

## Locutionary and Illocutionary Acts of Prabowo's First State Address

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### A B S T R A C T

Interpreting political speeches requires more than understanding literal meaning; it involves uncovering the speaker's intended communicative actions. However, studies on Indonesian political speeches remain limited, particularly those integrating both locutionary and illocutionary analysis. This study aims to examine the types and functions of locutionary and illocutionary acts in President Prabowo Subianto's first state address in 2024. This research employs a qualitative descriptive method with a pragmatic approach. The data were obtained from the official video and transcript of the speech and analyzed using Speech Act Theory proposed by Austin and developed by Searle. The findings reveal 40 locutionary acts (phonetic, phatic, and rhetic) and 137 illocutionary acts (assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative). Assertive acts are the most dominant, indicating that the speech primarily functions to construct legitimacy, present national conditions, and reinforce credibility. Directive and commissive acts further demonstrate efforts to mobilize public participation and express political commitment. These findings suggest that political speeches operate simultaneously at literal and pragmatic levels, where speech acts function as strategic tools to shape public interpretation and construct leadership identity.

**Keywords:** *Locutionary Act, Illocutionary Act, Pragmatics, Speech Analysis, State Address*

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## INTRODUCTION

Meaning plays a central role in human communication. It serves as a bridge for the exchange of ideas, emotions, and intentions. Through meaning, a person can express their ideas, feelings, and intentions to others. Meaning serves as both a bridge in the exchange of information and a means of building social relationships. However, understanding meaning is not always easy. Often, differences in perception lead to misinterpretation. Therefore, the study of meaning is truly important because language reflects human thought, emotion, and behavior, and serves as a system of symbols for communication. People use language to convey messages and express opinions, emotions, and values. According to (Irene Githa Sihombing et al., 2024) emphasize that meaning in communication depends on context, purpose, and the relationship between speakers and listeners. Researchers argue that meaning is inherently dynamic and shaped by contextual factors. According to (Yusrina et al., 2024) Context functions not simply as a background detail, but as a crucial element that influences the interpretation of utterances. Additionally, understanding meaning requires considering linguistic forms, speaker intention, and situational context.

Understanding meaning requires interpreting the speaker's intention and the surrounding context, not just decoding words. For example, when someone says, "did you bring two pencils?" the literal meaning seems to ask about the number of pencils. However, from a contextual point of view, it could imply that the speaker does not have any pencils or is indirectly asking to borrow one. These examples highlight that meaning is dynamic and influenced by situational factors. Therefore, understanding meaning also means understanding how people interact and create shared understanding through language.

Linguists have developed two main approaches to explain how meaning operates: one that focuses on stable meanings within words or sentence structures and another that emphasizes meanings dependent on context and speaker intention. These two approaches are semantics and pragmatics. Combined, semantics and pragmatics explain how language conveys meaning in literal and contextual terms.

Semantics examine the meaning of words and sentences, focusing on the linguistic structure rather than the context. Through this field, researcher seek to understand how linguistic forms relate to the concepts they represent, without considering the speaker or the context of the utterance. Thus, semantics focuses on fixed, objective, and universal meaning. According to research by (Zahira & Wibowo, 2025), semantic analysis plays an important role in revealing the relationship between language structure and the figurative meaning contained within a text. In their study, the researchers used semantics to explain how the literal meaning of Taylor Swift's song lyrics can transform into a deeper conceptual meaning through metaphors. For instance, the phrase "*Your words cut deeper than a knife*" cannot be taken literally, but through lexical and structural analysis, researchers can interpret it as describing the emotional pain caused by hurtful words. This finding confirms that semantic studies focus not only on the meaning of words, but also on figurative meaning. The meaning of a figurative expression comes from a combination of linguistic structure and conceptual interpretation. Thus, semantics provides a theoretical basis for explaining how language transforms abstract concepts into concrete forms that readers or listeners can understand.

Pragmatics, a branch of linguistics, explores how context influences the meaning of utterances. According to (Surya & Alam, 2023), pragmatics examines how speakers convey meaning and how listeners interpret it based on social and situational contexts. In other words, meaning in pragmatics depends not only on the literal words spoken, but also on how the message is delivered, who it is addressed to, and the circumstances in which it occurs. Both speakers and listeners play active roles in constructing meaning by understanding the social context, communicative purpose, and speaker's intended message. Therefore, pragmatics views language as a social tool used to achieve communicative goals, not merely as a fixed system of words. (J. Wibowo & Laksono, 2024) emphasize that pragmatic analysis focuses on speaker intention and contextual interpretation to understand how utterances function in communication. Similarly, (Gusthini et al., 2018) that meaning cannot be accurately interpreted without considering the situational context and communicative purpose of an utterance. Thus, pragmatics views language as a social tool used to achieve communicative goals, not just to convey literal meaning.

In this study, a pragmatic approach is used to analyze the speech acts in President Prabowo Subianto's first state address. From a pragmatic perspective, this research focuses not only on the literal meaning of his words but also on the communicative intentions and social functions behind his utterances. A presidential address is not merely an act of conveying information; it is also a communicative action with specific purposes, such as persuading, asserting authority, expressing empathy, inspiring unity, and shaping a leadership image. Thus, pragmatics is the most suitable framework for analyzing how language functions as a strategic tool in political communication. This study examines locutionary and illocutionary acts to explain how Subianto strategically used language to deliver political messages, establish a connection with the audience, and convey leadership values in his inaugural address. (Rahayuni & Pastika, 2025) highlight that the pragmatic perspective enables scholars to understand how language functions as a form of social action that reflects power, persuasion, and interpersonal dynamics. This understanding makes pragmatics an essential analytical approach for studying effective communication in the real-life contexts, including public and political discourse.

In modern politics, language does more than deliver information. It shapes beliefs, attitudes, and emotions. Every political speech is carefully constructed to persuade, influence, and build a leader's image. Pragmatics helps explain how meaning in political communication extends beyond literal words. Language functions as a strategic tool to gain public trust, justify authority, and establish a shared understanding between leaders and citizens. Since political

language often carries hidden intentions and values, it needs to be examined not only through what is said but also how and why it is said. This is where political discourse becomes important. According to (Wibowo & Sholihah, 2025). political discourse constructs ideology, authority, and national identity through language. In their research titled "*Unveiling the Ideological Construction of Prabowo's First Presidential State Address: A Critical Discourse Analytical Approach*", they found that President Prabowo Subianto employed linguistic and rhetorical strategies, such as repetition, pronouns, and metaphors, to establish legitimacy and unity. His speech combined nationalist, populist, and moral messages that portrayed the government as a protector of the people and emphasized sovereignty, justice, and togetherness as core values of Indonesian leadership. These findings align with pragmatic perspectives that view political discourse as a site of strategic action. This perspective acknowledges that utterances not only represent reality, but also shape interpretation and influence audiences (Wibowo & Sholihah, 2025). This analytical focus is particularly relevant because political language often conveys meanings that are not transparent to audiences. The gap between literal interpretation and intended meaning may contribute to misunderstanding, particularly when listeners rely solely on surface-level comprehension.

As political language often carries implicit meanings and ideological intentions, misunderstandings in communication are almost to be expected. Often, the intended meaning is not fully understood by the listener due to differences in knowledge and pragmatic competence. (Nurhadi, 2021) describes this phenomenon as pragmatic failure, which refers to the listener's inability to interpret the illocutionary force embedded in an utterance. Such situations frequently occur in political contexts, where a leader's statement may be misinterpreted, affecting public perceptions of their credibility or policy intentions. For example, a message intended to provide moral encouragement could be perceived as arrogance if the social and situational context is overlooked. Therefore, increasing awareness of pragmatic aspects is essential to ensure that political messages are interpreted accurately and fairly.

In this context, speech act theory offers a strong conceptual foundation for understanding political communication. First introduced by (Austin, 1962) and later refined by (Searle, 1976), this theory views utterances as social actions with performative force, not merely as vehicles of information. As Austin famously stated, "To say something is to do something," emphasizing that every act of speaking simultaneously performs a particular action. Within the pragmatic framework, Speech Act Theory is a valuable analytical tool for examining how language functions both descriptively and performatively. This perspective is supported by previous research showing that speech acts are strategically used in various discourse contexts. (Rahman, 2020) highlights the relevance of this theory to political communication, as it reveals the performative and power dimensions embedded in political speech. In line with this, recent studies demonstrate that political figures employ locutionary and illocutionary acts, along with persuasive and rhetorical strategies to influence public opinion and convey their intentions effectively (Wibowo & Anggraini, 2024). Supporting this, a study by (Triana Sinaga et al., 2024) shows that political speeches dominantly use collaborative illocutionary acts (47.8%) such as asserting, reporting, and instructing to convey information and influence audiences.

Based on Jl. Austin's framework, speech acts are categorized into three main types: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. Nonetheless, recent studies in pragmatics argue that the two most significant types for examining political discourse are the locutionary and illocutionary acts. A locutionary act relates to the literal or explicit meaning conveyed by the speaker, whereas an illocutionary act reflects the speaker's intended purpose or the function behind their words. In political communication, these two acts often operate together, enhancing one another's impact. Locutionary acts are generally employed to communicate concrete facts or policy details, while illocutionary acts are used to shape political image, demonstrate commitment, and foster emotional resonance with the audience (Kusno & Oktaviani, 2023). By analyzing both, researchers can better understand how political figures craft persuasive and strategic messages to influence public perception.

Locutionary and illocutionary acts are two essential components of speech act theory that explain how language functions as an action. Locutionary acts refer to literal utterances governed by linguistic conventions. As (Izar et al., 2022) emphasized, a locutionary act involves producing a meaningful utterance, while an illocutionary act reflects the speaker's communicative intention. According to (Yule, 1996), locutionary acts focus on explicit meaning, such as delivering information, stating policies, or outlining government programs. In political discourse, locutionary acts provide factual clarity and reinforce the speaker's credibility. In contrast, illocutionary acts relate to the intent and purpose behind an utterance. (Searle, 1976) classifies illocutionary acts into five main types: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. These types represent actions such as stating, commanding, promising, expressing emotions, or establishing new realities. In political contexts, illocutionary acts can strengthen a leader's image, build public trust, and affirm moral commitment. (Ariyanti, 2021) emphasizes that the effectiveness of political communication depends on integrating informative locution with persuasive illocution. This combination makes political speeches informative and influential in shaping public attitudes and perceptions of leadership.

An interesting political figure to analyze within this framework is Indonesia's newly elected president, Prabowo Subianto. His inaugural address in 2024 attracted considerable public and media attention as it marked the beginning of his leadership. Inaugural speeches are widely recognized as formal political events and communicative acts through which leaders establish authority, legitimacy, and public support. Prabowo Subianto is often characterized by a persuasive yet firm speaking style that combines direct policy statements with nationalistic rhetoric. This rhetorical profile makes his speech particularly relevant for pragmatic analysis. His locutionary acts explicitly convey government programs and visions, and his illocutionary acts implicitly project commitment, authority, and ideological positioning. The interplay of these acts demonstrates how political leaders strategically use language to inform, persuade, and strengthen their connection with the audience. Such discourse is intended to resonate with the audience by reinforcing shared values and collective identity.

Previous studies on speech acts in political discourse have focused on various perspectives, but often on a single pragmatic function. (Rahman, 2020) examined the use of *assertive* and *commissive* acts in political speeches, showing how language reflects authority and persuasion. (Rahayuni & Pastika, 2025) discussed speech acts as forms of social and ideological action, emphasizing the role of context in shaping meaning. (Wibowo et al., 2025) analyzed Prabowo Subianto's inaugural address through a critical discourse approach and found that moral and nationalistic appeals dominate his rhetoric. In another study, (Rosyada et al., 2024) studied speech acts in Indonesian speech-learning videos and identified *assertive*, *directive*, *expressive*, and *commissive* types as the most dominant, serving educational and motivational purposes. (Wulan, 2022) conducted a qualitative study on *illocutionary acts* found in Joe Biden's victory speech. They discovered that *representative* acts were the most dominant, expressing gratitude, unity, and political commitment. Furthermore, studies in media and entertainment contexts also reveal similar patterns in the use of speech acts. (Dwi Orizka et al., 2021) found that directive speech acts were dominant in *Peter Rabbit Movie*, reflecting character interaction in fictional discourse. In addition, (Findy et al., 2025) revealed that maxim violations in animation function as strategies to create humor and build character identity, while (Islam et al., 2025) showed that indirect speech acts in movies are often used to convey implicit meanings depending on context. Overall, these studies indicate that speech acts are widely used across different discourse contexts, yet most of them focus on specific aspects separately. Therefore, a more comprehensive analysis is needed to examine how various types of speech acts function within a particular discourse context.

Despite extensive research on speech acts in political discourse, existing studies predominantly focus on isolated types of illocutionary acts or apply a single analytical perspective. There remains a lack of comprehensive studies integrating both locutionary and illocutionary analyses within Indonesian political contexts, particularly in presidential

inaugural speeches. This limitation constrains a deeper understanding of how meaning and communicative intention are simultaneously constructed in political discourse.

To address this gap, this study systematically examines and classifies the locutionary and illocutionary acts in President Prabowo Subianto's inaugural state address. The study aims to provide a more comprehensive account of how pragmatic strategies function as persuasive tools in political communication. Based on this gap, this study addresses the following research questions:

*What types of locutionary acts are used in the speech?*

*What types of illocutionary acts are employed?*

*How do these speech acts function in conveying meaning and achieving communicative goals?*

This study contributes to pragmatics by offering an integrated analysis of speech acts in Indonesian political discourse, particularly within the context of presidential communication.

## METHOD

This study adopted a qualitative descriptive design to investigate linguistic and contextual meanings in political discourse, with a particular focus on the roles of locutionary and illocutionary acts in President Prabowo Subianto's 2024 inaugural state address. This approach emphasizes the analysis of textual data rather than numerical measurement, allowing for an in-depth interpretation of communicative intentions embedded in language use. The unit of analysis consisted of clause-level utterances, enabling a more precise examination of speech act realization.

### Data Source

This study did not involve human participants, as it was based on document analysis. The primary data source was the video and transcript of President Prabowo Subianto's inaugural address delivered on October 20, 2024, at the MPR/DPR Building in Jakarta. The speech, titled *Pidato Perdana Presiden RI Ke-8 Prabowo Subianto*, was obtained from the official BeritaSatu YouTube channel and verified using the written transcript to ensure accuracy.

### Procedures

Data were collected through observation and documentation techniques. The researcher repeatedly watched the 54-minute speech to capture contextual elements such as intonation, emphasis, and delivery. The transcript was carefully examined to ensure completeness, and utterances containing locutionary and illocutionary acts were identified as the primary data for analysis.

### Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using content analysis to systematically identify patterns and meanings within the speech (Krippendorff, 2022). The transcript was first segmented into clause-level utterances. Each utterance was then categorized into locutionary and illocutionary types based on the theoretical frameworks proposed by Austin (1962) and Searle (1979). Locutionary acts were classified into phonetic, phatic, and rhetic acts, while illocutionary acts were categorized into assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative acts.

Each data entry was labeled using a coding system that included data sequence, timestamp, and speech act type (e.g., D1/03:18/ASSERT). After classification, the data were interpreted to examine both literal meanings and communicative intentions. Locutionary acts were analyzed to identify linguistic meanings, while illocutionary acts were examined to reveal communicative purposes such as asserting authority, encouraging participation, expressing commitment, and conveying evaluation.

To ensure the trustworthiness of the findings, several validity strategies were employed. Data triangulation was conducted by comparing the video recording with the official transcript to ensure accuracy and consistency. Peer checking was carried out through discussions with fellow researchers to minimize subjective bias. In addition, aspects of inter-rater reliability were addressed by cross-checking selected coding results to ensure consistency in classification. These strategies enhance the credibility and reliability of the analysis.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

## Findings

The dominance of assertive acts (40.15%) can be explained by the communicative function of inaugural political speeches. As a newly appointed president, Prabowo Subianto primarily uses assertive acts to construct legitimacy, present national realities, and establish credibility before the public. Assertive utterances allow the speaker to frame socio-political conditions as factual and objective, thereby strengthening trust and authority. This finding aligns with previous studies indicating that political leaders tend to rely on assertive acts to justify policies, articulate national visions, and position themselves as credible decision-makers. In this context, assertive acts function not only as statements of fact but also as strategic rhetorical tools to shape public perception and reinforce leadership identity.

Table 1. Total Percentage of Locutionary Acts

No	Types of Locutionary Acts	Percentage
1	Phonetic act	35%
2	Phatic act	45%
3	Rhetic act	20%
	TOTAL	100%

Furthermore, based on the findings of this study, the researchers identified 137 illocutionary act clauses in Prabowo Subianto's first state address. Five types of illocutionary acts were found: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. These acts were classified based on Searle's (1979) theory of speech acts. The most prevalent type was the assertive act, comprising 55 utterances and accounting for 40.15% of the total. The second most frequent type was the directive act, consisting of 32 utterances and accounting for 23.36% of the total. The expressive act ranked third with 28 utterances or 20.44%, followed by the commissive act, which appeared 19 times with a percentage of 13.87%. The declarative act was the least frequent, appearing in only three utterances, or 2.19%. Table 2 below shows the total percentage of each type of illocutionary act in the speech.

Table 2. Total Percentage of Illocutionary Acts

No	Types of Illocutionary Acts	Percentage
1	Assertive act	40.15%
2	Directive act	23.36%
3	Commissive act	20.44%
4	Expressive act	13.87%
5	Declarative act	2.19%
	TOTAL	100%

## Discussion

## Types of locutionary acts

## Phonetic acts

Researchers identified 14 phonetic acts in Prabowo Subianto's first inaugural address in 2024. These utterances highlight how meaning is conveyed not only through lexical choice but also through vocal expression, tone, rhythm, and stress. In these instances, Prabowo used intonation and articulation to emphasize emotion, unity, and determination. The following are examples of phonetic acts found in the speech:

*"Saudara-saudaraku seluruh rakyat Indonesia, saudara-saudara sebangsa dan setanah air dimanapun kamu berada." / (My fellow Indonesians, my brothers and sisters across our beloved nation, wherever you may be)*  
(D7/05:53/PHONTC)

The utterance above was spoken by Prabowo Subianto when he began addressing all Indonesian citizens after giving official greetings to state officials. In this section, he raised his voice slightly and spoke with emotional emphasis on the phrase "My beloved Indonesian citizens" then slowly lowered his voice on the next phrase. The repetition of the word "brothers" and the use of open vowels created a warm and emotional tone that conveyed

meaning through intonation and vocal expression, so that this speech was classified as a phonetic act.

*"Marilah kita berjuang tanpa menyerah." / (Let us fight without giving up) (D35/38:11/PHONTC)*

In this utterance, delivered by Prabowo Subianto near the end of his inaugural speech to encourage all Indonesian citizens, a clear variation in intonation can be observed. Prabowo raised his pitch on the word "*berjuang*" (struggle) and lowered it firmly on the phrase "*tanpa menyerah*" (without surrender). The rhythm of his speech became faster, firmer, and more energetic, reflecting determination and a strong moral appeal to the audience. The power of this utterance lies not only in its choice of words, but also in the manner of its delivery, which includes emphasized articulation, a high pitch, and a dynamic rhythm. Thus, this utterance is categorized as a phonetic act because its meaning is primarily conveyed through intonation, vocal stress, and the rhythm of the speech rather than its semantic content.

*"Bukan kita bekerja untuk pemimpin-pemimpin kita, pemimpin yang harus bekerja untuk rakyat." / (not we who work for our leaders, leaders must work for the citizens) (D38/36:35/PHONTC)*

This utterance was spoken by Prabowo Subianto when he emphasized that leaders must serve the citizens. He used a rising intonation on the phrase "not we who work for our leaders" and a firm, falling tone on "leaders must work for the citizens." This contrast highlights a shift from rejection to affirmation. He delivered the word "citizens" slowly and clearly, giving moral strength to his statement. This utterance is a phonetic act, conveying meaning not only through words, but also through intonation, vocal stress, and rhythm.

#### Phatic acts

Researchers found 18 phatic acts in Prabowo Subianto's inaugural speech. These utterances have literal, direct meanings. In this type of speech act, Prabowo focused on giving information, describing national conditions, or stating his goals clearly without using symbolic or emotional expressions. The following are some examples of phatic acts from his speech:

*"Kemerdekaan kita, kita dapat dengan pengorbanan yang sangat besar." / ("We gained our independence through enormous sacrifice.") (D12/18:21/PHATC)*

In the utterance above, Prabowo Subianto stated that Indonesia's independence was achieved through great sacrifices. The statement literally conveys a factual reflection on the nation's historical struggle. The speaker emphasizes the importance of independence as a result of the people's collective efforts. The meaning remains literal, without hidden persuasion or figurative implications. Thus, this utterance is categorized as a phatic act, as the meaning is expressed directly through the words and focuses on an objective statement of historical truth.

*"Kita memiliki kekayaan alam yang sangat besar." / ("We have an enormous wealth of natural resources.") (D20/16:40/PHATC)*

In this utterance, Prabowo Subianto explicitly described Indonesia's vast natural wealth. The meaning is literal and declarative, emphasizing an objective observation about the country's natural resources. There is no emotional emphasis or rhetorical connotation; the speaker merely presents an informative statement. Therefore, this utterance functions as a phatic act, as its meaning is conveyed purely through lexical and grammatical structure without additional pragmatic force.

*"Kita harus mampu memproduksi dan memenuhi kebutuhan pangan seluruh rakyat Indonesia." / (We must be able to produce and meet the food needs of all Indonesians) (D72/25:51/PHATC)*

Through the above utterance, Prabowo Subianto made a direct statement about the importance of achieving food self-sufficiency. The statement emphasizes responsibility and collective effort, carrying a literal meaning. It is an explicit declaration of a national objective aimed at encouraging productivity and self-reliance. Since the meaning can be fully

understood from the words themselves without relying on tone or implied context, this utterance is categorized as a phatic act.

### **Rhetic acts**

Researchers found 8 rhetic acts in Prabowo Subianto's inaugural speech. These utterances have deeper meanings that extend beyond their literal form. The utterances reveal the speaker's intentions, values, and beliefs regarding leadership and nationalism. Through these utterances, Prabowo attempted to inspire people to become proud, independent, and responsible citizens. The following are some examples of rhetic acts found in his speech:

*"Kemerdekaan kita, kita dapat dengan pengorbanan yang sangat besar." /*  
(Our independence was achieved through great sacrifice)  
(D13/18:21/RHETC).

Prabowo Subianto delivered this statement when emphasizing the meaning of Indonesia's struggle for independence. This statement not only conveys a historical fact, but also contains a moral message urging people to remember the sacrifices of the nation's heroes. Through this statement, Subianto aims to instill a sense of nationalism and historical awareness in Indonesian citizens, encouraging them to responsibly preserve the fruits of independence. Therefore, this utterance is categorized as a rhetorical act because it carries an ideological meaning – an appeal to uphold the values of sacrifice, gratitude, and responsibility toward national freedom.

*"We possess abundant natural resources." /* (Kita memiliki kekayaan alam yang sangat besar) (D52/16:40/RHETC).

Prabowo Subianto explicitly states that Indonesia has great natural wealth in this utterance. However, at the rhetic level, the statement conveys more than just a factual observation. It implies a moral and political responsibility for the government to manage these resources wisely for the people's benefit. The statement subtly criticizes past mismanagement and emphasizes the importance of fairness and national sovereignty in resource governance. Thus, this statement is identified as a rhetic act, as it reflects an ideological meaning of economic nationalism and a call for sovereign, just, and sustainable resource management.

*"Kita harus mampu memproduksi dan memenuhi kebutuhan pangan seluruh rakyat Indonesia." /* (We must be able to produce and fulfill the food needs of all Indonesians) (D72/25:51/RHETC)

This statement was spoken by Prabowo Subianto when discussing Indonesia's commitment to food self-sufficiency. Implicitly, its meaning is not only related to economic policy, but also reflects an ideological message about national sovereignty. Prabowo emphasized that the ability to meet one's own food needs is a symbol of a country's strength and independence. Through this statement, Prabowo expressed his belief that a strong nation is one that does not depend on other countries to meet its basic daily needs. Therefore, this utterance is categorized as a rhetorical speech act because it contains an implied meaning in the form of a moral and nationalistic call to build food sovereignty and strengthen national independence.

### **Types of illocutionary acts**

#### **Assertive acts**

Researchers identified 55 assertions in Prabowo Subianto's first inaugural address in 2024. These utterances convey the speaker's beliefs, facts, and descriptions that he holds to be true. Through these acts, Prabowo articulated national conditions, historical reflections, policy orientations, and social realities. In these instances, assertive acts are employed to establish credibility, present rational arguments, and frame the nation's challenges and potential. The following are examples of assertive acts found in the speech.

*"Bangsa yang merdeka adalah bangsa di mana rakyatnya merdeka, rakyat harus bebas dari ketakutan, bebas dari kemiskinan, kelaparan, kebodohan, penindasan, penderitaan." /* (An independent nation is one where the people are free; the people must be free from fear, poverty, hunger, ignorance, oppression, and suffering) (D07/36:53/ASSRTV)

This utterance expresses Prabowo Subianto's ideological concept of true independence. The statement conveys a perspective on the values and principles of statehood, emphasizing that genuine national independence requires freedom from fear, poverty, hunger, ignorance, oppression, and suffering. The utterance is categorized as an assertive act because it presents a belief and moral viewpoint that is expressed as a statement of truth.

*"Prinsip kita adalah prinsip anti-penjajahan, karena kita pernah mengalami penjajahan." / (Our principle is anti-colonialism, because we have experienced colonialism) (D09/41:42/ASSRTV)*

Prabowo emphasizes Indonesia's anti-colonial principles. This principle is rooted in the nation's history and represents a collective belief. Thus, it is an assertive act that establishes a moral and ideological stance.

*"Setiap pemimpin harus selalu ingat bahwa pekerjaan kita untuk rakyat." / (Every leader must always remember that our duty is for the citizens) (D09/36:03/ASSRTV)*

This utterance expresses a belief about the moral foundation of leadership. The phrase "must always remember" is a statement of conviction, not a command or emotional expression. Pragmatically speaking, Prabowo is not instructing a specific action, but rather, he is reaffirming the moral principle that leadership should serve the people and not power itself. Thus, this utterance is classified as an assertive act because it conveys the speaker's belief and affirms a moral truth intended to influence the audience's perception of ethical leadership.

### **Directive acts**

Researchers identified 32 instances of directives in Prabowo Subianto's first inaugural address in 2024. These utterances are used to direct, invite, encourage, or urge the audience to take action. In this address, Prabowo used these acts to call for unity, courage, self-reflection, cooperation, and collective responsibility in building the nation. These acts reflect the speaker's intention to influence audience behavior and mobilize public participation. The following are examples of directive acts found in the speech.

*"Apakah kita sadar bahwa kemiskinan di Indonesia masih terlalu besar?" / (Are we aware that poverty in Indonesia is still too widespread?) (D05/23:03/DIRCTV)*

This question is not merely seeking a response; it is designed to elevate the ethical consciousness of the audience. Prabowo employs rhetoric to provoke his audience to engage in critical reflection on prevailing social conditions. Therefore, this sentence is a directive act, because it encourages listeners to realize the reality and take corrective action.

*"Saya mengajak semua pihak, ayo bersatu!" (I invite everyone to unite!) (D08/40:04/DIRCTV)*

This utterance is a direct call from Prabowo Subianto to all elements of the Indonesian nation to unite after a long political process. Delivered in a firm tone, it rises on "invite" and softens on "let's unite," conveying sincerity and calm persuasion. The meaning goes beyond a verbal invitation and carries a symbolic message about national unity amid political differences. It is considered a directive act because the speaker aims to influence the audience to take real action by uniting and working together for the country's well-being. Prabowo delivered this message during an emotional moment after the election, so "let's unite" also served as a call for national reconciliation. This speech highlights his image as an inclusive, forward-looking leader who encourages people to move toward unity and stability together.

*"Mari kita bangun Indonesia di atas landasan yang sudah dirintis oleh pendahulu-pendahulu kita." / (Let us build Indonesia upon the foundations laid by our predecessors) (D01/50:18/DIRCTV)*

The above statement, delivered by Prabowo Subianto at the end of his speech, was a moral appeal to all Indonesian people. The phrase "Let's build" contains elements of collective appeal and a spirit of mutual cooperation. The meaning of this sentence is not only descriptive, but also performative – encouraging concrete action. Therefore, this statement is classified as a directive illocutionary act, as it aims to guide and motivate listeners to participate in building the nation on the foundation laid by their predecessors.

### Commissive acts

Researchers identified 28 commissive acts in Prabowo Subianto's first inaugural address in 2024. These utterances demonstrate the speaker's dedication to future actions, such as promises, commitments, and assurances concerning governance, social welfare, and national development. In these instances, Subianto uses commissives to express his determination, responsibility, and readiness to fulfill the mandate entrusted to him by the people. The following are examples of commissive acts found in the speech.

*"Kami akan mengutamakan kepentingan bangsa Indonesia."* / (We will prioritize the needs of the Indonesian nation) (D06/15:47/COMMSV)

This utterance is representative of President Subianto's political promise and commitment to the Indonesian people. The employment of the word "will" is indicative of future intention and reflects sincerity and moral responsibility as a leader. Through this statement, the administration of President Ir. H. Joko Widodo emphasizes that its policies will always prioritize national interests over personal or group agendas. Consequently, this utterance is classified as a commissive act, as the speaker explicitly commits himself to carrying out future actions for the benefit of the nation.

*"Kami akan menjalankan kepemimpinan pemerintahan Republik Indonesia, kepemimpinan negara Republik Indonesia, dengan tulus, dengan mengutamakan kepentingan rakyat Indonesia."* (We will carry out the leadership of the government of the Republic of Indonesia sincerely, prioritizing the interests of the Indonesian people) (D06/15:27/COMMSV)

Prabowo Subianto delivered this utterance right after taking his oath of office. It conveys his political and moral commitment to lead the nation with sincerity and prioritize the interests of its citizens. The use of the word "will" reflects an intention oriented toward the future and a sense of responsibility toward his duties. Thus, this utterance is classified as a commissive act because the speaker commits himself to a future course of action guided by sincerity and dedication to the public interest.

### Expressive acts

Researchers identified 19 expressive acts in Prabowo Subianto's first inaugural address in 2024. These utterances convey psychological states such as gratitude, respect, appreciation, humility, and hope. In this address, expressive acts were realized through greetings, acknowledgments of predecessors, appreciation toward political rivals, and religious expressions. These acts help establish an emotional connection and emphasize the values of politeness, inclusivity, and national unity. The following are examples of expressive acts found in the speech.

*"Kita merasa bangga bahwa diterima di kalangan G-20, kita merasa bangga bahwa kita disebut ekonomi ke-16 terbesar di dunia."* / (We feel proud to be part of the G-20 and proud to be recognized as the world's 16th largest economy) (D04/22:42/EXPRSV)

This utterance conveys a sense of national pride in Indonesia's achievements on the global stage. The reiteration of the phrase "we are proud" serves to elicit positive sentiments and fosters a sense of unity between the leaders and the populace. From a pragmatic perspective, this expression of pride not only conveys feelings but also serves to reinforce Indonesia's position as an increasingly powerful and influential country in the international community. Through his emotional and proud speech, Prabowo aimed to foster collective confidence and strengthen the spirit of nationalism among his people. Therefore, this statement is categorized as an expressive illocutionary act because it serves to express positive emotions while strengthening the nation's image and confidence in national leadership.

*"Kita bersyukur kepada presiden, proklamator pertama, Bung Karno yang telah memberikan kita ideologi Pancasila."* (We are grateful to Bung Karno, the first president and proclaimer, who gave us the ideology of Pancasila) (D13/45:09/EXPRSV)

This expression of gratitude and respect honors Indonesia's first president, Bung Karno, who established the nation's ideological foundation, Pancasila. The tone is soft and reflective, conveying an emotional sense of appreciation. By saying "we are grateful" Prabowo expresses thankfulness and national pride, reminding the audience of the enduring legacy of Indonesia's founders. Therefore, this utterance is classified as an expressive act because it conveys emotion and appreciation rather than factual information or directives.

### **Declarative**

Researchers identified 3 declarative acts in Prabowo Subianto's first inaugural address in 2024. These utterances formally establish new institutional realities or confirm changes in political status through speech itself. In this instance, Prabowo used declarative acts to announce the start of the newly elected administration and to legitimize presidential authority. The following are examples of these acts found in the speech.

*"Saya Prabowo Subianto dan Gibran Rakabuming Raka telah mengucapkan sumpah untuk mempertahankan Undang-Undang Dasar kita." / (I am, Prabowo Subianto, along with Gibran Rakabuming Raka, swear to uphold our Constitution) (D46/14:42/DECLA)*

In the utterance above, Prabowo Subianto stated this sentence at the beginning of his inaugural address after officially being sworn as president of the Republic of Indonesia. He declared that he and his vice president had taken an oath to uphold the Constitution. This statement is performative, meaning that by saying it, Prabowo affirms his legitimate authority as president and expresses his constitutional responsibility. The sentence carries institutional power that validates his position and signals the beginning of his leadership. Therefore, this utterance is categorized as a declarative act because it performs an action through the speech itself, confirming the legality of his oath and reinforcing his commitment to uphold the nation's constitution.

*"Sumpah tersebut akan kami jalankan dengan sebaik-baiknya." / (We will carry out that oath to the best of our ability) (D05/15:09/COMMSV)*

The utterance was delivered immediately following the swearing-in of President and Vice President of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto and Gibran Rakabuming Raka. The aforementioned statement can be regarded as a reaffirmation of commitment to the presidential oath. The employment of the modal verb "will" serves to indicate intention and signals a promise of future action. From a pragmatic perspective, the statement does not merely provide information or express emotion; rather, it conveys a commitment to uphold governmental responsibilities with integrity. Therefore, the utterance is categorized as a commissive illocutionary act, as it reflects a commitment to carrying out a future action, namely fulfilling the presidential oath to the best possible extent.

A closer examination indicates that, the analysis of both locutionary and illocutionary acts reveals broader patterns in how meaning is constructed within the speech. While the classification of speech acts provides a structural overview, a deeper analysis reveals their strategic functions in political discourse. The dominance of assertive acts reflects an intentional effort to construct authority and credibility by presenting statements as factual and objective. Directive and commissive acts complement this function by encouraging public participation and signaling commitment to future actions. This interplay indicates that speech acts operate as a coordinated rhetorical strategy rather than isolated elements.

These findings are consistent with previous studies highlighting the role of assertive acts in establishing political legitimacy. However, this study extends prior research by integrating both locutionary and illocutionary levels, offering a more comprehensive understanding of how meaning and intention are constructed. The construction of leadership identity is realized through the combination of assertive acts, which frame reality, and commissive acts, which project future commitments. This dual strategy reinforces credibility and responsibility as key components of political legitimacy.

Based on the discussion presented above, the findings of this study are in line with Speech Act Theory and previous research on political discourse. The dominance of assertive acts (40.15%) shows that the speech mainly functions to express beliefs, ideas, and views about

social reality, as explained by (Austin, 1962) and (Searle, 1976). This result also supports earlier studies by (Rahman, 2020) & (Wulan, 2022), which found that political speeches often use assertive acts to build credibility and strengthen legitimacy. The use of directive acts (23.36%) indicates that the speech also aims to encourage action and participation, which is consistent with (Kusno & Oktaviani, 2023). In addition, commissive acts reflect the speaker's commitment to future actions, as highlighted by (Surya & Alam, 2023). At the locutionary level, the dominance of phatic acts shows that the speech delivers information in a direct way, while the presence of rhetic acts suggests that the speech also contains deeper and more implicit meanings (Yule, 1996; Gusthini et al., 2018).

From a theoretical point of view, this study confirms that language is not only used to communicate information but also to perform social actions. Meaning is created through the combination of what is said (locutionary) and what is intended (illocutionary). In practice, this study helps readers better understand political speeches beyond their literal meaning, shows the importance of using different types of speech acts in effective communication, and can be used as a teaching resource in pragmatics, especially in English language learning.

However, this study has some limitations. It only analyzes one speech, so the results cannot be generalized widely. It also focuses only on locutionary and illocutionary acts without examining how the audience responds (perlocutionary effects). In addition, the qualitative method may involve subjective interpretation. Finally, this study does not analyze non-verbal elements such as gestures and facial expressions, which may also influence meaning. Therefore, future research should include more data, consider other aspects of pragmatics, and explore multimodal analysis.

## CONCLUSION

This study examined the use of speech acts in President Prabowo Subianto's 2024 inaugural state address, focusing on the identification of locutionary and illocutionary acts. The findings reveal 40 locutionary acts and 137 illocutionary acts, categorized into phonetic, phatic, and rhetic types, as well as assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative acts. These results indicate that meaning in political discourse is constructed not only through linguistic forms but also through communicative intentions embedded in speech acts. The dominance of assertive acts suggests that the speech primarily functions to present beliefs, national conditions, and leadership perspectives, while directive, expressive, commissive, and declarative acts further support public engagement, emotional connection, political commitment, and institutional authority. Taken together, these findings demonstrate that inaugural speeches operate as strategic communicative instruments for shaping credibility, constructing leadership identity, and articulating national vision. Theoretically, this study contributes to pragmatics by emphasizing the importance of integrating locutionary and illocutionary analyses in examining political discourse. Practically, it offers insights for political communicators and educators in developing effective and contextually meaningful language use. However, this study is limited to the analysis of a single speech; therefore, future research is recommended to incorporate perlocutionary analysis, conduct comparative studies, and explore audience reception to provide a more comprehensive understanding of political communication.

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