An Analysis of Indirect Illocutionary Act Found in Candace Owens Podcast Entitled *Becoming Brigitte: the Epilogue*

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Abstract
This study focuses on indirect illocutionary acts found in a podcast titled "Becoming Brigitte: The Epilogue" by Candace Owens. The theory used in this study is Searle's theory. In this podcast, the researcher identified twenty-eight instances containing indirect illocutionary acts. Of these twenty-eight instances, twenty were assertive acts in interrogative form, and eight were assertive acts in expressive form. Assertive speech acts were most frequently found because this podcast is a political commentary and personal opinion, which aims to convey beliefs and influence listeners through statements that the speaker believes to be true. This study only focuses on indirect illocutionary acts because by studying indirect illocutionary acts, we can recognize the meaning behind what someone says, even if their intentions are not explicitly stated. The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. The data results in this study are presented in table form and explained by presenting the data that has been found.

Keywords: *illocutionary, indirect, podcast*

Abstrak
Penelitian ini berfokus pada tindak ilokusi tidak langsung yang ditemukan dalam podcast berjudul "Becoming Brigitte: The Epilogue" oleh Candace Owens. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori Searle. Dalam podcast ini, peneliti menemukan dua puluh delapan data yang mengandung tindak ilokusi tidak langsung. Dari dua puluh delapan data tersebut, dua puluh merupakan jenis asertif dalam bentuk interogatif, dan delapan merupakan jenis asertif dalam bentuk ekspresif. Tindak tutur assertive paling banyak ditemukan karena podcast ini bersifat komentar politik dan opini pribadi, yang bertujuan menyampaikan keyakinan serta memengaruhi pendengar melalui pernyataan yang diyakini benar oleh penutur.Penelitian ini hanya memfokuskan pada tindak ilokusi tidak langsung karena dengan mempelajari tindak ilokusi tidak langsung, kita dapat mengenali makna di balik apa yang dikatakan seseorang, meskipun maksud mereka tidak dinyatakan secara eksplisit. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil data dalam penelitian ini disajikan dalam bentuk tabel dan dijelaskan dengan memaparkan data yang telah ditemukan.

Kata kunci*: illokusi, tidak langsung, podcast*

Introduction

Language is a tool that can help humans to communicate. Language is very necessary in everyday life. By mastering various languages, we can interact with many people, both people who are around us and those outside our circle. By having language skills, we can build a good relationship with our environment, because language helps us to interact. Imagine if we don't have good language skills then there will be miscommunication or bad communication. Not only to avoid bad communication, with good language we can easily understand the knowledge that is outside our environment, thus we can understand many things that we never knew before. Chomsky (1986) stated that language is not just a set of words and rules that we learn from the environment, language is not just a social habit, but part of the innate structure of the human brain. He also stated that language is not only a tool for communication, but also a tool for thinking. And with language skills can help humans process complex ideas, not just convey messages. By having language skills, it will make it easier for humans to communicate.

Communication is one of the keys to maintaining a good relationship. Communication is a way for humans to stay connected with each other. By communicating we can understand how things are around us. Communication helps us share information and knowledge that we and others have. By communicating we can also solve existing problems. For example, in a family that has poor communication, the family will always be in bad conditions such as violence; by communicating well we can solve these problems because by communicating we can convey our thoughts as well as our feelings, by expressing our thoughts or feelings to others can help reduce the burden on us. Rosenberg (1999) said that good communication is communication that connects hearts rather than blaming, forcing, or judging. Empathic and honest communication can heal human relationships and create peace whether in family, work, school, or even conflicts between countries. When we communicate, we do not just look at the meaning of words, but also understand their meaning through context, as studied in pragmatics.

Pragmatic is one of the linguistic sciences that studies how people use language in everyday life, especially by looking at the context or situation when speaking. Pragmatics studies how the meaning of someone's words can be understood based on situations or conditions beyond the words themselves. For example, how do we understand what someone means when they say *it's cold* whether it means they are just stating the fact that it is cold or asking us to close the window. According to George & Widdowson (1996) in their book entitled Pragmatics, pragmatics is the study of how the meaning of an utterance can be understood correctly by the listener by paying attention to the context and intention of the speaker. By studying pragmatics, we can also study speech acts. Pragmatics and speech acts are connected because they both study meanings that depend not only on words, but also on the context of the situation. Therefore, speech acts are an important part of the study of pragmatics because it helps reveal the hidden meaning behind speech and how it affects the listener. It also explains that speaking is not just conveying information, but also performing Actions.

Austin (1962) identified three components of speech acts: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. In this study we will discuss an illocutionary, (Austin, 1962) stated that illocutionary refers to the function or intention behind an utterance delivered by the speaker to the listener in a certain context. Searle (1969) He argued that Representative, Expressive, Commissive, Directive, Declarative are part of illocutionary acts. Representatives include; assert, describe, claim, hypothesize, insist, predict, and inform, this defines that representatives are words that state what the speaker believes to be the case. Expressive states what the speaker feels which includes; apologizing, thanking, blaming, congratulation, doubting, greeting, praising, regretting, and wishing. The commissive includes; promise, offer, threaten, swear, and refuse, which makes the commissive an expression in action where the words bind the speaker to perform an action in the future. Directives include; commanding, requesting, inviting, forbidding, and suggesting. From these parts, it can be defined that directive is an expression used to make someone do something. Declaratives include; betting, declaring, and resigning. Declaratives can be defined as statements that deal with words and expressions that can change the world with the utterance. In addition, Searle also explained two other speech acts, namely direct and indirect illocutionary speech acts. Direct speech act is what the speaker says is the same as the intention he wants to convey. For example, when people say *please close the door* it means that they are asking for help directly to close the door. Meanwhile, indirect illocutionary speech acts are ways of speaking that convey the meaning subtly or implied, and are very dependent on the context and the relationship between the speaker and the listener. For example, when someone says *it's really cold* it means that the person is telling you to close the door with an implied meaning. In this study we will discuss about indirect illocutionary.

The benefit of studying indirect speech acts in everyday life is that we can understand the intentions hidden behind someone words. Not everyone is able to convey their wishes directly; sometimes they use more subtle sentences so as not to offend others. By learning this way of communicating, we become more sensitive to social situations and wiser in responding, so as to avoid misunderstandings. Therefore, understanding indirect speech acts helps us become more understanding, polite, and able to maintain good relationships with others.

In everyday life, people must understand about indirect illocutionary acts, because when people state something with implied intent we can understand it. The application of indirect illocutionary acts can be found in podcasts. Podcasts are audio or video works that are usually in the form of conversations, stories, interviews, or discussions that can be listened to at any time online. Podcasts convey messages, ideas, and feelings through recordings. The important thing in a podcast is the expression or information conveyed, because the audience can understand and be affected by what is being discussed. To get a more diverse perspective on indirect illocutionary acts in podcasts can be done by looking at previous studies.

There are several previous studies that the author used in this research to find similarities and differences between this study and previous studies. First, Sitorus & Rotua Elfrida (2022) who analysed speech acts on the podcast *Ruang Sandi* Videos by Sandiaga Uno. This research uses the theory of Searle and analyses all types of

illocutionary acts consisting of directive, assertive, expressive, commissive, declaration. In this study, 33.8% of data were found on assertive speech acts, 29.5% of data on directive, 8.4% of data on commissive, 21.1% of data on expressive, and finally 7.04% of data on declarative. Based on the percentage of data, the most data found is assertive with 33.8%. Furthermore, there is Wijayanti & Widiastuti (2021) who analysed direct and indirect expressive illocutionary speech acts in the movie *Onward*. In this study, researchers used the theory developed by Searle. This research analyses direct and indirect expressive illocutionary acts which consist of Thanking, Apologizing, Congratulating, Greeting, Wishing, and Attitude. In this study, the researcher managed to find data from all six parts of the expressive illocutionary acts. Compared to the research conducted by Juwita & Inayah (2021), who analysed the indirect illocutionary speech acts in *Governor Ridwan Kamil's Victory Speech*. The theory used by them in their research is Searle's theory. In her research, they divide her findings into two: First, the forms of illocutionary speech acts found in this speech are categorized as declarative, imperative, and interrogative. Second, the types of illocutionary speech acts found are assertive, directive, commissive, and expressive. In contrast to Lusiana Sianipar et al. (2025) who analysed the illocutionary acts in the movie *Inside Out 2*. In their research, they use the theory of illocutionary speech acts by Searle which states that there are 5 types of illocutionary speech acts namely: directive, assertive, expressive, commissive, declaration. In this research, they found 320 total illocutionary data contained in the movie, namely in the representative type found 133 data, in directive found 102 data, then in expressive found 61 data, then in commissive found 22 data and finally found as much as 2 data in declarative. Of all the data found, representative is the most data with 133 data. Finally, there is research by Al Mar'atus & Syahrizal (2022) which analysed the illocutionary acts by *Ustadz Hanan Attaki on YouTube*. In this study, Searle's theory of illocutionary acts is used by them to analyse. In his findings, the researcher found 65 data found, namely in representative as much as 37 data, in directive 22 data, in declarative 5 data and finally in commissive as much as 1 data. In the research, no data was found in expressive illocutionary acts. The most data found was in representative with 37 data.

Based on the studies above, there are similarities and differences. The similarities that exist are in the form of research theory, the five previous studies used the same theory, namely Searle's theory. The differences from the five previous studies are in the data sources and data results. First, the research by Sitorus & Rotua Elfrida analyses all types of illocutionary acts consisting of directive, assertive, expressive, commissive, declaration in the podcast *Ruang Sand*i Videos by Sandiaga Uno. The second research by Wijayanti & Widiastuti analyses direct and indirect expressive illocutionary speech acts in the movie *Onward.* Third Research by Juwita & Inayah analyses the indirect illocutionary speech acts in *Governor Ridwan Kamil's Victory Speech*. Furthermore, there is research by Lusiana Sianipar et al analysing illocutionary acts in the movie *Inside Out 2*. And finally, there is Al Mar'atus & Syahrizal who analyses the illocutionary acts by *Ustadz Hanan Attaki on Youtube.* Different from the five previous studies, this research will analyse the indirect illocutionary acts contained in the podcast conducted by Candace Owens entitled *Becoming Brigitte: The Epilogue*. This research also applied the theory of illocutionary speech acts developed by Searle which is the same as that used by previous studies.

Although several studies on illocutionary acts in podcasts have been done by previous researchers, research on illocutionary acts in the podcast *Becoming Brigitte: The Epilogue* podcast by Candace Owens which features indirect illocutionary acts in it is still limited. Therefore, this research tries to find out what are the types of indirect illocutionary acts in the podcast. In addition, this research also analyses the function of the indirect illocutionary acts. Hopefully, this research can help us to learn and understand the indirect illocutionary acts found in podcasts.

Method

Descriptive qualitative method was the method used in this research. Sandelowski (2000) stated that the qualitative descriptive method aims to provide a thorough description of an event that occurs in everyday life. The qualitative descriptive method used in this research was to identify and describe the indirect speech acts contained in the podcast hosted by Candace Owens entitled *Becoming Brigitte: The Epilogue*. The podcast, which was uploaded on February 21, 2025, served as the closing part of the *Becoming Brigitte* series, in which the content creator answered the remaining questions from the previous episode. In this video, Owens discussed the conspiracy theory that Brigitte Macron, the wife of the French president, was actually Jean-Michel Trogneux. She highlighted the physical similarities between old photos of Jean-Michel and Brigitte and questioned the official narrative about Brigitte's identity. Because the video discussed gender issues involving a respected public figure, and because the host was an influential conservative figure in the United States, the video became an interesting object of analysis. It also provided rich data sources that supported the analysis of indirect illocutionary speech acts. Another reason the researcher analysed indirect illocutionary acts in this podcast was that Owens often used indirect speech acts when discussing gender issues. This allowed the researcher to identify various types of indirect illocutionary acts that appeared in the podcast. There were several steps taken in this research to collect data: first, by watching the podcast video on the YouTube platform; second, by reading the transcript in the video; third, by writing down expressions that contained elements of indirect illocutionary acts; fourth, by classifying the collected data in the form of a table; and finally, by analysing the data using Searle's theory.

Result and Discussion

Result

The results of the study show that in the podcast *Becoming Brigitte: The Epilogue* by Candace Owens, 28 data on indirect illocutionary acts were found. The data was found after watching the podcast and analyzing which parts were indirect illocutionary acts. Based on Searle theory (1969), there are three forms of indirect illocutionary act include: Interrogative, Expressive and Declarative. In this study, the

researcher only found two types of indirect illocutionary act they are; assertive in the form interrogative and assertive in the form of expressive. To present the data and frequency of indirect illocutionary acts in the podcast, the research results were arranged in a table.

Table 1. Data Indirect Speech Act Found in the Podcast.

No	Types of Indirect Speech Act	Frequency
1	Assertive: Interrogative	20
2	Assertive: Expressive	8
	Total	**28**

Based on the table above, assertive in the form interrogative are the most frequently found in the podcast *Becoming Brigitte: The Epilogue* by Candace Owens, with a total of 20 data it because this podcast is a form of political commentary and personal opinion, where the speaker aims to convey beliefs, influence listeners opinions, and shape narratives through statements, speculations, and judgments that the speaker considers to be true. Other data found in the podcast include assertive in the form expressive with 8 data. The data analysis revealed through the utterances made by Candace Owens during her podcast and included explanations of each utterance found in the podcast.

Discussion

A. Indirect Speech Act in the form Interrogative

Data 1.

Candace Owens: *"Is Brigitte Macron, the first lady of France, Emmanuel Macron's biological father?"*

(*BBTE*, 00:00:13 - 00:00:17)

In the first data, the sentence uttered by Candace is an indirect speech act. The sentence implies that something is strange or indirectly accuses Brigitte Macron might not be what society thinks she is. This is a type of interrogative sentence and has an interrogative function. This sentence conveys doubt and suspicion without directly stating the accusation. This utterance is related to asking a question, but with the aim of interrogating and asserting whether it is true that Brigitte is Emmanuel's father.

Data 2.

Candace Owens: *"Why is it so hard to get photographs that demonstrate his childhood?"*
(*BBTE*, 00:04:00 - 00:04:09)

In the second data, the sentence uttered is an indirect assertive sentence in interrogative form. This sentence is interrogative and directly appears to be asking a question. However, on the other hand, the speaker seems to only want to know *Why is it difficult to find photos of Emmanuel Macron as a child?* Although it is in the form of a question, the implied meaning is not really to get an answer, but to convey doubt or suspicion. By asking such a question, Candace indirectly asserts that there is something unusual, such as the possibility of an effort to hide Macron childhood, and also encourages the audience to doubt the authenticity of Macron identity without directly accusing anyone.

Data 3.

Candace Owens: *"How can you marry a billionaire... and there's just no photos of you?"*

(*BBTE*, 00:14:46 - 00:14:50)

The third data is a sentence uttered by the speaker that has an indirect meaning. This sentence takes the form of a question or a rhetorical question. Literally, the speaker asks as if they want to know how someone could marry a billionaire but not have a single photo of themselves. However, this is not a question that actually requires an answer. The real function is to convey a hidden accusation that there is something suspicious about Monique, who is rumored to have married a billionaire. Monique identity or existence is questioned because the lack of photos is considered unusual in today's social context.

Data 4.

Candace Owens: *"How much power would it take if you did want to create identities or destroy identities?"*
(*BBTE*, 00:01:05 - 00:01:10)

In this fourth data, the speaker utters an indirect assertive sentence in interrogative form. If we look at it in direct form, this sentence is simply a question asking about how much power is needed to change or destroy identity. However, if we look at it in indirect form, the meaning of this sentence is to assert that there are people who are manipulating identity, and that such power is indeed being used in the context of Brigitte or Emmanuel Macron. This sentence also contains an indirect accusation that there are powers operating behind the scenes to change the real identity.

Data 5.

Candace Owens: *"Why does it feel like you've always had your hand held by people that are more powerful than you?"*
(*BBTE*, 00:15:05 - 00:15:10)

The expression found in the fifth data is a form of indirect assertive speech act packaged in the form of a rhetorical question. Directly, the sentence is not intended to elicit a response but rather to convey the speaker doubts or suspicions, in this case Candace, regarding Emmanuel Macron position. Although phrased as a question, the sentence indirectly implies that Macron is not acting independently but is instead guided or even controlled by a more powerful and influential force. Therefore, the illocutionary force is indirect assertive, as it conveys a hidden accusation against the credibility of Macron power. This sentence suggests that Macron is simply a representative of the elite forces behind the scenes who control his actions.

B.   Indirect Speech Act in the form Expressive

Data 6.

Candace Owens: *"That doesn't make us feel good about that nebula that is around them."*

(*BBTE*, 00:03:35 - 00:03:39)

The sixth data is part of an assertive statement in an expressive form. If we look it at directly, the sentence expressed by the speaker reveals a feeling of discomfort. However, when looked at indirectly, this sentence explicitly asserts that Candace feels strange because the Macron family environment is full of ambiguity and potential deception. It also conveys suspicion towards the people around Macron, who are compared to a *nebula*, meaning fog or unclear clouds.

Data 7.

Candace Owens: *"It's strange that the public was sold this story about the Trognos without somebody just adding that actually we made up this guy's name."*

(*BBTE*, 00:05:39 - 00:05:46)

In the seventh data, the sentence expresses surprise. This sentence explicitly conveys that Candace finds it strange that the story about the Trogno family was presented to the public without clarifying that the name of one of the characters was

actually made up. This implies that the public was intentionally lied to, and that there was an intention to cover up the facts or manipulate the identity of the Trogno family.

Data 8.

Candace Owens: *"That looks weird. What's going on there? It looks like a lot of fingers... maybe she was throwing gang signs. Maybe she's in a gang."*
(*BBTE*, 00:12:10 - 00:12:27)

The sentence, which is part of an assertive statement in an expressive form, is the eighth data point. When viewed directly, this sentence is a playful comment that seems casual and humorous. However, when viewed indirectly, the sentence asserts that there is something suspicious or unusual about the image. By using humor and hyperbole such as *gang signs* and *maybe she's in a gang,* the speaker conveys a sarcastic remark that casts doubt on the authenticity or honesty of the photo being discussed.

Data 9.

Candace Owens: *"I'm not sure what the reason or the purpose of that lie is."*
(*BBTE*, 00:07:40 - 00:07:43)

The ninth data uttered by the speaker is part of an assertive statement in an expressive form. When viewed directly, this sentence expresses the speaker ignorance of the reason behind a lie. However, when viewed indirectly, this sentence explicitly asserts that something is being hidden and should be suspected. The speaker also encourages the listener to speculate and feel suspicious about the hidden motives or manipulative agenda behind the lie in the sentence.

Conclusion

The research above states that indirect illocutionary acts are part of communication. Communication is a tool for organisms to build good relationships with other social beings. By studying indirect illocutionary acts, we can understand the meaning of what someone says. Indirect illocutionary acts are part of illocutionary acts that study how speakers convey implicit intentions through language, and how those intentions are interpreted by listeners. In this study, there were 28 indirect illocutionary act data contained in the podcast *Becoming Brigitte: The Epilogue* by Candace Owens. The most data found in indirect illocutionary acts was assertive in the form interrogative. The response to the podcast shows that most viewers support the conspiracy theory presented by Candace, particularly regarding the suspected similarities between Brigitte Macron and Jean-Michel Trogneux. This proves that Candace's statements are capable of influencing the audience's point of view.

This study successfully identified forms of indirect illocutionary acts that appear in Candace Owens' podcast Becoming Brigitte: The Epilogue, especially in the interrogative and expressive categories. However, this study still has several limitations. First, the data analyzed only came from one episode, so the findings cannot represent the entire podcast. Second, this study only focuses on classifying types of speech acts based on Searle's theory without relating them to social or situational contexts. Therefore, further research is recommended to expand the data sources by analyzing several other episodes and integrating social and situational context analysis to make the study results more comprehensive.

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