
Analysis of Javanese Speech Acts in families in Sawit Sebrang subdistrict, Langkat Regency

Supriadi

STKIP AL Maksum Langkat, Stabat, Indonesia

supriadi@stkipalmaksum.ac.id

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received April 9, 2023

Revised April 16, 2023

Accepted April 23, 2023

Available online April 29, 2023

Keywords:

*Speech act, Javanese,
Family*

Abstract

This study examines Javanese speech acts within the context of the familial environment in Langkat Regency's Sawit Sebrang District, with an emphasis on locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary functions. This study employs qualitative descriptive methods to examine oral conversations with neighbors, family members, and local residents. The results demonstrate the use of a variety of speech acts in various contexts, including discussions of geriatric oil palm plantations and education-related financial issues. Locutionary speech acts are distinguished from illocutionary speech acts by the speaker's intent to convey information and anticipation of a particular response; the former occurs when the speaker merely imparts factual information without any particular intention. Perlocutionary speech acts occur when the utterance has a substantial impact on the behavior of the recipient. This study underscores the significance of cultural awareness, linguistic diversity, and local expressions when attempting to decipher the intended significance of Javanese speech acts. Cultural elements and colloquial language significantly influence the efficacy of communication within the familial setting. An examination of the Sawit Sebrang family's Javanese speech acts offers significant insight into the intricate nature of communication within this particular cultural milieu. Gaining comprehension of these speech acts expands our understanding of communication practices and provides tangible examples of how to implement effective communication strategies.

1. Introduction

Language plays a fundamental role in human existence, with communication being one of its most fundamental functions (Sutthinaraphan, n.d.). The communication process consists of the exchange of messages between organizations or individuals (Dutta, 2020). For

a more comprehensive understanding of how communication occurs, linguistics, and pragmatics in particular, are indispensable.

Pragmatics, which examines the relationship between language and the communication context in which it is used, is a subfield of linguistics (Hnatiuk, 2017). The preceding description of development encompasses the subsequent elements: Language serves as a conduit through which individuals are able to communicate thoughts, emotions, and knowledge to one another. An extremely limited communication process could exist in the absence of language (Klimoviene et al., 2016). Pragmatics as a Linguistic Science: Pragmatics is the study of the manner in which communication meaning is influenced by context. It entails comprehending the manner in which language is employed by speakers and audiences in specific contexts, as well as the way in which context can impact the way messages are interpreted. The significance of context in deciphering the meaning of an expression is emphasized by pragmatics. For instance, the situation or context may influence the meaning of a given sentence. Pragmatics illuminates the manner in which these elements impact comprehension (Journal & Studies, 2018).

A comprehensive understanding of linguistics, encompassing pragmatics as well, aids in the development of proficient communication abilities (Marpaung, 2019). A comprehension of the principles governing pragmatics enhances an individual's ability to communicate and interpret the sentiments of others. Acquiring knowledge of pragmatics facilitates more effective interpersonal exchanges in both formal and informal settings. In routine discourse, for instance, the selection of vocabulary and expressions must be suitable for the situation at hand in order to ensure accurate comprehension of the intended message. The evolution of communication methods has been facilitated by technological progress, encompassing the utilization of language on text messaging, social media, and other digital platforms. Additionally, pragmatics contributes to the comprehension of how language is employed in the digital realm. By acquiring knowledge of language, particularly with regard to pragmatic considerations, individuals can enhance their capacity for effective communication and comprehend the intricacy of messages conveyed in diverse real-life situations.

Comprehension of pragmatics, also referred to as the subfield of linguistics concerned with speech actions, is the central argument that motivates this research proposal. Austin defines speech acts as follows (Searle in Oktadistio et al., 2018): (1) locutionary acts, which are speech acts that declare something. (2) Illocutionary deeds are actions performed through speech. (3) A perlocutionary speech act refers to the consequence or impact that an expression has on the recipient, contingent upon the circumstances and conditions surrounding the articulation of the sentence. The present study centers on the examination of speech acts within the Sawit sub-district of Langkat Regency, which is situated in the central region of the Malay-majority province and is home to Javanese tribes. In addition to illocutionary functions, this study investigates perlocutionary, illocutionary, and locutionary acts.

The utilization of Javanese speech acts across multiple families exemplifies how contemporary communication is influenced by a multitude of expressions, including those for negotiating, requesting, reporting, thanking, annoyance, attracting attention, and persuasion. This phenomenon demonstrates the wide variety and multipurpose nature of the Javanese speech acts utilized in this family.

Speech acts serve the following four illocutionary purposes (Leech in Astuti & Sauri, 2021): (1) Speech acts that bind the speaker to the veracity of their statements are assertives. (2) Directives are verbal expressions that the speaker intends to compel the speech companion

to perform the action specified in the speech. (3) Commissives are verbal commitments that obligate the speaker to perform the actions outlined in his discourse. (4) An expressive speech act is one in which the speaker deliberately shapes his discourse to be perceived as an assessment of the subject matter discussed. Through this speech act, the speaker conveys and exposes his or her attitude toward the individual with whom he is in conversation.

Descriptive analysis of locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts in the Sawit Sebrang subdistrict is the objective of this study (Izhar & Seftika, 2020). Explain the purpose of employing Javanese speech acts in the subdistrict of Sawit Sebrang. This research is motivated by the author's desire to understand and describe the usage of Javanese speech acts in families residing in the Sawit Sebrang sub-district. The author uncovers numerous locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts and their functions through conversations with family members, neighbors, and individuals in the area.

2. Literature Review

A framework in linguistics, speech act theory was initially formulated by the language philosopher J.L. Austin and subsequently extended by John Searle (Rodrigues, 2014). This theory examines the correlation between verbal expressions and the subsequent behaviors or actions that transpire from them. The foundation of this theory posits that speech facilitates the transmission of social actions or behaviors in addition to linguistic information.

Austin makes a distinction among perlocutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts (Rahmawati, 2022). An illocutionary act is an action performed by the utterance itself; a perlocutionary act is the effect the utterance has on the listener; and a listener performs a perlocutionary act in response to the utterance. The speech act theory emphasizes that speaking involves performing an action in addition to communicating information. For instance, when an individual makes a commitment, declares, or inquires, they are not merely imparting knowledge, but also carrying out an action. Searle classified fundamental speech acts, or "speech acts," into the following categories: assertions (statements), directives (commands), assurances (promises), inquiries (questions), and disclosures (expresses). Each of the actions described in these categories is executed via speech.

By placing emphasis on the significance of context, speech act theory elucidates the meaning of language acts. The meaning of an utterance can vary significantly based on its context. In language analysis, pragmatics, a subfield of linguistics, is in close relationship with speech act theory due to its consideration of context and social impact. The efficacy of speech acts is contingent upon the comprehension and reaction of the recipient as well as the speaker. The effectiveness of a speech act is contingent on the recipient's comprehension and reaction to the utterance. A variety of situations can serve as concrete illustrations of speech acts, including delivering an ultimatum ("I will assist you later"), issuing a directive ("Close that door!"), or expressing an opinion ("This seems like a good idea"). The comprehension of these principles facilitates a more profound exploration of the significance and purpose of language within the framework of interpersonal correspondence.

The idea of speech acts provides an essential foundation for comprehending the fact that every utterance functions not only as a vehicle for the transmission of information but also as a mechanism that engages in some kind of social activity. This idea is made up of three primary components: locutionary speech acts, which refer to the physical actions involved in producing sounds and words; illocutionary speech acts, which are actual actions expressed through speech; and perlocutionary speech acts, which reflect the impact or effect that speech has on the listener.

In a social setting, the actions of speech are viewed as a tool that can be used to create, change, or maintain situations in human interaction (Wang & Chen, 2021). For instance, when someone says "I swear," that speech act not only suggests that they intend to do something, but it also generates a social commitment that requires them to take some kind of action in the real world. The idea of incongruity comes into play whenever there is a disconnect between what is being asserted and the real circumstances at hand. For instance, if the statement "I promise I will come" is not followed by actual action, this causes a mismatch between the speaker's words and their actions in reality.

This theory reflects the significance of social implementation and norms by proposing that some speaking behaviors can be regarded proper or inappropriate depending on the prevalent cultural and social norms in a given society (Boh, 1989). For instance, in certain settings it could be deemed unpleasant to issue orders in a disrespectful manner. A person's culture plays a significant impact in their use of speech acts, with cultural norms and communication conventions playing a part in deciding the meaning and effect of an utterance. Cultural variance is an important component in the usage of speech acts. Therefore, it is essential to have a good awareness of the cultural background in order to properly analyze speech acts. When applied to real-world settings, speech act theory enables a more in-depth comprehension of human interactions, whether they take place in a formal or casual setting. Speech acts such as negotiating, apologizing, and other language acts are specific instances of how the dynamics of social relations can be influenced by language. This theory, taken as a whole, offers a comprehensive and comprehensive framework for understanding the complexity of human communication and how language not only reflects reality but also plays a part in altering it in a variety of circumstances where people interact with one another.

3. Research Method

This study investigates and explains the phenomenon of language use in the oral discourse of merchants and buyers at the Sampang market through the application of qualitative descriptive methods. The research data source comprises oral discourse generated by participants in the market. The primary emphasis of this study is on the application of locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts, in addition to the speech functions inherent in such exchanges. The process of data collection is executed through the utilization of both fundamental and sophisticated methodologies. The fundamental method entails closely observing the speech of market participants and documenting each verbal expression employed. Additionally, interviews and in-depth analyses of the context and meaning of each utterance may be considered advanced techniques. By utilizing a variety of these methods, the study seeks to gain a more comprehensive understanding of how speech acts are implemented in market interactions.

The analysis of the data will center on the comprehension of perlocutionary, illocutionary, and locutionary speech acts. Perlocutionary speech acts emphasize the effect or impact of the utterance on the listener, whereas locutionary speech acts emphasize the physical and linguistic aspects of the utterance. Illocutionary speech acts emphasize the action genuinely expressed in the utterance. In addition, the investigation will examine a range of speech functions, including directive, commissive, and expressive functions, among others, in order to comprehend the multiple strata of significance inherent in every utterance.

It is anticipated that by integrating qualitative descriptive methods, fundamental techniques, and advanced techniques, this study will offer comprehensive understanding of language usage within the Sampang market. The implications of this research may also

contribute significantly to the comprehension of communication practices in traditional markets and influence the formulation of more effective marketing policies and strategies.

4. Finding and Discussion

It is evident from the research findings that there are two distinct categories of speech act usage within families residing in the Sawit Sebrang sub-district. The first category comprises speech acts that are determined by speech power, which includes locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts.

An illustration of the utilization of speech acts in the Sampang market is provided below.

1. Locution

Context: A father inquires of his son concerning oil palm nurseries within an oil palm plantation block.

“roto-roto umur kelapa sawit leng uwes tuwo umur 30 tahun gak eneng mene buahe”

The speech act imparted by the speaker to the speech partner, *“roto-roto umur kelapa sawit leng uwes tuwo umur 30 tahun gak eneng mene buahe”* involves the speaker providing a descriptive account of the oil palm's current state or condition. The oil palm is estimated to be around 30 years old. Upon closer inspection, this speech reveals the following areas that require further development:

- 1) Comprehending Local Expressions: This discourse employs dialectical terms "roto-roto" and "leng uwes," each of which possesses distinct connotations within particular cultural or regional milieus. It is crucial to comprehend these regional expressions in order to accurately decipher the intended meaning of the communication.
- 2) Accentuation on Palm Age: The speaker emphasized the oil palm's thirty-year-old status by stating, "Oil palm Leng Uwes Tuwo is thirty years old." This underscores the observation that oil palms, once they have attained a specific age, exhibit a declining propensity for fruit production and productive fruiting.
- 3) Information Regarding Productivity: The narrative informs that oil palms that have reached an advanced age, specifically around 30 years, cease to produce fruit at their maximum capacity. The expression "not engendering fruit" underscores the fact that fruit production has declined below anticipated levels.
- 4) Locutionary Speech Acts: . The speaker merely communicates factual information devoid of any particular intention or purpose. Despite the absence of any deliberate attempt to sway the speaker's thoughts or actions, the discourse nonetheless imparts crucial information concerning the state of aged oil palms.
- 5) Aspects that May Impact Agricultural Decisions: The aforementioned data possesses the capacity to exert an influence on strategies pertaining to the administration of palm oil plantations. This data can be utilized by partners to assess the age of the plants and devise strategies that optimize the yield of oil palm plantations.

Therefore, this discourse serves not only as a means of imparting knowledge but also as a foundation for the discussion participants to arrive at sound judgments concerning the administration of their oil palm plantations, given that aged oil palms possess suboptimal fruit production characteristics.

2. Illocution

Context: In a living room a mother and daughter are talking about school money.

“rong atus lima puluh ribu duwet sekolah ditambah kambek uang praktek seng wingi horong di bayarno seratus ribu, di cicil rong kali iso”

The speech *“rong atus lima puluh ribu duwet sekolah ditambah kambek uang praktek seng wingi horong di bayarno seratus ribu, di cicil rong kali iso”* is an example of illocutionary speech in which the speaker offers information rather than merely expressing opinion. Additional analysis and refinement of this discourse may encompass the subsequent elements:

- 1) Submission of Information Regarding School Fees: This discourse imparts precise details pertaining to the financial obligations associated with education for children, encompassing both tuition and practice fees. The speaker provides a precise description of the sums in question: "one hundred and fifty thousand" for academic fees and "one hundred thousand" for mandatory practical fees. One notable aspect of this discourse is the prioritization of practical money payments, as evidenced by the use of the term "kambek" to signify the obligation of repayment. The statement "seng wingi horong dibayarno seratus ribu " indicates that the payment of one hundred thousand for the practice fee was completed yesterday.
- 2) Expectation of Positive Response: By using the word "iso" at the conclusion of the speech, the speaker implicitly expresses the hope that the interlocutor will give a positive response, such as understanding or agreement with the information conveyed. With any luck, the other person will no longer feel compelled to inquire about the tuition costs for their child.
- 3) Informal Language Usage: The speech companion and the speaker are acquainted to an extent that justifies the classification of the language style as informal. Utilizing this common language can facilitate closer relationships and enhance communication between the two parties.
- 4) Illocutionary Function of Speech: This utterance serves an illocutionary purpose as the speaker anticipates a specific response from the speech partner in addition to imparting information. With this scenario, it is anticipated that the interlocutor will not require any additional clarification or inquiries concerning the school fees for children.

By means of this statement, the speaker not only imparts factual information pertaining to the educational expenses of his child, but also insinuates a desire for the interlocutor to extend sympathy or comprehension concerning the financial predicament he is experiencing. This discourse engenders a social exchange encompassing both communicative and interpersonal dimensions, in which the interlocutor's reply assumes a critical role in sustaining the discourse.

3. Perlocutionary Speech Acts

Context: An older sister passes by the living room and sees her younger sibling sleeping on the sofa.

“kok berserak kabe iki, celono, sepatu, pakaian, cangkir”

The utterance *“kok berserak kabe iki, celono, sepatu, pakaian, cangkir”* exhibited by an older brother towards his younger sibling is classified as perlocutionary because it significantly influences the behavior of the recipient. Additional analysis and refinement of this discourse may encompass the subsequent elements:

- 1) Use of Informal Language: The speaker employs informal language in this speech through the utilization of the word "kok," which is frequently employed in colloquial discourse to convey astonishment or shock. Brother and sister employ language that is suitable for their degree of familial proximity.
- 2) Room Condition Description: The speaker provided an account of the dispersed nature of the area, specifying the categories of various items including pants, shoes, clothing, and beverages. This depiction offers a tangible representation of the state of the room that requires remediation.
- 3) Information Intent: The objective of this discourse is to apprise the junior sibling of the dispersed nature of these objects. This statement may be construed as an entreaty or expectation that the junior sibling maintain the room's cleanliness and orderliness.
- 4) Perlocutionary speech acts are fulfilled in this utterance as it effectively motivates the younger sibling to promptly rise from his or her chair and engage in an action-oriented task of organizing and cleaning the room. The expression "scattered all over" serves as an impetus or catalyst for the recipient to take tangible action. By means of this discourse, a dynamic social interaction is initiated between a sibling and a sibling. By means of the information communicated, elder siblings exert a significant influence on the conduct of their younger counterparts and instigate positive exchanges between the two.
- 5) Linguistic and Cultural Considerations: This expression might incorporate specific linguistic and cultural components that elder siblings may be familiar with, including expressions or lexicon that are frequently employed in their milieu of communication.

The elder sibling accomplished the perlocutionary objective of clearing the room through the use of this speech, which directly inspired the younger sibling to act and provided concrete information. This demonstrates that speech serves not only as a means of transmitting information, but also as a potent instrument for attaining communicative objectives and, in specific circumstances, exerting influence on the behavior of the audience.

5. Conclusions

In summary, the research undertaken in the households of Sawit Sebrang sub-district, Langkat Regency, centered on the examination of Javanese speech acts, which included perlocutionary, illocutionary, and locutionary functions. The objective of this study was to gain an understanding of the pragmatic functions that these speech acts serve in the linguistic and cultural milieu of the Javanese people.

The results unveiled the complex and diverse characteristics of Javanese speech acts within different familial settings. Locutionary acts were identified in situations where speakers imparted factual information regarding the state of aging oil plantations, for example, without a particular intent or purpose in mind. Speakers engaged in illocutionary acts when they intended to impart information and, in certain instances, anticipated a particular response from the interlocutor. For example, dialogues concerning tuition fees entailed illocutionary behaviors in which the speaker anticipated comprehension.

Perlocutionary acts became conspicuous in circumstances where the speech exerted a substantial impact on the listener's behavior. To illustrate, when a sibling was urged to clear up a disorganized room through directive speech, the younger sibling promptly took action as a perlocutionary effect. Additionally, the research underscored the significance of comprehending cultural subtleties, linguistic variations, and local expressions when attempting to decipher the intended significance of Javanese speech acts. Cultural factors, linguistic elements, and the utilization of colloquial language significantly influenced the

efficacy of communication among the families.

Furthermore, the study emphasized the pragmatic ramifications of speech acts in tangible situations, specifically in terms of their impact on decision-making processes within domains such as agriculture and familial relationships. This research enhances our comprehension of communication practices in conventional market environments by illuminating the intricacies of language utilization and its consequences for interpersonal connections. In summary, the examination of Javanese speech acts within families residing in the Sawit Sebrang sub-district yields significant knowledge regarding the complex mechanisms of communication prevalent in this particular cultural milieu. Comprehending these speech acts not only contributes to the advancement of linguistic research but also provides pragmatic applications for the development of efficient communication tactics in various social contexts.

REFERENCES

- Astuti, G. W., & Sauri, S. (2021). Tindak Tutur Ilokusi Iklan Layanan Masyarakat Pencegahan Covid-19: Filsafat Bahasa Jl Austin. *Diglosia: Jurnal Pendidikan, Kebahasaan, Dan Kesusastraan Indonesia*, 5(1), 296–306.
- Boh, I. (1989). A History of Western Philosophy. *Teaching Philosophy*, 12(2), 166–168. <https://doi.org/10.5840/teachphil198912233>
- Dutta, S. (2020). the Importance of “English” Language in Today’S World. *International Journal of English Learning & Teaching Skills*, 2(1), 1028–1035. <https://doi.org/10.15864/ijelts.2119>
- Hnatiuk, L. (2017). The functional and pragmatic peculiarities of the anthropocentric phraseological units in different languages and cultural environments (on the descriptive material of Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, English). *Studies About Languages*, 30, 18–28. <https://doi.org/10.5755/j01.sal.0.30.17724>
- Izhar, I., & Seftika, S. (2020). Tindak Tutur Dalam Tinjauan Filsafat Bahasa. *Anterior Jurnal*, 20(1), 78–82. <https://doi.org/10.33084/anterior.v20i1.1528>
- Journal, E. L. S., & Studies, I. (2018). *ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies on Humanities*. 1(4), 487–495.
- Klimoviene, G., Barzdžiukiene, R., & Račkauskaite, N. (2016). Developing students’ communicative competence in Business English. *Studies About Languages*, 28(28), 102–113. <https://doi.org/10.5755/j01.sal.0.28.14265>
- Marpaung, F. D. N. (2019). *the Speech Acts of Bantenese Family in Medan*. 1(1), 1–10.
- Oktadistio, F., Aziz, M., & . Z. (2018). an Analysis of Direct and Indirect Speech Acts Performed By Main Character in the Movie Revenant Script. *Journal of English Education and Teaching*, 2(1), 59–67. <https://doi.org/10.33369/jeet.2.1.59-67>

- Rahmawati, L. E. (2022). Analisis Tindak Tutur Direktif dalam Pidato Presiden Joko Widodo Terkait PPKM di Indonesia. *Klitika: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan ...*, 4(1), 59–66. <http://journal.univetbantara.ac.id/index.php/klitika/article/view/2332>
- Rodrigues, R. (2014). *A brief history of the English language - Old, Middle and Modern English periods*. 1–22. http://www.academia.edu/download/35699417/Development_of_English_Language___Old___Middle___Modern_Periods_-_Academia.pdf
- Sutthinaraphan, K. (n.d.). *A Study of English Communication Strategy Use of Undergraduate Students Majoring in Science*. 98–117.
- Wang, S., & Chen, A. (2021). Cultural Factors in Urgent Transition to Online Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic – Case Studies from Japan and China. In *Lecture Notes in Computer Science (including subseries Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence and Lecture Notes in Bioinformatics): Vol. 12830 LNCS*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-80504-3_24