

<https://jurnal.unigal.ac.id/index.php/jall/index>

JALL (Journal of Applied Linguistics and Literacy), ISSN 2598-8530, Vol. 10 No. 2, 2026
Received: May 28th, 2026. Accepted: August 05th, 2026. Published: September 27th, 2026

A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTIONARY SPEECH ACTS IN PRABOWO SUBIANTO'S UNGA 2025 SPEECH

Maya Febrina^{1*}, Dedy Subandowo², Amirudin Latif³

^{1,2,3}Universitas Muhammadiyah Metro, Indonesia

mayafebrina@student.ummetro.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Political speeches at international forums function as strategic tools for expressing national identity, foreign policy positions, and moral commitments. This study examines the types and pragmatic functions of illocutionary speech acts in Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly 2025. The research subject is the official transcript of the speech. This study employed a qualitative descriptive approach and analyzed 118 utterances using Searle's taxonomy of illocutionary acts. Data were collected through textual analysis, identifying utterances and categorizing them according to their illocutionary functions, then interpreted to reveal their role in diplomatic communication. The findings reveal that assertive speech acts are the most dominant category, followed by directive, expressive, and commissive acts, reflecting Indonesia's principled stance, political commitments, and responsibilities in addressing global humanitarian issues. This study concludes that illocutionary acts serve as more than linguistic elements, they are deliberate mechanisms through which leaders communicate ethical, political, and diplomatic positions effectively. The insights contribute to the understanding of political pragmatics and highlight the role of language as a purposeful instrument in multilateral diplomacy.

Keywords: *diplomatic discourse; illocutionary acts; political pragmatics; speech act; United Nations General Assembly*

INTRODUCTION

Language has long played a central role in political and diplomatic practices. In political contexts, language does not merely function as a neutral medium for conveying information, but operates as a form of social action through which leaders exercise power, express ideological positions, and legitimize institutional authority (Dylgjeri, 2017; Emike, 2017). Political utterances, therefore, actively shape social and political realities by framing issues, guiding audience interpretation, and justifying particular policy positions. In international politics, this performative function of language becomes increasingly significant because political leaders are expected not only to communicate national interests but also to construct legitimacy, solidarity, and cooperation within the global community. As argued by Chilton (2004), political discourse is inherently strategic because it is closely related to power negotiation and ideological positioning. Similarly,

Charteris-Black (2018) highlights that, diplomatic language is never entirely neutral since it reflects political interests and institutional authority.

Among international diplomatic forums, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) occupies a significant position as a platform where state leaders communicate political stances, respond to global crises, and demonstrate commitments toward international cooperation. Speeches delivered at the UNGA are therefore not merely ceremonial forms of communication, but strategic political actions intended to influence international audiences and reinforce diplomatic legitimacy. Through such speeches, political leaders employ language to communicate policy orientations, construct national images, and negotiate their countries' positions within broader geopolitical dynamics. Dwi et al. (2024), for instance, demonstrate that diplomatic speeches at the UNGA frequently employ assertive and commissive acts to articulate national positions and institutional commitments. Likewise, Faisol et al. (2024) argue that speech acts in international forums function as strategic communicative tools through which leaders establish political responsibility and diplomatic engagement.

Indonesia has consistently utilized international forums to project its diplomatic identity as a supporter of peace, multilateral cooperation, and humanitarian engagement. Previous Indonesian presidents, including Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Joko Widodo, frequently employed diplomatic rhetoric emphasizing collective responsibility, cooperation, and international solidarity in addressing global issues. According to Hadiati et al. (2024), such rhetoric enables Indonesia to position itself as a cooperative and peace-oriented actor within international politics. Daar and Jemadi (2023) further explain that, Indonesian diplomatic discourse functions strategically to maintain political legitimacy while adapting to changing global challenges. In recent years, humanitarian crises, particularly the Palestinian issue, have become increasingly prominent in Indonesia's international communication. These issues carry strong political and moral significance and are often employed by political leaders to demonstrate ethical commitment and humanitarian responsibility before the international community.

Within this international political context, Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly 2025 represents a significant moment in Indonesian diplomatic communication because it constitutes his first official address to the global community as President of Indonesia. His speech addresses humanitarian concerns, international cooperation, and Indonesia's diplomatic commitments in responding to global crises, particularly the Palestinian conflict. As a newly inaugurated president,

Prabowo's diplomatic language is especially important because it reflects how Indonesia seeks to position itself during the early phase of his administration. The speech therefore provides valuable insight into how political language is strategically employed to construct diplomatic identity, articulate humanitarian concerns, and communicate national commitments within a multilateral setting.

Research on political and diplomatic discourse has extensively examined the use of speech acts in political speeches, campaign rhetoric, and international communication. Research by Hashim (2015) found that, assertive and commissive acts frequently dominate political discourse because they enable leaders to express national positions and institutional commitments. Similar findings are reported by Dwilla and Sunarto (2023), who show that diplomatic speeches delivered at the UNGA rely heavily on assertive functions to strengthen political legitimacy and international positioning.

In addition, Yakumbu et al. (2025) demonstrate that, expressive acts in diplomatic discourse function strategically to establish solidarity and ethical positioning toward humanitarian issues. In the Indonesian context, Dwi et al. (2024) and Ratnawati et al. (2025) have explored speech acts and diplomatic identity in speeches delivered by Indonesian political figures within international forums. However, these studies primarily focus on general diplomatic communication, politeness strategies, or institutional positioning. Limited attention has been given to how illocutionary acts function strategically to construct humanitarian positioning, diplomatic legitimacy, and international commitments in presidential speeches delivered within multilateral forums such as the United Nations General Assembly. While previous studies have examined speech acts, politeness strategies, and diplomatic identity in political and diplomatic discourse, limited attention has been given to the pragmatic functions of illocutionary acts in representing diplomatic positioning, humanitarian commitment, and international legitimacy within presidential speeches delivered in multilateral forums. Furthermore, research on Prabowo Subianto's communication has largely focused on domestic political contexts or broader issues of diplomatic identity, leaving the strategic use of illocutionary acts in his international diplomatic discourse relatively underexplored.

This limitation is particularly important because diplomatic speeches in international forums involve not only political representation but also strategic communicative actions directed toward global audiences. The pragmatic functions of illocutionary acts in such contexts cannot be fully understood solely through general political discourse analysis, since diplomatic communication involves complex

considerations of legitimacy, cooperation, politeness, and ideological positioning. Therefore, examining the illocutionary acts employed in Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly 2025 contributes to the broader study of political pragmatics and diplomatic discourse, particularly in understanding how humanitarian concerns are communicated as forms of diplomatic action during the early stage of a presidential administration.

Accordingly, this study aims to analyze the types and pragmatic functions of illocutionary acts employed in Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly 2025. Specifically, this study addresses the following research questions: (1) what types of illocutionary acts are employed in Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly 2025, and (2) how do these illocutionary acts function pragmatically to represent Indonesia's diplomatic position and commitments on the global stage?

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

This study is grounded in pragmatics, particularly Speech Act Theory, to examine how political language functions as strategic social action within diplomatic communication. In political and international contexts, speeches are not merely used to convey information, but also to express institutional positions, negotiate legitimacy, and construct ideological as well as humanitarian positioning. Therefore, understanding diplomatic discourse requires attention not only to the linguistic structure of utterances, but also to their communicative intentions and pragmatic functions within specific political contexts. This section discusses the theoretical foundations of Speech Act Theory, the role of illocutionary acts in political and diplomatic discourse, and previous studies related to speech acts in international political communication.

Speech Act Theory

Speech Act Theory was first introduced by Austin (1962) through his seminal work *How to Do Things with Words*, in which he argues that language does not merely function to describe reality but also performs actions. Austin explains that every utterance contains three interconnected dimensions, namely locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. Locutionary acts refer to the production of linguistically meaningful utterances, while illocutionary acts concern the communicative intention performed through speech, such as stating, requesting, promising, or warning. Perlocutionary acts,

meanwhile, relate to the effects or responses generated by the utterance toward listeners. Among these dimensions, illocutionary acts occupy a particularly important position because they reflect the speaker's intended social action within a specific communicative context.

Building upon Austin's framework, Searle (1975) developed a more systematic classification of illocutionary acts that has become widely applied in pragmatic studies. Searle categorizes illocutionary acts into five major types: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative acts. Assertive acts commit speakers to the truth of their propositions and are commonly used to convey statements, claims, or descriptions of reality. Directive acts aim to encourage listeners to perform certain actions through requests, suggestions, or appeals. Commissive acts indicate commitment toward future actions, such as promises or pledges. Expressive acts reflect the speaker's psychological attitudes or emotions, including gratitude, sympathy, and concern. Declarative acts, in contrast, possess institutional force because they can alter social or political status through speech itself when performed by authorized speakers. This taxonomy provides an analytical framework for examining how political leaders employ language strategically to communicate intentions, construct legitimacy, and negotiate institutional authority.

In pragmatics, speech acts are understood as context-dependent communicative actions through which meaning is realized in social interaction. Levinson (1983) explains that meaning cannot be separated from contextual interpretation because utterances derive significance from situational and social conditions. However, the interpretation of speech acts cannot always be based solely on fixed theoretical categories, particularly in naturally occurring discourse where contextual factors shape communicative meaning (Rustandi et al, 2025). This context dependence also implies that illocutionary meanings are not always fixed, as a single utterance may allow multiple pragmatic interpretations depending on situational factors, which leads to interpretive ambiguity in political discourse. This interpretive ambiguity has important implications for the analysis of illocutionary acts, as the intended pragmatic force of an utterance may vary depending on contextual interpretation. Nevertheless, Green (2017) argues that speech acts function as the primary mechanism through which speakers realize communicative intentions in interaction. The development from Austin's performative perspective to Searle's systematic classification therefore provides an empirically applicable framework for analyzing language as intentional social action, particularly in institutional and political communication (Mabaquiao, 2018).

Illocutionary Acts in Political and Diplomatic Discourse

The strategic function of speech acts becomes especially significant in political and diplomatic communication, where language operates not only as a medium of information but also as an instrument of power, legitimacy, and persuasion. According to Chilton (2004), political discourse is inherently action-oriented because it is closely associated with ideological positioning, authority negotiation, and influence over collective understanding. In diplomatic contexts, speeches are carefully constructed to represent national interests, establish legitimacy, and maintain international relationships. Charteris-Black (2018) further emphasizes that diplomatic language is never neutral since it reflects broader political interests and institutional power relations.

Within international forums, illocutionary acts frequently function as pragmatic tools through which leaders articulate commitments, negotiate cooperation, and express political positions. Assertive and commissive acts are often dominant because they enable political actors to communicate national stances and institutional responsibilities before international audiences. Directive acts, meanwhile, are commonly realized through indirect and persuasive forms that align with diplomatic norms of politeness and cooperation. Expressive acts also play an important role in diplomatic discourse because they allow political leaders to construct solidarity, empathy, and humanitarian concern toward global issues.

Recent studies on diplomatic discourse further demonstrate that speech acts are closely related to strategic positioning within international communication. As stated by Dwilla and Sunarto (2023), in their study of the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs' speech at the United Nations General Assembly, found that assertive and commissive acts were predominantly employed to communicate political commitments and reinforce diplomatic legitimacy. Similarly, Yakumbu et al. (2025) argue that expressive acts in diplomatic discourse function strategically to establish ethical positioning and solidarity toward humanitarian concerns. Beyond speech act functions, diplomatic communication also involves broader processes of negotiation and identity construction. Mcintee-atalianis and Vessey (2025) explain that diplomatic discourse reflects strategic linguistic positioning through which political actors negotiate institutional interests and international alignments. In conflict-related discourse, assertive strategies are often used to frame moral responsibility and political narratives surrounding humanitarian crises, as demonstrated by Izdiyar and Kurnia (2025) in their analysis of political discourse related to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

These studies indicate that diplomatic discourse involves complex pragmatic strategies in which speech acts function not merely as linguistic expressions, but as instruments for constructing legitimacy, ideological positioning, humanitarian engagement, and international cooperation. Consequently, analyzing illocutionary acts in political speeches provides important insights into how leaders strategically employ language to represent national interests and communicate diplomatic commitments within global political contexts.

Previous Studies on Political and Diplomatic Speech Acts

Research on speech acts in political and diplomatic discourse has expanded considerably in recent years. Previous studies consistently demonstrate that assertive and commissive acts frequently dominate political speeches because these acts enable leaders to articulate policy positions, establish legitimacy, and communicate political commitments. A study by Hashim (2015), for instance, found that assertive acts function strategically in political discourse to frame ideological positions and influence audience perception. Similar findings are reported by Permana and Mauriyat (2021), who show that political speeches frequently employ assertive strategies to strengthen persuasive communication and institutional authority.

In diplomatic settings, speech acts are similarly employed to communicate national identity and international commitments. As demonstrated by Dwi et al. (2024), speeches delivered in international forums frequently rely on assertive and commissive acts to represent diplomatic positions and institutional responsibilities. Faisol et al. (2024) further explain that speech acts in diplomatic communication function as strategic instruments for negotiating cooperation and articulating political accountability. Research by Hadiati et al. (2024) also indicates that participation in international forums such as the United Nations General Assembly enables political leaders to engage in negotiation, norm-setting, and representations of shared global responsibility.

Studies focusing on Indonesian diplomatic discourse similarly highlight the strategic role of speech acts in international communication. Studies on diplomatic speech acts also highlight the strategic role of commissive acts in constructing political credibility and institutional trust. Alam (2023) explains that, commissive acts in political discourse frequently function as indicators of commitment and diplomatic responsibility, while Sosrohadi et al. (2024) argue that, commissive strategies are often employed to reinforce state legitimacy and international cooperation within political communication.

Study by Daar and Jemadi (2023) explain that, Indonesian diplomatic rhetoric functions not only to communicate policy positions but also to maintain political legitimacy and align national interests with broader multilateral agendas. Renaldo and Riau (2024) additionally argue that diplomatic language allows political actors to balance institutional firmness with cooperative international engagement. In relation to humanitarian discourse, Cakra et al. (2025) found that Indonesian diplomatic speeches strategically combine assertive and expressive acts to maintain diplomatic politeness while simultaneously emphasizing national commitments and humanitarian concern.

Several studies have also examined speech acts in relation to Prabowo Subianto's political communication. Bumi et al. (2024) analyzed expressive speech acts in Prabowo's domestic campaign speeches and found that emotional expressions were frequently employed to mobilize political support and strengthen audience engagement. However, domestic political campaigns differ substantially from diplomatic communication because international forums require more institutionalized, strategic, and cooperative forms of interaction. Meanwhile, Ratnawati et al. (2025), explored politeness strategies and diplomatic identity in Prabowo Subianto's speech at the United Nations General Assembly. Their findings demonstrate that linguistic politeness contributes to constructing Indonesia's image as a moderate and cooperative diplomatic actor. Nevertheless, their study focuses primarily on politeness strategies and diplomatic identity, leaving the broader pragmatic functions and distribution of illocutionary acts relatively underexplored.

Although previous studies have demonstrated the important role of speech acts in political and diplomatic communication, limited attention has been given to how illocutionary acts function strategically to construct humanitarian positioning, diplomatic legitimacy, and international commitments within presidential speeches delivered in multilateral forums. In particular, research specifically examining the pragmatic functions and distribution of illocutionary acts in Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly 2025 remains limited. Therefore, this study seeks to extend previous research by analyzing how illocutionary acts are employed to represent Indonesia's diplomatic identity and humanitarian commitments within an international political context.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study uses a qualitative descriptive research design to analyze the use of illocutionary acts in Prabowo Subianto's speech delivered at the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 2025. A qualitative approach was chosen because the purpose of this study was not to measure frequency statistically, but rather to interpret the pragmatic function of speech as a political and diplomatic act in an international institutional context.

The analysis was based on Speech Act Theory, which views language as a form of social action performed through speech (Austin, 1962; Searle, 1975). In the context of diplomatic speeches, this approach allows researchers to examine how utterances are used strategically to express political positions, build commitments, and convey the moral stance of a country before the international community.

Research Instrument

In this qualitative pragmatic study, the researcher served as the primary research instrument, responsible for interpreting illocutionary acts based on established theoretical frameworks. The speech video and its transcription functioned as supporting research materials used to facilitate systematic analysis and ensure data authenticity.

Data Collection

Data were collected from Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly 2025 uploaded on the official United Nations YouTube channel. The initial transcript was obtained using YouTube's automatic transcription feature. This transcript served as a preliminary version before being reviewed against the original speech video.

The preliminary transcript was subsequently reviewed by comparing it with the original speech video to ensure the accuracy of the utterances and their contexts. Corrections were made whenever necessary, and the verified transcript was used as the primary data for analysis.

Transcript Validation and Coding Reliability

The automatically generated transcript obtained from the official United Nations YouTube channel was reviewed by comparing it with the original speech video. The researcher repeatedly listened to the speech and examined the transcript to identify possible inaccuracies. Corrections were made whenever necessary, and the verified transcript was used as the primary data for analysis.

Coding reliability was maintained through several stages of analysis. The researcher first identified pragmatically complete utterances from the verified transcript and assigned sequential codes. The utterances were then classified according to Searle's (1975) taxonomy of illocutionary acts. After the initial classification, the coding results were reviewed repeatedly by revisiting the utterances and their contexts. This repeated review helped maintain consistency in the classification of utterances and reduce the possibility of misclassification.

Data Analysis

The analysis was conducted through several stages. The verified transcript was first examined to identify pragmatically complete utterances, and each utterance was assigned a sequential code (U1–Un) to facilitate systematic analysis. The coded utterances were then classified according to Searle's (1975) taxonomy of illocutionary acts. After the classification process, the utterances were interpreted within the diplomatic context of the United Nations General Assembly to examine their pragmatic functions. Finally, recurring patterns of illocutionary acts were identified and analyzed to explain how they represented Indonesia's diplomatic stance and commitments on the global stage.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents and discusses the findings of the study in relation to the research aims and questions. Specifically, it addresses the types of illocutionary acts employed in Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly in 2025 and examines how these acts function pragmatically to represent Indonesia's diplomatic position and commitments on the global stage. The discussion is organized by first outlining the distribution of illocutionary act types identified in the speech, followed by an interpretation of their pragmatic functions within the context of international diplomacy. By grounding the discussion in the research questions, this section seeks to clarify how linguistic choices in the speech operate as purposeful diplomatic actions rather than merely rhetorical expressions.

The analysis of Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly in 2025 revealed 118 utterances (U1–U118) containing illocutionary acts. Each utterance was classified according to Searle's (1975) taxonomy into assertive, directive, commissive, and expressive categories, with no declarative acts identified. The distribution of illocutionary acts is presented in Table 1, which shows that assertive acts

were most dominant, followed by directive, commissive, and expressive acts. This dominance reflects the characteristics of diplomatic discourse, where the primary function is to articulate positions, normative judgments, and moral commitments rather than to issue commands or declarations.

Table 1. Distribution of Illocutionary act

Illocutionary types	Number of Utterance	Percentage
Assertive	66	55.9%
Directive	22	18.6%
Commissive	14	11.9%
Expressive	16	13.6%
Declarative	0	0%
Total	118	

To provide a clearer visualization of the distribution, Figure 1 illustrates the percentage of each illocutionary type. The percentages are calculated by dividing the number of utterances of each type by the total utterances (118) and multiplying by 100. This approach allows readers to quickly perceive the relative dominance of each type in the speech act.

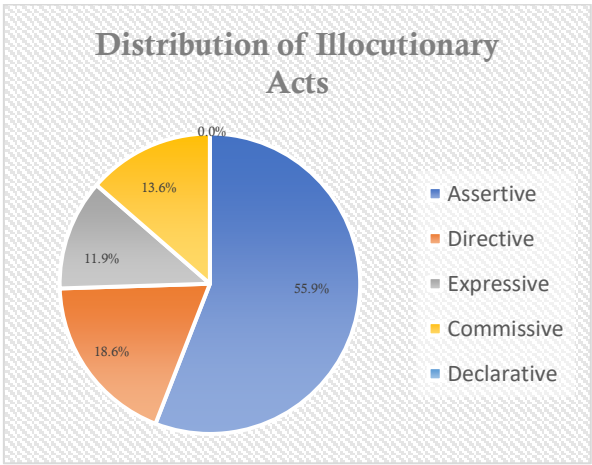


Figure 1. The distribution of illocutionary acts

In addition to frequency, the study examined the pragmatic functions of these illocutionary acts in the diplomatic context of the UNGA, emphasizing both the institutional position of the speaker and the communicative purpose of the speech. Table 2 presents representative examples of utterances along with their pragmatic functions.

Table 2. Pragmatic Functions of Illocutionary Speech Acts

No	Illocutionary Type	Code	Utterance (Excerpt)	Pragmatic Function
1	Assertive	U7	<i>"Yet, we gather together today as one human family."</i>	Framing global unity as the moral basis of the speech and building humanistic legitimacy in international forums
2	Assertive	U24	<i>"Every day we witness suffering, genocide, and blatant disregard for international law..."</i>	Diagnosing global crises to create moral urgency and diplomatic justification
3	Directive	U36	<i>"We must never be silent while Palestinians are denied that same justice..."</i>	A normative call to the international community to act on humanitarian issues.
4	Directive	U90	<i>"Madame President, we must act now."</i>	A direct call for action in the context of global crises, emphasizing the urgency of collective action
5	Expressive	U5	<i>"It is indeed a great honor for me to stand in this August General Assembly Hall..."</i>	Demonstrating institutional respect and building diplomatic goodwill.
6	Expressive	U97	<i>"We are all hopeful that the leaders of the world will show great statesmanship..."</i>	Expressing collective hope and building global emotional solidarity.
7	Commissive	U32	<i>"We remain committed to internationalism, to multilateralism..."</i>	Stating Indonesia's official commitment to multilateralism.
8	Commissive	U45	<i>"Indonesia is prepared to deploy 20,000 or even more..."</i>	Indonesia's promise of concrete contributions to international peace missions

To address the first research question concerning the types of illocutionary acts employed in the speech, the analysis reveals a clear predominance of assertive illocutionary acts, followed by directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative acts. This distribution reflects the communicative priorities of the speech within a formal diplomatic forum. The following discussion examines each type of illocutionary acts as

it appears in the speech and interprets its pragmatic function in relation to Indonesia's diplomatic positioning and international commitments.

The findings show that assertive illocutionary acts are the most dominant type in Prabowo Subianto's speech at the UN General Assembly, indicating that the speech primarily served as a means to state positions, interpret global realities, and build Indonesia's moral and political legitimacy before the international community. The use of assertive acts is evident in statements expressing beliefs, judgments, and normative claims, such as in U96, "I am convinced that the leaders of the great world civilizations... will rise to their role demanded by history," and U107, "The only solution is this two-state solution," through which the speaker does not merely convey personal opinions but binds himself to the truth of the propositions put forward, as characterized by (Searle, 1975). This finding aligns with the results of research by Hashim (2015) and Permana and (Permana & Mauriyat, 2021), which state that political speeches tend to be dominated by assertive acts because the speaker seeks to shape the audience's understanding of a particular political situation, and in the context of international diplomacy, as emphasized by Chilton (2004) and Charteris-Black (2018)), assertiveness serves to frame global issues and present a country's position legitimately without direct confrontation.

However, unlike domestic political speeches, the assertive actions in this speech are not aggressive or coercive, as the claims made emphasize universal moral judgments, such as in U101, "No one country can bully the whole community of the human family," which shows that Prabowo uses assertive actions to build Indonesia's image as a principled diplomatic actor, in line with the findings of Cakra et al. (2025) regarding Indonesia's diplomatic strategy at the UN, and thus, the dominance of assertive actions in this speech confirms its function as the main tool for legitimizing the national position and articulating global values, not merely conveying factual information.

In addition to assertive acts, directive illocutionary acts also appear significantly in this speech. However, it is important to note that the directives used are not in the form of direct commands, but rather collective invitations and normative appeals tailored to the context of multilateral diplomacy. This can be seen in statements such as U90 "Madame President, we must act now," U93 "Let us continue humanity's great journey of ideals," and U109 "we must live as one human family." Illocutionarily, these statements aim to encourage the audience to take certain actions, but they are conveyed through the inclusive forms *we* and *let us*, which reflect a strategy of politeness. This finding reinforces Levinson's (1983) view that directive actions in institutional contexts

are often realized indirectly to maintain social relationships, as also found by Daar and Jemadi (2023) in their analysis of Indonesian presidential state addresses. In forums such as the United Nations General Assembly, as emphasized by Faisol et al. (2024) and Dwi et al. (2024), speakers must carefully manage their illocutionary acts to avoid face-threatening expressions. Diplomatic speakers tend to rely on assertive, directive, and expressive acts that allow them to articulate positions, invite cooperation, and express moral stances without undermining international relations or institutional decorum. Compared to the domestic political campaign speeches analyzed by Bumi et al. (2024), the directives in Prabowo's speech at the UN show a shift in function, from mass mobilization to global consensus building. This confirms that directive acts in a diplomatic context serve as a tool of moral persuasion, not political instruction. Therefore, the directive acts in this speech serve as a mechanism to invite the collective participation of the international community without violating the norms of politeness and the sovereignty of other countries.

This study found 16 commissive illocutionary acts, which, although not dominant in quantity, have high pragmatic weight in the context of international diplomacy. Commissive acts reflect Indonesia's commitment to future actions and serve as indicators of state credibility. The most explicit example is found in U110: "Indonesia is committed to being part of making this vision a reality." In addition, operational commitment also appears in Indonesia's statement of readiness to contribute to international peace missions. Through these utterances, the speaker binds himself and implicitly the state to concrete actions, in accordance with Searle (1975) definition of performative acts. This finding is consistent with studies by Alam (2023) and Sosrohadi et al. (2024), which emphasize that commissive acts are used to build trust and political legitimacy. In the context of the UN, as shown by Faisol et al. (2024), commissive acts have strategic value because they represent the seriousness of a country in carrying out its role as a global actor. However, unlike the speeches of heads of superpowers, the commission in this speech was not accompanied by threats or ultimatums. Instead, the commitment was framed as a voluntary contribution to global peace. This reinforced Indonesia's image as a cooperative and morally responsible country. Thereby, the commission in this speech served as a sign of diplomatic responsibility, not as a tool of political pressure.

Expressive illocutionary acts are also found in this speech and play an important role in building emotional dimensions and global solidarity. Expressions such as U97 "We are all hopeful...", U98 "We are greatly heartened...", this closing remarks reveal the

speaker's psychological attitude toward the global situation. Expressive acts in this speech do not merely function as politeness markers, but also operate as moral positioning in humanitarian discourse. This finding resonates with Renaldo and Riau (2024), who argues that expressive acts in diplomatic contexts are often employed to construct ethical alignment and symbolic solidarity. In line with Green's (2017) view, expressive acts allow speakers to display emotional attitudes without changing institutional structures. As demonstrated by Hadiati et al. (2024), expressive acts serve to build symbolic closeness and moral image, In the context of diplomacy. These findings also complement the results of Ratnawati et al. (2025), which highlight Prabowo's politeness and diplomatic identity. However, this study expands on these findings by showing that expressive acts not only function as a strategy of politeness, but also as markers of ethical and humanitarian positions on global issues. Thus, expressive acts in this speech contribute to the formation of international solidarity and strengthen the moral legitimacy of the accompanying assertive and directive acts.

Overall, the integration of these illocutionary acts reflects a strategically coordinated pragmatic approach, where assertive acts frame global realities and Indonesia's position, directive acts encourage collective action, commissive acts demonstrate concrete commitments, and expressive acts build emotional and moral legitimacy. This cumulative effect illustrates how Prabowo Subianto's speech functions as a diplomatic tool, representing Indonesia as a principled, cooperative, and humanitarian actor within the international community, in line with Hashim's (2015) observation on the cumulative impact of political speech acts.

In conclusion, the findings confirm that the illocutionary acts in the 80th UNGA speech operate synergistically to achieve both communicative and diplomatic objectives, bridging normative assertion, moral appeal, institutional commitment, and emotional solidarity. This unified presentation of findings and discussion not only answers the research question regarding the types and functions of illocutionary acts but also provides a comprehensive analysis of Indonesia's diplomatic strategy in the context of global humanitarian concerns.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the illocutionary acts employed in Prabowo Subianto's speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly within the framework of political pragmatics and diplomatic discourse. The findings reveal that assertive acts were the

dominant speech acts used to articulate political positions, construct diplomatic legitimacy, and address humanitarian issues, particularly the Palestinian crisis. Commissive, directive, and expressive acts also functioned strategically to communicate international commitments, diplomatic appeals, and humanitarian solidarity.

These findings demonstrate that Prabowo Subianto's UNGA speech functions not only as political rhetoric, but also as a form of diplomatic action through which Indonesia's international positioning and humanitarian commitments are communicated to global audiences. This study contributes to the understanding of speech acts in presidential diplomatic discourse within multilateral forums. However, this study is limited to the analysis of a single political speech delivered in a specific diplomatic context. Therefore, the findings cannot be generalized to all political speeches or diplomatic settings. Future studies may compare speeches from different political leaders, countries, or international forums to provide broader insights into the use of illocutionary acts in political discourse.

REFERENCES

- Alam, O. S. N. (2023). Illocutionary Speech Acts in the Presidential Speech Regarding the Relocation of the National Capital City. *Celtic : A Journal of Culture, English Language Teaching, Literature and Linguistics*, 10(2), 156–171. <https://doi.org/10.22219/celtic.v10i2.28172>
- Austin, J. L. (1962). *HOW TO DO THINGS WITH WORDS* (J. O. Urmson & M. Sbisà (eds.)). CLARENDON PRESS.
- Bumi, S. M., Marni, S., & Tiawati, R. L. (2024). Expressive Speech Acts and Strategic Communication in Prabowo Subianto ' s 2024 Presidential Campaign Speeches. *Jurnal Bébasan*, 11(02), 92–100.
- Cakra, M., Mahardika, B., & Zuraida, I. (2025). Illocutionary Acts Analysis in Retno Marsudi'S Speech at Unga 79th Session : A Pragmatic Study. *English Journal Literacy UTama*, 9(2), 116–123.
- Charteris-Black, J. (2018). *Analysing Political Speeches: Rhetoric, Discourse and Metaphor*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Chilton, P. (2004). *Analysing Political Discourse: Theory and Practice*. Routledge.
- Daar, G. F., & Jemadi, F. (2023). Speech Act Use in Jokowi Political Communication during The Press Conference of The State Visit in Moskow. *LET: Linguistics, Literature and English Teaching Journal*, 13(1), 128–143.
- Dwi, R., Putri, N., Prastikawati, E. F., & Hawa, F. (2024). Illocutionary Acts in Retno Marsudi ' Speech at the General Debate of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. *Language Circle: Journal of Language and Literature*, 18(2).

- Dwillla, M., & Sunarto, E. (2023). Functions of Speech Acts in Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs Speech at Unga. *Journal of English Language and Culture*, 13(2), 97–104.
- Dylgjeri, A. (2017). Analysis of Speech Acts in Political Speeches. *European Journal of Social Sciences*, 2(2), 19–26. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.344518>
- Emike, J. (2017). Searle's Speech Act Theory: An Integrative Appraisal. *American Research Journal of English and Literature*, 3(1), 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.21694/2378-9026.17002>
- Faisol, Y., Hadi, S., & Ilyas, E. (2024). How to Build Strategic Communication : Speech Act Analysis on King Salman ' s Speeches at the United Nations General Assembly. *Journal Od Pragmatics and Discourse Research*, 4(01), 11–21.
- Green, M. (2017). *Speech Acts*. Oxford Research Encyclopedia.
- Hadiati, C., Muttaqin, U., & Yulianita, N. G. (2024). Speech Acts in the Closing Speech of the G20 Summit by President Joko Widodo "We Must End The War." *Lingua Cultura*, 18(1), 97–105. <https://doi.org/10.21512/lc.v18i1.11692>
- Hashim, S. S. M. (2015). Speech Acts in Political Speeches. *International Journal of Humanities And Cultural Studies*, 2(3), 720–730. [https://doi.org/10.15341/jmer\(2155-7993\)/07.05.2015/008](https://doi.org/10.15341/jmer(2155-7993)/07.05.2015/008)
- Izdihar, H., & Kurnia, R. (2025). Assertive Speech Strategy Between Russian and Russia-Ukraine Conflict : A Cross-Cultural Pragmatics. *Southeast Asian Language And Literature Studies*, 2(1), 66–72. <https://doi.org/10.55981/salls.2025.13514>
- Jr Mahinay Mabaquiao, N. (2018). Speech Act Theory: From Austin to Searle. *Augustinian: A Journal for Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, and Education*, 19(1), 1–18. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353274370>
- Levinson, S. C. (1983). *Pragmatics*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Mcentee-atalianis, L., & Vessey, R. (2025). Putting negotiation on a 'principal-ed' footing : A corpus-informed discourse analysis of person deixis in diplomatic debates. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 247, 42–56. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2025.07.013>
- Permana, T. J., & Mauriyat, A. (2021). Analysis of Speech Acts in Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's Political Speech. *Project (Professional Journal of English Education)*, 4(1), 62–68.
- Ratnawati, Sulastri, & Idrus, N. A. (2025). Politeness Strategies and Diplomatic Identity : A Pragmatic Analysis of Prabowo Subianto's UN General Assembly Speech. *PPSDP International Journal of Education*, 4(2), 679–689.
- Renaldo, Z. A., & Riau, P. C. (2024). Rhetorical Strategies and Speech Acts Analysis: A Linguistic Research on Indonesia's Minister Speech Advocating for Palestine. *ELT-Lectura: Studies and Perspectives in English Language Teaching*, 11(1), 42–50.
- Rustandi, A., Febriani, R., & Sugiarto, B.R. (2025). Pragmatic and Grammatical Competence Interface in Second Language Acquisition: Conceptual Framework and Construction. *JALL (Journal of Applied Linguistics and Literacy)*, 9(1), 45-56. [doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.25157/jall.v9i1.17802](http://dx.doi.org/10.25157/jall.v9i1.17802)

- Searle, J. R. (1975). A Taxonomy of Illocutionary Acts. *Language in Society*, 5(1), 344–369. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4166848>
- Sosrohadi, S., Syukri, M., & Sosrohadi, A. A. (2024). Unveiling Political Persuasion: Speech Acts in the 2024 Indonesian Presidential Candidates' Speech Texts. *ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, 7(1), 170–179. <https://doi.org/10.34050/elsjish.v7i1.34225>
- Yakumbu, S., Nasrullah, R., & Pratita, I. I. (2025). Politeness and Expressive Acts in Diplomatic Discourse : A Pragmatic Analysis of Marape ' s 2024 Address to the Australian Parliament. *Journal of Pragmatics Research*, 7(2), 368–382. <https://doi.org/10.18326/jopr.v7i2.368-383>