



Commissives Speech Acts in President Prabowo's Inaugural Speech

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Abstrak: *This study analyses commissive speech acts in Prabowo Subianto's Presidential inauguration speech as a form of strategic political communication that reflects promises and commitments to the public. Using a qualitative approach, the main data in the form of speech transcripts were analysed based on Austin's (1962) and Searle's (1969) speech act theories. The analysis process includes data collection through documentation, grouping of speech units, and identification and interpretation of commissive speech acts such as promise, oath, pledge, offer, and guarantee. The results show that commissive speech acts are used to build trust, convey political commitments, and influence public opinion, while underlining the role of language as a strategic tool in creating accountability and relationships between leaders and society.*

Keywords: *Commissive Speech Acts, Political Communication, Pragmatics, Inaugural Speech, President Prabowo.*



INTRODUCTION

Speech is an oral communication that is crucial in conveying ideas, shaping opinions, and influencing audiences. In a political context, speeches are an important channel through which leaders communicate their vision, mission, and dedication to each other. In speeches, leaders can build emotional bonds with people and are also a way to demonstrate their responsibility and integrity. Therefore, the analysis of political speeches can provide insight into how language is strategically utilised to build trust and influence public opinion. As stated by Chilton (2004), political communication relies heavily on the leader's ability to use language to influence opinion and strengthen legitimacy.

One example that is interesting to analyse is Prabowo Subianto's Presidential inauguration speech. In his speech, Prabowo conveyed his vision and mission as the leader of Indonesia. Each statement delivered was not only informative, but also reflected political promises that became commitments to the people. This speech illustrates how a leader utilises language to build trust and demonstrate accountability to the community. As stated by Fairclough (1995), political speeches are often designed with certain strategies to build persuasive relationships between leaders and their audiences.

The reason for choosing Prabowo Subianto's speech to be analysed is because his speech contained many significant promises and commitments for the people. In addition, this speech has a special appeal because it was delivered during a highly anticipated moment, the presidential inauguration. The choice of language in this speech demonstrates how a leader designs his communication strategy to influence public opinion and emphasise his responsibilities. This is in line with Van Dijk's (2006) view, which emphasises that political discourse analysis can reveal how ideologies and interests are articulated through language.

It is relevant to analyse Prabowo's speech in terms of pragmatics because people not only listen to the content of the speech, but also look forward to how the political promises are delivered. In this way, the pragmatics approaches enable us to comprehend the speech as a communicative act that has both social and political consequences. As Levinson (1983) explains, pragmatics helps to understand how context plays an important role in the interpretation of the meaning of utterances.

Pragmatics, as a unit of linguistics, studies the meaning of speech in the context of its use. According to Ambarwati et al. (2018) Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics that studies the meaning of speakers. This approach provides an in-depth analytical tool to understand the implied and explicit meanings in political speeches. With pragmatics, we can explore how Prabowo's speech reflects his communicative purpose as a leader. This is also in line with Yule (1996) view that pragmatics allows us to understand how utterances are used to achieve certain goals in social interaction.

Speech acts introduced by Austin (1962) and further developed by Searle (1969). Speech acts include five types, namely assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. In President Prabowo's speech, commissive is the most prominent type of speech act because it reflects political promises and commitments to the public. The analysis of these speech acts helps reveal the rhetorical strategies used to build relationships with the audience and create trust.

Commissive speech acts are included in illocutionary acts that bind speakers to perform actions in the future. Commissive includes promises, vows, pledges, offers, and guarantees that aim to show the speaker's commitment and responsibility to what he has said (Searle, 1979). In the political context, commissive speech acts have an important role in building trust and

accountability of leaders to the people. This is in line with Schifffrin's (1994) opinion, which states that promises and commitments in political communication have high persuasive power because they contain moral and social consequences.

Several studies have examined commissive speech acts in political speeches and revealed various patterns and strategies. Hashim (2015) found that commissive speech acts are the most dominant, followed by assertive, directive, and expressive acts, while Taufik et al. (2014) observed that persuasive speech in the Pasuruan regional election campaign often combines assertive-directive and commissive-directive speech acts. Al-Bantani (2013) identified guaranteeing, promising, and refusing as the main forms of commissive acts in gubernatorial candidate debates. Suwandi (2013), in his analysis of Barack Obama's speeches, notes that most of Obama's promises are constative rather than performative. Similarly, Ilić and Radulović (2015) highlight how commissive and expressive speech acts reflect politicians' engagement, strategic vagueness, and efforts to build credibility to effectively influence public opinion.

Some studies have investigated commissive speech acts in a variety of different contexts, and produced diverse findings and applications. Puspitasari (2009) and Prastuti (2015) examined the realisation, strategies, and functions of commissive speech acts, identifying promises, guarantees, refusals, threats, offers, and volunteering, with speakers often using indirect strategies to adapt to the situational context for purposes such as maintaining relationships or avoiding conflict. Syukri and Humaerah (2016) analysed advertising language in mobile phone provider advertisements, finding that illocutionary acts such as persuading and convincing were used to influence consumers, while perlocutionary acts aimed to encourage product purchase. Meanwhile, Altikriti (2011) explored speech acts in novels such as *Acme* and *The Happy Prince*, finding all five of Searle's speech act categories, with direct speech acts dominating. These studies highlight the pervasive role of speech acts, including commissives, in various forms of communication.

The aim of this analysis is to explore the types of commissive speech acts present in Prabowo's speech, examine their functions and objectives, and uncover how these speech acts are employed to express political commitments and foster public trust. This study is expected to contribute to the field of pragmatics, particularly within the realm of political communication, while also offering insights into how leaders utilize language to address public expectations.

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative with a data analysis design. Descriptive research is research which gives description about problem, fact, event, and real situation deeply and widely so that it can get a new understanding (Raco, 2010). The main data of this research is the transcript of President Prabowo's inauguration speech which is analyzed to identify commissive speech acts. The data were collected through documentation, focusing on utterances that contain commitments or promises from President Prabowo to the public.

The data analysis process was conducted in several stages. First, the data were transcribed and grouped into speech units. Second, each speech unit was analyzed based on the type of speech act by using the theoretical framework of speech acts. Third, the identified commissive speech acts are further explained to determine their function and meaning in the context of political speech.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this analysis, the dominant use of commissive speech acts was found in Prabowo Subianto's Presidential inauguration speech. Commissive speech acts such as promises, vows, pledges, offers and guarantees often appeared in the speech. Prabowo's utterances reflected how commitment to improving people's welfare, law enforcement, and national sovereignty became the core of his interactions. For example, the promise to achieve food self-sufficiency within five years, the oath to carry out duties with full responsibility, and the assurance to eradicate corruption show dedication and responsibility as a leader.

1. Promise

Promise is a commissive speech act that aims to bind the speaker to perform an action in the future. This data shows that in his inauguration speech as President of the Republic of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto made promises to the Indonesian people. The speech was delivered on Sunday, 20 October 2024, at Nusantara Building, Parliament Complex, Senayan, Jakarta. The atmosphere of the event was formal and serious, attended by leaders and members of the MPR RI, high-ranking state officials, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, national figures, media, and special invitees. In his speech, Prabowo used a formal and serious communication style, emphasising his commitment to improving people's welfare, strengthening the nation's sovereignty, and maintaining national unity. These promises were delivered orally in an official speech genre, in accordance with the norms of communication in state events. The data below show the utterance that indicates the commissives speech act.

Data 1:

"Kami akan menjalankan kepemimpinan pemerintah Republik Indonesia, kepemimpinan negara dan bangsa Indonesia dengan tulus, dengan mengutamakan kepentingan seluruh rakyat Indonesia, termasuk mereka yang tidak memilih kami."

"Saya yakin paling lambat 4 sampai 5 tahun kita akan swasembada pangan, bahkan kita siap menjadi lumbung pangan dunia."

"Kita haru mampu memproduksi dan memenuhi kebutuhan pangan seluruh rakyat indonesia."

"Dengan teknoogi digital kita akan mampu sampai subsidi itu sampai ke keluarga yang membutuhkan."

"Marilah kita bangun masa depan bersama."

"Kami siap melanjutkan estafet kepemimpinan."

"Semua kekayaan kita harus sebesar-besarnya untuk kepentingan dan kemakmuran rakyat indonesia."

"Anak anak kita semua harus bisa makan bergizi minimal 1 kali sehari, dan itu akan kita lakukan, dan itu bis akita lakukan."

"Kita akan menjadi sahabat semua negara dan kita punya prinsip yakni anti penjajhan karena kita pernah mengalami penjajahan."

Translated:

“We will carry out the leadership of the government of the Republic of Indonesia, the leadership of the state and nation of Indonesia sincerely, by prioritising the interests of all Indonesian people, including those who did not vote for us.”

“I am confident that within four to five years we will be self-sufficient in food, and we are ready to become the food barn of the world.”

“We must be able to produce and fulfil the food needs of all Indonesian people.”

“With digital technology, we will be able to get the subsidies to the families in need.”

“Let us build the future together.”

“We are ready to continue the leadership relay.”

“All our wealth must be for the benefit and prosperity of the Indonesian people.”

“Our children must all be able to eat nutritious food at least once a day, and we will do that, and we can do that.”

“We will be friends of all countries and we have the principle of anti-colonialism because we have experienced colonialism.”

In Prabowo Subianto's speech, there were several sentences that showed commissive speech acts in the form of promises. Words that signify promises can be recognised through the use of verbs such as *akan* (will), *yakin* (sure), and *siap* (ready), which indicate a commitment to do something in the future. For example, in the sentence “*Kami akan menjalankan kepemimpinan pemerintah.....tidak memilih kami.*” the word “*akan*” (will) indicates a promise to prioritise the people. In addition, phrases such as “*Saya yakin paling lambat....lambung pangan dunia.*” and “*Kami siap melanjutkan estafet kepemimpinan.*” The word “*yakin*” (sure) and “*siap*” (ready) indicate a strong commitment to realising food self-sufficiency and continued leadership.

2. Vow

Vow is a form of commissive speech act used to express a promise bound by moral or legal responsibility. This data shows that in his inauguration speech as President of the Republic of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto took the oath of office on Sunday, 20 October 2024, at Nusantara Building, Parliament Complex, Senayan, Jakarta. With a formal and serious atmosphere, Prabowo took the vow in front of the leaders and members of the MPR RI, high-ranking state officials, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, national figures, and other invitees. The vow was an expression of his responsibility to carry out the mandate as head of state in accordance with the constitution and the expectations of the Indonesian people. The data below show the utterance that indicates the commissives speech act.

Data 2:

“*Sumpah tersebut akan kami jalankan dengan sebaik-baiknya, dengan penuh rasa tanggung jawab dan semua kekuatan yang ada pada jiwa dan raga kami.*”

Translated:

("We will carry out this oath to the best of our ability, with a full sense of responsibility and all the strength that is in our body and soul.")

In his inauguration speech, Prabowo Subianto delivered an oath that reflected a commissive speech act in the form of a vow, which is a promise bound by moral or legal responsibility. The sentence "*Sumpah tersebut akan kami jalankan.....pada jiwa dan raga kami*". shows the vow element through the phrase "*akan kami jalankan*" which emphasises the commitment to carry out the oath optimally. In addition, words such as "*dengan penuh rasa tanggung jawab*" and "*semua kekuatan yang ada pada jiwa dan raga kami.*" reinforce moral responsibility and seriousness in carrying out the mandate as head of state. This sentence not only contains a promise but also emphasises the moral depth and seriousness of its implementation.

3. Pledge

Pledge is a speech act that expresses a commitment or promise to do something in the future. This data shows that in President Prabowo's inauguration speech on Sunday, 20 October 2024, at the Nusantara Building, Parliament Complex, Senayan, Jakarta, there was a pledge to carry out the duties and responsibilities as President of the Republic of Indonesia as well as possible. The event took place in a formal and serious atmosphere, attended by leaders and members of the MPR RI, high-ranking state officials, state institutions, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, national and regional figures, media, and special invitees. Using a formal and serious verbal communication style, the pledge symbolised a strong commitment to the mandate given by the Indonesian people. The data below show the utterance that indicates the commissives speech act.

Data 3:

"Kami akan mengutamakan kepentingan bahasa dan rakyat Indonesia diatas segala golongan, apalagi kepentingan pribumi."

"Saya telah mencanangkan bahwa Indonesia harus segera swasembada pangan dalam waktu yang sesingkat singkatnya."

"Pemerintah yang saya pimpin nanti akan focus untuk mencapai swasembada energi."

"Indonesia memilih jalan bebas aktif, non blok, kita tidak mau ikut pakta-pakta militer apapun."

"Kita harus melakukan hilirisasi kepada semua komoditas yang kita miliki."

Translated:

("We will prioritise the interests of the Indonesian language and people above all groups, let alone the interests of the natives.")

"I have declared that Indonesia must achieve food self-sufficiency in the shortest possible time."

"The government I lead will focus on achieving energy self-sufficiency."

“Indonesia chooses the path of free and active, non-aligned, we do not want to join any military pacts.”

“We must downstream all our commodities.”)

In his inauguration speech, Prabowo Subianto delivered a number of statements that reflected commissive speech acts in the form of pledge, which are commitments or pledge to do something in the future. The sentence “*Kami akan mengutamakan kepentingan bangsa dan rakyat Indonesia.....pribadi kami.*” shows a strong commitment through the phrase “*akan mengutamakan,*” which emphasises the priority to the interests of the people and the nation. In addition, the phrases “*Saya telah mencanangkan bahwa.....sesingkat-seingkatnya.*” and “*Pemerintah yang saya pimpin.....mencapai swasembada energy.*” illustrate the commitments to achieve food and energy independence.

4. Offer

Offer is a speech act that expresses a commitment or promise to do something in the future. This data shows that in President Prabowo's inauguration speech on Sunday, 20 October 2024, at the Nusantara Building, Parliament Complex, Senayan, Jakarta, there was a offer to carry out the duties and responsibilities as President of the Republic of Indonesia as well as possible. The event took place in a formal and serious atmosphere, attended by leaders and members of the MPR RI, high-ranking state officials, state institutions, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, national and regional figures, media, and special invitees. Using a formal and serious verbal communication style, the pledge symbolised a strong commitment to the mandate given by the Indonesian people. The data below show the utterance that indicates the commissives speech act.

Data 4:

“*Kami juga siap untuk mengirim bantuan yang lebih banyak dan siap evakuasi mereka yang tua yang luka, dan anak anak yang trauma.*”

Translated:

("We are also ready to send more aid and are ready to evacuate the injured, and traumatised children.")

In his inauguration speech, Prabowo Subianto conveyed a commissive speech act in the form of offer, which shows a commitment to provide assistance or do something in the future as a form of offer. The sentence “*Kami juga siap.....anak anak yang trauma.*” reflects offer through the phrases “*siap untuk mengirim bantuan*” and “*siap evakuasi,*” which emphasise the willingness to provide concrete support to those in need. This statement shows an offer with responsibility and earnestness to help, especially for the injured and traumatised children, as a form of concern and responsibility of a leader.

5. Guarantee

Guarantee is the act of providing certainty or assurance on something. This data shows that in his inauguration speech as President of the Republic of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto delivered a guarantee to strengthen the nation's sovereignty and improve people's welfare. The speech was delivered on Sunday, 20 October 2024, at Nusantara Building, Parliament Complex, Senayan, Jakarta. The atmosphere in the speech was formal and serious, with participants consisting of Leaders and Members of the MPR RI, high-ranking state officials, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, national figures, media, and special invitees. Through formal speeches delivered orally, President Prabowo

guaranteed that his administration would be committed to maintaining national unity, strengthening the national economy, and ensuring social justice for all Indonesians.

Data 5;

“Saya sudah katakana kita harus berani menghadapi dan memberantas korupsi dengan perbaikan system dengan penegakan hukum yang tegas dan digitalisasi.”

“Kita harus berani meneliti dan kalua perlu kita ubah subsidi itu harus kepada langsung keluarga keluarga yang membutuhkan.”

“Seluruh unsur pimpinan harus memberi contoh ing ngarso sung tulodo.”

Translated:

(“I have said that we must dare to face and eradicate corruption by improving the system with strict law enforcement and digitalisation.”)

“We must have the courage to scrutinise and if we need to change the subsidy, it must go directly to families in need.”

“All elements of leadership must set an example of ing ngarso sung tulodo.”)

In his inauguration speech, Prabowo Subianto conveyed a commissive speech act in the form of guarantee, which provides certainty or assurance towards an action or policy. The sentence *“Saya sudah katakana kita harus.....dengan digitalisasi.”* which confirms the commitment to improve the system through concrete steps. In addition, the statement *‘Kita harus berani meneliti dan kalu perlu kita ubah subsidi itu harus kepda keluarga keluarg yang membutuhkan.’* provides assurance that the subsidy will be directed to the right target. The phrase *“Seluruh usnur pimpinan harus memberi contoh ing ngarso sung tlodho.”* shows the assurance of leadership that sets an example for the people. These statements reflect a firm commitment to strengthen governance, eradicate corruption, and realise social justice.

The following is the number of commissive speech acts that appear the most and least based on the above results:

Type of Commissive Speech Act	Number of Occurrences	Description
Promise	9	This type of commission appears most often, illustrating the focus on future commitments to the people.
Vow	1	The least type of commission, as it generally only appears once in formal moments such as inaugurations.
Pledge	5	Relatively frequent appearances to show concrete commitment to a particular policy

Offer	2	Used to indicate readiness to provide tangible support.
Guarantee	3	Demonstrate certainty or confidence in certain actions to build trust.

The promise speech act is the most common in President Prabowo's inauguration speech because promises are the main form of political communication that aims to build public trust and provide hope for the future. Promises are used to show concrete commitment to policies and programmes, which is an important part of a leader's efforts to convince the people that their aspirations will be realised. As a persuasive element, promises are often made to inspire public confidence in the vision and mission of newly appointed leaders.

In contrast, the speech act vow is only found once because of its very specific and formal nature. Oaths are generally delivered in a ritualistic context and are only performed in official moments, such as presidential inaugurations, where the leader symbolically binds himself morally and legally to the mandate. Due to its context bound to a specific official occasion, oaths are not often repeated in speeches, in contrast to promises which are more flexible and often inserted in different parts of the speech to strengthen the emotional connection with the audience.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of commissive speech acts in Prabowo Subianto's Presidential inauguration speech shows how language functions as a strategic tool in political communication. Commissive speech acts such as promise, oath, pledge, offer, and guarantee appear prominently, reflecting the speaker's commitment to fulfil his responsibilities as a leader. These speech acts not only convey his vision for Indonesia, but also serve to build trust, demonstrate accountability, and convey his moral and legal obligations to the public.

The strategic use of the commissive emphasises the role of pragmatics in understanding political discourse, particularly in deciphering the implicit and explicit meanings of speech. By expressing dedication to improving welfare, ensuring sovereignty, and fostering unity, the speech effectively addresses the expectations of the Indonesian people. This study highlights the significance of speech acts in political settings and adds to the broader discourse on the relationship between language, trust-building, and leadership.

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