CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1.　Background of Study

Learning about communication starts with understanding pragmatics, which delve into the relations between speech's purpose and the context outside of the language. According to Yule (1996), pragmatics is the branch and foundational unit of linguistics that studies the meaning that is communicated by the speaker, contextual meaning, and how context influences the meaning that is shared between the speaker and the hearer. In order to gain a brief understanding of pragmatics, he adds, it is necessary to establish connections with other branches of linguistics, such as semantics and syntax, which are relevant to this study. In addition, through this definition, it can be concluded that pragmatics does indeed learn about the relationship between language, meaning and the situation. Furthermore, Pragmatics also identify people's intended meanings, assumptions, purposes or goals, also their kinds of actions

According to Yule (1996), pragmatics emphasized the significance of understanding the speaker's meaning. As a result, this study will concentrate on speech acts, one of the branches of pragmatics that examines the intended meaning of both written and spoken language. The speaker's words or message become the important speech acts that help the listener comprehend what the speaker is trying to say.

Understanding what message is found and intended to be conveyed in each utterance is one of the many reasons that studying speech acts is important.

Several previous studies have been conducted in analyzing speech acts on official or international remarks. Mulyawati in their article "*An Analysis of Speech Act of Kim Nam Jun's Speech at The United Nation General Assembly in 2018*" (2018) argues that assertive speech acts are the most used within Kim Nam Jun's speech at the United Nation General Assembly 2018. As the speaker tries to persuade the hearers about his claim and opinions based on his previously held fact or beliefs.

In alignment with their studies, Umar (2016) in his article "*The Analysis of Speech Act of President Joko Widodo at APEC Forum*" argues that a certain persona and his political track record since becoming Mayor and then the President of Republic of Indonesia helped President Jokowi further his intention in his speeches. Assertive speech acts are still the most found types of speech acts within his speech.

In addition to the previous findings, Loko (2018) in his study *"Analysis of Speech Acts in Donald Trump's Acceptance Speech"* used Donald Trump's acceptance speech delivered at the Republican National Convention on July 21st, 2016. His study has investigated the structural, the implied meaning and the pragmatic force/functions of the utterances of Trump speech. Then his study has analyzed them to the socio-political and economic contexts of the USA at that time. Lastly, the study has come up

with the findings that confirm the occurrence of illocutionary acts that convey Trump's intentions as a good leader to save the US and to make America great again regarding the different security and economic challenges at stake. His study has revealed that Trump has directly used language to assert, convince, promise, and persuade his audiences within appropriate social contexts.

Also from this speech acts analysis conducted by Permana (2021) *"Analysis of Speech Acts in Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's Political Speech"* put the analysis focus specifically on political speech acts. From this analysis it can be found that assertives and commissives are the most used types of speech acts in a political setting. Which means that the speaker wanted to portray a factual current situation and intends to test and ensure certain future actions.

From Wulan (2021) *"An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts Found in Joe Biden's Victory Speech As A President"* it can be found that understanding the context of said speech can help to conduct the analysis. By understanding the context, it can influence and make it easier to describe the situation as background knowledge to assume the utterances shared by Joe Biden's as the speaker. With the speech acts analysis itself, it can be found that from Illocutionary speech acts, representative and commissive speech acts are the dominant types of speech acts used once again in a political setting.

For a different perspective on speech acts analysis, Suryanti (2020) in her study "*An Analysis of Representative Speech Acts in 'The Daily Talk Show'*" found that the representative speech acts in The Daily Talk Show were used to convey the speakers' beliefs, statements, evaluations, and descriptions of reality. These acts functioned to express opinions, report information, make claims, agree or disagree, and even predict outcomes. For example, when a speaker expressed belief or made a claim, they were asserting something they held to be true. When they complained or suggested something, they were still representing a certain perspective or stance toward a situation. The use of representative speech acts varied depending on the context of the conversation, the role of the speaker, and the topic being discussed.

Within political remarks, usually it can vary in tone and also purpose. Depending on the context and occasion which the remarks are delivered. In Buckley v. Valeo (1976), the U.S. Supreme Court described political speech as "at the core of the First Amendment", referring to it as an expression that is intended to influence the political process, including discussion of candidates, government actions, or public issues. They are typically intended to communicate the president's stance, inform the public, inspire action, or commemorate significant events. From these political remarks, the context and background of the speaker plays a great role on how the message is communicated. As many of these remarks will and can be used as an advantages or even disadvantages for their future political careers. The occasion of said remarks can also greatly impact the message that tried to be delivered.

From these previous studies, it can be found that within political remarks, speech acts theories are always used and can be analyzed easily. There are already many previous speech acts analysis for political remarks. Directive speech acts are commonly used from previously stated studies. The use of directive speech acts is very apparently used by many political figures. A they usually want to use their speech as a platform to show a strong top-down leadership. As for this study, it will further expand the speech act theories analysis, specifically a commissive speech theories will be used to analyze the material. The accessibility of the data is the main reason why the writer uses these particular remarks. The United State government, through their communication offices, published timely and accurate information about the President's events and public statements. And from this official government website, this particular remark is chosen to be the data for this analysis.

The period of 2021 and 2022 during the Covid-19 pandemic gives this research a different perspective for political figures remarks. The many challenges faced by government around the world but at the same time during this time President Biden is seeking re-election for his second term in office. The President desire to push for a positive tone is somehow undermined by the uncertainty of the Covid-19 virus that shakes many countries economic stability. The promises and guarantees the President will try to push during this period in time is the resean why commissive speech acts theories will be used for this particular research.

In these particular remarks, President Biden tries to communicate the condition of small businesses in the United States that are still impacted during the Covid-19 Pandemic. As well the struggle of handling the virus itself when vaccines and drugs to help the citizen is still hard to develop and distribute. Various speech acts can be found within his remarks that can be easily analyzed using Searle (1969) speech acts theory, there are five classifications of speech acts. Which are representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. For this study, a commissive speech act will be used to further understand the underlying meaning within President Biden's remarks transcript.

1.2.   Research Question

Based on the background above, the writer intends to answer the following research question:

1.   What is the dominant type of commissive speech acts used by President Biden in his remarks on Helping Small Businesses during his visit at Eisenhower Executive Office Building?

2.   What is the dominant type of commissive speech acts used by President Biden in his remarks on COVID 19 at the White House Rose Garden?

3.   How does President Biden's remarks on Helping Small Businesses during his visit at Eisenhower Executive Office Building differ from his remarks on COVID 19 at the White House Rose Garden?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

Related to the research question above, this study is aimed to investigate:

1. Dominant type of commissive speech acts used by President Biden in his remarks on Helping Small Businesses during his visit at Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

2. Dominant type of commissive speech acts used by President Biden in his remarks on COVID 19 at the White House Rose Garden.

3. The differences between two President Biden remarks

1.4. Scope of the Study

Based on the problems of the study, the limitations of this study are:

1. This study will focus on each utterance produced by President Biden in his remarks on Helping Small Businesses during his visit at Eisenhower Executive Office Building and his remarks on COVID 19 at the White House Rose Garden.

2. This study will focus on analyzing the commissive speech act based on Searle's theory to analyze utterances produced by President Biden in his remarks on Helping Small Businesses during his visit at Eisenhower Executive Office Building and his remarks on COVID 19 at the White House Rose Garden.

1.5.   Significance of the Study

This study hopes to contribute several benefits in the following aspect. First of all, findings of this study should benefit everyone interested in studying English literature, particularly speech acts, as this study will add to our understanding of sociolinguistics, pragmatics, and other topics. Secondly, the result of this study is able to improve the writer's ability to comprehend this study and understand the remarks made by President Biden on an official United States president state visit. Lastly, the result of this research can be used as one of the references and information for further research related to the field.