



An Analysis of Representative Speech Acts Used in Covid-19 Speech in Queen Elizabeth II

Luh Putu Anggie Arsani¹, I Wayan Juniarta², Ni Nyoman Deni Ariyaningsih³

English Study Program Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati Denpasar
University, Jl. Kamboja No. 11 A Denpasar - Bali, 80233

Correspondence Email : anggie.arsani.aa@gmail.com, jjuniarta@gmail.com,
nym.deni@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study aims to find out the representative speech acts used in Queen Elizabeth II's speech entitled Queen Urges 'Self-Discipline and Resolve' In Corona Virus Speech, and to analyse the meaning behind the utterance of Queen Elizabeth II's speech entitled Queen Urges 'Self-Discipline and Resolve' In Corona Virus Speech. The analysis of the data uses qualitative method as the study presented descriptively based on theory of speech acts proposed by Searle (1976) to classify the representative speech acts and theory of contextual meaning proposed by Yule (1996) to analyse the meaning behind the utterances in her speech. The result of this study shows that there are 20 of 28 utterances that identified as representative speech acts used in Queen Elizabeth II's speech which means the speaker used representative the most in her speech meanwhile the rest of 8 utterances consist of 4 expressive, 2 commissive, 1 directive, and 1 declarative.

Keywords: *pragmatics, representative speech acts, speech*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui tindak tutur representatif yang digunakan dalam pidato Ratu Elizabeth II yang berjudul Queen Urges 'Self-Discipline and Resolve' In Corona Virus Speech, dan untuk menganalisa makna di balik ujaran dalam pidato Ratu Elizabeth II yang berjudul Queen Urges 'Self-Discipline and Resolve' In Corona Virus Speech. Analisis data menggunakan metode kualitatif sebagaimana penelitian ini disajikan secara deskriptif berdasarkan teori tindak tutur yang dikemukakan oleh Searle (1976) untuk mengklasifikasikan tindak tutur representatif dan teori makna kontekstual yang dikemukakan oleh Yule (1996) untuk menganalisa makna di balik ujaran dalam pidatonya. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada 20 dari 28 ujaran yang teridentifikasi sebagai tindak tutur representatif yang digunakan dalam pidato Ratu Elizabeth II yang berarti pembicara paling banyak menggunakan tindak tutur representatif dalam pidatonya sedangkan 8 sisa ujaran lainnya terdiri dari 4 ekspresif, 2 komisif, 1 direktif, dan 1 deklaratif.

Kata kunci: pragmatik, tindak tutur representatif, pidato

Introduction

Speech acts are communication acts that communicate the aim of the speaker, which is an essential part of pragmatics, since it is an ordinary occurrence in daily contact and communication with a message that the speaker transmits as its main thing. In Austin (1962), Haquet, Upegui, Holtgraves, and Giordano (2019) define that speech acts as the speaker acts in a specific context using language as communicative action in attempt to understand language expression in communication. According to Austin (1962) in Johna, Brooks, & Schrieverb (2019) speech acts can be defined in three: Locutionary act, which refers to the literal sense, Illocutionary act, which refers to a deliberate utterance, and Perlocutionary act, which refers to the effect on the listener of the illocutionary act. While the locutionary act focuses on the literal sense that is easier to understand, in order to direct the dialogue between the speaker and the audience, the illocutionary act needs to be analysed to get the speaker's purpose. The listener must, therefore, correctly interpret the intentions of the speaker to understand the meaning that the speaker wishes to communicate. So, miscommunication caused by misinterpretation can be prevented (Tutuarima et al., 2018).

Illocutionary acts occur in different modes of expression, one of which is speech. In a formal occasion, a nation's leader is typically used to send a message to the public. Queen Elizabeth II delivered her speech on April 5, 2020, entitled Queen Urges' Self-Discipline and Resolve 'in Corona Virus Speech to her people through the use of the Royal Family YouTube channel due to coronavirus disease, as the virus forced the world population to face an epidemic and become infected and induced a high number of deaths due to coronavirus disease. The World Health Organization officially announced on 11 March 2020 that COVID-19 will become a global pandemic (Huang, et al., 2020).

Therefore, this study is intended to take speech acts because both formal and informal language usage of speech acts are commonplace to not only convey such knowledge through speech, but there is also a purpose behind it that needs to be correctly interpreted. This analysis, however, focused on examining representative speech acts only because it includes implied meaning that induces the listener to do something when the speaker's intention can be perceived by the listener. Besides that, through the utterances, the author often wants to explain what the speaker believes.

Method

The data of this study was taken from a Queen Elizabeth II online speech entitled Queen Urges' Self-Discipline and Resolve 'in Corona Virus Speech on April 5, 2020, which has a duration of 04.22 minutes via the Royal Family YouTube. In addition, the speech of Queen Elizabeth II on The Royal Family YouTube channel, which has 722,000 subscribers, achieved 366,677 views out of an average of 119,303 views. Queen Elizabeth II is the Queen of the British Monarchy (United Kingdom), whose

full name has been Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor since 1952. She delivered her speech because of the spread of an outbreak of Corona Virus disease. On July 26th, 2020, the writer accessed and downloaded the video.

The data were collected using the method of observation by watching the clip of the speech of Queen Elizabeth II to understand the subject she delivered. Watching the speech of Queen Elizabeth II entitled Queen Urges' Self-Discipline and Resolve 'in Corona Virus Speech to know and understand the subject of the speech she gave, transcribing the speech of Queen Elizabeth II entitled Queen Urges' Self-Discipline and Resolve' in Corona Virus Speech into script to make the details easier.

Using a qualitative approach, the data collected was analysed as it relates to meanings, ideas, definitions, attributes, and explanations of objects. Moreover, in this study, there are no complex figures. The following are two methods used to evaluate the details. First, the data collected was categorized only the representative speech acts using speech act theory by Searle (1976) and supported by Austin (1969). Second, the writer explored the probability of purpose behind the statements in the data using contextual meaning theory proposed by Yule (1996).

Result and Discussion

This study is focused on analyzing representative speech acts found in Queen Elizabeth II's speech entitled *Queen Urges 'Self-Discipline and Resolve' In Corona Virus Speech*, using the theory of speech acts proposed by Searle (1975), Austin (1969), and theory of contextual meaning proposed by Yule (1996). The result of this study shows that there are 20 out of 28 or equal about to 71,4% data are identified as representative speech acts. Since the speaker delivered her speech on the period of pandemic and considering that she has a great power to declare or send an order to her people, but in fact that the speaker prefer engage her people using representative speech acts in conveying the message she wanted to deliver. This phenomenon influenced by the topic of her speech and the specific stage of pandemic period which is the early stage of pandemic where it was the stage of shock and panic for the people as the pandemic still new. Meanwhile in the previous study written by Wicaksono (2018) which is focused on analyzing declarative speech act found in a movie entitled *My Lawyer, Mr Jo* using the theory of speech acts proposed by Searle (1975), Austin (1969), and theory of contextual meaning proposed by Yule (1996). This previous study mentioned that many directives found in the data as the genre of the movie is lawyer which the scene and the dialogue must be mostly taken in courtyard. This actively demonstrates that the context which includes environment, topic, and participants of the data influenced the use of the types of speech acts.

Representative speech acts

Data 1

“A disruption that has brought grief to some financial difficulties, too many.”

(Queen Urges 'Self-Discipline and Resolve' in Corona Virus Speech, Line 3, 00.20)

The expression above shows that the speaker expressed a reality that told the coronavirus disease affected the economic condition of her nation which went into financial troubles. Thus, the utterance above is listed as representative speech acts. The kind of representative in this statement is describing because the speaker, as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, told the particular type of disruption that occurred in the country. The use of the word *'that'* above also demonstrates that the speaker described the word *'a disruption'* since *'that'* above has a relative pronoun grammatical feature that is the function of heading an adjective clause to describe the noun. This implies that the speaker represented the word *'a disruption'*. The previous utterance supported that she described what kind of disruption occurred at that moment as she only stated in the utterance earlier that there was disruption in her country's life.

Yule (1996) mentioned that communication, depending on its context or circumstance, is not just a spoken utterance, but also something unspoken. The utterance above implied that the pandemic not only caused a health disruption for the world, but also an economic disruption. Because of the lockdown of the U.K to prevent the spread of disease caused by the COVID-19 that has taken many people's lives, the economy did not run as it was used to because of the government regulation that ordered to remain at home limited the activities of workers to work and even the government prohibition on foreigners coming into the country that significantly reduced the visa's in.

Thereby, the speaker who is a queen of United Kingdom implied that corona virus is the disruption which not only created the nation with one kind of difficulties, which is health as the main consideration at that time, but also disrupted the country's economic wheels and caused financial problems to both the state of United Kingdom and the Britons.

Data 2

"I'm sure the nation will join me in assuring you that what you do is appreciated."

(Queen Urges 'Self-Discipline and Resolve' in Corona Virus Speech, Line 6, 00.48)

The utterance above is categorized as the representative speech acts because the speaker specifically stated her aim to ensure the medical personnel in the NHS and the essential personnel that she as the highest representative of the British Monarchy appreciated their willingness to save many human life during lockdown to minimize the amount of positive COVID-19 cases. In addition, the kind of representative in this utterance is assuring as the use of the word *'sure'* demonstrates that the speaker meant to tell the front liner what they're doing is very much valued in saving numerous lives, providing intensive care and support the country.

The speaker talked to the front liners in the National health service and the essential personnel of the United Kingdom as the Queen of the British Monarchy. The United Kingdom government issued regulations to remain at home to do self-quarantine during the high number of deaths caused by coronavirus in her state. People must do their job and study at home and use online alternatives to engage with other people. For their own safety, numerous individuals are being quarantined and sent away from family

and friends. The NHS in the front line, however, and the essential personnel still have to continue their duty outside the home and risk their own lives to minimize the number of patients by helping them with intensive care and supporting the people who remain at home.

The speaker referred the utterance to the Britons who work as front liners and essential personnel on the basis of the utterance above because the word 'you' is specifically mentioned for the NHS and essential personnel. While civilians are referred to by the word 'nation.' This is supported by the previous statement that the speaker just thanked the NHS and the essential personnel. The utterance above implied that the effort of the NHS and the essential personnel are really meant for the nation that deserve to be appreciated as it definitely helps to save many lives during the disease outbreak.

In addition, the first clause of the above utterance implied that the speaker as well believes that the individual who needs to value the effort of front line such as the NHS and the essential personnel is not only her as leader of United Kingdom, but also the nation which referred to the civilians. They as the civilians have to appreciate them, the essential personnel.

Data 3

“The pain already felt by those who have lost loved one.”

(Queen Urges ‘Self-Discipline and Resolve’ in Corona Virus Speech, Line 10, 01.11)

The above utterance indicates that the speaker asserted that considering the number of deaths caused by the disease transmitted to her people, numerous humans in her state have lost their families, friends, or colleagues. So, the above utterance is defined as acts of representative speech. In addition, the kind of representative of the above utterance is asserting because the speaker stressed that throughout the pandemic, many people in the U.K have endured the painful feeling of losing the ones they love.

In the utterance, the speaker intended to emphasize the audience that COVID-19 is a virus that they have to care about since it has killed numerous individuals. In addition, the speaker implied by this utterance that the listeners need to place nothing as a priority above their safety. Through following the regulations and implementing health precautions such as remain at home for doing self-quarantine, applying social distance when going to the outside, using a face mask, washing hands often with soap before and after touching a public object, and applying hand sanitizer to avoid the transmission of the infection, listeners as civilians can protect their safety. There are many individuals who have witnessed the sense of pain that they love of losing their family, friend or colleague. Thus, because the speaker does not want to lose one of her people and bear the pain more, the listeners have to protect their health at all costs.

Data 4

“Together, we are tackling this disease.”

(Queen Urges ‘Self-Discipline and Resolve’ in Corona Virus Speech, Line 11, 01.17)

The above utterance is categorized as representative speech acts since the speaker emphasized that if she and the listeners cooperate together for the same reason as she feels, she would be able to tackle the disease and get the nation back into normal time.

In addition, the kind of representative is asserting in this sentence. The use of the word 'together' indicates that the speaker was meant to convince the audience to work together to combat the disease. In order to gain the trust of the audience, the speaker asserted the listener that they would be able to handle the disease if they cooperate and work together.

Since COVID-19 was released to the whole world as a pandemic, it has put the nation of the United Kingdom in a difficult situation. Before the government issued to lock the country down because large number of people were infected in crowd, the spread of the virus is increasingly high. This forced the health personnel to overcome the infected patients and, at the same time, the health facilities could not hold a large number of people to provide intensive care. Therefore, civil regulations such as staying at home, doing self-quarantine after going overseas, social distancing in public, wearing a mask, and washing hands or using hand sanitizer have to be released by the government to avoid the spread of the disease that can reduce the transmission of the virus. In this way, health facilities can manage and offer more intensive care for infected individuals.

According to the above utterance, the speaker intended to engage the listeners to cooperate in the resolution of the disease as the endeavour would be in vain if it was not done together. In the case of corona virus, by direct and indirect contact such as fluids, droplets, and respiratory mucus within a near distance, anyone can be infected and transmit the virus to many other people whose immunity is weaker. Gathering in the crowds will at the same time drive people to get contaminated with the corona virus. And it makes difficult for health personnel and health facilities to accommodate patients who have been contaminated. That is why the speaker in the utterance asserted the word "together." To overcome the virus, the nation has to support one another.

Data 5

"And I want to reassure you that if we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it."

(Queen Urges 'Self-Discipline and Resolve' in Corona Virus Speech, Line 12, 01.20)

The above utterance is categorized as representative speech acts based on Searle (1976) as the speaker specifically mentioned her purpose by saying 'I want to reassure you' that she wants to reassure the listeners and wants the listeners to trust her statement. In addition, the above form of representative asserting as the use of the word 'reassure' indicates that the speaker stressed that in order to overcome the outbreak, they must stay united and resolute.

In the utterance above, the implied meaning behind the above assertion is that the speaker encourages the listeners to 'remain united' referring to the cooperation of the people in performing their role in order to save the life of the nation from the disease. Both care personnel and civilians have to unite and prove their work and effort in order to overcome the disease by doing their respective part in preventing the transmission of the infection. The health personnel continued to assist the infected individuals and the civilians support them by complying with regulations along with social distancing and self-quarantine to avoid the spread of infectious infection.

In addition, the speaker asserts her people must 'resolute' to urge self-discipline to obey the regulations to enforce health protocols and the more the case numbers decrease, the closer the pandemic will be resolved and returned to normal times.

Data 6

“Across the Commonwealth and around the world we have seen heart-warming stories of people coming together to help others, be it through delivering food parcels and medicines, checking on neighbors or converting businesses to help the relief effort and self-isolating may at times be hard.”

(Queen Urges ‘Self-Discipline and Resolve’ in Corona Virus Speech, Line 17, 02.24)

As the speaker conducts the act of informing to let the listeners know the favourable impact of the pandemic, the utterance above is categorized as representative speech acts. While people have to live during the difficult period caused by corona virus, to support and take care of each other, there is still a sense of humanity and humility.

Queen Elizabeth II, as the speaker, presented current details from 54 Commonwealth nations in this statement that made her feel touched. She implied that even if the people in the midst of this pandemic face challenges, the people in the Commonwealth still have a sense of morality in supporting one another, which is so necessary to bear in gratitude together. Because of this pandemic, an act of caring for one another will help people who have financial difficulties to survive, which indirectly helps lower the nation's mortality rate. She said in the earlier utterance that a fellow feeling still defined the nation that supported the sense of morality is desperately needed throughout this pandemic to effectively reduce the mortality rate and preserve the nation's character.

Data 7

“Many people of all faiths and of none are discovering that it presents an opportunity to slow down, pause, and reflect in prayer or meditation.”

(Queen Urges ‘Self-Discipline and Resolve’ in Corona Virus Speech, Line 18, 02.47)

On the basis of the above-mentioned utterance, the speaker conveyed the listeners with information that many individuals found an optimistic view of the pandemic to take advantage of this situation as an opportunity to take a relief from themselves. Therefore, the above assertion is categorized as act of representative speech and the type of representative is informing.

The implicit meaning of the utterance is the speaker stressed that the pandemic not only created negative effects such as disruption and difficulty, however there is a good thing which we can take to prevent the probability of mental health issue aside from the probability of being infected as the pandemic's primary issue. The speaker informed that the listeners could make their limited movement outside the house as a chance to take a break from the hustle and bustle of their daily lives and enjoy more time with their families. If people can see the positive effect of the pandemic to escape

stress before normal time returns, the pandemic offers an opportunity to recover from their tiring activities while they have to survive.

Data 8

“But now as then, we know deep down that it is the right thing to do.”

(Queen Urges ‘Self-Discipline and Resolve’ in Corona Virus Speech, Line 22, 03.27)

The above utterance is categorized as representative speech acts as the speaker believed that in the difficult time of this disease outbreak, her move to lock the country down was appropriate to do so. Furthermore, the form of representative of the above utterance is claiming because the speaker claimed that it is appropriate to do self-isolation after the rule, which implies separation. Since a claim is commonly used to validate or prove that the previous statement has to be believed logically. The speaker wanted to demonstrate in this utterance why people have to experience a painful sense of separation, as the previous utterance said. The speaker claimed that it was the right thing to do.

The United Kingdom government issued regulations to remain at home for self-quarantine due to increasing number of deaths caused by coronavirus in her nation. People must do their job and study to at home using online alternatives to engage with the relatives. For their own safety, they are being separated and sent away from their families. Nevertheless, upholding the rules is the most crucial thing that they have to do. People help slow the transmission of the virus down that can save many lives and help reduce the number of patients by the NHS in the front line so that they are not overwhelming in offering them an intensive care.

The above utterance implies that despite of it is a difficult thing to do social distancing, self-quarantine, and even lockdown as it divides people from their own relatives, it is something they must do to avoid the spread of the virus in order to decrease the death rate and save many of their family and nation's lives. It is safer to be apart for a while now, so people will live with their families for a long time afterwards, rather than staying around today for a while during the pandemic, but losing their lives, which means that if their family gets infected by the disease and dies, they cannot spend the rest of their lives with their relatives.

Conclusion

To sum up all that has been mentioned so far, there are 20 out of 28 utterances or around 71.4% listed as representatives in Queen Elizabeth II's speech entitled *Queen Urges' Self-Discipline and Resolve 'in Corona Virus Speech* as the data of this study due to an epidemic disease spread to humans with a high number of Corona virus mortalities. The speaker expressed more representation in the form of asserting her people, delivering what she feels as the leader, and telling her people as the listeners about the situation. The speaker addressed as the Queen of the United Kingdom who,

by her voice, has the power over her people to declare or command her people. However, instead of using declarative acts or directive acts in this address, representative acts are the illocutionary acts that mostly happened when her speech was delivered by the speaker. The particular reason for circumstance is that according to the speech was given in April 2020, which is the beginning of the corona virus case, depending on the situation the country is facing.

People still need to adjust to the changes situation at that moment and do not really know how to handle the virus since the corona virus case was still new. The speaker as the Queen of British Monarchy considering that she cannot directly give her people a command in what they have to do as everybody still in the stage of shock and panic. So that, the speaker put more concern on assuring her people to prevent the disease together to avoid the spread of the virus getting wider without put any pressure. The disruption caused by coronavirus has given people a great amount of stress to survive. The speaker prefers to engage her individuals in tackling the disease by taking their sense of empathy, comforting her individuals as they are not alone, and assuring her individuals that together they can overcome the disease outbreak, instead of giving people a command that can add more pressure and burden to them during the disease.

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