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## An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in Kim Namjoon's Speech at The United Nations

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### ABSTRACT

Speech acts can be found in human life in the form of daily conversation and also in short stories, movies, speeches, or novels. The purpose of this study is to identify the kinds of illocutionary acts used by Kim Namjoon and to know the actual functions of illocutionary force in speech. A descriptive qualitative method is employed in this study to collect data and identify the utterances by Searle's (1976) illocutionary act theory. The data were collected from Kim Namjoon's speech transcript. The results show, that there are 29 utterances containing illocutionary acts, which are representative of 12 utterances, directive 7 utterances, expressive 8 utterances, and commissive 3 utterances. The actual functions of the utterances found are representative: explaining, informing, reporting, claiming, and describing, expressive: thanking, expressing gratitude, expressions of happiness, expressing concern, and expressing sadness, directive: commanding, inviting, ordering, asking, and requesting, commissive: promising.

**Keywords:** kim namjoon, illocutionary acts, searle

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Humans use language to communicate with one another. Without language, humans in the world cannot have conversations and interact with people. According to Ojomo (2014), communication is the exchange of ideas, feelings, thoughts, and messages with others. When expressing an idea, feeling, opinion, and interacting socially everything is done by humans with communication. Therefore, communication requires media as a means to communicate between humans, which is called language. Language is very important for humans, where it is one of the daily activities related to all human life (Littlejohn & Foss, 2011). Language is the tool for communication or a medium to help humans convey thoughts, and express their feelings or emotions. Communication requires efforts to ensure that everyone understands what is being said. Harmer (2001), states communication is said to succeed if the listener gives the response and understands the purpose or the core conveyed by the speaker. Sometimes the recipient does not understand the true meaning of the speaker's speech, which makes the communication difficult and misunderstood.

In fact, communication is naturally made by humans for a given purpose, such as: conveying messages or information, sharing a story with a friend, listening to a teacher's explanation, doing a campaign, and more. It also takes insight into what is presented, since sometimes the speaker is unaware of the real meaning behind the speech. Thus giving rise to the misunderstanding and meaning that the speaker wanted to convey became indescribable. Communication is not only in the form of a conversation between two people or groups but also in unidirectional communication such as making a presentation or delivering a speech. Speech is a verbal communication carried out to convey a

message to the listener, where body language and intonation when speaking are considered in the success of the message (Willkomm, 2018). An expression that has a function in communication is referred to as a speech act. Austin (1994), states that speech acts are actions done by created utterances. The speech act is found not only in everyday conversation but also can be found in short stories, movies, speeches, or novels. Speech act has become a trend because virtually all conversations taking place in life contain the speech act, which has drawn many to examine and analyze the speech act even further.

In 2018 Kim Namjoon commonly called RM (stage name) with other members of BTS was chosen by UNICEF as a representative of his country South Korea at the 73rd United Nations general assembly in New York to deliver a speech in conjunction with the self-love and anti-bullying campaign for 'Young Generation' program in 2030. The speech has the goals to protect children and make today's young generation love themselves. According to that, the author considers choosing Kim Namjoon's speech to be analyzed using the speech acts (illocutionary act). The reason why the author choose Kim Namjoon's speech at the United Nations is that the utterances produced by the speaker have the intended meaning in line with the goals of the UNICEF program. Not without reason was Kim Namjoon chosen as a representative of the younger generation, because BTS attracted a lot of attention around the world and motivated many circles with their songs. Through speech act, the author can know the actual function behind the utterances said by the speaker that wants to convey to the audience. Because the utterances in speech are usually intended with a specific purpose and delivered in certain situations to influence the listener and do what the speaker says. The research problem of this study is the illocutionary acts used by Kim Namjoon in his speech, the kinds of illocutionary acts, and the actual function behind the utterances.

The previous study entitled "Illocutionary Acts in Jeniffer Lee's Movie Frozen" was written by Purnamasari (2020). The purpose of this study is to categorize the illocutionary acts used by Raina, the main character, and to comprehend the interpretation of Raina's speech utilizing illocutionary acts in the utterance. The research is carried out using qualitative descriptive analysis and found that there are 202 utterances containing the illocutionary acts, which directive 95 utterances: 63 asking, 12 commanding, 6 ordering, 10 requesting, and 3 suggesting. The representative 78 utterances: 1 agreeing, 18 asserting, 2 assuring, 6 beliefs, 7 concluding, 13 complaining, 26 informing, and 5 reporting. the expressive 19 utterances: 4 apologizing, 4 condolences, 2 deploring, 5 praising, 3 thaning and 1 welcoming. And the last commissive 11 utterances: 6 planning and 5 promising. Therefore the present study is aims to know the kinds of illocutionary acts used by Kim Namjoon and the actual function behind the utterances.

## 2 METHOD

This study uses descriptive qualitative research to determine the illocutionary acts contained in Kim Namjoon's Speech at the 73rd UN session. Because this research does not involve numerical data but rather collects and analyzes documents or focuses on the researcher's understanding of the knowledge and concepts being studied (Creswell, 2014). The purpose of this study is to find out more about how speech acts (illocutionary acts) can be seen through words, and someone's speech through communication, speech, or public notices by applying the theory of speech acts by John Searle. This study uses the author as a research instrument in recording spoken speech into written text. Play the video then write down every utterance until the pause, and repeat again. After that, the transcript is checked for accuracy with a speech transcript that is available on the internet if there is incorrect language when writing the transcript.

The source of data came from the UNICEF official youtube channel of Kim Namjoon's speech entitled "Speak Yourself" which was posted on September 24, 2018. The data were collected by retrieving from the speech of the speaker because it is included in a qualitative study. In collecting data, the researcher read a transcript of Kim Namjoon's speech entitled "Speak Yourself" many times and carefully to better understand the meaning of the speech text. The researcher identifies each sentence containing kinds of illocutionary acts in the text in several sections. After that, the writer puts it on the table and gives a number for each part that has been identified.

The researcher used the theory of illocutionary acts by John Searle (1976) in analyzing the data. There are several procedures, such as:

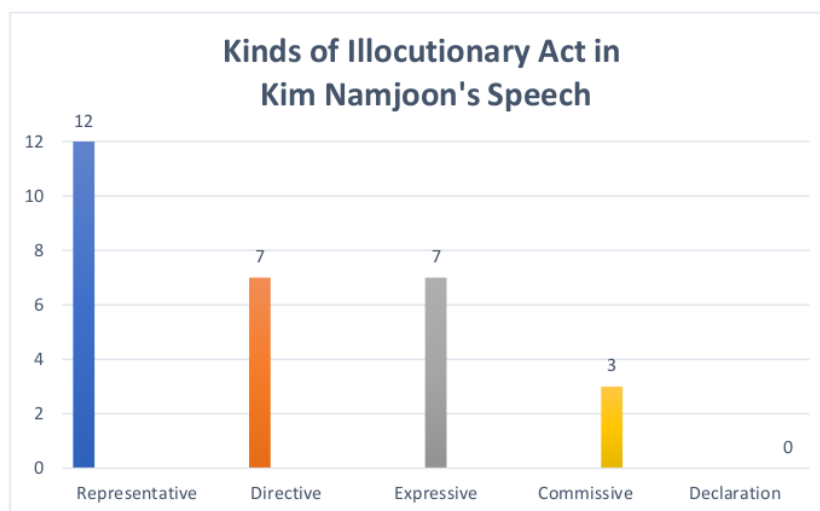
1. Classification of data found containing illocutionary acts (representative, directive, commissive, declaration, and expressive).
2. Each kind of illocutionary act found in the total then explain why it includes in that category of illocutionary acts.
3. Last, examines the actual function of the illocutionary acts has been found.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of this study after carefully reading the transcripts of the speech and classifying the illocutionary acts based on Searle's theory of illocutionary acts, there were 29 utterances containing illocutionary acts such as representative, directive, expressive, and commissive. One kind of illocutionary act didn't exist, and that was a declaration. The following is a description of the kinds of illocutionary acts that exist and the number of each type of illocutionary act that exist:

**Table 1. Kinds of Illocutionary Acts in Kim Namjoon's Speech**

No.	Kinds of Illocutionary Acts	Exist	Don't exist
1.	Representative	✓	
2.	Expressive	✓	
3.	Directive	✓	
4.	Commissive	✓	
5.	Declaration		✓



**Figure 1. Graphics of Each Type of Illocutionary Act**

This discusses the illocutionary act that exists in Kim Namjoon's speech. This aims to find out the actual function of the illocutionary act found. In this discussion, it is found that Kim Namjoon, the leader of BTS, intended to persuade or influence the audience with his address at the United Nations. The utterances in speeches tend to have an actual function in accordance with the intent of the campaign with UNICEF which is self-love and anti-bullying for the younger generation. The following is an explanation of Kim Namjoon's speech, there are only four types of illocutionary acts and one type of illocutionary act is not found in it.:

### 3.1. Representative

This kind of illocutionary act is an act where the speaker makes a statement that is believed to be true to the listener, utterances that contain a fact, stories, or beliefs. Such as 'describing', 'informing', 'claiming', 'concluding', 'predicting', 'reporting', etc

<sup>7</sup> (R02) "Last November, BTS launched the "Love Myself" campaign with UNICEF, building on our belief that "true love first begins with loving myself."

This utterance can be categorized as representative because it shows the act of informing the participants that last November 2017 BTS and UNICEF partnered, then launched the slogan 'Love Myself' for the 2018 campaign. begins with loving myself." Before loving others, it is important for us to love ourselves and accept who we are. UNICEF's campaign on 'Love Myself' can help the younger generation to have faith in it. BTS launched their trilogy album series 'Love Yourself: Answer' in 2018 which became the end of the "Love Yourself" album series. This series of albums tells about a person's journey in love. This BTS trilogy album is the answer to all the "Love Yourself" series that in this world the first person we must love first is ourselves and not others Astha (2018). Kim Namjoon believes this belief can help heal mental health where mental health is a major issue in today's young generation. In accordance with the goals of the campaign with UNICEF to tackle violence and invite the younger generation in a more positive direction, the song 'Love Myself' in the BTS trilogy album series is set to be the slogan for the campaign. Thus it can be concluded, that the actual function of the utterance is informing the audience's beliefs about the slogan and when did the collaboration occur.

<sup>11</sup> (R03) "Our fans have become a major part of this campaign with their action and enthusiasm."

This utterance can be categorized as representative because it shows the act of reporting that during the campaign BTS fans called ARMY participated with their enthusiasm and the actions they took as part of the campaign. The speaker reported to the participants how much ARMY took part in the campaign. Without the intervention of their fans, BTS would not necessarily be able to stand on the podium to give a speech at the United Nation representing their country and the younger generation. Kim Nam Joon said that because ARMY has always been loyal to supporting BTS with its actions they always participate in every event held. Every item where BTS is the ambassador, when holding a concert, and the items worn by them will be sold out immediately. Even in the campaign with UNICEF BTS fans contributed greatly to support the campaign activities with their donations Kargol (2021). Thus it can be concluded that the actual function of the utterances is reporting. The speaker tries to reporting the audience that their fans took part in the 'Love Myself' campaign.



### 3.2. Expressive

This kind of illocutionary act is an action that refers to what the speaker feels by speaking such as 'thanking', 'praising', 'apologizing', 'congratulating', 'regretting', and 'deploring'.

(E01) <sup>1</sup> Thank you, Mr. Secretary General, UNICEF Executive Director, Excellencies, and distinguished guests from across the world.

The utterance can be categorized as expressive because the speaker shows the act of thanking. The speaker was grateful that BTS had been given the opportunity to deliver a speech in front of important guests from various countries. The speaker delivered a speech at the general assembly because <sup>21</sup> of the invitation given by UNICEF Korea as an ambassador of goodwill, thus making history and making BTS the first k-pop idol group to stand on the podium of the general assembly and raise their voice (Kumar, 2018). Thus it can be concluded that the actual function of the utterance is thanking to the audience there.

(E04) <sup>1</sup> So, like this, I, we, all lost our names. We became like ghosts.

This utterance can be categorized as expressive because it shows expressing sadness. As in speech (R09) when the speaker begins to close himself and begins to listen to other people's opinions about him. The speaker feels that he has lost his identity to become a soulless human-like ghost. Kim Namjoon gave a speech in the general assembly because they were appointed as sponsors of the #ENDviolence program and launched the 'Love Myself' campaign to help today's young generation in dealing with a society that sometimes makes them forget their identity and end up having mental health disorders. The speaker shows the audience if he has ever been like a ghost, animate but soulless. Therefore it can be concluded, that the actual function of the speech is expressing sadness to the audience when lost their identity.

### 3.3. Directive

This kind of illocutionary act is an act that makes the listener do something by what the speaker says such as 'ordering', 'requesting', 'commanding', 'inviting', 'suggesting', 'forbidding', etc.

(D02) So, let's all take one more step.

This utterance can be categorized as directive because the speaker shows an act suggesting them to move forward and become a better person than before. The speaker suggests the audience appreciate ourselves in the past by changing our mindset in understanding what we want and do without considering other people's views. BTS decided to partner with UNICEF to join the 'Love Myself' campaign with the aim of making a better place for everyone. BTS also supports the #ENDviolence program which aims to overcome the fear of children and youth in violence so that they can live life safely. This collaboration is expected to be able to go beyond music in giving positive vibes and help the young generation in dealing with difficulties due to loss of self-confidence (Do, 2017). It can be concluded that the actual function of the utterances is inviting. The speaker tried to invite all participants to take one more step.

(D06) <sup>1</sup> No matter who you are, where you're from, your skin colour, gender identity: speak yourself.. Find your name, find your voice by speaking yourself.

This utterance can be categorized as directive because the speaker shows the act of ordering the listener to find the voice of their soul and identity through speaking yourself. It doesn't matter who you are and where you come from, you have to keep finding yourself. In society, people will often be treated unfairly or even criticized if they have differences and deviate, such as self-identity and skin color which are sensitive issues among today's young generation. People will not hesitate to judge and oppress the person even though it is not their right. If you don't want to be oppressed, you have to equate yourself with other people. As an individual, no matter who you are, you must have faith in yourself and dare to face criticism by fighting it without fear. Thus it can be concluded that the actual function of the utterance is ordering the participants whoever they are, you have to listen to themselves to stand up to the world.

### 3.4. Commissive

This kind of illocutionary act are actions that make the speaker bound by their words or speech for future actions such as 'promising', 'threatening', 'offering', 'refusing' and etc

(C01) <sup>5</sup> 'We have been partnering with UNICEF's #ENDviolence program to protect children and young people all over the world from violence.'

This utterance can be categorized as commissive because the speaker shows the act of promising to the listener. The speaker promised to protect children and youth around the world through the #ENDviolence program with UNICEF. BTS decided to partner with UNICEF to sponsor the #ENDviolence program using its popularity to raise money for a global campaign (Drysdale, 2017). The program aims to protect children and youth around the world from violence. As artists and songwriters, the speakers promise to protect in their own way through the songs and music they create. Thus it can be concluded that the actual function of this utterance is promising to UNICEF for making a better place for the world.

### 3.5. Declaration

The type of illocutionary declaration according to Searle, is a word or utterance that can declare an event from before the patent itself. Examples are I declare, I bet, and I resign.

- In <sup>5</sup> Kim Namjoon's speech entitled 'Speak Yourself' at the general assembly, the type of illocutionary declaration was not found because the speaker did not say an utterance that could turn something into a patent.

## 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the analysis of the data in Kim Namjoon's speech entitled 'Speak Yourself.' The conclusion of this study related to the first statement of the problem, there are four kinds of illocutionary acts that exist in the speech with a total of 29 utterances which are representative 12 utterances, expressive 7 utterances, directive 7 utterances, commissive 3 utterances, and one kind of illocutionary act that did not exist was a declaration. Next related to the second statement of the problem, the results show that the dominant kind of illocutionary acts in speech is representative with a total 12 utterances. The last related to the third statement of the problem is the actual functions of the illocutionary acts that exist in speech they are: representative (explaining, informing, reporting,

claiming, and describing), expressive (thanking, expressions of happiness, expressing concern, and expressing sadness), directive (commanding, inviting, ordering, asking and requesting), commissive (promising).

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