**SPEECH ACTS IN MICHELLE OBAMA’S SPEECH REFLECTING HER APPRAISAL TOWARDS DONALD TRUMP**

**Thesis Proposal  
By: Wihayuning Nurlila**



**English Department**

**Faculty of Art and Humanities**

**State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya**

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1. **INTRODUCTION**

In the begining of this proposal I am, as the researcher, trying my comprehension to capture the background of study, research problem, research objective, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and the definition of the key terms in this thesis proposal briefly.

* 1. **Background of Study**

According to Steinberg and Sciarini (2006, p. 44) the basis of all language is meaning, so it is not a language (written or spoken) if it did not contain meaning. In linguistics we know Pragmatics and Semantics, both concerned in the study of language meanings. Semantics consider the meaning of the sentence without the context, while Pragmatics looks at the same words and grammar used semantically within context, as *brighthubeducation.com* said.

In daily activity, we cannot separate our self from language. Because every time we communicate, we use language. Human is the only mammals that communicate using language. Other creatures in animalia kingdom communicate using various ways but language. They communicate using sounds, not language. Even though their sounds have meanings, but it is not a language, because their ways of communication were not having a set of grammar or linguistically correct.

Human develop special feature to communicate with each other. Whether it written, sign, gesture or spoken. Since childhood, we already acquire language which later we learn in order to communicate. There are at least five functions of language based on Leech (1981); *informational* to give and receive information, for example an announcement that published in public area for the mutual benefit; *expressive* to express attitude or feelings, for example a master of ceremony in a talk show gave speech about congratulating the guest star that happened to have a birthday that day; *directive* to influence others behavior or attitude, for example teacher in class told their student to respect the elder and loving each other to reduce bullying tradition in school area; *aesthetic* the use of language for the sake of linguistics artefact itself (for no ulterior purpose), for example a phrase in a poem; and the last is *phatic* to keep communication lines open and keep social relation in a good track, for example the dialogues between the interviewer and the interviewees.

Communication is the basic human activity which aims to collect information or exchange news. Besides writing, there are also speaking and listening. When people speak, they are trying to communicating their idea so other person (or we can say; *the hearer,* or *audience*) able to understand what the person who speak (or we can call them *the speaker*) want and/or know the information the speakers are about to give, and make the communication activity complete and reach the speaker’s intention.

Communication is important in daily life. Whether it is spoken or written, it is a part of daily activity between people. From newspaper to television, from written texts to audio-visual media, communication appears in everyday life. Nowadays people able to know the most updated news around their neighborhood to overseas because communication happen everywhere, such in a talk show that recorded and uploaded online via video-based website, where the audience in the studio and audience at home listen to the presenter and the guest star about certain topics. When the audience listen, the act of communication that happen is they obtain information passively and process it to new information, or just another collectible fun-facts. Or when they against it and ask another question in order to get a better understanding about the certain topics the speaker give, the act of communication is in two ways and the role of the speaker and the hearer change dynamically. Not only giving, but receiving information or news also counts as communication. Because communication is an act execute by two people or more in order to collect news or information.

Communication in writing is much more common. By writing, there are a lot of words to read. Writing and reading is two subjects not separated, the act happened simultaneously. We read every day and everywhere. While waiting in a line of a fast food restaurant, or when stuck in traffic, whether it is a billboard commercial or from our mobile phone, there is always something that we read unconsciously. And when we write, some of our writing reflects to words or situation that we had before. The subconscious give hidden message through our writings. Like one of the famous fictional writer; Stephen King, whose works speak about his battle to conquer his own addiction. Stephen King who were born in 1947 in Portland Maine, starting to write short stories and satirical newspaper back in high school, he then graduates with a B.A. in English around 1970 from University of Maine. One year later he decides to teaching high school English while pursuing his career as a writer. Many of his works reflects on how a writer’s voices in their work tied to the writer’s personal experience and explore the risk of literary influenced. Stephen King proofing that through writing people can communicate, meditating and found asylum for their stress facing up reality.

While communicating their ideas and exchange information, the speakers often make some rhetoric to make the hearer catch their meaning in an easier way. According to Austin (cited by Reimer, 2010), there are three acts that always appear when speak, deliver speech, in the speech transcript, or utter words, there are; Locutionary Acts, as defined by Merriam-Webster as a particular form of expression or peculiarity of phrasing; Perlocutionary Acts is the action or the result of the information exchange between the speaker and the hearer; and Illocutionary Acts or the intended meaning the speaker’s expected the hearer to obtain. These acts are called as speech act; a branch study of Pragmatics.

From three types of communication, the researcher wants to focus on speaking. Particularly in speech, which is the main topics of the rest of this thesis that lead to understanding more about Michelle Obama’s speech that she delivers at New Hampshire back in 2016 when the Presidential election is some hot topics to explore in this political season. Especially because Michelle quipping Donald Trump, and from Michelle’s speech acts the researcher wants to explore which speech acts Michelle used more often. So this research will enlighten the reader and make it clear what kinds of speech acts Michelle used mostly and how her judgments about Donald Trump in this political season revealed from her dictions.

In October 14th, 2016 the former first Lady of the United States, Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama gave speech in New Hampshire and quipping on how one of the presidential candidate at that time, Donald John Trump from Republican Party, makes inappropriate comment publicly as audio recorded in 2005 (The Guardian). For such behavior towards women, Michelle repute what Donald do was not only, as a ‘*disturbing footnote in a sad election session*’ but also ‘*a powerful individual speaking freely and openly about sexually predatory behavior*’ which in another words; a bad attitude. 2016 is election session and the last year Michelle’s husband; the 44th President of the United States, Barrack Hussein Obama II from Democratic Party served, and his tenure expired at January 20th, 2017. Michelle herself has delivered speeches since 2007, from campaigned for her husband’s presidential bid until become a fashion icon, a role model for women and an advocate for poverty awareness, nutrition, physical activity, and healthy eating (Wikipedia).

Three days before she speak at the New Hampshire, the white house celebrate the International Day of the Girl (The Guardian). Which hurt her feeling as a mother of two daughter and as a woman in particular after she heard the audio record of Donald Trump. Even though it was in 2005, but according to her it is inappropriate for a Presidential candidate to have bad speech record. Besides, she is supporting Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton which also come from the same party as her husband. So, it is enough to conclude that Michelle is a feminist that encourage women to see how valueable and precious they are. And because of that, there should be not any person (including women itself) would say something that hurt women’s heart by degrading their status.

* 1. **Research Problem**

Based on the background of the study, the researcher concludes that there are two problems formed:

* What types of speech acts Michelle Obama used in her speech?
* What kind of speech acts Michelle Obama mostly used in her speech?
  1. **Significance of The Study**

The researcher tries to inform what types of speech acts Michelle Obama used and the kinds of speech acts she used mostly in her speech. Along with this study, the researcher hopes giving some contribution for the readers, especially the pupil in Islamic State University Sunan Ampel Surabaya, in extends their knowledge of linguistics. The researcher wants to give better understanding how speech acts able to translating the speaker’s meaning louder.

The researches hopes this research will give some contribution for the readers, especially the pupil in Islamic State University Sunan Ampel Surabaya, in extends their knowledge of linguistics. Thus, the researcher wants to give better understanding how speech acts able to translating the speaker’s meaning louder.

The result of this study, the researcher hopes, will help maintaining better communication betwen people. Since nowadays communication is text-based, without emotion like face-to-face communication, subject to ambiguous meaning and start the misunderstanding in social relation. However, by translating someone intended meaning can be also tricky, the researcher do all she can to analyze in concise and vivid in this research.

* 1. **Scope and Limitation**

Mostly Michelle gave speech, during her period of being the first Lady of United State. But the researcher especially took in interest in her speech in New Hampshire back at October 14th, 2016. There are seven pages of Microsoft Words to accommodate Michelle Obama speech, which has 44 paragraphs in total that containing Michelle’s witty remark.

* 1. **Definition of Key Terms**

In this segment, the researcher will define some words that associated with the title and in the content of this research, therefore less misunderstanding for the readers to comprehend this research.

* *Speech Act* is an utterance that performs to communicate. And also the smallest unit of language communication. There are *Locutionary* (physical utterance), *Perlocutionary* (the action/result) and *Illocutionary* (intended meaning), Hurford (2007).
* *Appraisal* is an act or instance of appraising something or someone to evaluate the worth, significance or status.
* *Speech* is the act of speaking; something that is spoken, an utterance, remark or declaration.
* *Michelle Obama* is a lawyer, writer, and former first lady were born on January 17, 1964 in Chicago, Illinois.
* *Donald Trump* is the 45th and current President of the Unite State of America were born on June 14, 1946.
* *Semantics* and *pragmatics* are two complementary, non-overlapping disciplines, because Pragmatics deals with the usage of the language while Semantics deals with content and truth conditions (Recanati, 2005).

1. **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**
   1. **Pragmatics**

Pragmatics acts as the basis for all language interactions and contact. It is a key feature to the understanding of language and the responses that follow this. Therefore, without the function of Pragmatics, there would be few understanding of intention and meaning. For example; “Can you pass the salt?” has a literal meaning as; are you physically able to do the tasks (to pass the salt) and followed by the literal response as; yes, or no. While in Pragmatics meaning, it is more like; will you pass me the salt? And followed by pragmatic response, the hearer passed the salt to the speaker (action). Another example is; “what time do you call this?” has a literal meaning as, what time is it? And followed by literal response; twenty to one (a time). While in pragmatic meaning it is a different question entirely; why are you so late? And followed by pragmatic response, the hearer explaining their reasons why they are late as explained by all about language website.

Pragmatics is the study of meaning in relation to the context in which a person is speaking or writing. This includes social, situational, and textual context (Paltridge, 2006). Even though in the same field, semantics and pragmatics are two complementary, non-overlapping disciplines, because Pragmatics deals with the usage of the language while Semantics deals with content and truth conditions (Recanati, 2005).

Pragmatics is the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or author) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). The advantage of studying language via pragmatics that one can talk about people’s intended meaning, their assumptions, their purposes or goals, and the kinds of actions (for example, requests) that they are performing when they speak.

Definition of pragmatics is not simple as the study of speaker’s meaning, but it has relation to the speaker’s background when said the language, as Yule (1997, p. 3) said. Definition above is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or author) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). It has consequently, more to do with the analysis of what the people mean by their utterances that what the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves.

This type of study necessarily involves the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how the context influences the utterances that being said. It requires a consideration of how speakers organize what they want to say in accordance with who they are talking to, where, when, and under what circumstances. So, pragmatics also refers to the study of contextual meaning.

This approach also necessarily explores how listeners can make inferences about what is said in order to arrive at an interpretation of the speaker’s intended meaning. This type of study explores how a great deal of what is unsaid is recognized as part of what is communicated. We might say that it is the investigation of invisible meaning. Pragmatics relates to the study of how a language gets more communicated than is said.

This perspective then raises the question of what determines the choice between the said and the unsaid. The basic answer is tied to the notion of distance. Closeness, whether it is physical, social, conceptual, implies shared experience. On the assumption of how close or distant the listener is, speakers determine how much needs to be said. It can be concluded that pragmatics is the study of the expression of relative distance.

The advantage of studying language via pragmatics that one can talk about people’s intended meaning, their assumptions, their purposes or goals, and the kinds of actions (for example, requests) that they are performing when they speak. The big advantage is that all these very human concepts are extremely difficult to analyze in a consistent and objective way.

With the basic background of the speaker on how they usually give speech or on what occasion they give speech, the speech hidden message reveal. It is indeed difficult to analyze hidden meaning in consistent and objective way, but it is not impossible to do it.

* 1. **Meanings**

Meaning is central to the experience of using language. If a language can’t express meaning, then, that language lost one of its essential aspects. However, meaning itself is a vague term; refers to the variety of different relation between the world, language and speaker (Riemer, 2010).

Scopes of meanings are based on the external context and the interpersonal context. In external context we consider the relation between sense and reference. While interpersonal context based on illocutionary force and speech acts (Riemer, 2010).

There are four ways to recognize the meaning, according to Riemer (2010); 1. Meaning as Referential/Denotation; 2. Meaning as Concepts; 3. Meaning as Brain States and; 4. Meaning as usage.

* 1. **Speech Acts**

In daily use of language, we are not only speaking a word without intention, even call a friend in afar with a ‘Ey!’ accepted as an act of communicate. Yule (1983) added that speech theory does not offer the discourse analyst a way of determining *how* a particular set of linguistics elements, uttered in a particular conversational context, comes to receive a particular interpreted meaning. Because the meaning itself interpreted base on the speaker’s circumtance and the hearer knowledge which become foundation in that time they have conversation.

We use language to give orders, request, or to do things beyond literal meaning of what we speak, Paltridge (2006). Thus, not only act as an information exchange, language also act as conveyor of what the speaker’s intention to the hearer.

* + 1. **Perlocutionary**

“..In terms of the effect which illocutionary act, on the particular occasion of use, has on the hearer..” (Yule, 1983).

* + 1. **Illocutionary**

In uttering any sentences, a speaker could be seen performed some act (Yule, 1983). Also, according to Searle (1974), when uttering words (morphemes, or sentences) it means performing *utterance acts*; when referring and predicating, it means performing *propositional acts*; while stating, questioning, commanding, promising, etc. it means performing *illocutionary acts*. These acts happen simultaneously; they are not means to ends except the point already delivered by the speaker.

**Types of Illocutionary Acts**

These types of illocutionary acts based to Searle as cited in Levinson (1984, p. 240).

* + - * 1. **Declarations or Performatives**

Illocutionary acts that categorize as declaration or performatives has feature as changing the state of the world in an immediate way which effects immediate change in certain institutional circumstances. To utter performative or declaration sentence consider the conventionality, the actuality, and the intentionality of the sentence. There are no true or false in this term, only appropriate and inappropriate.

For example, “You are hired.” Is an utterance that said by a Human Resource Development to a job applicant that change the state of person who apply for a job to an employee in an instant.

Usually used by the priest when baptizing, marrying, and in funerals; the referee in the sport events; and the head of manager in the workplace.

* + - * 1. **Assertive or Representatives**

To be categorizing as assertive or representative illocutionary acts, the utterance should be stating what speaker believe to be case or not; said Yule (1966). And it is a statement that may be judged by true or false because the goal is to describe a certain circumstance in the word, which commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition said Levinson (1984, p. 240).

For example; “I do not like when I speak, and no one is listening,” is an utterance that asserting the speaker’s mind that the hearer did not pay attention to their word. This speech acts used in stating facts, asserting, concluding, hypothesizing, claiming, suggesting, etc.

* + - * 1. **Commissives**

Commissives illocutionary acts make the speaker commit to some future course of action according to Levinson (1984, p. 240). For example, “we will come here again, if you behave,” said a mother to her son when they take a walk in a park indicating the mother will not take his son to the park again if he causes a ruckus. This speech act used to promise, threatening, vowing and offering.

* + - * 1. **Expressive**

This illocutionary acts described that expressing the speaker's reaction towards certain circumstances, for example a close friend of the researcher said; “I am really sorry for your lost,” when she knows that the researcher’s cat died the night before. This act makes the hearer or, the audience able to know the speaker's psychological state from this act. This speech acts suitable for apologizing, refusing, congratulating, regretting, and welcoming.

* + - * 1. **Directives**

The acts that makes request for the hearer to carry out some action based on favor which attempted by the speaker. For example, “I want you to come to my office after lunch time,” said the head of English Department to her pupils. This speech acts better to use in commanding, inviting, requesting, suggesting, etc. said Yule (1966, p. 43).

1. **RESEARCH METHODS**

This is the section where the researcher explains about the methodology of the research. This division consisted of research design, research instrument, data and data source, data collection, and data analysis.

* 1. **Research Design**

In this research the researcher uses qualitative data analysis, based on Michelle Obama’s speech transcript retrieved from The Guardian website. And the researcher conducts this research in descriptive-narrative when imply the data.

* 1. **Data Collection**

**3.2.1 Research Data**

The subject of this research is Michelle Obama’s speech in New Hampshire that already have transcript which the researcher downloaded from the internet and match it with the video of Michelle that giving speech.

**3.2.2 Data Source**

The data source of this research is from a website named Guardian formed as speech transcript and the video of Michelle giving speech in New Hampshire. There are as much as seven pages of Microsoft words which provide 44 paragraphs of Michelle Obama’s speech.

**3.2.3 Instrument**

The first instrument is the researcher herself as the analyst of the data, and data collector. The second instrument is the video player in the researcher’s personal computer. The third is the transcript of Michelle Obama’s speech. And the last is the internet to looking for references.

**3.2.4 Data Collection Techniques**

The researcher read the transcript of the speech and double checked it with the video of Michelle giving speech in New Hampshire. After that, the researcher divides the transcript into four types of speech acts in illocutionary acts.

* 1. **Data Analysis**

In elaborate the data, the researcher uses qualitative technique. The qualitative technique is suitable for specify the data; which words that need to be describe and interpret. The steps will roughly much like;

1. Selecting the data that will discussed after watch the speech and match it with the transcript thoroughly;
2. After selecting the data, the researcher then classifying the data into four categories of illocutionary acts;
3. And when the data already divided into four categories of illocutionary acts, the researcher analyzes the illocution acts of Michelle Obama’s speech in New Hampshire to see what kind of speech acts Michelle used and which speech acts that she used mostly in her speech.
   1. **Research Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Activities of Research** | **Dates** | | | **Notes** |
| **Plan A** | **Plan B** | **Realization** |
| 1. | Download the Data | October 5th, 2017 | October 10th, 2017 | October 10th, 2017 | Already downloads the video and matching the transcript. |
| 2. | Selecting Theories | October 27th, 2017 | October 31st, 2017 | November 9th, 2017 | Found theories from both Pragmatics and Semantics, considering using only one theories; Pragmatics. |
| 3. | Dividing the Data into categories | January 18th, 2018 | January 30th, 2018 | January 5th, 2018 | Dividing the speech into four categories of illocutionary acts. |

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