

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this section, the writer provides the background of the study to introduce the reader about the topic discussed. In addition, the writer also provides the statement of problems, objectives of the study, and significance of the study to give a brief background, aims and objectives of the study. Last but not least, definitions of key terms are also added to help readers understand the key concept that is being discussed.

1.1 Background of the Study

Speech is an important medium to communicate our thoughts orally from the speaker to the audience through written words. According to Derrida in Coward (1991), speech is interchangeable with written words because the speaker is a person who mastered the structure of written words before evoking a certain message or thought in spoken words (speech). He also highlights that speech is derived from written words to transfer the message. The speaker's usage of specific words contributed to the audience, particularly conveying the meaning. For instance, as the sender of a message, the speaker needs to structure the words rigidly to assign a clear understanding. The audience, as the receiver, is trying to comprehend the speech depending on the clarity of the message. Thus, in creating a shared understanding of one point, a clear speech with word structure strategy will guide the audience to convey the correct meaning. However, understanding the

speaker's meaning during the speech is not easy. Sometimes, the audiences also have different speech interpretations because not all speeches delivered are concise and explicit (M. S. Kim 2020). Some speeches are considered to have complex meanings that need more effort to convey, such as in political speeches.

Political speeches employ language to appeal to and garner favour from various segments of society. The political speech discusses the politician's aim and what they are concerned about. It might be intended to get a vote from the audience, make the audience agree with their viewpoint, or strengthen the political leader's image (Sheveleva 2012). In addition, the political speech also pertained to influencing the perceptions of others, whether for national integration purposes or to address national concerns (Wangatiah, Ongarora and Matu 2016). One example of a speech that deliberated national concern is Vladimir Putin's speech on 21st February 2022, addressing Russia's agreement about the Ukraine invasion. The 21st February 2022 speech probably refers to one purpose: declaring war that will start on 24th February 2022 if the certain agreements offered are not accepted. Thus, this study believes the content of the speech by Vladimir Putin is informing important information that needs to be discussed further. This vital speech is documented on the Russian website called kremlin.ru, which is the Russian official's source that provides all Russian speech transcripts.

kremlin.ru is a native media platform and the only accessible media for a broad country to access Russia's information because Russia's media platforms are limited. The documents on the website are about transcriptions of speech and other vital data that the Russian Federation has uploaded under an international license.

Thus, the kremlin.ru website is categorized as an exclusive platform that aired all the speeches of Vladimir Putin, such as the transcription of the 21st February 2022 event, when Vladimir Putin addressed Ukraine, NATO, and Donbas. The website is available in two language versions: Russian (kremlin.ru) and English (en.kremlin.ru). However, this study chooses the English transcription version uploaded in en.kremlin.ru as the focus of the discussion. This study hopes that analyzing the English version will give the reader a broader understanding considering English is an international communication language.

en.kremlin.ru, the English version of the Russian official website, is very helpful for non-natives to get a complete transcription of Vladimir Putin's speech. First, because the website is under an international license, the uploaded documents provide reliable information that helps researchers or other politicians get speech transcription with the same message as the original or Russian version. Second, en.kremlin.ru is helpful because it dismisses the existence of other websites that might mislead the information by adding or deleting a particular part of the transcription. Before conduct this study, the researcher has reviewed other websites that uploaded Vladimir Putin's transcription and en.kremlin.ru has the closest meaning from the original speech. Third, the English translation given by en.kremlin.ru as the official website helps non-native people comprehend the message entirely or helps society know what Vladimir Putin wants to say during the speech because not all audiences or readers can translate the Russian language directly. The last reason related to this study, the English transcription in en.kremlin.ru benefitted the researcher in interpreting the language used by

Vladimir Putin while delivering the speech. Therefore, from en.kremlin.ru, this study gets a chance to analyze the intention of Vladimir Putin appropriately. The present study believes the language used in Vladimir Putin's speech transcription implied coded meaning which is essential to be analyzed further. In addition, as a politician and Russian President, Vladimir Putin is an influential figure. Not only impactful to other countries but is also known as a person who develops present Russia.

Vladimir Putin is not only Russia's President but also the creator of the state system that develops Russia's power. Vladimir Putin is a leader who gave direction and orders with the “Power Vertical” concept where the society are people who implemented the orders with total loyalty and faithfulness (Laurinavičius 2016). Vladimir Putin is the one who is taking control of the Russian state system, which is known for its specialty in military power. According to Melville, Akhremenko and Mironyuk (2019), the Military is one of Russia's superpowers that invite world attraction and threats to the enemies because Russia is the largest country that produces hypersonic gliders, tactical missiles, nuclear drones, etc.

Vladimir Putin is also listed as the most influential leader in the world in 2022 selected by time.com. The website embraces the Vladimir Putin’s power implied in a ‘duck test’: “if someone destroys the independent media, organizes political assassinations, and sticks to his imperial delusions, then he is a madman capable of causing a bloodbath in the center of Europe in the 21st century” (Navalny 2022). Therefore, each of Vladimir Putin's speeches is very important

for Russian society and all politicians worldwide. The speech, especially the English transcription version, needs more provisions. For instance, it must be considered how Vladimir Putin, in his speech on 21st February 2022, delivered and persuaded society. At that time, Vladimir Putin was using the Russian language, but the English version is already aired on the official website. This is a chance for the present study to provide a better understanding by analyzing the message accurately and conclude Vladimir Putin's intention to society regarding the Ukraine invasion and certain social agreements addressed to NATO. In line with the idea from Hashim (2015), it is essential to know the act or intention of the politician to create such a shared understanding so it will not lead to massive misunderstanding within society. The study that investigates speaker's intention within utterances is called Speech act.

Speech act theory investigates how people express and deliver their motives using utterances. According to Yule (1996), it deals with using language to do something or utter an action by revealing someone's emotions and thoughts. In addition, the utterances said by the speaker are also related to social goals or attempts to achieve something (Irwandi, Hudri and April 2018). This study believes that Vladimir Putin's speech not only delivered a message but also performed various acts that reflected social agreement on the issue and asked society to do something.

The philosopher John L. Austin (1962) formulated the speech act concept into three types of acts named locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. This study only applied illocutionary acts, defined as a concept when someone is trying

to say something, and the utterances are performed with specific forces. Yule (1996) also highlights that the term “illocutionary acts” is merely associated with the term speech act. When utterances are said by the speaker with communicative force, it means that the utterance carries illocutionary acts. The speaker's forces can result in promising, claiming, describing, commanding, apologizing, etc. The forces implied within utterances can be varied because they influence how people want to be perceived or related to which identity they want to impose.

Some previous studies have analyzed political speech focusing on the type of illocutionary acts, such as the study conducted by Alreza, Natsir, & Valiantien (2019) titled *An Analysis of Illocutionary acts in Yes, We Can speech by Barack Obama*. The study identifies illocutionary acts in Barack Obama's *Yes, We Can* speech. The authors also addressed the function of determining what acts were used in political speech. Mufiah and Rahman (2018) entitled *Speech Acts Analysis of Donald Trump's Speech* have a different method of analyzing presidential speech; while the previous study applied descriptive design, they used content analysis to know the classification of speech acts found in Donald Trump's speech. The study highlighted that one of the speech acts found represents Donald Trump's dominant acts as being informative and factual in delivering the message of the speech, determined by the percentage of representative acts as the highest point.

Richer in data, the study conducted by Tinshe and Junaidi (2019) titled *Who Are Americans? Analysis of Obama and Trumps Political speeches on Immigration* and Dylgjeri (2017) titled *Analysis of Speech acts in Political Speeches* are concerned with Immigration and Victorious political speeches. The focus of the

first article analyzed seven speeches by Donald Trump and Barack Obama. In contrast, the focus of the second article applied three types of speech acts: locutionary, perlocutionary, and illocutionary. From the previous study mentioned earlier, the present study fills the gap in the object of the study. The present study applied illocutionary acts in Vladimir Putin's speech and applied felicity condition theory by Searle to enrich the findings. However, similar to the previous studies, this study also uses Searle's classification of illocutionary acts and identifies the dominant type that appeared on the speech.

After reviewing the previous studies, this study concluded that pragmatic study still rarely discusses the speech of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Thus, this study believes that by implementing the illocutionary acts theory to the speech will help the present study reveal Vladimir Putin's acts, so the message can be transferred correctly.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Related to the phenomena mentioned earlier, this study will focus on answer these statements of problems:

- 1) What type of illocutionary acts are found in Vladimir Putin's speech on en.kremlin.ru website according to Searle (1969)?
- 2) What is the dominant type of illocutionary act in Vladimir Putin's speech on en.kremlin.ru website according to Searle (1969)?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In accordance with the statements of problems above, the aims of this study can be stated as follows:

- 1) Identify the type of illocutionary acts found in Vladimir Putin's speech on en.kremlin.ru website
- 2) Explain the dominant type of illocutionary acts in Vladimir Putin's speech on en.kremlin.ru website

1.4 Significance of the Study

There are two significances of the study, theoretical significance and practical significance. First, the main theoretical significance of this study is to contribute to the development of a pragmatic approach. This study finds it important to utilize pragmatic theory into broader areas such as politics. The theoretical significance of the present study is also expected to complement previous research about illocutionary acts applied in a political speech, mainly delivered by Vladimir Putin. By raising the topic and the theory, the present study hopes the findings could contribute to the English Department Undergraduate Thesis of Airlangga University, specifically linguistic students who conduct pragmatic research on political speech's transcript. The researcher hoped this study could be utilized as a reference to gain richer findings.

For the practical significance of this study, it is expected to provide a better understanding of Vladimir Putin's speech on 21st February 2022 in the Kremlin. This study's findings will help identify the implied meaning so the speaker will get the message. For society, it will help them avoid misunderstandings interpreting what the Russian President intends. While for the political figure, the speech act analysis will bring insights into what Vladimir Putin's highlighted about Russia's

Federation and agreements with Ukraine. The findings also might contribute to understanding the historical phenomena regarding Ukraine, NATO, and Donbas from the Russian point of view.

1.5 Definitions of Key Terms

1. **Illocutionary Acts:** An act performed when the speaker says something, including promising, denying, stating, threatening, predicting, etc. (Ainurrohmah 2011).
2. **En.kremlin.ru:** An english version of the official website of the Russian President which publishes documents signed by the president and information related to Russia's program in the form of news, photos, transcripts, etc. (President of Russia 2022).
3. **Political Speech:** Speech addressed to society to maintain social relationships by delivering ideas and programs, expressing attitudes, or convincing through campaigns or policies (Hashim 2015).
4. **Speech Act:** A theory of pragmatics to convey intended meaning behind words and phrases that the speaker says and reveal utterances that perform specific actions (Hidayat 2016).