

# SPEECH ACTS IN ENGLISH SPEAKING CLASS : CASE STUDY IN POLTEKKES BANDUNG

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## Abstract

This research aims to analyze the types of speech acts during the discussion of speaking class in Poltekkes Bandung in majoring of Medical Laboratory Technologist. The research objectives are in finding the types of speech acts and the classification of illocutionary act based on the theory of Searle in 1962. The method used by researcher is qualitative descriptive method by Seliger and shohamy. The data source is 38 students of Poltekkes Bandung in majoring of Medical Laboratory technologist. The result found that all types of speech acts are found from the analysis, from five types of speech acts found that Assertives is the most common used by students during class discussion and Declarations types is the least of usage in discussion.

*Keywords : Speech Acts, English Speaking , Poltekkes Bandung*

## Introduction

English language is one of the most important subject that student should be learnt since in primary school until university. The basic materials of English includes of reading, writting, listening and speaking. Commonly the subject of English is given for two semester in college degree. One of the material of english subject for speaking lesson is dicussion. In discussion student will be given several topics and they can select one topic then they discuss with their group for thirty minutes to one hour. The reseacher interest to analyze the speech act of higher student's discussion.

In this paper, the researcher analyzed speech acts classification used by higher students in college. The theory of speech act is taken from George Yule's pragmatics book (Yule, 1996), he said that that there are five types of general function performed by speech act, such as declarations,

representatives, expressive, directives, and commissives.

## 1. Research Problem

The study formulates the questions which are developed to guide the investigation process:

1. What types of speech act?
2. What types of illocutionary act are found on student's discussion in English Spoken Class?

## 2. The Objectives Of The Study

Based on the research problem above , the researcher formulates the objectives of the study are:

1. To describe types of speech act.
2. To describe types of illocutionary act that found on student's discussion in English Spoken Class.

### 3. Theoretical Outline

According to Clark (Clark, 2021) language is a set of rules used by human as the tools of communication in society. People can understand or misunderstanding depend on language or the speech act of the speaker. According to Austin (J.L.Austin, 1975) that doing a certain thing by saying a certain word or group of words called speech act. A speech act can be conducted successfully if the felicity condition is fulfilled. Again according to Austin (J.L.Austin, 1975) a speech act is doing an action by using words. It means that an action done by a speaker is the communicative of the language.

In George Yule's Pragmatics book (Yule, 1996), speech act is group of utterances with a single interactional function that happens when two people make a conversation, for examples; a request, a command, a greeting, a promise, and an apology. A speech situations is a context of language use, for examples; ceremony, conferences, classrooms, fights, etc. A speech event is a unified set of components through out : same purpose of communication, same topic, same participants, same language variety (generally), such as exchanging greetings, telling joke, giving speeches.

G. Yule explain (Yule, 1996) that there is one general classification system lists five types of general function performed by speech act, such as declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives.

- a. Declarations are those kinds of speech act that change the world via utterance.
- b. Representatives are those kinds of speech act that state what the speakers believe.
- c. Expressives are those kinds of speech act that state what the speaker feel.

- d. Directives are those kinds of speech act that speakers use to get someone to do something.
- e. Commissives are those kinds of speech act that speakers commit themselves to some future actions.

The theories used for this study based on pragmatics theories about speech act. Based on Austin (J.L.Austin, 1975), the speech act is divided to be:

1) A *locutionary act*: the act of saying something, which is roughly equivalent to uttering a certain sentence with a certain sense and reference, according to specific grammatical conventions. A *locutionary act* involves what is known in traditional *philosophical semantics* as the utterance's *proposition* or its *propositional content*. In performing a locutionary act Speaker uses an identifiable expression, which is usually assessable in terms of its truth value (Sellar, 2016).

2) An *illocutionary act*: the act that the speaker intends to accomplish by means of a certain locution and by the conventional force assigned to the locution. Beyond the *propositional content* of the utterance, the speech act acquire its *performative dimension*. Discrepancy may arise between the *illocutionary force* as conceived by the *speaker* (the speaker's *intended illocutionary force*), and the *illocutionary force* as conceived by the *hearer* (the *actual illocutionary force* or the *uptake*). Consequently, there may be more than one illocutionary force assignable to an utterance (Bach, 2008).

Perlocutionary acts

•3) A *perlocutionary act*: the act that is produced as a *consequence or effect* of uttering a specific locution, what is brought about or achieved by saying something, such as: convincing, persuading, deterring, and even surprising or misleading.

Such an effect may be predictable by the conventional status of most illocutions, but may be equally produced irrespective of the speaker's intentions and illocutionary force of their speech act (Echeverria Castillo, 2009).

The understanding about speech act was acquired from George Yule's Pragmatics book (Yule, 1996) that used as reference. George Yule explained on his book that there are five types of general function performed by speech act, such as declarations, representatives, expressive, directives, and commissives (Yule, 1996).

#### 4. Research Method

The method applied in this research is descriptive qualitative. Such method is concerned with providing the description of phenomena that occur naturally without the intervention of an experiment or an artificially contrived treatment (H.W. Seliger, 1989). In other words, the descriptive method describes process in the research by depicting the data extracted from some of the supporting resources.

On such an explanation, approach of qualitative method in this research is developed in pursuance of research data collected in the research setting (Yin, 2002). This method hopefully guides the run of research progression until goal of this research may be grounded at the end—a synthesis which can later be relied on as the research findings.

##### 4.1. Technique of Collecting Data

In terms of data collection, the researcher uses literary technique to collect data. The technique is used to get the theoretical analysis which needed by researcher. It is related to Sugiyono (Sugiyono, 2017) that literature technique is used to collect data and information source

which was needed. Therefore, this technique helps to get data well. It is involved in reading the literature and in organizing and reporting the literature review. Reading literature, it is included of determining the relevance material, compiling and summarizing the information (Hollweck, 2016). The sources or materials of literature review are taken from books, essays and the specific materials; such as journal, articles, review, etc.

The researcher applied several steps in collecting data as below:

1. Record the dialog of group discussion.
2. Transcrip the discussion recording.
3. Then classify the data into the types of speech act and illocutionary act.

##### 4.2. Data Source

1. The participants are 38 students of Politeknik Kesehatan Negri Bandung. The Class is divided to be 8 groups and each group consist of 5 persons.
2. Each group had been given a different topic then discussed it.

Having conducted the group discussion then the researcher trancripted the dialog of every group. Here are several topics of group discussion that conducted in English Class of Poltekkes Bandung:

##### ESCHERICHIA COLI

Dita : what is E.Coli?

Mega : E.Coli is a gram-negative, facultatively anaerob, rod-shaped bacterium of the genus Escherichia that is commonly found in the

lower intestine of warm-blooded organism. Most of E.Coli strains are harmless but some serotypes can cause serious food poisoning in their host and are occasionally responsible for product recalls due to food contamination.

Rina : how to protect our body from E.Coli?

Mega : we can protect our body from E.Coli by drinking vitamin K2.

Rina : Where can I buy it?

Susi : in drugstore

Rina : Do you know how much the price of K2?

Susi : maybe Rp.5000 for each tablet

Mega : I don't know

Dita : what is the symptom of E.Coli?

Mega : Dehydration

Rina : what else?

Mega : diarrhea and dysentery

Susi : Dysentery is the worst impact

Dita : hmmm, how somebody can be infected by E.Coli?

Mega : The food is not hygiene. Hmmm, the food is contaminated by E.Coli

Susi : How about your foods?

Rina : my food is sterile and hygiene

Mega : if we eat foods then we forget to wash our hands. Can we be infected by E.Coli also?

Susi : may be yes because E.Coli can spread to others foods.

## SALMONELLA

Astri : what is Salmonella?

Fauziah : Salmonella is a bacteria. The salmonella consists of a range of a very closely related bacteria, many of which cause disease in human and animal.

Rifaah : how human and animal can be infected by salmonella?

Astri : if they consume foods that contaminated by salmonella, such as: egg, meat, poultry, etc.

Rifaah : do you think it is include of the process in cooking foods?

Fauziah : yes, so to prevent our body from salmonella, we must cook foods well.

Astri : I love to eat omelet but I never cook it well. Can I be infected by salmonella also?

Fauziah : may be

Santika : yes

Fauziah : Salmonella is not only in egg but also in poultry products such as, chicken, duck, turkey.

Santika : meat and seafood

Astri : is there any medicine to cure the disease?

Fauziah : no, so the best way you should prevent yourself

Rifaah : we can prevent our self from the spreading of Salmonella by washing hands very often

Fauziah : washing foods

Santika : we have to separate foods such as raw meat, egg and seafood from others foods in refrigerator.

Fauziah : because we often mix them in one place in fridge

Astri : is it possible or not that the bacteria moves from meat or seafood to vegetables?

Santika : yes, it is possible

### BLOOD PREGNANCY TEST

Annisa : what is the blood pregnancy test?

Sofi : a blood pregnancy test can determine if an unintended pregnancy has occurred due to contraception failure by examining whether the pregnancy hormone, human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG).

Cici : How is the process to test blood?

Monika : the nurse will take sample of blood from the patient or pregnant woman then examine it

Wulandini : there are two kinds of tests, the first is qualitative test and the second quantitative test.

Monika : the different both of them are the quantitative can count how months the baby in the womb and a qualitative test can check whether it is positive of pregnancy or not.

Annisa : how much to take sample of blood?

Sofi : 20 ml and 25 ml for HCG

Cici : how long of the process?

Monika : one week

Wulandini : it is longer than urine test but more accurate

Anisa : can we know the condition of the baby with this test?

Monika : yes, we can know it.

### TOXICOLOGY

Andini : what is Toicology?

Awanda : toxicology is a branch of biology, chemistry and medicine concerned with the study of the adverse effects of chemicals on living organism.

Dwi : could you louder please!

Awanda : so, Toxicology toxicology is a branch of biology, chemistry and medicine concerned with the study of the adverse effects of chemicals on living organism.

Isna : what is the different of toxicology with virology and bacteriology.

Awanda : it is discuss the harmful chemical, biological, physical of living organism.

Andini : where can we find Toxicology? Can we find a major of Toxicology?

Awanda : it is one lecture in many major

Dwi : what did you find after you read the text?

Isna : toxicology is scientist, medical laboratory must learn about toxicology.

Awanda : let's make summary of our discussion.

**PNEUMONIA**

Andri : who will explain about pneumonia?

Deva : is it kind of virus or bacteria?

Ilham : bacteria

Andri : do you know what the symptom is?

Deva : cough and hurt on chest

Ilham : how somebody can be infected of pneumonia?

Deva : if somebody drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes?

Andri : how to protect our self from pneumonia?

Ilham : stay away from alcohol, drug and get immunization

Andri : where we ca get immunization?

Deva : you can go to the hospital and see the doctor.

Andri : so, we need to see the doctor to check whether we get pneumonia or not because the symptom is like regular fever. We need a long time to find it directly.

Ilham : it is also caused by drug dosage falsity.

Having collected the data of speech acts in speaking class, then the reseacher classify it based on the types of speech acts. Based on the table below, it can be seen that most of students in Poltekkes Bandung used Assertives during the speaking lesson in English Class. They were often describe about something and explained it in details. They were seldom in using declarations type of speech acts, few of students declare about something.

Dat a No	Utterance	Speech act classification
1	Could you explain again the last subject mam?	Directive
2		Directive
3	When we use past tense and perfect tense mam? Because we always confuse to use many kinds of tenses.	
4		
5		
6		directive
7	When we can use passive voices mam?	
8		
9	Mam, excuse me. I want to wash my hand.	directive
10	When we should collect the paper?	
	Mam, could you give us some tips	

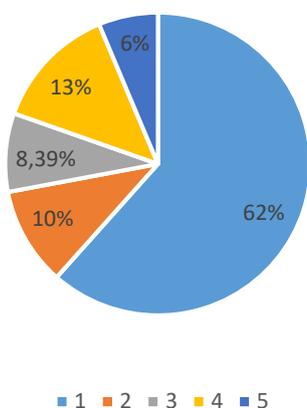
**5. Findings and Discussion**

11	for speaking English well?	
12	Why in newspaper or academic writing, the auxiliary is often eliminated? Can we eliminate the auxiliary when we use passive voices?	
13		
14	What are the differences both of American and British English?	
15		
16	The articles tells about.....	Representatio n
17	I think the abortion is....	Commisives
18	I disagree with the statement because the government...  Virus is.....  Bacteria and Virus are different.....  There are many ways to prevent	Representatio n

	our body from disease	Representatio n
	I disagree with the opposite group because on our opinion. We can't donate our vital organs.....	
	What do you think about.....(asking to their friends).	
	That's so great!	
	Hooray!	
	Morning!	
		Expressive
		Expressive
		Expressive

NO	SPEECH ACT	DATA	PERCENTAGE
1	Assertives	88	62%
2	Directives	15	10%
3	Commisives	12	8.39%
4	Expressives	19	13%
5	declarations	9	6%
	TOTAL	143	

Chart Title



### Conclusion

After classified the data and analyzed it, finally the researcher count the percentage of every types of speech acts. It found that students in Poltekkes Bandung majoring Medical Laboratory Technology were mostly used Assertive Types of Speech Acts, it's about 62% while discussing some topics in English class. Then about 10% students used Directives types and it followed by Commisives types reached about 8,4% of usage. Expressives Types arosed in discussion less about 13% and the last is Declarations types, it's only 6%.

Based on the findings and discussion above. It can be concluded that all types of speech acts are found in Speaking Class of English Class in Poltekkes Bandung

majoring of Medical Laboratory Technology, Assertives type is the most being found, it is about 88 data or 62. It is showed from the analysis. The second types that is often used by student is Directives, from the analysis showed about 15 data or 10% are found. The third types of speech acts that found from the data is 12 data or 8,4%. Then expressives types reached 13% or 19 data found. The last is Directives types found about 9 data or 6%. The researcher concluded that students of Poltekkes Bandung majoring of Medical Laboratory technologist in speaking class are often used Assertives types of speech acts then the other types. It means that students are often explain or describe about the topic then to declare some statements in discussion lesson of speaking class.

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