

Determining Illocutionary Act with VARIES Models

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ABSTRACT

Research on the use of language is growing over time as many theories of language use are found. Language is no longer just for communicating but identifying something either implicitly or not. This paper entitled "Determining Illocutionary Act with VARIES Models" discusses the language use to identify the act of utterance by knowing the context and social background in panel discussion conducted by descriptive qualitative approach with content analysis method and focused on language use based on the phenomenon of the panel discussion. The data in this study was in the form of utterance containing lexical items which is used to refer to speakers' language uses in conveying social background and action. This research applied sociopragmatic approach to analyze speakers' social background using VARIES Model theory and speakers' meaning using Illocutionary Act theory through language use. The result of this study shows that vocational language can determine acts such as representative, expressive, directive speech act; age language to directive speech act; religion language to representative, directive and expressive speech act; informality language to representative, expressive and declarative speech act; education background to representative, directive, expressive, commissive speech act; sex language to representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative speech act.

Keywords: Sociopragmatics, Language Use, Social Backgrounds, VARIES Models, Illocutionary Act.

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INTRODUCTION

Human as social creature needs interaction to others. Communication can not be separated from human's life. People can speak and understand others said by knowing language. It is called a communication process where people convey the information to each other, such as thought, concept, purpose, feeling, and also conveying emotions directly through conversation. People have to know not only when to speak and when to listen to others to achieve a flowing conversation but also how to interpret of what others mean and how to react based on the meaning of others' words. Then, people need to pay attention to others to get what they mean. Discussion becomes one of human communication forms

which talks or debates about a certain topic. It will be referred to as panel discussion if it involves a group of people gathered to discuss a topic in front of audiences and guided by a moderator who guides the discussion and sometimes elicits audience questions with the goal of being informative and entertaining. Because communication can not be separated from human's life, language becomes an essential thing to interact to others. In order to achieve the goals of communication, it is a must for people to use language well because the examination of language use patterns strengthens people's understanding of human communication and the primary purpose for each language.

One of the most important problems in the study of language use is that of the interpretation of utterances. Relating to Hudson (1980), the uses of language are to communicate and to identify social groups. Since people can determine social background from utterances, the interpretation of utterances can be detected. Language does not occur in isolation. To get the meaning, social context (social background) and context of situation (environmental background) which the utterances were uttered is needed. Levinson (1983; p.5) defined pragmatic as the study of language use which studies of relation between language and context which is basic to an account of language understanding while sociolinguistics sees language as a social phenomena and it is related with the social structure and system of society. Therefore, language can not avoid being influenced by factors like social status, vocation, social role, education background, sex, age, religion, belief, etc. Both speaker and hearer in the language communication must know and have assumptions about their status in relation to the other. Social status will be an important factor to determine who should initiate the conversation. In another case, the conversation between two person that have the same sex but different in age may differ with the conversation between those who have the same sex and age. Social background and circumstance of speech communities affect language use. Then, social background plays an important role for determining what the meaning and the purpose of the utterance.

Relating to previous explanation, one of the ways to know the context of speech communities is language then language becomes the DNA of a society through which we can determine vocation, religion, education, sex and other social backgrounds. People use language to determine their social background and how they use the language influenced by the social background itself. Then, language can do both communicate to each others and identify their social groups. Research on language use is growing over time as many theories of language use are found. This study found that knowing the social background and

circumstances, people will be able to determine the purpose or the act of the communication using certain theories

To investigate the social background of speakers, the researcher deals with VARIES Model proposed by Adeyanju's theory in his book *Sociolinguistics: An Introductory Insight in Language, Meaning, and Society*, 2002. This theory gives many contributions for getting further social backgrounds. Gender, social class, regional differences are a few determining factors of people's language variation. According to Milroy and Gordon (2003), most sociolinguists do not consider these effects straightforward but social class indeed plays a very important role in creating language variations. People can easily be categorized into their social background that they belong to by observing their use of language. The stance of these scholars is what later metamorphosed into the VARIES model, a set of acronyms that classifies language in use in society into : Vocational jargons, Age related language, Religious/Religious language, Informality, Educational Jargons, and Sex for language. These social backgrounds bring us to know speaker's purpose in conveying his utterance. Words are not just uttered, people do things with words. It must have a purpose. When people attempts to express themselves, they do not only produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words (language usage). People will show their intention or purpose in communication process through what they thought with showing actions through their utterance (language use). The action is called Speech Act. Speech act includes acts such as reporting, promising, requesting, suggesting, etc. The researcher deals with Illocutionary Act proposed by John Searle in his book *Speech Acts An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*, 1969. In 1979, Searle broadly classifies illocutionary acts into five categories, namely: 'assertives', 'directives', 'commissives', 'expressives' and 'declaratives'. However, less uses VARIES model as their theory to analyze social background of speaker's utterance and none uses this theory to determine the act of utterance as in Illocutionary Act theory.

Less is known about the big issue of United State of America presidential election in 2016. This presidential election became a trending topic around the world, causing a lot of debated among the community. The issue debated whether digital media is good for democracy or not. BBC News on YouTube has issued several news about this, even opening a panel discussion to discuss this issue. The panel discussion entitled *Is digital media good for democracy?* which invited special guests according to the topic was brought. As the guests have powerful positions in their social groups and certain knowledge about the topic would be brought, they are able to be representatives of their groups. Their social background would bring them to speak purposeful utterances. This study used sociopragmatic approach to

analyze speakers' utterances. Sociopragmatic is the combination of sociolinguistic and pragmatic approach. The researcher applied sociolinguistic approach to identify social background of speech community and pragmatic to analyze meaning of speakers' utterances. This study is to investigate social background of speakers and analyze how the social background affects the speaker's meaning through their language use. Variables of VARIES Model performed different illocutionary acts among the various heterogenous social groups in speech community as social background can determine what the meaning and the purpose of the utterance.

METHOD

In the analysis of language use, this study is conducted by using descriptive qualitative research with content analysis method. By using descriptive qualitative research, the phenomenon on its context could be analyzed clearly and described deeply. The primary data of this research is the utterances spoken by several participants on one of The Big Question's episode of BBC News : *Is digital media good for democracy?* recorded at London's Brunel University on 19th February 2017. The source of data in this research is BBC News on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/zDdWbStC2VU>).

The researcher used visual analysis to collect the data. The procedures of the data collection were downloading and editing the transcript then selecting and marking the utterances which contains social identity and illocutionary act. The technique of analyzing the data in qualitative research involves preparing data, understanding data, presenting and interpreting data according to Cresswell (2009: p.183). After collecting, selecting and marking the data, the researcher analyzed social background of each speakers through their utterances using VARIES Model theory. Then, this social background helped the researcher determining types of illocutionary acts in their utterances. Qualitative researchers also use other instruments to help themselves for collecting the data. Therefore, in this research, the primary instrument is the researcher herself. The researcher is involved in all process of the research such as observation, analysis, and the data interpretation.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

a. DATA 1

'Broadly political policies use online communications for two things. The first thing is to find and recruit supporters who will go and take those vital actions to support them primarily offline as other panel members have mentioned so they are going to go knock on

*the doors because nothing beats that face-to-face communication. **The second thing they do and we did in 2015 campaign is** to find and reach out to those swing voters in their marginal seats that can decide that election and speaks them about the issues they care about'*

The utterance '*the second thing they do and we did in 2015 campaign is...*' shows speaker's socioeconomic characteristic. The speaker is involved on political campaign in 2015 because 2015 is the year which presidential election of United States was held, which means that the speaker is conservative party of 2015 election. The utterance is vocational language since it represents speaker's career. The speaker not only uttered but also did action with his words. The speaker intended to perform 'giving information' to the hearer from the utterance. The following will describe felicity conditions for the utterance.

Table 1 Felicity Conditions of DATA 1

Preparatory	The speaker believes what he says is true due to his knowledge
Condition	The speaker is able to produce the utterance The speaker can pronounce the utterance clearly so that it can be clearly heard by the hearers He is not under other people's control in producing his utterance By uttering the utterance, the speaker informs the hearers the thing that is mentioned in his utterance.
Propositional Content	The utterance is produced as a reply to the other's question
Sincerity	The speaker is sincere about what he did and how he did as conservative party director
Essential	The speaker intends to perform 'giving information' to the hearer

The utterance is representative speech act since it describes speaker's understanding on certain matter. The speaker believes what he says is true due to his knowledge. This utterance fulfills the felicity condition of representatives. The preparatory condition of the utterance is the fact that the speaker is able to produce the utterance. The speaker can pronounce the utterance clearly so that it can be clearly heard by the hearers. He is not under other people's control in producing his utterance. By uttering the utterance, the speaker informs the hearer the thing that is mentioned in his utterance. Thus this utterance fits the preparatory condition of representatives. The utterance is produced as a reply to the other's question therefore the speaker accomplishes the propositional content of representatives. When the speaker produces the utterance, he is sincere about what he did and how he did in

2015 election online. The speaker knows exactly what he is saying because he is a conservative party director of digital and creative in 2015 election. He is part of that election. Thus, the utterance completes the sincerity condition. Essential condition of the utterance is shown by the intention of the speaker in uttering the utterance. By telling the genuine information, the speaker really intends to give information to the hearer. The intention of informing as it is mentioned in the utterance clearly show by the speaker. Consequently, the utterance fits the essential condition of representatives. Relating the felicity condition of the utterance, it can be seen that the utterance is felicitous. The utterance is representative of informing. With knowing socioeconomic characteristics, it can determine what type of illocutionary act the speaker will use. Particular career and experience make speaker have some stereotypes about something. These stereotypes make the speaker uses representative speech act because the speaker attempts to state what he/she believes. The speaker intends to giving information based on his experience and belief so that vocational language brings speaker to use representative act on she/his utterance.

b. DATA 2

*The danger with **people like me on the left of politics** is we think well the mainstream media's biased against this. Most of the press supports the Conservative Government. **So successfully you said I'm not good**, we're not just gonna do things for likes or clicks, we're going to target the people we need to win over who aren't in our natural coalition '*

There are two sides of politics. They are left politics and right politics. The speaker stated that he is on the left of politics. Left politics is characterized by an emphasis on “ideas such as freedom, equality, fraternity, rights, progress, reform, and internationalism” while Right politics is characterized by an emphasis on “notions such as authority, hierarchy, order, duty, tradition, reaction and nationalism”. It is speaker’s belief in politics. His statement represent his belief, thus it is religion language. The speaker stated that people on the left of politics is danger because of what they belief about the mainstream media therefore religion language brings the speaker uses representative speech act. Not only stated but also showed feeling, the speaker intends to show disagreeing on a certain thing or to show speaker’s evaluation. The following will describe felicity condition of the utterance.

Table 2 Felicity Conditions of DATA 2

Preparatory Condition	The speaker wants to express his feeling on certain thing as it is stated in the utterance The speaker is able to utter the utterance in which he has the capability to produce the linguistics units The speaker is not under other's pressure to utter the utterance
Propositional Content	The speaker expresses dislike toward other's statement or attitude about certain matter
Sincerity	The speaker is sincere that someone has disturbed and judged him
Essential	The speaker intends to show disagreeing on a certain thing or to show speaker's evaluation. The utterance is expressive of attitude since it is expression of disagreeing toward the hearer's attitude or argument

The circumstance of the utterance is after hearing other's statement about left campaign and parties which the speaker believes, the speaker feels that it is not right and he didn't like other's attitude on his believe and job. The utterance of is expressive speech act since it expresses speaker's disagree or dislike toward hearer's attitude. The preparatory condition of the utterance is that the speaker wants to express his feeling on certain thing as it is stated in the utterance. The speaker is able to utter the utterance in which he has the capability to produce the linguistics units and he is not under other's pressure to utter it. Since the circumstance supports the production of the utterance, it is clear that the utterance fits the propositional content. Sincerity condition of the utterance is proven when the speaker was sure that someone has disturbed and judged him. The utterance also meets the requirement of essential condition since it is meant to show disagreeing on a certain thing or to show speaker's evaluation. The utterance is expressive of attitude since it is expression of disagreeing to the hearer's attitude or argument. Expressive of attitude is a kind of expressive speech act and this utterance is felicitious. Religion language brings the speaker uses expressive speech act since the speaker has certain knowledge or belief about something and when the hearer makes judgement about what the speaker belives, the speaker does express with her/his utterance.

c. DATA 3

'Yes, I did. I think as a woman or as a feminist campaign online and you just opened to that which is sad but like I found that online trolling is an important form of sexism like in current way in that is documented'

The speaker clearly said words which represents social classification of individuals into the categories female based on cultural understanding of the body thus it is sex language. It can be concluded that the speaker is a woman or female because she clearly said she is a woman. It also represents socioeconomic characteristic of speaker as a feminist campaign online. The following will describe felicity condition for the utterance.

Table 3 Felicity Conditions of DATA 3

Preparatory Condition	The speaker believes what she says is true due to her knowledge The speaker is able to produce the utterance The speaker can pronounce the utterance clearly so that it can be clearly heard by the hearers She is not under other people's control in producing her utterance By uttering the utterance, the speaker informs the hearers the thing that is mentioned in her utterance.
Propositional Content	The utterance is produced as a respon to the other's statement
Sincerity	The speaker is sincere that online trolling is an important form of sexism like in current way in that is documented
Essential	The speaker intends to state what she knows about it

The utterance is representative speech act since it describes speaker's understanding on certain matter. The speaker believes what she says is true due to her knowledge. This utterance fulfills the felicity condition of representatives. The preparatory condition of the utterance is the fact that the speaker is able to produce the utterance. The speaker can pronounce the utterance clearly so that it can be clearly heard by the hearers. She is not under other people's control in producing her utterance. The utterance is produced as an respon to the other's statement therefore the speaker accomplishes the propositional content of representatives. When the speaker produces the utterance, she is sincere that online trolling is an important form of sexism like in current way in that is documented. The speaker knows exactly what she is saying because she is a woman and a feminist campaign online. Thus, the utterance completes the

sincerity condition. Essential condition of the utterance is shown by the intention of the speaker in uttering the utterance. By performing it, the speaker intends to state what she knows about that matter. The intention of stating as it is mentioned in the utterance clearly show by the speaker. Consequently, the utterance fits the essential condition of representatives. Relating the felicity condition of the utterance, it can be seen that the utterance is felicitous. The utterance is representative of stating. Sex language and vocational language brings the speaker uses representative speech act since the speaker has certain knowledge based on experience as woman and feminist campaign.

d. DATA 4

'Owen is right *that there are lots of examples of mainstream media outlets publishing things that are not true in our experience'*

The speaker is agreeing with other's statement about the way the media operates in that country. The speaker said that it is true from his experience. Owen works as campaigners and journalist on The Guardian and the speaker works as journalist and fact-checker on Full Fact. If we see their socioeconomic background, both of them works as social media analyst so they have same education background about the mainstream media operates. They have the same understanding about it. The speaker's statement represents their educational background thus it is educational language. Not only stated but also showed feeling, the speaker intends to show agreeing on a certain thing or to show speaker's evaluation. The following will describe felicity condition of the utterance.

Table 4 Felicity Conditions of DATA 4

Preparatory Condition	The speaker wants to express his feeling on certain thing as it is stated in the utterance The speaker is able to utter the utterance in which he has the capability to produce the linguistics units The speaker is not under other's pressure to utter the utterance
Propositional Content	The speaker expresses like and agree toward other's statement or attitude about certain matter
Sincerity	The speaker is sincere that someone is true

Essential	The speaker intends to show agreeing on a certain thing or to show speaker's evaluation. The utterance is expressive of attitude since it is expression of agreeing toward the hearer's attitude or argument
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The utterance of is expressive speech act since it expresses speaker's agree toward hearer's attitude or statement. The preparatory condition of the utterance is that the speaker wants to express his feeling on certain thing as it is stated in the utterance. The speaker is able to utter the utterance in which the speaker has the capability to produce the linguistics units and the speaker is not under other's pressure to utter it. After hearing Owen's argument about the way the media operates, the speaker agreed with Owen. Since the circumstance support the production of the utterance, it is clear that the utterance fits the propositional content. Sincerity condition of the utterance is proven when the speaker was sure that someone is right. The utterance also meets the requirement of essential condition since it is meant to show agreeing on a certain thing or to show speaker's evaluation. The utterance is expressive of attitude since it is expression of agreeing toward the hearer's attitude or argument. Expressive of attitude is a kind of expressive speech act and this utterance is felicitous. Educational language brings the speaker uses expressive speech act since the speaker has certain knowledge based on his experience.

e. DATA 5

*Well yeah, I mean, **I particularly interested in this question** of rules and regulations because the most regulated part of media is television.*

In this utterance, the speaker is agreeing with other's statement about Television is the most regulated media. If we see from the speaker's socioeconomic background, he and other work as social media analyst. They knows exactly how media operates. Both speaker and other have the same understanding about it. This statements represent their same educational background thus this is educational language. Not only stated but also showed feeling, the speaker intends to show satisfaction on a certain thing or to show speaker's evaluation. The following will describe felicity condition of the utterance.

Table 5 Felicity Conditions of DATA 5

Preparatory Condition	The speaker wants to express his feeling on certain thing as it is stated in the utterance The speaker is able to utter the utterance in which he has the capability to produce the linguistics units The speaker is not under other's pressure to utter the utterance
Propositional Content	The speaker expresses satisfied about certain thing
Sincerity	The speaker is sincere that he feels satisfied or happy with that topic
Essential	The speaker intends to show satisfied on certain thing. The utterance is expressive of satisfaction since it is expression of happiness or pleasure

The utterance is expressive speech act since it expresses speaker's satisfaction. The preparatory condition of the utterance is that the speaker wants to express his feeling on certain thing as it is stated in the utterance. The speaker is able to utter the utterance in which he has the capability to produce the linguistics units and he is not under other's pressure to utter it. After questioned about media platform by Nicky, the speaker feels happy because he knows that topic. The speaker is an executive board member in Channel 4. Since the circumstance support the production of the utterance, it is clear that the utterance fits the propositional content. Sincerity condition of the utterance is proven when the speaker was sure that he feels satisfied with that topic. The utterance also meets the requirement of essential condition since it is meant to show satisfaction on a certain thing. The utterance is expressive of satisfaction since it is expression of happiness or pleasure. Expressive of satisfaction is a kind of expressive speech act and this utterance is felicitous. Educational language brings the speaker uses expressive speech act since the speaker has certain knowledge based on his experience.

CONCLUSION

Interestingly, there is a relationship between social background and illocutionary act. Social background plays an important role for determining meaning of utterance. By knowing social background of the speaker, it is easy to get what the meaning and the purpose of the utterance. In fact, using VARIES Model to determine social background can

determine what types of illocutionary act the speaker will use. Socioeconomic characteristic of speakers or vocational language brings the speakers to use representative, expressive, directive speech act. Particular career and experience make speaker have some stereotypes about something. These stereotypes make the speaker use representative speech act because the speaker attempt to state what he/she believes, expressive speech act because the speaker has his/her stereotype about something which others may not be agree or disagree with and directive speech act because the speaker attempts to give suggestion, direction, advise to the hearer according to what he/she believes and experiences. Different ages or socio-strata makes the speaker use directive speech act. Belief or religion language makes speaker use representative, directive and expressive speech act. Informality language makes speaker use representative, expressive and declarative speech act. Educational background makes speaker use representative, directive, expressive, commissive speech act. Having understanding about certain things make the speaker uses representative speech act to state what he/she knows, directive speech act to give suggestion according to what he/she knows, expressive speech act to express their feeling toward certain thing according to what he/she knows, commissive speech act to commit him/herself to do something according to what he/she knows or experiences. Sex language makes speaker use representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative speech act. The findings fulfill the purpose of this study; to find VARIES Models to determine speakers' social backgrounds and to analyze how social background influences people using language to perform an action in Illocutionary Act.

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