

DEIXIS AND SPEECH ACT ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE BETWEEN DONALD TRUMP AND JOE BIDEN

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Abstract: This research is to analyze deixis and speech act on presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. The research data is the final presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden on 20th October 2020. The research is qualitative research. Data are taken from the video downloaded from [www. Youtube.com](http://www.Youtube.com). The video is then transcribed and analyzed. The main research instrument is the researcher himself. Deixis found in this research are person deixis (74,88%), spatial deixis (5,55%), temporal deixis (2,19%), social deixis (13,55%), and discourse deixis (3,84%). The context in which deixis used are person deixis in which deictic expression indicates person reference, as first person, second person and third person. Then spatial deixis is in context that deictic expression indicates proximal place and distal place. Temporal deixis in context in which deictic expression indicates time point. Social deixis is used in context to indicates the social rank of reference. Meanwhile, discourse deixis is used to refer to portion of unfolding discourse in which utterance is located. Speech acts found in the research are assertive (59,54%), directive (11,45%), commissive (16,79%), and expressive (12,21%). The kind of assertive found are informing, convincing, stating, claiming. The kind of directive consist of requesting, suggesting, and ordering. The kind of commissive consist of threatening and promising. The kind of expressive consist of greeting, apologizing, thanking, and surprising. The possible perlocutionary act found is that assertive, which are informing, convincing, and claiming, is Trump and Biden want to inform some facts related to the issues being discussed. Further they want to convince the voters to vote one of them to be next president of the United States of America. Claiming acts is to show about what Trump and Biden have done for America. Each of them claims that he is the better person for the next president. Commissive also is dominant illocutionary acts, particularly promising acts. This is because they are debating for the president.

Key Words: deixis; speech acts; context; debate

Introduction

The researcher would like to analyze the presidential debate between Donald Trump who is the current president of the biggest country in the world against his rival, ex-vice president, Joe Biden. The debate was broadcasted through many streams, online channel like *youtube* and also official broadcasting company. It viewed by millions viewers. Trump form Republican Party is well-known as United States President who is controversial along his career for four years as president. His statements are, for some, considerably racism and so conservative. Response for the debate are through the comment coulomb. In short, it is very worthy to analyze.

Debate is spoken communication which, of course, will connect with context. Spoken language will not be fully understood without regarding the context of utterance. What people say, by what, where and when will determine the meaning of utterances. So, the field which should be explored is pragmatics



aspect of language. Pragmatics is part of linguistics study which explore something outside the language itself. The core concern is what surrounding the text, in broaden meaning of text. Pragmatics is about invisible meaning. An attempt to understand the meaning even it is not spoken or possibly the meaning which is actually the opposite with the utterance itself. Pragmatics has many aspects. Thus, the limit of exploration in this study are only two. They are Deixis and Speech Act.

Deixis are utterance which cannot be understood their references unless they are connected with the context. Deixis belongs within the domain of pragmatics study, because it directly concern the relationship between the structure of language and contexts. Huang (2007: 132) defines Deixis as the phenomenon whereby features of context of utterance or speech event are encoded by lexical and/or grammatical means in a language. This aspect of pragmatics study is quite interesting because one word or utterance can refer to different referent. This does not have fix meaning. The meaning is not depend on the word itself, rather than the context around it.

Deixis as suggested by Huang (2007: 132-174) are classified into five kinds of Deixis. They are Person Deixis which concerns at the reference of the role of participant. The second kind is Place Deixis concerning the encoding of spatial location relative to the participants in speech event. The third deixis is time or Temporal Deixis concerning the encoding of temporal time relative to the time at which the utterance was spoken such as now, today, tomorrow, etc. The fourth deixis is Discourse Deixis having to do with the encoding of reference to portion of discourse in which the utterance is located such as it, this, that, etc. The fifth deixis is Social Deixis which is the encoding of social distinction between the speaker and addressee such as Mr. President, vice president, king, people, etc.

The next interesting aspect of pragmatics is Speech Act. Simply to say Speech Act is acting via language. Simply, speech act is the action performed by speaker with an utterance. When people say something means they want the others respond what they intend. So, the utterance is not what it sounds, rather than what speaker want and what it impacts to listener by the utterance. It will more complex if we consider aspect of social class, in which circumstance, by what channel the utterance is spoken. Thus, Speech Act as research field of study is never lose its vital in language issue.

Speech acts are classified to be three, the first is a locutionary act, that is the basic act of utterance, or producing a meaningful utterance. This considers utterance as it is. The second is illocutionary act that is what we intend to act by the utterance. We don't just produce well-formed utterances with no intention. We produce utterance with some intention in mind. The third is perlocutionary act. That is performed via the communicative force of an utterance. We do not create an utterance with a function without intending it to have an effect.

Speech Act regards utterance not merely state, question, or negate something, which is classified as locutionary, rather than how that utterance say another thing and give impact to the recipients. When somebody says to his friend, 'do you have some water?' there must appear some actions. First, he just says the literal word which is interrogative utterance. However, the second, utterance is not merely asking about the existence of water, but it can be imperative to the recipient to serve some water to speaker. Then, finally, utterance orders recipient to do something. Then, linguists call the first as Locution, the second as Illocution, and the third as Perlocution.

Based on the explanation above, this study aims to determine kind and referent of deixis, and to determine and analyze the kind and context of speech act and possible perlocutionary on the debate.

Method

This research is qualitative research which is based on the opinion from Dawson (2002: 15) who states that qualitative research explores attitudes, behavior and experiences. So, the focus of this research is to know the attitude and behavior of object being researched. It does not matter the attitude and behavior of object is gained through direct interaction or in the form of video. According to Yin (2016: 03) qualitative research is conducted to understand how people cope in their real-world settings. Because qualitative studies can attend to the contextual richness of these settings, the research will enable researcher to study the everyday lives of many different kinds of people and what they think about, under many different circumstances. Qualitative research enable researcher to find out the deep understanding toward phenomenon.



The most important thing in research is data. According to Yin (2016: 138) data are the smallest or lowest entities or recorded elements resulting from some experience, observation, experiment, or other similar situation. They are the raw materials which do not mean anything without being further explored. The exploration of data will result the new thing, information and knowledge. In this research, the primary data are taken from the video of last USA presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden which was held on 23 October 2020. Data are taken from video which is then transcribed into text. After gaining data, the researcher classifies data based consist of the object being researched. The next is presenting data consist of deixis and speech acts. The next step is interpreting data consist of deixis and speech acts. The last is concluding data consist of deixis and speech acts spoken by Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

Results and Discussion

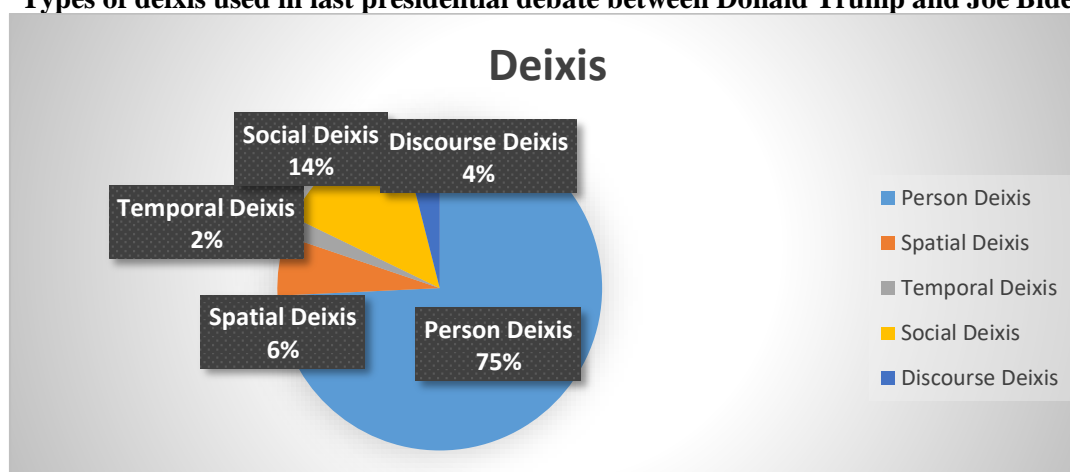
Deixis and Speech Act used in Debate

This part contains the deixis found in the last Presidential Debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden which was held on 23 of October 2020. In this part, deixis are found in five categories, namely: *person, spatial, temporal, social and discourse deixis*. In the analysis the researcher used all dilaogue which content deictic expression. This part presents research finding of deixis used in last Presidential Debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

Table 3.1.
Types of deixis used in last presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

No	Types of Deixis	Quantity	Percentage
1	Person Deixis	1365	74,88%
2	Spatial Deixis	101	5,55%
3	Temporal Deixis	40	2,19%
4	Social Deixis	247	13,55%
5	Discourse Deixis	70	3,84%
	Total	1823	100%

Pie chart 3.1
Types of deixis used in last presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden.



From data above we can conclude that the deixis used by Donald Trump and Joe Biden in their last presidential debate are 1823 in total. Specifically, person deixis are dominantly appear. They are 1365 appearances or 74,88%. They are almost 75%. Spatial deixis are 101 appearances or 5,55%. They are almost 6%. Temporal deixis are 40 appearnaces or 2,19%. They are the less appearances so far. Social deixis 247 appearances or 13,55%. They are almost 14%. Meanwhile, discourse deixis are 70 appearances or 3,84%. They are almost 4%.

Further, kind of illocutionary used by both Trump and Biden in their last presidential debate. The research has found the illocutionary acts used by Trump and Biden and their debate. They show in different

kind of illocutionary somehow. Their appearances are 131 times. The detail will be shown in the table below.

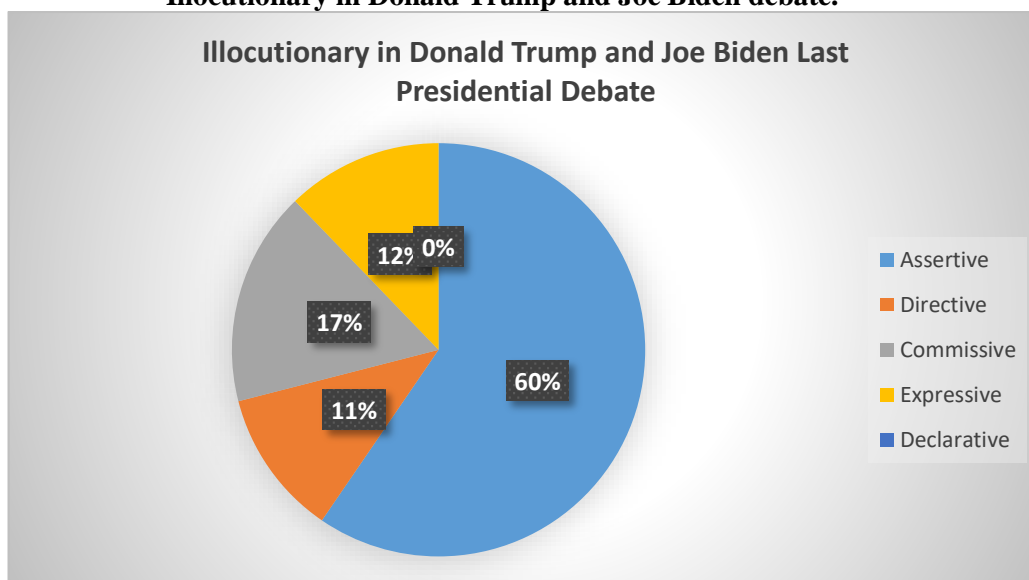
Table 3.2.

Illocutionaries found in the debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden.				
No	Illocutionary Acts	Illocutionary Force	Frequency	Percentage
1	Assertive	1. Informing 2. Convincing 3. Stating 4. Claiming	27 18 3 30	59,54 %
2	Directive	1. Requesting 2. Suggesting 3. Ordering	3 3 4	11,45 %
3	Commissive	1. Threatening 2. Promising	4 23	16,79 %
4	Expressive	1. Greeting 2. Apologizing 3. Thanking 4. Surprising	1 11 2 2	12,21 %
5	Declarative	-	0	0 %
	Total		131	100%

The table above can be clearly drawn by the chart below.

Pie Chart 3.2.

Illocutionary in Donald Trump and Joe Biden debate.



The table and the chart above show the illocutionary found in both Donald Trump and Joe Biden in their last presidential debate in 2020. They are assertive, directive, commissive, and expressive. The research does not find any kind of declarative act. Assertive has the most frequency of appearance which is 59, 54 % or 78. Then it is followed by commissive which has 16, 79 % or 22. The next is expressive which has 12, 21% or 16. Meanwhile the last is directive which has 11, 45% or 15.

The Referent and Context of Deixis in Debate

The data of the research are collected from the video which has been transcribed into text. The referent and the context of deixis can be described as follows. The person deixis *I* refers to the speaker which is in the debate refers to Donald Trump and Joe Biden as people contesting, as well as the deixis derived from *I* such as *me* and *my*. *We* refers to the speaker as himself as personal deixis, they refer to he himself as the President of United States. He states them as himself and his own government. Thus, Biden as his rival is excluded. Another context is when he states them as represent of all component of the country, all American

people. Meanwhile, Biden states *we* as personal deixis to refer to himself as the rival of Trump on election. Another context is to refer to representation of all American people or even as the representation of the country as institution.

The second person deixis *you* refers to the second person as the person whom talk to. *You* is second person deixis both plural and plural referents. Thus, the referent is the person who are involving directly in debate. They are Trump and Biden in person. But, in some case, particularly when they are quoting other's utterance, the referents are not them, who are involving directly in speech event, such as China government, immigrant, black community, and North Korea leader.

Third person deixis *he* *He* in this debate refers to Joe Biden, Trump's Young Son, Antony Fauci, Joe's Son, Barak Obama, Donald Trump, Rudy Guiliani, Putin and the president of China. The context of *he* is referring to someone who is not involving in the debate. As well as its derivation *him* and *his*. Meanwhile, *she* in this debate refers to Nancy Pelosy and Hillary Clinton. The next is the third person deixis plural *they*. They, in this context, can be person and can be non-person referent. The first example refers to corona virus disease, the second refers to schools, the third refers to American people, the fourth refers to Russia and China and any other counties that try to interfere American election or sovereignty. Meanwhile, its derivation, *them*, refers to ventilators, small business, and refers to person such as children of immigrants.

The next deixis is spatial or place deixis. Spatial deixis appeared in this debate is *here* and *this* which refer to proximal point to the speaker. They refer, in this research, to some references such as America and Belmont University. The context of this kind of deixis is that the location of debate or somewhere the debaters related to. The location of debate is Belmont University. Meanwhile, the country where they are living is America. Another spatial deixis is distal point relative to the speaker, *there* and *that*. They refers to somewhere outside the hall that means distant to them relative to location of debate or somewhere far from the speaker.

Temporal deixis refers to three certain point of time relative to the time of speaking. *Now* in this debate is deixis refers to time of speaking. *Last night*, *last week*, *last three years* are deixis refers to certain point of time in the past relative to time of speaking. *Next year*, *next 8 to 10 years* refers to certain point of time in the future relative to time of speaking. The next deixis is social deixis. This kind of deixis is referring of position of referent in the scale of social status and intimacy relative to the speaker in the speech event. The listeners may be in the position of higher, lower or probably in the equal rank with the speaker. They are *president*, *vice president*, *scientist*, *cartels*, *immigrants*, *teachers*, *God* and so on. The context of this kind of deixis is to show the social scale of referent. The example, in this debate is *president* refers Donald Trump. Joe call Trump as president as he is the president of USA. He is the number one person in USA. *President* is to honorify the referent. The last is discourse deixis *this* and *that*. This kind of deixis refers to some extent of discourse in the speech event in which utterance and of course, also the text referring expression is located. The discourse referred in this debate can be in the following or previous discourse.

Illocutionaries Found and The Context in The Debate

Based on the data on table 3.2, the specific explanation about speech acts found in last presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden are as follow. Assertive found are informing, stating, convincing, and claiming. Assertive is the idea about what speaker believe to true about something. Debate is the area of winning the argument to grab listeners' attention, in this circumstance are the voters of America presidential election. Trump as the incumbent wants to win the election again by giving some information about what he has done in his presidency, convincing the audience that he is the best for America at that time, and in some occasion, he tries to convince the audience that his rival is not the proper president candidate of America, and so forth. As well as Joe Biden does. He tries to grab voters' attention by doing so.

Directive is used by the speaker in order that the listeners do what speaker is saying. By saying this utterance, speaker actually intend to give effect to listeners. The directive acts found in this research are requesting, suggesting, and ordering. The example of context of this directive is questioning. *Can I respond to that?* Joe Biden ask time to respond Trump statement. Trump say that America has learned to face corona virus. Even though Trump thinks it is dangerous still. He is sure that it would be fine anyway. Biden then, wants to dispute it and ask a time to Kristen as moderator to respond Trump's statement.

Commissive is something that the speaker is going to do in the future. The commissive which are stated by both Donald Trump and Joe Biden are threatening and promising. This debate is running to gain voters' attentions by providing many promises to do if they are elected to be America president. The next commissive is threatening which is something in the future if somebody or institution does something bad according to speaker point of view. Both Trump and Biden do it in this debate. Biden does threaten any country which in this debate are particularly Russia, China, and Iran, if they are interfering America presidential election. To him, interfering America presidential election is interfering America sovereignty. Thus, he will make them pay the price for it.

The last illocutionary act found in this is expressive namely, greeting, thanking, apologizing, and surprising. These speech acts are used to build a rapport between speaker and audiences. It is as a bridge the closeness between them and to smooth the utterance.

Possible Perlocutionary Effect of Dominant Illocutionary Acts

Regarding to research findings, the dominant illocutionary acts are assertive and commissive. Assertive acts appear 59, 54 % and commissive appears 16, 79 %. The assertive acts consist of informing, claiming, convincing, and stating. From those assertive acts, claiming and informing are the highest frequencies, claiming is 30 times and informing 27 times and convincing 18 %. This implies that in debate, each debater claims that he has done something wonderful for the United States of America. Trump is an incumbent, so he should convince the voters that he has done useful and right thing for USA. On the other hand, his rival, Joe Biden, has no better plan than him for USA. Further, along Biden's career as politician, he did nothing for American's better change. It is to make the voters sure to vote him in presidential election. Trump is still the best for America. Meanwhile, Joe Biden as the challenger for incumbent, he tries to convince the voters that his idea is better than what Trump has done as United States of America president. America is not good under Trump's government. Thus, Americans should vote him as the next USA president in the sake of United States of America's better change.

Informing acts is also high in frequency. Both Trump and Biden inform many data in related to some issues being discussed. The intention is in order that the audiences as the voters know about that facts that are being discussed. The given facts are quite vital in debate. Both Trump and Biden wants the audiences have better understanding about issues discussed. The more they know it, the more they convince whom to vote. This acts will give positive effect for the informant whether they chose him or not. Both have information to deliver in intention of against their rival.

The claiming acts is the most dominant of assertive acts. They claim that one of them is the most appropriate candidate to be United States of America President. Trump as the incumbent claims his successfulness during leading United States of America to overcome some problems, particularly during corona virus crisis. He also claims that the reason of the vulnerability of USA sovereignty is the involvement of foreign country toward America election. And Biden got money from those country. Biden definitely dispute this and claim it back that Trump instead got money from those country. They claim against each other also in other issues like immigrant and climate change as well that their own plan is the best thing to do for America.

The next most frequency of illocutionary acts is commissive, particularly promising and threatening. Promising is the highest which is 23 times. Both Trump and Biden are contending in election and they fight each other. They are competing to win presidential election of United States of America. To win this, they should give a solution about issue faced by the whole states in USA. Corona virus disease, economy and family issue, national security, immigrant, and climate change. They should provide some solution or what they are going to do regarding to the problems faced. Promising is related to some action they are going to if they are elected to be USA president. This is just like a statement people vote them and they will do this and this for America future.

Conclusions

Regarding to the finding of this research, it can be summarized as follow. The first concern is deixis. The deixis found in the research are person deixis 74, 88%, spatial deixis 5, 55%, temporal deixis 2, 19%, social deixis 13, 55%, and discourse deixis 3, 84%. Person deixis consist of first person singular *I, me*, and



my referring to the speaker of utterance. Then, first person plural *we*, *us*, and *our* referring to the speaker also. *You* as the next person deixis refers to both plural and singular reference. The next person deixis are *he*, *him*, *his*, *she*, *her* as third person singular. The last person deixis are *they*, *them*, *their* as the third person deixis plural.

The second deixis found in this research is spatial deixis. They are *here*, *there*, *this*, and *that*. They are divided to be to parts, namely proximal which is referring to some point close to the speaker in speech event and distal spatial deixis which refers to some point distant or far relative to the speaker in speech event. The next deixis found in this research is temporal deixis. They are divided into three parts, namely past, present, and future time.

Social deixis found in this research are *president*, *vice-president*, *scientist*, *people*, *teacher*, *American*, *voter*, *mayor*, *brother*, *family*, *farmer*, *worker*, *spokesperson*, *accountant*, *children*, *God*, *employee*, *responder*, *parents*, *cartel*, *kids*, *murderer*, *rapist*, *daughter*, *men*, *women*, *gangs*, *Mexican*, *prisoner*, *first lady*. The context of these deixis refer to some extent to certain level in social life of the reference, whether higher or lower social level in society or in speaker point of view. The last deixis found in this research is discourse deixis. They are *this* and *that*. Even though it is the same word as spatial deixis, it has difference context. Instead of referring to some point of place, discourse deixis refers to some point of previous or following discourses.

The second concern of this research is speech acts. Regarding the data of the research, the illocutionary found are assertive 59, 54%, directive 11, 45%, commissive 16, 79%, expressive 12, 21%. However, there is no declarative act found in this research. Assertive consist of informing, convincing, claiming, and stating. Directive consist of requesting, suggesting, and ordering. Commissive consist of threatening and promising. Expressive consist of greeting, apologizing, thanking, and surprising.

The possible perlocutionary act found is that assertive, which are informing, convincing, and claiming, is Trump and Biden want to inform some facts related to the issues being discussed. Further they want to convince the voters to vote one of them to be next president of the United States of America. Claiming acts is to show about what Trump and Biden have done for America. Each of them claim that he is the better person for the next president. Commissive also is dominant illocutionary acts, particularly promising acts. This is because they are debating for the position of the big country, USA. They promise some plans to do if one of them being elected as USA president.

After exploring the research, the researcher would like to give some suggestions related to the result of the research. The result of this research may lead to the suggestion for the following, namely students of English language students and researchers. The students of English language study are able to learn deixis and speech acts. This can be useful in knowing the reference of deixis and their context in the language use, particularly in the daily communication and discourse. Beside deixis, understanding speech acts also minimize misunderstanding the intended meaning delivered by the speaker. The students are able to know meaning behind the utterance. Deixis and speech acts have a broad coverage. There will be huge issues related to them in the context of communication. This research has limitation since only focus of debate of presidential debate. Other researchers can explore others object such as lectures, speech, films, and others. Therefore, the next researchers can enrich the literature of deixis and speech acts issues.

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