

**ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN JACINDA ARDERN'S
CRISIS SPEECHES**



SYIFAA FADHILAH IZZATI

1209621031

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of
“Sarjana Sastra”

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI JAKARTA
JULY 2025**

LEMBAR PENGESAHAN

Skripsi ini diajukan oleh:

Nama : Syifaa Fadhilah Izzati
No. Registrasi : 1209621031
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni
Judul Skripsi : *Illocutionary Acts in Jacinda Ardern's Crisis Speeches*

Telah berhasil dipertahankan di hadapan dewan penguji, dan diterima sebagai persyaratan yang diperlukan untuk memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra pada Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

Dewan Penguji

Ketua Penguji

Nurina Azvyati, M.Hum
NIP. 199412202022032014

Pembimbing I

Nurrahma Restia Fatkhivati, M.Li
NIP. 199301252022032010

Pembimbing II

Aisah, M.Hum
NIP. 197709052010122001

Penguji Ahli Materi

Ati Sumiati, M.Hum
NIP. 197709182006042001

Penguji Ahli Metodologi

Aisah, M.Hum
NIP. 197709052010122001

Jakarta, 30 Juli 2025

Dekan Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni



Dr. Samsi Setiadi, M.Pd.
NIP. 197710082005011002

LEMBAR PERNYATAAN

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Syifaa Fadhilah Izzati
No. Registrasi : 1209621031
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni
Judul Skripsi : *Illocutionary Acts in Jacinda Ardern's Crisis Speeches*

Menyatakan bahwa benar skripsi ini adalah hasil karya saya sendiri. Apabila saya mengutip dari karya orang lain, maka saya mencantumkan sumbernya sesuai dengan ketentuan yang berlaku. Saya bersedia menerima sanksi dari Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Universitas Negeri Jakarta, apabila saya terbukti melakukan tindakan plagiarisme.

Demikian saya buat pernyataan ini dengan sebenar-benarnya.

Jakarta, 28 Juli 2025



Syifaa Fadhilah Izzati
NIM. 1209621031

**LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI
KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS**

Sebagai sivitas akademika Universitas Negeri Jakarta, yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : Syifaa Fadhilah Izzati
No. Registrasi : 1209621031
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni
Judul Skripsi :

Illocutionary Acts in Jacinda Ardern's Crisis Speeches

Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, saya menyetujui untuk memberikan kepada Universitas Negeri Jakarta Hak Bebas Royalti (Non-Eksklusif Royalti Free Right) atas karya ilmu saya. Dengan Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif ini, Universitas Negeri Jakarta berhak menyimpan, mengalih media/formatkan, mengelolanya dalam bentuk pangkalan data (*database*), mendistribusikannya dan menampilkan/ mempublikasikannya di internet atau media lainnya untuk kepentingan akademis tanpa perlu meminta izin dari saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis/pencipta dan sebagai pemilik Hak Cipta. Segala bentuk tuntutan hukum yang timbul atas pelanggaran Hak Cipta dalam karya ilmiah ini menjadi tanggung jawab saya pribadi.

Demikian pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sebenar-benarnya.

Jakarta, 28 Juli 2025



Syifaa Fadhilah Izzati
NIM. 1209621031



KEMENTERIAN PENDIDIKAN TINGGI, SAINS DAN TEKNOLOGI
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI JAKARTA
UPT PERPUSTAKAAN

Jalan Rawamangun Muka Jakarta 13220

Telepon/Faksimili: 021-4894221

Laman: lib.unj.ac.id

**LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI
KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS**

Sebagai sivitas akademika Universitas Negeri Jakarta, yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : Syifaa Fadhilah Izzati
NIM : 1209621031
Fakultas/Prodi : Bahasa dan Seni / Sastra Inggris
Alamat email : izzatisyifaa25@gmail.com

Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, menyetujui untuk memberikan kepada UPT Perpustakaan Universitas Negeri Jakarta, Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif atas karya ilmiah:

☒ Skripsi ☐ Tesis ☐ Disertasi ☐ Lain-lain (... ..)

yang berjudul :

Illocutionary Acts in Jacinda Ardern's Crisis Speeches

Dengan Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif ini UPT Perpustakaan Universitas Negeri Jakarta berhak menyimpan, mengalihmediakan, mengelolanya dalam bentuk pangkalan data (*database*), mendistribusikannya, dan menampilkan/mempublikasikannya di internet atau media lain secara **fulltext** untuk kepentingan akademis tanpa perlu meminta izin dari saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis/pencipta dan atau penerbit yang bersangkutan.

Saya bersedia untuk menanggung secara pribadi, tanpa melibatkan pihak Perpustakaan Universitas Negeri Jakarta, segala bentuk tuntutan hukum yang timbul atas pelanggaran Hak Cipta dalam karya ilmiah saya ini.

Demikian pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Jakarta, 13 Agustus 2025

(Syifaa Fadhilah Izzati)

ABSTRAK

Izzati, Syifaa Fadhilah. 2025. Tindak Tutur Ilokusi dalam Pidato Krisis Jacinda Ardern. Skripsi: Jakarta, Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi tindak ilokusi langsung dan tidak langsung dalam pidato krisis Jacinda Ardern dengan fokus pada tiga konteks yang berbeda: penembakan masjid di Christchurch (serangan teroris), letusan Whakaari / White Island (bencana alam), dan pandemi COVID-19 (darurat kesehatan masyarakat). Meskipun teori tindak tutur telah diterapkan dalam wacana krisis berbagai tokoh politik, belum ada analisis mendalam yang menelaah penggunaan tindak ilokusi oleh Ardern dalam berbagai jenis krisis. Penelitian ini mengisi kekosongan tersebut dengan mengidentifikasi pola dalam pilihan tindak ilokusi Ardern dan menganalisis bagaimana pola tersebut bergeser sesuai dengan jenis krisis. Menggunakan taksonomi Searle (1979) dan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif, penelitian ini menganalisis 212 ujaran dari tiga pidato resmi. Kelima jenis tindak ilokusi (asertif, direktif, komisif, ekspresif, dan deklaratif) semuanya ditemukan, dengan tindak asertif sebagai yang paling dominan (58%). Tindak ekspresif dan direktif sering disampaikan secara tidak langsung, umumnya menggunakan bentuk literal asertif. Pidato Christchurch menunjukkan dominasi tindak asertif langsung, mencerminkan kebutuhan akan kejelasan di tengah masa krisis. Pidato White Island lebih menonjolkan ekspresivitas, menunjukkan empati dan kepekaan budaya. Sebaliknya, pidato COVID-19 menunjukkan pergeseran menuju direktif tidak langsung dan deklaratif formal sebagai bagian dari manajemen kesehatan publik. Penggunaan tindak ilokusi oleh Ardern mencerminkan gaya kepemimpinan yang menyeimbangkan otoritas dengan empati serta beradaptasi dengan konteks. Ia mempertahankan tujuan yang konsisten dalam hal kejelasan, empati, dan kepastian, seraya menyesuaikan strategi retorika dengan krisis yang dihadapi.

Kata kunci: teori tindak tutur, tindak ilokusi, Jacinda Ardern, pragmatik, pidato krisis

ABSTRACT

Izzati, Syifaa Fadhilah. 2025. Illocutionary Acts in Jacinda Ardern's Crisis Speeches. Undergraduate Thesis : Jakarta, English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Language and Arts, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

This study explores direct and indirect illocutionary acts in Jacinda Ardern's crisis speeches, focusing on three distinct contexts: the Christchurch mosque shootings (a terrorist attack), the Whakaari / White Island eruption (a natural disaster), and the COVID-19 pandemic (a public health emergency). While speech act theory has been applied to the crisis rhetoric of various political figures, no detailed analysis has examined Ardern's use of illocutionary acts across multiple crisis types. This study addresses that gap by identifying patterns in her illocutionary act choices and examining how they shift according to the nature of each crisis. Using Searle's (1979) taxonomy and a descriptive qualitative approach, this study analysed 212 utterances from three official speeches. All five illocutionary types (assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative) were present, with assertives being the most dominant (58%). Expressive and directive acts were frequently delivered indirectly, often using assertive forms as their literal structure. The Christchurch speech featured the highest use of direct assertives, reflecting a need for clarity in a time of shock. The White Island speech placed greater emphasis on expressiveness, highlighting empathy and cultural sensitivity. In contrast, the COVID-19 speech marked a shift toward indirect directives and formal declaratives as part of public health management. Ardern's use of illocutionary acts reflects a leadership style that balances authority with empathy while adapting to context. She maintained consistent goals of clarity, empathy, and reassurance, but varied her strategies to suit each crisis.

Keywords: speech act theory, illocutionary acts, Jacinda Ardern, pragmatics, crisis speeches

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Peace be upon the Prophet Muhammad SAW. All praise is due to Allah for giving me the strength to complete this undergraduate thesis entitled “Illocutionary Acts in Jacinda Ardern’s Crisis Speeches”. This thesis is submitted as a partial fulfilment of the requirements of *Sarjana Sastra* degree at Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

This journey would not have been possible without the unwavering support of many people. I extend my deepest gratitude to my mother, Ibu Maya, for her unconditional love and endless sacrifices, and to my sister, Kakak Syifaa, for her unwavering support throughout my journey. I would also like to thank:

1. Dr. Ellita Permata Widjayanti, M.A., the study program coordinator of English Literature. Thank you for your dedication to the program and for the inspiring lessons in the Gender in Literature class.
2. Nurrahma Restia Fatkhiyati, M.Hum., my first thesis supervisor. Thank you for your consistent guidance and motivation since the beginning of this journey. Thank you for being a reliable and inspiring young lecturer.
3. Aisah, M.Hum., my second thesis supervisor. Thank you for being a kind and patient guide throughout this process. I am also thankful for the knowledge you shared in the Comparative Linguistics class.
4. Ati Sumiati, M.Hum., my lecturer and thesis reviewer. Thank you for introducing me to the science of language and for motivating me to explore linguistics in this thesis.

5. Nurina Azyyati, M.Hum., my lecturer and thesis reviewer. Thank you for teaching me in the Semantics and Pragmatics class and for helping me see how language is one of humanity's greatest gifts.
6. All lecturers of the English Literature Study Program. Thank you for all the knowledge you have shared with me throughout my academic journey. Thank you for helping me understand how powerful language is, and how literature as a form of language can create change in the world. Although I cannot mention each of you by name, I am sincerely grateful for the knowledge that has shaped who I am today.
7. Yayik Enik Family. Thank you for your love, support, and presence. Thank you for showing me what it feels like to be part of a family.
8. My university besties: Fathimatuzzahra, Bernadine Cresentia, Andi Naureen Supardi. Thank you for walking alongside me through the chaos and joy of uni life.

To all those mentioned or not mentioned above, may Allah grant you blessings in this life and the next. This undergraduate thesis is by no means perfect. I acknowledge its limitations and welcome any constructive criticism and suggestions for improvement. I sincerely hope this thesis may offer benefits to its readers.

Jakarta, June 2025



Syifaa Fadhilah Izzati

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEMBAR PENGESAHAN.....	i
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN.....	ii
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI.....	iii
ABSTRAK.....	iv
ABSTRACT.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	viii
LIST OF TABLES.....	x
LIST OF FIGURES.....	x
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Research Questions.....	5
1.3 Objective of the Study.....	5
1.4 Scope of the Study.....	6
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	7
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW.....	9
2.1 Pragmatics.....	9
2.2 Speech Act Theory.....	10
2.3 Speech Act Model by Searle.....	11
2.3.1 Illocutionary Act by John Searle.....	15
2.3.1.1 Assertive.....	16
2.3.1.2 Directive.....	16
2.3.1.3 Commissive.....	17
2.3.1.4 Expressive.....	17
2.3.1.5 Declarative.....	18
2.3.2 Indirect Illocutionary Act.....	18
2.4 Previous Research.....	20
2.5 Jacinda Ardern.....	25
2.6 Key Crisis Moments in Ardern's Leadership.....	27
2.6.1 Christchurch Mosque Shooting.....	28
2.6.2 White Island Volcanic Eruption.....	29
2.6.3 COVID-19 Pandemic.....	30
2.7 Theoretical Framework.....	32
CHAPTER III METHODOLOGY.....	34
3.1 Research Method.....	34

3.2 Data Source.....	35
3.3 Data.....	35
3.4 Data Collection Procedure.....	36
3.5 Data Analysis Procedure.....	36
CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS.....	39
4.1 Findings.....	39
4.1.1 Christchurch Mosque Shooting Speech.....	42
4.1.1.1 Assertive.....	43
4.1.1.2 Expressive.....	45
4.1.1.3 Directive.....	47
4.1.1.4 Commissive.....	49
4.1.1.5 Declarative.....	52
4.1.2 White Island Volcanic Eruption Speech.....	52
4.1.2.1 Assertive.....	54
4.1.2.2 Expressive.....	56
4.1.2.3 Directive.....	60
4.1.2.4 Commissive.....	61
4.1.2.5 Declarative.....	62
4.1.3 COVID-19 Pandemic Speech.....	62
4.1.3.1 Assertive.....	64
4.1.3.2 Directive.....	66
4.1.3.3 Commissive.....	69
4.1.3.4 Expressive.....	72
4.1.3.5 Declarative.....	74
4.2 Discussions.....	76
4.2.1 Illocutionary Strategies Across Crisis Types.....	76
4.2.2 Directness and Indirectness in Communicative Tone.....	79
4.2.3 Strategic Use of Each Speech Act Type.....	83
4.2.4 Rhetorical and Leadership Implications.....	85
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION.....	87
5.1 Conclusion.....	87
5.2 Suggestion.....	89
REFERENCES.....	91
APPENDICES.....	94

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1 Classification of Illocutionary Acts.....	37
Table 3.2 Frequency and Percentage.....	37

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 Theoretical Framework Flowchart.....	33
Figure 4.1 Distribution of Illocutionary Acts Across All Three Speeches.....	40
Figure 4.2 Distribution of Direct and Indirect Illocutionary Acts Across All Three Speeches.....	41
Figure 4.3 Distribution of Illocutionary Acts in Christchurch Speech.....	42
Figure 4.4 Distribution of Direct and Indirect Illocutionary Acts in Christchurch Speech.....	43
Figure 4.5 Distribution of Illocutionary Acts in White Island Eruption Speech.....	53
Figure 4.6 Distribution of Direct and Indirect Illocutionary Acts in White Island Eruption Speech.....	54
Figure 4.7 Distribution of Illocutionary Acts in COVID-19 Alert System Speech.....	63
Figure 4.8 Distribution of Direct and Indirect Illocutionary Acts in COVID-19 Speech.....	64
Figure 4.9 Distribution of Illocutionary Act Across Three Crisis Speeches.....	77
Figure 4.10 Direct Illocutionary Acts in All Three Speeches.....	80
Figure 4.11 Indirect Illocutionary Acts in All Three Speeches.....	81