

POLITENESS PRINCIPLE OF ASSERTIVE ACT IN DEBATE BETWEEN DONALD TRUMP AND JOE BIDEN

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ABSTRACT

In presidential elections, debates are often held between presidential candidates to find out the arguments, vision and mission, as well as policies that will be carried out by presidential candidates in their country. In expressing statements in their debates, speakers often do not realize the important aspects of language that affect the image of presidential candidates in public, namely the aspect of politeness. Therefore, this research aims at identifying types of politeness principle's maxim and knowing the function of the assertive act in politeness utterances are used in the presidential debate between Donald J Trump and Joe Biden. This research used descriptive qualitative method which emphasizes the description of the data. In this study, each data was analyzed by the politeness maxims contained in the speech, as well as the assertive function contained in the politeness speech. There are five politeness maxims and there are speeches that violate the politeness maxims contained in the speeches of presidential candidate debates, and there are five speech functions of speeches that contain politeness and violate politeness maxims. Each politeness utterances and violates politeness has a different assertive function.

Keywords: politeness principle, assertive act, politeness maxim, presidential debate

A. INTRODUCTION

In 2020 ago, the United States was holding a general election to elect a president and vice president who would lead the country. To create the vision and mission of the presidential candidate is known to the public, this debate was held as the opportunity to express the vision and mission, plans and perspectives on state problems, and arguments that can affect the strength of the presidential candidate to be able to lead his people. The United States presidential debate in 2020 between Donald J Trump and Joe Biden which is an object of the research, is an interesting thing to analyze. As reported by Kaplan & Shear (2020) in New York Times, the debate participants will debate on six main issues including, corona virus, economic problems, the Supreme Court, Race and violence in American cities, Trump and Biden's record, and the integrity of the election.

In linguistics, when a speaker in a debate gives speech in a certain context and acts through his speech, it is called as speech act (Nurhantoro et al., 2020). Pragmatics studies the meaning of the speaker's utterance in a context so that the analysis is not about the words or phrases used, but about what the speaker said (Yule, 1996). The utterance that used in the

first presidential debate of America in 2020 as an object of the research, use illocutionary act, especially assertive act that expressed the proposition of truth in the utterance's speaker. Illocutionary act is speech acts that act and say something. Every Illocutionary acts contain purposes and functions related to social goals, such as the maintenance of polite and respectful behavior. In the assertive act spoken by the debate participants, it contains politeness principles and the function of each utterance based on the assertive act that used. This is the writer's concern regarding problems that people hope to be more aware of language problems. Politeness affects the image of the debate participants in public. Politeness shows ethics how well the person complies with existing cultural norms. Every politeness in assertive act has its own communication function. Knowing the function of speech can help to understand the intent and purpose of the speech in the form of refuting, suggesting, guessing, explaining, and so on.

The first presidential debate of America 2020 as the object of the research containing the vision and mission that important to be known by the public in order to provide benefits and take lessons from the debate. The use of language in the debate is included in pragmatic such as speech act and politeness principle. Basically, debate is give opinion which give a truth statement to the listener, it is called as assertive act, one of speech act's type. In giving their arguments, the speaker often do not realize the use of politeness principle which is to avoid misunderstand between the speaker and listener. Therefore, this research has a problem formulation as follows: 1.) What types of politeness principle's maxim in the utterance of assertive act are used in the presidential debate between Donald J Trump and Joe Biden? 2.) How to know the function of the assertive act in politeness utterances are used in the presidential debate between Donald J Trump and Joe Biden?

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

The understanding of pragmatics is growing. At this time there are four pragmatic scopes as expressed by Yule (1996) in Sulisty (2013), (1) pragmatics is study of meaning said by the speaker, (2) pragmatics discussed the contextual meaning, (3) pragmatics studies speech that is more communicated than is said, (4) pragmatics is the study of the expression of relative distance. The four scopes have their respective explanations. First, pragmatics studies the speaker's intention, so it requires interpretation of a specific context, and how that context affects what is said, and it is necessary to evaluate what the speaker said to the interlocutor regarding where, when, and how the situation was when the conversation is taking place. Second, pragmatics discussed the meaning according to its context. In pragmatics it is necessary to interpret the meaning in speaker's speech by the listener, then listener makes conclusions about a meaning conveyed by the speaker. Third, pragmatics transmits the meaning which is communicated and not only through what is said. Fourth, pragmatics is the study of expressions that depend on the distance of a relationship. This means that the interpretation of speech partners is based on familiarity distances such as physical, social, conceptual intimacy, and implies the same experience.

Speech act is the language ability of a person to convey the message and purpose of the speaker to the speech partner. In communication, people do not only use grammatical and words to deliver the message, but performs actions in those utterance. Speech act is the actions that used in producing an utterance (Yule, 1996). In English, some of specific actions like apology, complaint, promise, request, suggest, compliment, and invitation are included into speech act.

In studying speech acts we need to recognize the famous distinction Austin makes, there are three types of speech acts: locutionary act (the act perform of saying something), illocutionary act (the act perform in saying something), and perlocutionary act (by saying something the act performed).

There is a simple idea of the locution, illocution, and perlocution. According to Austin (1962): 1) Locutionary - He said "shoot him!" which have the meaning of words 'shoot' as shoot and referring 'him' as him. 2) Illocutionary - He demand (advised, ordered, etc) me to shoot him. 3) Perlocutionary - He convinces me to shoot him. He got me (or made me) to shoot him.

1. Categories of Illocutionary act

Several researchers have classified the speech act as starting with Austin's theory. Oluremi (2016) in Basra & Thoyyibah (2017) said that speech act by Austin classification includes verdictives, exercises, commissives, behabitives, and expositives. A popular American philosopher, John R. Searle, expanded on Austin's ideas, making his taxonomy a reference to speech acts which currently used by many researchers researching speech act classification. An American philosopher, Searle (1979) separate classification of illocutionary acts into several categories, they are: Assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

First is assertives. This speech involves the speaker on the truth of the proposition that is spoken. To find out the assertive act is just characterized it as true or false. This illocution tends to be neutral in politeness (Leech, 1983). The acts of this type are stating, suggesting, complaining, claiming, and reporting. In assertive act, the speaker makes statements, conclusions, and descriptions that conform to reality universally. Therefore, the speaker makes words fit to the world. It means that the speaker do statements, assertions, description, and explanation (Searle, 1979). The intent and purpose of assertive speech acts is for the speaker to reveal the truth and something that has happened.

Second is directives. In this illocution, the speaker makes an effort to get the listener to do something. Directives described by Leech (1983) that the speaker make the listener to do something, for example, the speaker invites the listener to attend an event, or the speaker gives suggestions to the listener to do it. This speech is intended to the listener as the speech partner takes actions according to the speech said by the speaker, such as: order, command, request, advised, and recommend. In this speech act, the speaker makes the other person do something by expressing what the speaker wants by giving orders, requests, and suggestions. It can be positive or negative. In a directive speech act, the speaker will try to make the world fit the words (through the listener).

Third is commissives. This speech act make the speaker take some future actions (Leech, 1983). This speech act encourages speakers to make commitments in the future. Examples are: promising, vowing, and offering. These actions executed by the speaker or by the speaker as a group component. In commisive speech acts, the speaker embodies the world according to his words (through the speaker).

Fourth is expressives. This speech serves to reveal the speaker's psychological aspects towards a situation (Leech, 1983). Examples are: express gratitude, express congratulation, forgiveness, expressing blame to others, praising, condoling, etc. In expressive speech acts, speakers make words or what has been saying fit to the world (feelings).

Fifth is declaration. This speech act requires speakers to have a special institutional role in a certain context, so that they can give the right statement. The declaration provides the speaker to change the world with words. Hence, declaration type of speech act replaces the world with its speech. This illocution causes a change or conformity between proposition and reality, such as: resigning, dismissing, christening, naming, excommunicating, appointing, sentencing, etc.

2. The Assertive Illocutionary Act Function

According to Searle's theory in Leech (1983) about classification of illocutionary acts, assertive acts have the following functions: to state, to suggest, to boast, to complain, to claim, and to report. The various functions of assertive illocutionary act in speech will be explained in the following:

- a. Expressive.
According to Hornby (2016), Expressive is showing thoughts and feelings also showing an expression with words and gestures. The function of expressive sentences is the speaker provides information in the form of truth or states a statement about something to the interlocutor.
- b. Suggesting.
A sentence containing a suggestion is a sentence that is put forward for consideration. In the suggestion sentence, the speaker gives suggestions or advices to the interlocutor about the actions that should be taken.
- c. Complaining.
The complaining sentence is a sentence whose context contains dissatisfaction about something that is spoken by the speaker to the interlocutor.
- d. Claiming.
In a sentence that contains claim, the speaker demands the interlocutor to do something. In claiming sentence, there is a context about what to do. Claiming is marked with words that seem compelling such as must, should, and others.
- e. Reporting. The reporting sentence has the function of reporting or informing the information that known by the speaker to the interlocutor.

3. Politeness Principle

According to Yule (1996), the speaker uses politeness to convey his wishes in a special way that is rarely used in everyday language. According to Leech (1983), politeness principle in a general way can be formulated as reduce by minimizing the expression of impolite beliefs, and maximize the expression of polite beliefs. The purpose of politeness principle is to maintain the social relations that enable us to assume that the interlocutors are being cooperative. Politeness is asymmetrical, politeness is based on what is said by the speaker. Some illocutionary acts with regard to the politeness. It means that there is the violation or flouting to the maxim might indicate different or additional meaning to the ordinary use of the language. Lestari and Firdaus (2021) exemplifies how the flouting of even one maxim of cooperative principles happened and generated implicature in the communication.

In terms of politeness principle, Leech (1983) divides the principle of politeness into six maxims. Maxim is a linguistic rule that regulates actions, use of language, and interpretation of the actions and speech of the interlocutor. According to Leech (1983), if one violated the maxim, it does not mean that one fail in English language use. Thereby, the rules of language included as part of the definition of language, but maxims do not. It can be meant that maxims are not the same as grammar. The application of maxim is varied in the context of

using different languages. Maxims can be violated regardless of the type of activity they control (Leech, 1983). Here are maxims which created by Geoffrey Leech.

First is tact of maxim. According to Searle in Leech (1983), the tact maxim applied in directive and commissive categories of illocution. This maxim extended to minimize cost to others and maximize benefit to others. Leech describes two sides of tact maxim, a negative side and positive side. The negative side is diminished the cost to other, and increase the benefit to other as the positive side. This means that the listener should get benefit from the way the speaker deflects the illocution in a positive direction by limiting the listener from saying no. So this is a positive and polite (in an informal context) way of making offers, such as help yourself, have another sandwich, etc.

Second is Generosity maxim. This maxim has almost the same criteria as the tact maxim. However, this difference needs to be looked at more closely in order to avoid misunderstanding. Tact maxim has characterized as 'other-centered', whereas in generosity maxims is characterized by 'self-centered'. This maxim extended to reduce benefit to self by minimizing it and increase cost to self by maximizing it.

Third is approbation maxim. This maxim has another name, which is 'the flattery maxim'. This has important meaning of 'avoid saying unpleasant things to others'. This maxim extended to reduce dispraise to other by minimizing it and increase praise to other by maximizing it. There are compliments that are appreciated in the maxim approbation, and some are not. *What a marvelous meal you cook* is more appreciated than *what an awful meal you*. In the maxims of approbation, the less praise is expressed, that implicates dispraise.

Fourth is modesty maxim. This maxim extended to reduce praise to self and increase dispraise to self. In this maxim, it is polite to say *how clever of you!* Than *how stupid of you!* Another example of this maxim, it is polite to say *how stupid of me!* And it is impolite to say *how clever of me*.

Fifth is agreement maxim. This maxim extended to diminish disagreement between self and other by minimizing it and increase agreement between self and other by maximizing it. Sixth is sympathy maxim. This maxim extended to reduce antipathy between self and other by minimizing it and increase sympathy between self and other by maximizing it. Congratulating, and expressing condolences is a speech act to express sympathy. In this maxim, it is polite to say *I am terribly sorry to hear that your dog died*, and it is impolite to say *I am terribly pleased to hear that your dog died*.

C. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research used qualitative descriptive method. According to Cresswell (2014) the qualitative approach makes the researcher test the theory by establishing a hypothesis and collecting data or refuting the hypothesis. This research uses descriptive analysis which emphasizes description on the data to get general conclusion. This method helps the researcher to describe the data being studied qualitatively. Denzin and Lincoln (2005) in Merriam (2009) put forward qualitative research in their book, namely: *Qualitative research study things in natural settings, trying to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them*

It can be described that a researcher who uses qualitative research methods requires the ability to interpret things or phenomena in the world by gaining understanding from the experiences of people who undergo these phenomena.

Qualitative research is a method used to understand human social problems, based on a complex picture, formed with words, reported in detail from the views of informants, and carried out in natural settings through descriptions using words and language in specific contexts (Cresswell, 2014). According to Strauss and Corbin (1990: 249-58) in Bryman (1994) concludes briefly that qualitative analysis should demonstrate optimal use of data for all cases, incidents and occurrences, and fully explain the hypotheses chosen to achieve plausibility and consistency.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this section, the writer presents the results of the discussion based on data sourced from the first America 2020 presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. The results of the discussion based on the research questions are: (1) What types of politeness principle's maxim in the utterance of assertive act are used in the debate between Donald J Trump and Joe Biden?, and (2) How to know the function of the assertive act in politeness utterances used in the debate between Donald J Trump and Joe Biden? To answer the first question, the writer uses Leech's theory regarding the maxims in the politeness principle. Then to answer the second question, the writer uses Searle's theory written in Leech regarding the types of speech acts.

1. The politeness principles maxim's types in the utterance of assertive act in the debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden

a. Tact Maxim

This maxim of politeness principle means to the listener that should get benefit in a way by speaker maximizing benefit to other and minimizing cost to others. According to (Leech, 1983), This maxim has other people centered to polite. In this maxim the indirect illocutions in the utterance shows more politeness.

Utterance: Biden (3:56): I – **the American people have a right to have a say to who the Supreme Court nominee is**, and that say occurs when they vote for United States senators and when they vote for the President of the United States. They're not going to get that chance now because we're in the middle of an election already -- the election has already started. (2020)

The statement made by Joe Biden is included in the politeness principle, the type of tact maxim. The characteristic of the tact maxim is minimizes cost to others, and maximizes benefits to others (Leech, 1983), as seen in the statement:

The American people have a right to have a say to who the Supreme Court nominee is, and that say occurs when they vote for United States senators and when they vote for the President of the United States.

The sentence represents all Americans and reminds all Americans of their right to vote in an election so Biden maximizes the benefits to others or the Americans. This sentence also contains indirect speech, for example in *They're not going to get that chance now because we're in the middle of an election already -- the election has already started*, what Biden meant refers to the American people who have no time left and will soon have the opportunity to elect the president of the United States as the election begins. According to Leech (1983), Tact maxim commits speaker to increase the benefit to other and reduce cost to other. In this statement, Joe Biden maximized the benefit for the American by giving choice to vote in the president at the time of the election later.

Trump (28:26): We want to -- he wants to shut down the country. We just went through it. We had to because we didn't know anything about the disease. **Now, we've found that elderly people with heart problems and diabetes and different problems are very, very vulnerable.** We learned a lot -- young children aren't, even younger people aren't. **We've learned a lot. But he wants to shut it down. More people will be hurt by continuing** -- if you look at Pennsylvania, if you look at certain states that have been shut down -- they have Democrat governors all. One of the reasons they're shut down is because they want to keep it shut down until after the election. This is political (2020).

The utterance given by Trump above obeys the tact maxim. According to (Leech, 1983), tact maxim maximizes benefits to others and minimizes cost to others. Politeness can be increase by using the indirect illocution, because it creates the level of optionality. Trump's speech in the section *We learned a lot -- young children aren't, even younger people aren't. We've learned a lot. But he wants to shut it down. More people will be hurt by continuing* contains indirect speech acts with the intention of not closing the economy and schools because it considers children who need education at school. Therefore, the speech contains politeness and obeys the tact maxim by maximizing benefit to American children.

b. Generosity Maxim

This maxim has principle to maximize cost to self and minimize benefit to self. Generosity maxim has self-centered (Leech, 1983). It means that this maxim has the speaker point of view. Politeness occurs if the cost is in the speaker.

Utterance Biden (1:15:46): He's absolutely wrong, number one. Number two, if in fact, when -- During our administration Recovery Act **I was able to bring down the cost of renewable energy to cheaper than, or as cheap as coal, and gas, and oil.** Nobody's going to build another coal fire plant in America. No one's going to build another oil fire in America. They're going to move to renewable energy, number one (2020).

Biden's statement falls within the principle of politeness. The choice of words in the Biden's statement shows polite words with consideration for others. Biden's statement is included in the generosity maxim. According to Widyaningsih & Hastuti (2020), the generosity maxim gives high value to the wishes of others. This maxim has action characteristics, namely offers, invitations, and promises. In Biden's speech above, it is included in the generosity

maxim by saying *I was able to bring down...* which means that Biden promised to reduce the cost of renewable energy to be cheaper. According to (Leech, 1983), this maxim giving high cost to self and giving low benefit to self. From Biden's words, Biden is maximizing the cost to himself by promising to reduce the cost of renewable energy.

c. Approbation Maxim

The purpose of this maxim is to avoid unpleasant things to others. This maxim has other-centered by giving high praise to others. The principle in this maxim is to maximize praise to others and minimizing praise to other.

Utterance Trump (2:29): We won the election, elections have consequences. We have the Senate, we have the White House, and we have a phenomenal nominee, respected by all top, top academic -- good in every way, good in every way. **In fact, some of her biggest endorsers are very liberal people from Notre Dame and other places so I think she's going to be fantastic.** We have plenty of time. Even if we did it after the election itself, I have a lot of time after the election, as you know. **So I think that she will be outstanding, she's going to be as good as anybody that has served on that court** (2020).

Regarding the appointment of Amy Coney Barrett as chief justice of the Supreme Court, Amy was replacing the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Trump stated that winning the election would face several consequences. Trump gave the reason for appointing Amy as chief justice because she is extraordinary and will be as good as people with experience in the field. Trump's speech contains politeness, namely the maxim of approbation because it maximizes praise to others by saying that Amy will have good work in the court.

Utterance Biden (3:56): **The President's made it clear, he wants to get rid of the Affordable Care Act. He's been running on that. He ran on that and he's been governing on that.** He's in the Supreme Court right now trying to get rid of the Affordable Care Act, which will strip 20 million people from having insurance, health insurance, now, if they -- if it goes into court and, and the justice and I have nothing -- **I'm not opposed to the justice, she seems like a very fine person** (2020).

The first subject of the debate was about the Supreme Court. The issue of the Supreme Court has become a controversial issue because of its 'regal' position and is the final reference in making decisions such as enacting or canceling controversial laws, as well as efforts to appeal death row convicts. Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett, who is known for her conservative views over her late predecessor Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who has served for 27 years (Andriyanto, 2020). After Trump gave an argument on the issue, it was Biden's turn to respond to Trump's statement. Biden said Trump was already pursuing his policy of getting rid of the Affordable Care Act that would strip people of health insurance. Regarding Trump's policies, Biden said he's not against justice and Amy Coney Barret looks like a nice person.

Biden's remarks contained politeness, as he said when responding to the policies that had been made by Trump by saying *He ran on that and he's been governing on that* that Biden had given praise to the work of Trump who had governed the policy. Biden also said that Amy is nice person. Biden adheres to the principle of the maxim of approbation which maximizes praise to others.

Violate approbation maxim

Utterance Trump (7:25): Not what you said. That is not what you said.
Your party wants to go Socialist. They're gonna dominate you, Joe, you know that (2020).

Socialist is an ideology that emerged as a reaction to the development of industrialism and capitalism to better address the problems in society. The hallmark of the ideology of socialism is the management of property and production and wealth managed by groups (Wikandaru & Cahyo, 2016). The words that Trump said were after Biden made a statement that he would expand Obama-care and allow private insurance then Trump said that Biden's party would make him a socialist.

Trump's speech violates the principle of politeness, namely the approbation maxim. The approbation maxim, the speaker demands to give the praise of others. In this context, Trump does not give praise to the party that oversees Biden by saying *they're gonna dominate you Joe*, instead of give praise to Biden and his party.

Utterance Biden (15:12): **He has no plan for healthcare. He sends out wishful thinking, he has executive orders that have no power, he hasn't lowered drug costs for anybody, he's been promising a health care plan since he got elected. He has none.** Like almost everything else he talks about, he does not have a plan. He doesn't have a plan. And the fact is, this man doesn't know what he's talking about (2020).

Biden gave a dispraise to Trump by saying that Trump did not know what he was saying by bringing up the vision and mission that Trump would do when he was elected as the previous president. According to Biden, the vision, mission and policies that Trump will carry out, such as improving health facilities and infrastructure, have not been realized. So that Biden's speech does not contain praise, so that the speech is included in the violation of the approbation maxim by maximize dispraise to other.

d. Modesty Maxim

The polite side in this maxim is give low praise to self. Modesty maxim made self as centered. In this maxim the criteria is to give high dispraise to self and give low praise to self.

Utterance

Trump (19:54): We're doing therapeutics already, fewer people are dying when they get sick, far fewer people are dying. We've done a great job. **The only thing I haven't done a good job, and that's because of the fake news, no matter what you say to them, they give you a bad press on, it's just fake news.** They give you good press, they give me bad press, because that's the way it is, unfortunately. I don't care. I've gotten used to it. But I'll tell you, Joe, you could never have done the job that we did, you don't have it in your blood. You could have never done that yet (2020).

Trump makes a statement regarding the handling of the Covid-19 problem. Trump said he and his staff had tried to save lives by getting masks, and also making ventilators. Trump admits that there is a job he hasn't done well, namely dealing with fake news because the media is reporting bad things about Trump. Trump said, "The only thing I haven't done a good job, and that's because of the fake news, no matter what you say to them, they give you a bad press on, it's just fake news. They give you good press, they give me bad press", containing politeness by complying with the modesty maxim which minimizes self-praise, and maximizes dispraise to self. As well as Leech (1983) explained about modesty maxim that give high dispraise to self, and give low praise to self.

Violate Modesty Maxim

Utterance

Trump (14:22): Obamacare is no good. **We made it better and I had a choice to make very early on.** We took away the individual mandate. We guaranteed pre existing conditions but took away the individual mandate. Listen, this is the way it is. And that destroyed, that they shouldn't even call it Obamacare. But I had a choice to make. Do I let my people run it really well, or badly. If I run it badly they'll probably blame him, but they'll blame me, but more importantly I want to help people (2020).

Trump in the speech above gives excessive praise to self. Trump's statement was in response to Biden's response to the handling of healthcare, that people get good health insurance through Obama-care. Trump said that Obama-care was not good and Trump made a better treatment of health care. Trump's speech does not contain the politeness of modesty by giving self-praise. This statement violates the maxim of modesty by saying Trump made health care better than Obama Care. According to Leech (1983), the speaker tends to minimize self-praise and maximize dispraise to self to get politeness.

Utterance

Biden (27:30): Because he doesn't have a plan. **If I were running, I'd know what the plan is.** You've got to provide these businesses the ability to have the money to be able to reopen with a PPE, as well as with sanitation they need. You have to provide –(2020)

The debate moderators asked why Biden's plans were more reluctant to open schools and the economy during the pandemic than Trump who wanted to open schools and economy. Biden said that Trump has no plan in dealing with covid-19 problem. He praised himself by saying *If I were running, I'd know what the plan is*, it would be more polite if Biden's sentence were *my plan going forward is to maintain the existing economy to be able to provide more PPE¹ and sanitation*. So, Biden's speech lacks politeness and violates the maxim of modesty by giving high praise to self, which it should to maximize dispraise to self (Leech, 1983).

e. Sympathy Maxim

Give more sympathy between self and others by maximizing it and give low antipathy between self and others by minimizing it are the criteria of sympathy maxim (Leech, 1983). This maxim occurs in the utterance to express congratulating, condolences, etc.

Utterance	Trump (37:02): Excuse me. He made a statement. People want their schools, no, people want their schools open. They don't want to be shut down. They don't want their state shut down. They want their restaurants. I look at New York. It's so sad what's happening in New York, it's almost like a ghost town. And I'm not sure I can ever recover what they've done in New York. People want their places open. They want to get back to their lives (2020).
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Trump has shown his sympathy for what has happened in New York and the current state of America because of the pandemic. The government's policy at that time was to temporarily close schools, restaurants, and several other public places so that other activities were carried out online or work from home. Trump said he regretted what was happening to the whole world and America. Trump said "They don't want their state shut down. They want their restaurants. I look at New York. It's so sad what's happening in New York, it's almost like a ghost town. And I'm not sure I can ever recover what they've done in New York", the speech shows politeness by giving sympathy which is the principle of the maxim of sympathy. Maxim of sympathy requires the speaker to maximize sympathy for self and others (Leech, 1983).

2. The assertive function of politeness utterance in the debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden

Speech acts have a function, one of which is to convey information. This speech act belongs to the purpose of assertive speech acts. According to Searle in Levinson (1983), assertive actions make speakers believe in the truth in some propositions. The speaker believes in a situation and conveys it to the listener. Assertive action intends to persuade, attract attention, make someone believe and think about something.

a. Expressive

In expressive function, the speaker intended to deliver the thoughts and feelings. According to Hornby (2016), expressive is express an existing expression, it can be from gestures and word, also expressive is to be able to show thoughts and feelings. Speaker provides information in the form of truth to the interlocutor.

Utterance: Trump (28:26): We want to -- he wants to shut down the country. We just went through it. We had to because we didn't know anything about the disease. Now, we've found that elderly people with heart problems and diabetes and different problems are very, very vulnerable. We learned a lot -- young children aren't, even younger people aren't. We've learned a lot. But he wants to shut it down. More people will be hurt by continuing -- if you look at Pennsylvania, if you look at certain states that have been shut down -- they have Democrat governors all. One of the reasons they're shut down is because they want to keep it shut down until after the election. This is political (2020).

The statement given by Trump is included in the assertive speech act. In assertive speech acts the speaker says the truth or something that had happened (Searle, 1979). The Trump's statement observed the politeness principle, namely tact maxim. The speech function of Trump's statement based on the assertive function is included in the expressive function. Expressive is conveying information related to thoughts and feelings to the listener (Hornby, 2016). In this case, Trump showed his concern for the elderly who are vulnerable to the virus.

Utterance Biden: Schools -- why aren't schools open? Because it costs a lot of money to open them safely. You know, they were going to give his administration was going to give the teachers and school students masks. Then they decided, no, couldn't do that, because it's not a national emergency, not a national emergency. They've done nothing to help small businesses, nothing. They're closing. One is six is now gone. He ought to get on the job, and take care of the needs of the American people, so we can open safely (2020).

Biden's statement is included in the assertive speech act. In assertive speech acts, the speaker conveys information about the truth and events that have occurred to the listener (Searle, 1979). Biden provided information in the form of reasons for closing schools. The statements given by Biden included in observing politeness maxim, namely the tact maxim. In assertive speech acts, an utterance has a function. Based on Biden's statement, the speech is included in the expressive function. Expressing is expressing information based on the speaker's thoughts and feelings to the listener (Hornby, 2016). In this case, Biden gave his thoughts on the lockdown and gave his sad feelings by saying *they're closing. One is six is now gone. He ought to get on the job, and take care of the needs of the American people, so we can open safely.*

b. Suggesting

According to (Hornby, 2016), suggest is give any idea or plan to be considered by people. Speaker communicates idea or feeling to the hearer, then the hearer will consider the idea or feeling spoken by the speaker.

Utterance: Biden (16:16): Whatever position I take on that, that'll become the issue -- the issue is, the American people should speak. You should go out and vote. We're in voting now, vote and let your senators know how strongly you feel. Vote now, in fact let people know it is your senators. I'm not going to answer the question (2020).

The statement given by the Biden contains elements of truth and information (Leech, 1983). According to Leech, assertiveness is the speaker's commitment to telling the truth. Assertive speech acts have a speech function. Based on Biden's statement, the statement observed politeness principle, namely tact maxim. In Biden's statement, Biden called on the American people to vote and inform senators of the people's feelings. The statement contains the Biden's ideas and plans to keep the election going. So, the Biden statement has a suggesting function, where suggesting is to give an idea or plan for something so that it can be considered by others (Hornby, 2016).

Utterance Trump (1:12:57): I believe that we have to do everything we can to have immaculate air, immaculate water and do whatever else we can that's good. You know we're planting a billion trees, the billion tree project, and it's very exciting (2020).

This statement given by Trump observed the maxim of politeness, namely the tact maxim. Trump's speech is included in the assertive speech act because Trump as the speaker expresses the truth proposition and something that had happened (Searle, 1979). The utterance has a function, namely a suggesting function because in Trump's statement, Trump gives ideas and suggestions for managing forests to be considered in the future.

c. Complaining

According to Hornby (2016), complain is an expression of annoyed, unhappy, or not satisfied about something. The common case of complain is about complaining a bad service. In this function, the utterance said by the speaker with expressing such feelings such as, annoyed and dissatisfied.

Utterance Biden (15:12): He has no plan for healthcare. He sends out wishful thinking, he has executive orders that have no power, he hasn't lowered drug costs for anybody, he's been promising a health care plan since he got elected. He has none. Like almost everything else he talks about, he does not have a plan. He doesn't have a plan. And the fact is, this man doesn't know what he's talking about (2020).

The 2020 American presidential debate, debated a lot about health care, health insurance, health laws, and how to handle health during this pandemic. As a leader and future leader for America, it's good if health problems are completely resolved. Biden stated that Trump as president has no plans to improve health care. By giving low praise to other, then it violated the approbation maxim of politeness. Biden's utterances are included in assertive speech acts because Biden says a truth proposition that he believes so that other people can believe and think about his statement. In assertive speech acts, an utterance has a function. The assertive function of Biden's speech is complaining. Complaining is an expression that show dissatisfaction with something (Hornby, 2016). Biden complained Trump had no plan for health care.

Utterance

Trump (19:54): The country would have been left wide open, Millions of people would have died, not 200,000. And one person is too much -- it's China's fault, it should have never happened. They stopped it from going in, but it was China's fault, by the way when you talk about numbers you know how many people died in Japan. How many people died in Russia. How many people died in India. They don't exactly give you a straight count, just so you understand. But if you look at what we've done. I closed it and you said he's xenophobic, he's a racist and xenophobic because you didn't close in our country (2020).

The speech spoken by Trump is an assertive speech act because Trump gives a truth proposition that he believes in and makes other people pay attention to, and believe in that statement. Assertive utterances have functions, one of which is complaining. Based on the definition of complaining (Hornby, 2016), that complaining is an expression that shows dissatisfaction with something, then the speech uttered by Trump above has a complaining function because Trump shows dissatisfaction with the current state of the pandemic and says that the source was originally from China.

d. Claiming

Claiming is a statement that true although it has not been proved (Hornby, 2016). In complaining, someone demands a fact or condition that the person has the right to that fact or condition. In this function, the speaker states a statement that demanding something true, even it has not proved.

Utterance

Trump (42:48): They had the slowest recovery. Since 19 -- economic recovery, since 1929. It was the slowest recovery. Also, they took over something that was down here. All you have to do is turn on the lights and you pick up a lot, but they had the slowest economic recovery since 1929. Let me tell you about the stock market. When the stock market goes up, that means jobs. It also means 401k's. If you got in, if you ever

became president with your ideas -- You want to terminate my taxes? I'll tell you what, you'll lose half of the companies that have poured in here will leave. And plenty of companies that are already here they'll leave for other places. They will leave, and you will have a depression, the likes of which you've never seen (2020).

The statement given by Trump is included in the assertive speech act. In assertive speech acts, the speaker gives a statement regarding the truth or something that had happened in the speaker's life (Searle, 1979). An assertive utterance has a function. Based on the statement provided by Trump, Trump demands that the Obama administration has a slow economic recovery and is the worst recovery ever. According to Hornby (2016), claiming is demanding a fact even though it has not been proven. Therefore, the function of speech in Trump's statement is claiming.

Utterance

Biden (44:48): And so, you take a look at what he's actually done. He's done very little. His trade deals are the same way. He talks about these great trade deals. You know, he talks about the art of the deal. China's made, perfected the art of the steel. We have a higher deficit with China now than we did before. We have the highest trade deficit with Mexico – (2020)

Biden's statement is an assertive speech act. Assertive speech act commits the speaker to tell the truth he knows to the listener (Leech, 1983). The actions taken in this type of speech act are such as describing, explaining, and so on. An assertive speech has a speech function. Based on the content of Biden's statement that Biden claims a fact even though it has not been proven, then the function of speech in Biden's statement is claiming. As according to Hornby (2016) that claiming is demanding or stating a fact even though it has not been proven.

e. Reporting

According to Hornby (2016), reporting is give an information about the event that speaker have heard, seen, and done to the interlocutor. In this function, the speaker describes a statement that including information, or particular situation or problem.

Utterance:

Biden (3:56): Women's rights are fundamentally changed. Once again, a woman could be held -- make more money because she has a pre-existing condition of pregnancy. We're able to, they're able to charge women more for the same exact procedure a man gets, and that ended when we, in fact, passed the Affordable Care Act. And there's 100 million people who have pre-existing conditions, and they'll be taken away as well. Those pre-existing conditions, insurance companies are going to love this. And so it's just not appropriate to do this before this election (2020).

Biden's statement about the impact of the abolition of the affordable care law is included in the assertive speech act. In assertive act, a speaker expresses truth and information to his listeners (Leech, 1983). Assertive speech acts have a speech function. Based on Biden's explanation, the statements observed the maxim of politeness, namely tact maxim which has assertive function as reporting. Reporting is stating information from the speaker to the listener (Hornby, 2016).

Utterance Biden (58:13): Law and order with justice where people get treated fairly. And the fact of the matter is violent crime went down 17%, 15% percent in our administration. It's gone up on his watch (2020).

The statement made by Biden is classified as an assertive speech act because Biden makes a statement regarding the truth proposition he believes in. In assertive act, the speaker make a statements or explanation (Searle, 1979). Assertive speech acts have a speech function. Based on Biden's statement, information and facts that are known by speakers and conveyed to listeners are an assertive function of reporting. In the speech, Biden reported information related to law and order matters.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on the first question in this study, the writer found five maxims of politeness from the six maxims that were stated by Leech (1983). The five maxims include tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, and sympathy maxim. From these maxims, there are utterances that observe the maxim of politeness, and some utterances violate the maxim of politeness.

Based on the second research question in this study, the writer classifies the functions in polite speech to find out the functions in politeness utterances. The writer uses Searle's theory in (Leech, 1983), that assertive functions are such as expressive, suggesting, complaining, claiming, and reporting. In utterances that have expressive, suggesting, and reporting functions, the most politeness maxim used is the tact maxim. In the utterances that have a complaining function, the most politeness maxim used is the violate approbation maxim. In the utterances that have a claiming function, the most politeness maxim used is the violated modesty maxim. Therefore, in utterances that observe and violates the maxim of politeness, has a different assertive function.

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