



## The Illocutionary Acts in Melati and Isabel Wijsen's Ted Talk

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### Abstract

Illocutionary Act learns about the utterance performed with some kind of purpose in mind. The goal of this study is to resolve the research problems consisting of: (1) What are the types of illocutionary acts found in Ted Talk by Melati and Isabel Wijsen; and (2) What is the role of the illocutionary act used by Ted Talk by Melati and Isabel Wijsen? The data in this analysis were analyzed by Searle (1979) and Leech (1983) respectively, applying the theory of illocutionary forms and functions. 64 statements containing types of illocutionary actions, such as: assertive, directive, commissive and expressive, are shown as the outcome of this study. The most utterances delivered by Melati and Isabel Wijsen in their Ted Talk are assertive, seen in 50 utterances or (78,13 percent). Commissive, directive and expressive are accompanied by the occurrence of eight utterances (12,50 percent), four utterances (6,25 percent), and 2 utterances (3,13 percent). In Melati and Isabel Wijsen's speech, the declarative is not found since the act involves particular circumstances. Moreover, only 3 roles of an illocutionary act were included in the study. It's competitive, fun, and collaborative. Collaborative was the function of illocutionary actions found most in this group.

**Keywords:** *Illocutionary Acts, Melati and Isabel Wijsen, Ted Talk*

### Abstrak

Tindakan ilokusi mempelajari tentang ucapan yang dilakukan dengan maksud yang terdapat dalam pikiran seseorang. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menyelesaikan masalah penelitian yang terdiri dari: (1) Jenis ilokusi apa saja yang ditemukan dalam Ted Talk oleh Melati dan Isabel Wijsen; dan (2) Apa peran ilokusi yang digunakan oleh Ted Talk oleh Melati dan Isabel Wijsen? Data dalam analisis ini masing-masing dianalisis oleh Searle (1979) dan Leech (1983), dengan menerapkan teori bentuk dan fungsi ilokusi. 64 pernyataan yang berisi jenis-jenis ilokusi seperti: asertif, direktif, komisif dan ekspresif, ditampilkan sebagai hasil penelitian ini. Ucapan yang paling banyak disampaikan oleh Melati dan Isabel Wijsen dalam Ted Talk adalah asertif, terlihat pada 50 ujaran atau (78,13 persen). Komisif, direktif dan ekspresif disertai dengan terjadinya delapan ujaran (12,50 persen), empat ujaran (6,25 persen), dan 2 ujaran (3,13 persen). Dalam pidato Melati dan Isabel Wijsen, deklaratif tidak ditemukan karena tindakan melibatkan keadaan tertentu. Selain itu, hanya 3 peran ilokusi yang dimasukkan dalam penelitian ini. Ini kompetitif, menyenangkan, dan kolaboratif. Kolaborasi adalah fungsi dari tindakan ilokusi yang paling banyak ditemukan dalam kelompok ini.

**Kata kunci:** *Tindakan Ilokusi, Melati and Isabel Wijsen, Ted Talk*

## Introduction

The Illocutionary Act refers to the type of function that the speaker intends to perform in making a speech. It is an act performed by speaking and defined in the sense of a social convention structure. In the theory of speech-act, illocutionary force refers to the intent of a speaker to deliver an utterance or the type of illocutionary act performed by the speaker, also known as an illocutionary feature or illocutionary point. The author notes in the book *Syntax: Structure, Language, and Function* (Valin & LaPolla, 1997) that Illocutionary power is an essential and universal operator that refers to whether an expression is an affirmation, a challenge, an order, or an expression of a wish. There are different types of illocutionary force, which means that interrogative force, imperative force, visual force and declarative force can be spoken about. According to Searle (1979), the illocutionary act can be divided into five overall classifications; assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

Public speaking is how to speak in public, including fluency in voice, emotional control, grammar, and speech tone (Dewi, 2013: 1). Speech may be seen as an acceptable address or speech communicated to the public. Speech is used in many formal circumstances to convey messages or information, and it is widely used. In front of the crowd, speech is used to express ideas or give viewers an idea about something. In some instances, speech works to convince people to change: they think, how they do something or start doing something they do not do at the moment. Some examples of this include being an organ donor and enhancing your health by eating healthy.

Searle (1979) makes of speech act classifications that from the basis of classification the illocutionary act to become: namely (1) Assertive (2) Directive, (3) Commissives (4) Expressive, and (5) Declaration. Assertive is an act that commits (in varying degrees) the point or intent of the members of the assertive class of the speaker to anything that is the case, to the reality of the expressed proposition, Directive consists of the fact that they are attempts by the speaker to get the hearer to do something, Commissive are those illocutionary acts whose point is to commit the speaker (in varying degrees) to some future course of action, Expressive is to express the psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about a state of affairs specified in the propositional content, and Declarative are illocutions, the good performance of which results in correspondence between the proposed.

Based on Leech (1983: 104) function of illocutionary acts is divided into four types, namely Competitive, the role that the illocutionary goal competed with the social objectives which had negative nature and aims to reduce disharmony; Convivial which was the illocutionary goal coincides with the social objectives and was more positive politeness and aims to find opportunities for social time; Collaborative was the function that the illocutionary goal was indifferent to the social objectives and not containing politeness, for which politeness was irrelevant; and Conflictive was the function that the illocutionary goal conflicts with the social objectives which did not contain elements of politeness at all, because the function was basically aimed at caused anger.

Wijaya in his study entitled “Commissive Speech Act in The Movie John Wick Chapter 2” states that there are four types of commissive speech acts used by the characters in the movie John Wick Chapter 2, which are warning for other to be careful, threat as an expression of an intention to inflict pain, injury, punishment, or evil, promise to remind the speaker about something to be done in the future time and refusal to refuse, deny anything demanded, or offered for acceptance. Each of these illocutionary acts are used by the character to deliver their emotion depend on the context of situation, the topic that being discuss, the participants, and language role (Wijaya, et.al: 2020).

Regarding Illocutionary acts, Ramayanti and Marlina found in their study entitled “The Analysis of Types Illocutionary Acts in ‘Tangled’ Movie” found there are four types of illocutionary acts in the movie. Representative, commissives, directives, and expressives with directive being the most frequent Illocutionary act used by the characters in the movie because most of the character are uttering certain commands to direct the other characters to do something (Ramayanti and Marlina: 2018).

Melati and Isabel's speech's primary aim is to convince people, particularly young people, to take action and engage them in a movement toward a better world. Speech acts would have this kind of persuasion, and particularly illocutionary acts are one of the types of speech acts that are both consciously and unconsciously in everyday conversation. This kind of speech act is fascinating because an utterance will make people do something, but because of the secret meaning, not all recipients can interpret the resemblance. This speech was chosen because this speech by Melati offered information on the problems faced in this generation and persuaded the audience to solve it, even encouraging the audience to use speech act to take part in this initiative, thus having lots of illocutionary acts. The purpose of this study was to define in this speech the types and functions of illocutionary actions. In determining the forms and functions of illocutionary acts contained in the speech of Melati and Isabel Wijzen, the researcher used the principle of types of illocutionary acts (Searle, 1979) and functions of illocutionary acts, this analysis used the qualitative approach (Leech, 1983).

The researcher found 64 utterances containing types of illocutionary acts, such as: assertive, directive, commissive and expressive. Assertive is the most utterances deliver by Melati and Isabel Wijzen in their Ted Talk. It is used to describe about their effort to create a plastic bag - free in the environment. The frequency of assertive occurrences are 50 utterances or (78,13%). It is followed by commissive, directive, and expressive which the occurrence of 8 utterances (12,50%), 4 utterances (6,25%), 2 utterances (3,13%). In Melati and Isabel Wijzen speech, the Declaration is not found because it requires specific circumstances to perform the act.

## **Method**

In this study, Melati and Isabel Wijzen's speech at Tedx on 23 January 2017 was used as a data source. The data was taken in the form of the statements of Melati and Isabel Wijzen in their speeches. The observation approach was used to collect data from the video of the speech by Melati and Isabel Wijzen at TEDx on the internet. The

method of data analysis is a procedure for systematically finding or organizing the data. To evaluate the data and to find out about the frequency of types implied in the speech of Melati and Isabel Wijsen at TEDx, this analysis used a descriptive qualitative tool. This study used descriptive qualitative to identify the types of illocutionary acts and the role of illocutionary acts used in the voice. This study used the theory proposed by Searle (1979) in his book entitled *Language and Sense* to identify the types of illocutionary acts and also used the theory proposed by Leech (1983) in his book entitled *Pragmatics* to recognize the role of illocutionary acts used in Melati and Isabel Wijsen's voice. The researcher had to deliver the presentation to provide the readers with a good interpretation of this study to provide a presentation. There are two ways to find presentations, such as the formal method and the informal method.

## Result and Discussion

On the of the finding below there are 64 statements containing types of illocutionary actions, such as: assertive, directive, commissive and expressive. Most utterances given by Melati and Isabel Wijsen in their Ted Talk are assertive. It is used to characterize their attempt to build a plastic bag that is environmentally free. 50 statements or utterances are the frequency of assertive occurrences (78,13 percent). Commissive, directive, and expressive are accompanied by the occurrence of eight utterances (12,50 percent), four utterances (6,25 percent), and 2 utterances (3,13 percent). In Melati and Isabel Wijsen's speech, the declarative is not found since the act involves particular circumstances.

Table 1. Illocutionary Act Found in Melati and Isabel Wijsen's Ted Talk

No	Illocutionary Acts	Frequency	Illocutionary Force	Frequency	Percentages (%)
1	Assertive	50	a. Stating b. Informing c. Believing d. Concluding	6 36 2 6	78,13%
2	Directive	4	a. Asking	4	6,25%
3	Commissive	8	a. Committing	8	12,50%
4	Expressive	2	a. Greeting b. Thanking	1 1	3,13%
	<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>64</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Assertive*

The point or intent of the members of the assertive class is, according to Searle (1979), to pledge the speaker (in varying degrees) to the reality of the expressed proposition. In this study, assertive found in Melati and Isabel Wijsen's Ted Talk is *stating, informing, believing and concluding*.

### 1. **Stating**

The first type of *assertive* is *stating*. it is used to make a statement about something. From the declaration that the speaker gives their wishes to assert the notion

#### **Data 1**

*“If you're a fellow Rotarian, nice to meet you, we're Interactors the youngest Department of Rotary International.”*

The utterance above is categorized as *stating* delivered by the speaker in their speech. As the youngest interactors, the speaker states about their status in the Rotary International. The speakers' speech has a hidden meaning that the speakers want to say about their position in Rotary International. Thus, because the utterance stated by Melati and Isabel Wijsen has an illocutionary objective indifferent to the social goal, this utterance has a **collaborative** function. In contrast to the audiences' social purpose, they know nothing about the speaker being one, the illocutionary objective is to tell about their status as Rotarian. I

### 2. **Informing**

The second type of *assertive* is *informing*. Melati and Isabel Wijsen performed several informing acts in the delivery of a speech. Their information provided deals with the state of the environment to minimize effort by using a plastic bag on Bali's island.

#### **Data 2**

*“That's about a 14-story building and when it comes to plastic bags, less than 5% gets recycled.”*

This utterance above is informing that delivered by the speakers in their speech. From the utterance, we know that the speaker wants to remind Bali Island of the current situation that only a small amount of the waste is recycled. The secret purpose is to make people aware of plastic waste handling, which makes people carelessly refrain from using plastic bags. The speaker intended that once people became conscious and reduced plastic consumption, the waste would be reduced. The above utterance has a **collaborative** function because the above utterance contains the illocutionary objective of informing the audience about how small the amount of waste is handled and recycled. In contrast, the audience's social objective is most likely not aware of how plastic waste is handled.

### 3. **Believing**

The third type of *assertive* is *believing*. The speaker used to believe to tell the audience about the belief of the speaker. Therefore, the speaker's utterance contains a false and true condition because it provided one of the speaker's viewpoints. The speaker shares their belief with the audience in the case.

### Data 3

*“We were really inspired by the efforts to say no to plastic bags in many other places from Hawaii to Rwanda and to several cities like Oakland and Dublin, and so, the idea turns into the launch of “Bye-bye plastic bags.”*

The speech excerpt is an example of *believing*. From the utterance, the speaker believes that their idea will turn out successfully in many other countries, from Hawaii to Rwanda and several cities such as Oakland and Dublin, as demonstrated by a similar action. The speaker believes that this concept is a positive influence, particularly on the environment. The secret implication is that the speaker assumes that their idea will succeed, as shown by a similar idea that works well in another part of the world. Moreover, the above statement has a **collaborative** function. The utterance's illocutionary objective is to convey the speaker's beliefs that they will have good effects on nature by limiting the usage of plastic bags and launching “Bye-bye Plastic Bag”. The social purpose of the audience is they might not think the idea will work. It implies the illocutionary objective's role, which is oblivious to the social objective in the utterance. Therefore, without worrying about the views of the audience, the speaker shares their beliefs.

#### 4. Concluding

*Concluding* is the last types of *assertive* that were discussed. The speaker used the *concluding* act to remind the audience about the conclusion of certain facts. Therefore, the speaker's utterance incorporates an inference from a variety of facts since it was based on the speaker's experience. In this scenario, the speaker tells the audience about the inference.

### Data 4

*“We got stuck-till we learnt lesson number two: think outside the box.”*

The utterance above is also *assertive* intended by the speaker. This data above contains *concluding*. The speaker concludes that they find a way to get out of challenging circumstances by thinking outside the box. The secret meaning is based on the speaker's perspective, and it is inferred that to get a way out and find a solution, we need to see things from a particular viewpoint. The utterance is classified as *concluding* because it offers the audiences knowledge about how to do something by thinking out of the ordinary. Thus, since the utterance mentioned has an illocutionary objective indifferent to the social objective, this utterance has a **collaborative** purpose. The speaker's illocutionary aim was to convey the message solution from multiple viewpoints. It would not benefit as much to adjust the social objective from the audience's perspective. In other words, by thinking outside the box without being mindful of the audience, the speaker wants to send a message about staying out of trouble.

#### *Directive*

Searle (1979) notes that the illocutionary point of directive consists of the fact that the speaker is trying to get the listener to do something. According to Searle, the Directive types are *ask, order, command, request, beg plead, pray, entreat, invite, permit, dare, defy and challenge*.

### 1. Asking

The type of *directive* is *asking*. In Melati and Isabel Wijsen speech, they use *asking* to make the audience think about something and answer to that issue.

#### Data 5

*“They can’t ignore us, right? Right, but who would have guessed 1 million signatures is like a thousand times a thousand?”*

This utterance above is categorized into *directive*, especially *asking*. We understand from the utterance that the speaker asked the audience how high the amount of sign they have not to be overlooked. The intended purpose is that the viewer needs to visualize how large the target they are trying to achieve is. The above utterance was graded as asking because the speaker specifically uttered a question to the utterance audience. This utterance's purpose is **competitive** because it is spoken by delivering a question to the audience to minimize disharmony. The Illocutionary purpose of this utterance is to make the audience think about getting such a signature when the audience's social target is not really to have a picture of how large it is. The illocutionary objective has competed with the social objective so the audience should think about how high the number is actually.

### Commissive

*Commissive* are those illocutionary actions that include committing the speaker to any potential course of action (in varying degrees) (Searle,1979:14). *Commissive* types, according to Searle, are *commit, promise, vow, pledge*.

### 1. Committing

*Committing* is used to take a future action from the statement that the speaker delivers.

#### Data 6:

*“Walking home that day, we agreed that we also wanted to be significant.”*

This utterance is an example of *commissive* that delivered by the speaker. Based on utterance above, the speaker commits to be significant on their way home after receiving such motivational information at the school. The meaning hidden in this utterance is that they are motivated to do something and bring a significant change. The utterance above was classified as *committing* because the speaker commits to do certain things. In this case, they commit to be significant by doing something. Moreover, it has a **collaborative** function because the utterance above contains the speaker intention to be significant which does not care with the social goal. In this

context, the speaker's movement is the commitment for themselves which is shared and ignoring the audiences' perspective, also can be seen as illocutionary goal. Thus, the social goal seen from the speaker's view does not care about what was the audience thinking.

### ***Expressive***

The illocutionary purpose of this act is to express the psychological state stated in the state of affairs specified in the propositional material in the sincerity condition (Searle, 1979:15). Expressive uses for communicating the impression and mood of the speaker. Searle notes that *expressive* types are *thank, congratulate, apologize, condole, deplore and welcome*.

#### **1. Greeting**

The first type of *expressive* is *greeting*. Melati and Isabel use *greeting*. When they deliver their speech. The speaker's greeting is used to convey a mood and often to welcome the audience respectfully. There was just one utterance of the salutation act spoken by Melati and Isabel Wijisen. The data has been clarified here:

##### **Data 7:**

*"Om santih, santih, santih Om"*

The speaker delivers an expression of *greeting* in their speech. The above statement clearly illustrates the expression of greeting after they finish delivering their speech. The utterance comes from Sanskrit, meaning it can always be peaceful in the heart and on earth. Melati and Isabel want the audience to know that they come from Bali Island, because at the end of the speech, the phrase "Om santih, santih, santih Om" is widely used in Bali. Wishing the audience peace is the intended purpose of this statement. It has a **convivial** role since it was meant to coincide with the social target and find social time opportunities. This utterance's illocutionary purpose is that speakers use this opportunity to terminate speech. Besides, the speakers hope that the speech can be peacefully ended with a greeting. This goes along with the audience's social objective, which also wants to end the event in peace.

#### **2. Thanking**

The last types of expression found in the speech by Melati and Isabel Wijisen is *thanking*. Thanks are used to convey the speakers' appreciation. The researcher noticed just one utterance of a thank-you act spoken by Melati and Isabel Wijisen. The details have been clarified here:

##### **Data 8:**

*"Thank you"*

The utterance above is one example of *thanking* delivered by Melati and Isabel Wijisen in their speech. We understand from the utterance that Melati and Isabel Wijisen express their attitude to the audience to take the time to hear the speech of Melati and Isabel Wijisen. The speakers said this utterance, depending on the context, to tell the

audience that all ideas were already exchanged, and by this utterance, they meant that the speech was done. It has a function of **convivial** and the utterance has a function that coincides with the social objective. It implies that the speakers' speech suits the intended audiences, which can be seen from how both the illocutionary goal and the social goal are aware that the speech is finished.

## **Conclusion**

*Assertive* is the most used utterance by Melati and Isabel Wijsen from Ted Talk's study by Melati and Isabel Wijsen, with 50 utterances occurring (78,13%). Next, in Melati and Isabel Wijsen's Ted Chat, *Directive* has 4 utterances, (6.25%). Then, only 8 utterances or 12.50% were noticed by the *commissive*. The last is *expressive*, which happens in 2 or 3.13% of words. In this case, no declaration can be found in the speech given by President Melati and Isabel Wijsen. Each form of act has a distinct purpose focused on illocutionary objectives that want to be achieved, *competitive*, *convivial*, and *collaborative*. The first task of illocutionary act is competitive. *Competitive* was the utterance feature containing an illocutionary purpose that competed with a social objective and reduced disharmony. It is included in illocutionary actions of a sub-type, such as asking. Next, *convivial* was the role of the illocutionary purpose that corresponds with the social aim embedded in the utterance. The role contained in the illocutionary act sub-type, namely: greeting and thanking. *Collaborative* is the last form. *Collaborative* was the position of utterance that was indifferent to the social target with an illocutionary purpose. The most significant feature found in this study is collaborative. This is because the role of illocutionary act that Melati and Isabel Wijsen want to express in their speech is to provide the latest information on the current and real state of the Bali Island environment. In the subtype of illocutionary actions, *collaborative* roles are found, such as: *informing*, *stating*, *believing*, *concluding*, and *committing*. The speakers' types and functions of illocutionary actions to deliver their speech influence the modes of illocutionary function to be done by utterance. Similarly, the speaker uses different kinds of illocutionary act, different functions of illocutionary objective that will be achieved through the utterance.

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