

SPEECH ACT ANALYSIS OF DUTERTE'S COMMEMORATIVE SPEECHES

Aprillette Cada Devanadera¹ and Ericson Alieto²

Southern Luzon State University¹, Western Mindanao State University²
Lucban, Quezon, Philippines¹, Normal Road, Zamboanga City, Philippines²
aprillette_devanadera@dlsu.edu.ph¹, ericsonalieto@gmail.com²

For correspondence: ericsonalieto@gmail.com

ABSTRACT: *The main objective of the study is to determine the dominant speech acts in five commemorative speeches of President Duterte. This study employed Speech Act Theory and Discourse analysis to determine how the speech acts features connote the pragmatic meaning of Duterte's speech. Identifying the speech acts is significant in elucidating the underlying message or the pragmatic meaning of the speeches. From the 713 sentences or utterances from the speeches, assertive with 208 occurrences from the corpus or 29% is the dominant speech acts. It was followed by expressive with 177 or 25% occurrences, directive accounts for 152 or 15% occurrences. While commissive accounts for 104 or 15% occurrences and declarative got the lowest percentage of occurrences with 72 or 10% only. It is significant to note that all speech acts are used by Duterte. These sentences when uttered by Duterte carry a certain power of language to move or influence people. Thus the present study shows the fundamental message perceived by the listeners. Moreover, the frequent use of assertive and expressive not only explains the pragmatic message of the speeches but also reflects the personality of President Duterte.*

Keywords: Duterte, Speech Act Theory, discourse analysis, commemorative speech, pragmatics.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language, in its multitude forms, is a powerful tool for communication. Its importance is unquestioned [1]. In fact, choosing the right language leads to educational success [2]. It helps us connect and maintain our social responsibilities to people around us. Thus, language is a significant aspect for people to be part of a speech community. By the use of it, man is able to not only express or influence others but is also able to identify one's role in society. While the language is described as an expression of who we are as part of society, it is also what connects us to the culture of politics in the country.

Politicians recognize the strong influence of language in generating respect among other leaders and building comradeship even to other nationalities. In the political arena, politicians are dependent on the use of language to educate, convince, influence and inform people through their speeches. Political speeches are crucial in upholding the dignity and self-worth of a politician.

In Philippine politics, essentially during and after elections, politicians in the country use language to their advantage or disadvantage. Most Filipinos approximate a politician's credibility through language choice they use in their political speeches. It can presumably make or break them since politicians communicate directly with the general public in order to convince them of their programs or ideas. Thus language and politics are social stances. Language as manifested in the political speech functions as the medium for communication with purposes of gaining and maintaining power in the society. Political language through speech influence people's thoughts, attitudes and perceptions on certain issues. This illustrates the power embedded in political speeches delivered to the public.

The president as the highest and most influential person in a country needs to be in constant communication with the people. Through political speeches, the president is able to address to the public about the government's plans and directions in the future. Through political speech, politicians express their feelings on some government's policies, whether it connotes agreement or disagreement. In the aspects of pragmatics, this means that political leaders

perform various acts through their speeches. These speech acts may ascertain various understanding from people, as [3] posited that pragmatics is 'meaning in use' and 'meaning in context'. While according to [4] one of the fundamental areas of inquiry in pragmatics is the speech acts in the language used. Therefore pragmatics is important to uncover the meaning of speech acts in political speeches. [5] explained that all utterances in a speech situation have functional or performative aspects of speech which he labeled as 'speech acts'. Therefore the speech acts in a political speech may depend on the speaker's intention and the listener's own interpretation in the context which the words are uttered.

Since most of the speeches delivered by the president in the public arena are focused on the government's 'War on Drugs Campaign', the present study instead analyzed commemorative speeches to show a different angle of how the president conveys messages to Filipino people in a more formal gathering.

The primary aim of this study is to determine the speech acts that illustrate the performative utterances premised from the commemorative speeches of President Duterte. Thus speech act analysis of the political speeches provides the understanding that political leaders perform various acts through their speeches.

1.1. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The present study aims to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the dominant speech acts in the five commemorative speeches of President Duterte in terms of illocutionary acts and perlocutionary acts?
2. How do the overall identified features project the pragmatic message of the speeches?

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

This study used the quantitative-qualitative research methods to probe into the dominant speech acts used in the commemorative speeches of President Duterte. This analysis is significant in illustrating the pragmatic message of the

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surveys the field of gender and communication with a particular focus on gender and communication theories and methods How have theories about gender and communication evolved and been influenced by first second and third wave feminisms And similarly how have feminist communication scholars been inspired by existing methods and aspired to generate their own The goal of the text is to help readers develop analytic focus and knowledge about their underlying assumptions that gender communication scholars use in their work Features and Benefits Applies theoretical and methodological lenses to contemporary cases allowing readers to see gender and communication theory work in action Presents a comprehensive introduction to particular feminist theories and methodologies Provides effective end of chapter cases and sample analyses that help readers see the kinds of questions and analyses that a particular theory and method bring into play Discusses contemporary research in gender and communication and expands on future directions for research

The Routledge Handbook of Public Speaking Research and Theory Stevie M. Munz, Tim McKenna-Buchanan, Anna M.

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