

**The Study of Speech Acts of Joko Widodo's Speech in  
Annual Session People' Consultative Assembly (MPR) 2024**

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**Abstract**

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This research examines the application of speech acts in the political language of Indonesian President Joko Widodo (Jokowi), focusing on his 2024 Annual Session address at the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) RI. Using a qualitative content analysis approach, the study categorizes different speech acts, including assertive, expressive, directive, commissive, and declarative forms. Jokowi's speech, heavily centered on assertive acts, emphasizes the significance of presenting factual content to strengthen public trust and highlight governmental achievements. His selective use of expressive acts enables an emotional connection with the audience, fostering solidarity and a shared sense of identity. Importantly, the lack of directive and commissive acts reflects the speech's retrospective and reflective character, fitting the formal context where reviewing past accomplishments outweighs issuing commands or promises. Through speech act theory, this study explores how Jokowi tactfully combines information with emotion to convey authority, empathy, and stability. The integration of hybrid speech acts, such as assertive-expressive forms, enhances the speech's impact by embedding emotional weight into factual statements, promoting deeper audience engagement. This analysis reveals Jokowi's ability to use language as both a communication tool and a means to shape public sentiment. The findings offer insight into the essential role of language in political discourse, showing how speech acts can consolidate leadership and unity in structured political environments.

**Kata Kunci:**

*Tindak tutur, sidang  
tahunan, Majelis  
Permusyawaratan  
Rakyat*

**Abstrak**

Penelitian ini mengkaji penerapan tindak tutur dalam bahasa politik Presiden Indonesia Joko Widodo (Jokowi), dengan fokus pada pidato Sidang Tahunan 2024 di Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat (MPR) RI. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan analisis isi kualitatif, penelitian ini mengkategorikan tindak tutur yang berbeda, termasuk bentuk asertif, ekspresif, direktif, komisif, dan deklaratif. Pidato Jokowi, yang sangat berpusat pada tindak asertif, menekankan pentingnya menyajikan konten factual untuk memperkuat kepercayaan publik dan menyoroti pencapaian pemerintah. Penggunaan tindak ekspresif secara selektif memungkinkan hubungan emosional dengan audiens, menumbuhkan solidaritas dan rasa identitas bersama. Yang terpenting, kurangnya tindak direktif dan komisif mencerminkan karakter pidato yang retrospektif dan reflektif, sesuai dengan konteks formal di mana meninjau pencapaian masa lalu lebih penting dari pada mengeluarkan perintah atau janji. Melalui teori tindak tutur, penelitian ini mengeksplorasi bagaimana Jokowi secara bijaksana menggabungkan informasi dengan emosi untuk menyampaikan otoritas, empati, dan stabilitas. Integrasi tindak tutur hibrida, seperti bentuk asertif-ekspresif, meningkatkan dampak pidato dengan menanamkan bobot emosional kedalam pernyataan faktual, sehingga mendorong keterlibatan audiens yang lebih dalam. Analisis ini mengungkapkan kemampuan Jokowi dalam menggunakan bahasa sebagai alat komunikasi dan sarana untuk membentuk sentiment publik. Temuan ini memberikan wawasan mengenai peran penting bahasa dalam wacana politik, menunjukkan bagaimana tindak tutur dapat mengkonsolidasikan kepemimpinan dan persatuan dalam lingkungan politik yang terstruktur.

**INTRODUCTION**

In this life, people need to interact and communicate with each other. Language is used to communicate with other people in everyday life. People use language to communicate with others both orally and written. Language styling refers to the use of language that incorporates stylistic elements, particularly figures of speech or language styles (Rahayu & Parmawati, 2020). Language

stylization involves increasing language with stylistic elements, such as figures of speech and various language styles, to create a more expressive and impactful form of communication. In line with the use of language, Marquez Reiter (2000) states when people use language, they are not merely constructing secluded sentences; they are also accomplishment actions. In other words, through language, they either take action or prompt others to act, such as by thanking, requesting, or promising.

The study of speech acts is a key area within the fields of linguistics and pragmatics, focusing on how utterances function not just to convey information but also to perform actions. Yule cited in Rahayu and Parmawati (2020) stated that pragmatics is the study of utterer meaning. Then an opinion conveyed as a Speech Act emphasizes on the speaker's communication intention in producing an utterance, defined by the purpose for which the speaker uses language, such as making a request, offering an apology or providing a report. Speech that refer to the idea that people make various actions through the use of words. When utterances are made, a specific act is carried out—this is known as a Speech Act. Austin as cited in (Hasim: 2015) explained that Speech act fall into three classes, which are: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. Locutionary acts are the act that is performed in order to communicate, the act of actual uttering (the particular sense and reference of an utterance) the study is the domain of field like phone tic, phonology, and linguistic semantics. Illocutionary act is an act performed in saying something, making statement or promise, thanking, asking a question, etc. A perlocutionary act is an act performed by saying something in a particular context. Then, Searle cited in Saragi (2019) described that a speech act constitutes an action that alters the state of discourse. This happens when the speaker performs the utterance and the recipient comprehends its intended meaning. Further, Searle categorizes the illocutionary acts into five classes: 1) Assertive 2) Directives 3) Commissive, 4) Expressives 5) Declaratives. In addition, According to Geurts (2019), speech acts encompass the terminologies and observations related to communication. They are categorized into three main types: commissives, which involve promises; constatives, which are assertions;

and directives, which include requests. Additionally, in cross-cultural pragmatics, speech acts are classified into three specific types: direct speech acts, indirect speech acts, and nonliteral speech acts.

In political contexts, speech acts become powerful tools for leaders to influence public perception, assert authority, and mobilize action. Analyzing speech acts in political speeches can thus provide deep insights into the mechanisms of political communication and rhetoric. A speech act is not merely the symbol, word, sentence, or even their tokens, as is commonly believed, that serve as the unit of linguistic communication. Instead, it is the production of these tokens during the performance of the speech act that constitutes the fundamental unit of linguistic communication. Through speech, speakers and listeners establish effective communication to achieve better outcomes. Pragmatics, a crucial field of linguistics, is concerned with meaning and context (Fadilah, Meisuri, & Pane, 2019). It enhances linguistic performance in communication by considering factors such as linguistic knowledge, the context of the utterance, knowledge of the participants' status, and the inferred intentions of the speaker, all of which play a role in how meaning is successfully conveyed. Rahayu, Syahrizal, and Sadikin (2019) state that speech acts are actions in language that arise when speaking something. Referring to other concepts of speech acts, every utterance basically holds three elements: locution, illocution, and perlocution. Locution is the utterance of what the speaker says, illocution is the aim of what the speaker says, and perlocution is the impact of what the speaker says (Swastiana et al., 2020).

In political speech, the strategic use of speech acts allows politicians to convey a variety of communication goals. These include establishing an emotional connection with the audience, building credibility, and creating a sense of solidarity with the public. In academic contexts, politics is often preserved as though it can be examined independently of language or the communication practices of political figures and the citizens within a political system. However, it requires only minimal observation to recognize that language is at the core of all political activities, just as it underpins all forms of social interaction (Chilton, 2004: pp 1–2). Speech acts help bridge the gap

between speaker intent and audience interpretation, providing a framework for analyzing how politicians, such as Indonesian President Joko Widodo (commonly known as Jokowi), use language to shape reality and influence public opinion. Jokowi's speeches often aim to connect with ordinary citizens by using simple language and easy-to-understand narratives, making his communication style accessible and effective. By studying speech acts in Jokowi's speeches, researchers can uncover how he constructs his public persona and communicates his policy agendas. The use of political language or terms in society strongly follows the determination of language development in general. (Dylgjeri, 2017). In this case the use of the political terms should catch up the audience understanding and knowledge.

A novelty of this research is contribution to the study of speech acts in Jokowi's political speeches lies in its integrated approach, blending communication theory, linguistic and pragmatic analysis, and rhetorical strategies. This methodology allows for a nuanced understanding of how Jokowi utilizes language to perform various actions—such as committing to reforms or inspiring patriotism—while also conveying meaning through contextual cues and pragmatic markers. By examining how he frames his messages to emotionally and logically resonate with his audience, this analysis not only uncovers his persuasive techniques but also underscores the significant role of language in shaping political discourse and public engagement this made this research from the previous study. This interdisciplinary approach offers fresh insights into the intersection of language and politics, emphasizing the power of speech acts in influencing political processes..

The analysis of speech acts is rooted in linguistic and pragmatic theories, which examine how context, speaker intentions, and audience interpretations influence meaning. In this framework, language is seen not merely as a system of signs but as a dynamic tool for interaction. Pragmatics, the study of language use in context, explores how meaning is constructed and understood in specific situations. By applying speech act theory to Jokowi's political speeches, researchers can identify the different types of speech acts (e.g., assertives,

directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives) and how these are employed to achieve his communicative goals. This approach allows for a nuanced understanding of how Jokowi navigates various social and political contexts, tailoring his speech to different audiences and situations. Identifying the types of speech acts in political speeches greatly aids in interpreting the meanings conveyed in their content. In essence, speech acts highlight the intended meaning of the speeches. As noted, during the act of speaking, additional speech acts are often carried out. The use of speech acts in a discourse reflects the speaker's personality. Consequently, commissive acts constitute the largest percentage of illocutionary acts performed, followed by assertive and expressive acts. Utilizing Speech Act Theory as an analytical framework for the selected speech allows for a deeper examination of the political leader's language use. (Dylgjeri, 2017)

In pragmatics, direct speech acts are those in which the purpose of the phrase aligns directly with its type. Conversely, indirect speech acts occur when there is an indirect relationship between the purpose and the phrase type. In direct communication, the speaker reproduces their original remarks verbatim for the listener, using the exact same words. To indicate that the speaker's original words are being repeated, quotation marks or brackets are often used (Alghazo et al., 2021). Political rhetoric is the art of using language to convince and influence. In the context of Jokowi's speeches, rhetoric plays a crucial role in shaping public perception and mobilizing support for his policies. The analysis of political rhetoric involves examining how language is used to frame issues, build narratives, and appeal to the emotions and values of the audience. Jokowi's rhetoric often emphasizes themes such as development, unity, and progress, aligning his vision with the aspirations of the Indonesian people. By employing rhetorical strategies such as ethos (credibility), pathos (emotional appeal), and logos (logical argumentation), Jokowi can successfully communicate his leadership style and political objectives.

## **METHOD**

The method outlines a theoretical framework for conducting investigations, focusing on analyzing principles and mechanisms within a specific field of study. This study will employ a qualitative research approach, utilizing content analysis to examine the speech acts in the 2024 Annual Session speech delivered by President Joko Widodo at the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) RI. According to John W. Creswell, exploratory qualitative research is used by researchers to explore further into a subject. The results of a qualitative method are descriptive. In that case, data is reported in words (typically the participant's words) or visuals rather than numbers (Creswell, 2014). The focus will be on understanding the types, functions, and effects of speech acts used, rather than quantifying data. Qualitative analysis allows for an in-depth exploration of the language and rhetoric used in the speech. According to Berg (2001), qualitative research involves researchers seeking answers to questions by examining various social and individual contexts. The design of qualitative research elucidates the contextual framework and extracts evidence from participants' responses. In line with that, Perry as cited in (Dewi, Hernawan & Apsari: 2019), qualitative research is investigated by oral explanation of its data. In addition Silverman (2020) emphasizes that qualitative research is an exploratory approach that enables in-depth understanding of human experience and social phenomena through contextual and reflective methods in line that Moraska et al.,(2021) argued that Qualitative design focuses on collecting nonnumeric data and conducting narrative analysis. This study employs a qualitative design, as the topic requires exploring subjective information. Since numerical data are not relevant to the context of cross-cultural pragmatics, a qualitative approach was deemed most appropriate for this research.

The data were taken from the speech of President Joko Widodo at the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) 2024. It was entitled State of the Nation Address at the Annual Session of the MPR RI and Joint Session of DPR and DPD RI in commemoration of the 79th Anniversary of the Proclamation of

Indonesia's Independence (Widodo, 2024). The study focuses on identifying and categorizing various types of speech acts (such as assertive, directives, commissive, expressive, and declarations) used in the speech Searle cited Saragi (2019). In collecting the data, the researchers analyzing every utterance in the speech transcript and viewing the video recording of the speech to investigate the speech act. Speech transcript were taken to capture the speech accurately the speech accurately, including pauses, emphasis and intonation, as these elements are crucial for understanding the pragmatics aspects of speech acts. Then, a video recording of the speech helped the researchers to understand the speech act through non – verbal cues such as intonation, emphasis, facial expressions, and gestures, which provided additional insights into the illocutionary force and intended meaning.

In analyzing the data, the researchers applied the theory of analyzing the qualitative data proposed by (Burns: 2010). The researchers referred to some steps proposed in analyzing the qualitative data. The first step was assembling the data. In this step, the researcher collected all data that had been obtained, reviewed the initial or revised questions, and started to look for broad patterns, ideas, or trends that seemed to answer the questions. The second step was coding the data. In this step, the data is grouped into more specific patterns or categories, identifying the data sources. The third step was comparing the data, where there searchers compared the data to see whether the data said the same thing or contradiction. The next step was building meaning and interpretations. Here, the researcher analyzed the data several times to pose questions, rethought connections, and develop an explanation of the situation. Finally, the last step was reporting the outcomes. In this step, the researcher described the context of the research, outlined the findings, and how the researcher organized the whole research.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Finding***

Data obtained from the script of Joko Widodo's Speech (<https://setkab.go.id/pidato-kenegaraan-pada-sidang-tahunan-mpr-ri->) can be seen in the table below :

Table.1. Data obtained from the script of Joko Widodo's Speech

<b>No</b>	<b>Speech Acts</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Assertive	121
2	expressive	20
3	directive	0
4	Commissives	0
5	Declaration	0
6	assertive & expressive	14
7	Expressive & Assertive	25
8	Expressive & Directive	7

The explanation from information of Speech Act Categories and Totals below;

1. Assertive (121 occurrences).

These are statements used to convey information, state facts, or assert that something is true. These are the most commonly utilized sort of speech act in this speech, indicating that the speech will likely focus on giving facts, describing conditions, or explaining events.

2. Expressive (20 occurrences).

Expressive words convey the speaker's emotions or attitudes, such as gratitude, apology, or congratulations. With 20 occurrences, the speech includes components in which the speaker engages emotionally with the listener.

3. Directive (0 occurrences)

Directives are attempts to compel the listener to do something, such as demands, pleas, or suggestions. The lack of directions means that the speech may not directly instruct the listener to perform specific activities.

4. Commissive (0 occurrences)

Commissive statements bind the speaker to a future course of action, such as pledges or vows. The lack of commissive shows that the speaker made no specific personal promises throughout this speech.

5. Declaration (0 occurrences).

Declarations modify the exterior status of circumstances by utterances (for example, declaring war or beginning a ceremony). The absence of pronouncements indicates that no such official modifications were made during this speech.

6. Assertive and Expressive (14 occurrences)

These statements incorporate factual information (assertive) with an emotional or attitudinal expression (expressive). These are most frequently employed to highlight specific topics while engaging emotionally with the audience.

7. Expressive and assertive (25 occurrences).

Similar to the preceding example, but with a minor focus on expressive aspects to indicate occasions when the emotional appeal comes before the information or fact being presented.

8. Expressive and Directive (7 occurrences).

These blend emotional appeals with subtle commands, such as subtly encouraging or motivating the listener, thereby instilling a sense of shared duty or hope.

### ***Discussion***

President Joko Widodo's 2024 Annual Session speech has been widely analyzed for its structured and purposeful use of language. Research by Arnita et al. (2024) highlights the emotional undertones of the speech, particularly its themes of humility, pride in achievements, and reflections on leadership. These elements resonate with the use of expressive speech acts, which Jokowi employs to foster a sense of shared identity and trust between himself and his audience. This strategic use of emotion enhances the connection between the speaker and the people, reinforcing his role as both a leader and a unifying figure

A dominant feature of the speech is its reliance on assertive acts, with 121 instances identified. Assertive acts are used to detail Jokowi's administration's achievements, such as infrastructure developments and legislative reforms like the

new Criminal Code. These acts convey information authoritatively, aligning with the reflective and evaluative purpose of a state address. By focusing on facts and accomplishments, the speech underscores stability and progress, avoiding any need for directives or commitments.

Expressive acts, though less frequent, play a significant role in enhancing the speech's emotional resonance. Moments of pride and gratitude are strategically placed to celebrate milestones like poverty reduction and improvements in the Human Development Index. These emotional elements ensure that Jokowi's factual statements carry a personal and engaging tone, making the speech more relatable and inspiring for its audience. This balanced approach reinforces the narrative of unity and collective progress.

Notably, Jokowi avoids the use of directive, commissive, and declarative acts. Directive acts, which instruction or command, are unnecessary in the ceremonial context of an annual state address. Similarly, the absence of commissive, which involves promises or future commitments, reflects the speech's retrospective nature, focusing on accountability rather than projecting future policies. This choice ensures that the address remains formal and evaluative, consistent with its context.

The inclusion of hybrid speech acts enriches the speech further. Jokowi blends assertive statements with expressive undertones, creating a narrative that is both informative and emotionally engaging. For example, discussions about infrastructure achievements are paired with expressions of pride, enhancing their impact and fostering a sense of shared ownership in the nation's progress. This nuanced use of language demonstrates Jokowi's ability to connect on both intellectual and emotional levels.

The speech also highlights the balance between retrospection and subtle forward-looking aspirations. While Jokowi does not commit to specific future actions, his acknowledgment of ongoing initiatives and shared goals signals expectations for continued progress. This careful balance ensures that the speech maintains its reflective tone while inspiring confidence and optimism.

From a broader perspective, the speech's structure and language reflect Jokowi's commitment to stability and unity. By emphasizing past achievements and avoiding polarizing directives or promises, he strengthens his message of steady governance and progress. This approach ensures that the speech resonates with both its formal audience and the broader public, aligning with the ceremonial purpose of the annual session.

In conclusion, President Joko Widodo's 2024 Annual Session speech exemplifies a sophisticated use of language that blends factual reporting with emotional engagement. Through the dominant use of assertive acts, complemented by carefully placed expressive and hybrid elements, Jokowi delivers a message of unity, stability, and continuity. This strategic approach not only highlights his administration's accomplishments but also solidifies his legacy as a reflective and forward-thinking leader.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, President Joko Widodo's 2024 Annual Session speech reflects a meticulously organized use of speech acts that underscore his aim to communicate accomplishments, build trust, and foster unity. The speech heavily relies on assertive acts to share facts and accomplishments, focusing on Indonesia's economic growth, public policy impacts, and development projects. By framing his statements assertively, President Joko Widodo effectively emphasizes the government's achievements, maintaining a tone suitable for an evaluative address rather than one introducing new initiatives. Additionally, the selective use of expressive acts adds emotional depth, allowing President Joko Widodo to connect with the audience by expressing pride and optimism, thereby strengthening his position as a leader who resonates with collective aspirations.

The absence of directive, commissive, and declarative acts aligns with the ceremonial purpose of the annual address, prioritizing a reflective tone over direct instruction or future commitments. This choice reinforces the speech's focus on stability, continuity, and evaluation, rather than promises or changes in policy. Through the inclusion of hybrid speech acts—combining assertive and expressive

elements— President Joko Widodo subtly encourages a sense of pride and optimism among the audience, gently guiding sentiment without compromising the formal nature of the session. Overall, President Joko Widodo's speech uses language strategically to inform, inspire, and unify, highlighting the role of carefully selected speech acts in effective political communication.

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