of the direct commissive act and their literal meanings and pragmatic effects in President Joe Biden's Address to Congress?

1.3. Research Objectives

The objective of this study is to identify the types of direct commissive act and the literal meanings and pragmatic effects in President Joe Biden's Address to Congress.

1.4. Uses of the Study

1.4.1. Theoretical Use

Theoretically, this study is anticipated to provide readers with more excellent knowledge regarding commissive speech act utterances and insight into hidden meanings of utterances. Then, the study will provide the result of interpreting direct commissive acts in more literal and pragmatic ways. Finally, this study also provides a deep comprehension of what the speaker intends during the speech based on the direct commissive act from the speech.

1.4.2. Practical Use

Practically, this study is about to give new sight to unveil the literal and pragmatic meaning of Joe Biden's Address that can trigger the internet, news, social media, society and some sensitive groups of people. The power of words by the speaker as a president of the US is such a significant influence that it has a huge impact that can interfere not only with some areas but with people all around the world, an impact to move people by words to do certain things.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The study's focus was only on pragmatics, one area of linguistics. The writer examined Joe Biden's remarks to understand the significance of the direct commissive act. In order to examine the purpose and significance of Joe Biden's commissive acts actions and whether the speech was delivered directly, the writer employed Searle's (1969) theory. The data used in this research were utterances in which there was a commissive act. Direct commissive act in utterances served as the research's source of data. The writer looks at President Joe Biden's direct commissive speech act during his State of the Union Address to Congress in March 2022.