



## The Use of Speech Act During The 2024 President Candidates Electoral Debate

Astrid Clarissa Pintu Batu<sup>1</sup>, Gabriel Zefanya Sembiring<sup>2</sup>, Putri Aziza Muvta Tanjung<sup>3</sup>, Salsalina Cantika Tarigan<sup>\*4</sup>, Zihan Afrida<sup>5</sup>, Dian Marisha Putri<sup>6</sup>  
<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup> Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author: [salsalinacantika@gmail.com](mailto:salsalinacantika@gmail.com)

---

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 1 April 2024

Revised 10 May 2024

Accepted 23 May 2024

Available online 31 May 2024

E-ISSN: 2745-8296

---

#### How to cite:

Batu, A.C.P. et al. (2024). The Use of Speech Act During The 2024 President Candidates Electoral Debate. *Lingpoet: Journal of Linguistics and Literary Research*, 5(4), 117-125.



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International.

---

### ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine the use of speech acts carried out during the 2024 President Electoral Debate, using Pragmatic and Grounded theory approaches by analyzing phrases that contain all types of speech acts. The study analyses all three presidential candidates in the 2024 President Candidates Debate. Through a systemic analysis, the article sheds light on the linguistic strategies employed by each candidate to convey their messages to the public. The findings contribute to the understanding of the speech act's importance in communicating one's message, specifically during the Presidential Candidates Debate.

**Keywords:** Representative, Directives, Comissives, Expressives, Declaration

---

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji penggunaan tindak tutur yang dilakukan pada Debat Pilpres 2024, dengan menggunakan pendekatan Pragmatis dan Grounded theory dengan menganalisis frasa yang mengandung semua jenis tindak tutur. Kajian tersebut menganalisis ketiga calon presiden pada Debat Capres 2024. Melalui analisis yang sistematis, artikel ini menyoroti strategi linguistik yang digunakan masing-masing kandidat untuk menyampaikan pesannya kepada publik. Temuan ini berkontribusi pada pemahaman akan pentingnya tindak tutur dalam mengkomunikasikan pesan seseorang, khususnya pada saat Debat Capres.

**Kata Kunci:** Representatif, Direktif, Komisif, Ekspresif, Deklarasi

---

## 1. Introduction

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies contextual meaning. (Yule, 1996) This type of study certainly involves the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how it influences what is said and also who they are talking to, when, where, and under what circumstances.

John Searle in Levinson (1983: 240) developed the theory of speech acts to explore the function and meaning of language beyond its literal content. Speech acts are the actions performed by speakers through language. Searle identified different types of speech acts, such as representatives, directives, commissive, expressive, and declarations.

Speech acts are a fundamental aspect of communication, referring to the intentional use of language to accomplish specific actions, such as making assertions, giving commands, asking questions, or expressing emotions. Understanding the strategic deployment of speech acts in political debates provides valuable insights into the candidates' communication strategies and their attempts to shape public opinion.

The theory argues that speech acts are not mere descriptions but have performative power. Searle's theory has had a significant impact on the philosophy of language, linguistics, pragmatics, and communication studies. It offers a framework for understanding how language is used pragmatically and how speech serves social functions.

Before this study, other researchers had delved into a similar topic of speech acts. For example, Sosrohadi conducted research analyzing speech acts in the 2024 Indonesian Presidential Candidate's speech texts. But unlike this research, Sosrohadi focused on the political persuasion within each speech act and its meaning.

This research aims to analyze, solely, the use of speech acts during the highly anticipated 2024 Presidential Candidate Electorate Debate this early 2024 with Anies Baswedan presenting as the first faction's representative, Prabowo Subianto presenting as the second faction's representative, and Ganjar Pranowo presenting the third faction's representative where the three conduct in a systematic debate to present each faction's belief, idea and plan regarding about the question that the Moderator'll ask of the debate.

## 2. Method

In this study, the researchers adopt Grounded Theory, employing its reflexive and open approach to comprehensively explore the research subject from multiple perspectives. The cyclical process involved in Grounded Theory includes iterative data collection, development of theoretical concepts, and literature review. This process refines emerging theories, ensuring they are grounded in the data and reveals patterns, categories, and relationships within the collected information.

The research is further enriched by incorporating John Searle's theory of Speech Act, which emphasizes the performative nature of language and its influence on actions and social interactions. This integration enhances the analysis and interpretation of the data, shedding light on the intricate complexities of language use within the research context.

In summary, Grounded Theory is a qualitative research methodology that embraces a reflexive and open approach, allowing theories to emerge from data. The inclusion of John Searle's Speech Act theory enriches the research by emphasizing the role of language in actions and social dynamics.

The data for this study were chosen because the researchers wanted each debate to be represented by questions that are most viral and most impactful to society compared to other questions within the debates. Each question's interaction will, later on, be analyzed in great detail in the discussion part.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### Results

This research uses live streaming footage videos of the President Candidates Electorate debate from the first, second, and third debates. After transcribing all three videos from the YouTube platform that streamed the full length of each debate, the researchers analyzed the transcript using the speech acts theory. Below are the results:

- First Debate

Question	Answers from the third faction	Reaction from the first faction	Reaction from the second faction	The last reaction from the third faction
"Apa program strategis anda untuk meningkatkan kualitas pelayanan publik yang berkeadilan?"	"-kebetulan saya punya pengalaman 10 tahun menangani soal ini. <b>Kita mengajak mereka berpartisipasi sejak awal, menghadirkan dalam setiap fase rentan, kelompok perempuan,</b>	"-Prioritaskan pada pelayanan pada mereka yang rentan, <sup>1st</sup> <b>1. Penyandang disabilitas, 2. Perempuan terutama ibu hamil, 3. Anak-anak dan lansia, itu di prioritaskan.</b> Kemudian	"- <sup>1st</sup> <b>menurut pandangan saya, kelompok rentan itu juga termasuk para petani dan nelayan.</b> Dan yg saya dapet, pas saya keliling khususnya jawa tengah, pak ganjar, petani petani disitu	"-terimakasih, jadi menggunakan teknologi yg disampaikan mas anis sudah betul dan sama ya. Tapi untuk pak prabowo <sup>1st</sup> <b>saya harus</b>

	<p>penyandang disabilitas, dan banyak kelompok rentan yang lain termasuk orang tua. Kenapa? Agar mengambil keputusan mereka aware mereka peduli dengan apa yg mereka rasakan-”</p>	<p>pelayanannya, buat kan pelayanan yg transparan dan terukur. <sup>2nd</sup><b>Pelayanan pemerintah itu tidak ada yg baru, semua yg dilayani pemerintah itu hal yg berulang.</b> Jadi, kalo itu disebut masalah, pasti pernah terjadi sebelumnya, pasti berulang. Lalu masyarakat akan tau persis, saya melapor kapan dan akan selesainya kapan. Sekian terima kasih.</p>	<p>sangat sulit mendapat pupuk. Dan mereka mengeluh dengan kartu tani yang bapak luncurkan ini mempersulit mereka mendapat pupuk. <sup>2nd</sup><b>Saya kira mungkin bapak bisa menjawab permasalahan tersebut, terima kasih.”</b></p>	<p><b>mengingatkan pak,</b> pupuk langka terjadi di papua pak, di sumatera utara pak, di ntt, ntb, kalimantan timur termasuk bensin. Mungkin bapak sedikit lupa, untu kitu <sup>2nd</sup><b>saya bisa mengingatkan karena bapak pernah menjadi ketua hkti.</b> Pak, data petani kita tidak pernah beres, maka kalau data petani bisa kita kelola maka distribusinya maka harus bisa sampai sasaran. Pada saat yg sama, kuota pupuk tidak boleh dibatasi, maka ini yg saya telpon langsung pada pak wapres saat itu “pak wapres please, kasi tambahan, kalau tidak tidak cukup dan ini terjadi di seluruh indonesia. <sup>rd</sup><b>Maka inilah yg akan kita kerjakan.”</b></p>
--	--	--	--	---

Based on the table above, below are contexts that surrounded the conversation chains as well as the type of speech act used according to the theory of Searle in Levinson (1983:240):

- Contexts: The table above consists of a question and multiple responses discussing strategies to enhance the quality of public service with fairness. The question asks about each faction’s program to improve equitable public service. This question led to each faction expressing their belief and plan to involve vulnerable groups in decision-making processes and address their specific needs. Issues concerning farmers' access to fertilizers and the effectiveness of support programs are also mentioned in the table, including the importance of accepting feedback and criticism from the public to improve public services continuously
- Speech acts used:

- a) The bolded sentence of the third faction's answer uses the declarative type of speech act because the speaker expresses the statement that conveys information about the speaker's intention to invite others to participate. Therefore, it falls under the category of a declarative speech act.
- b) The first bolded sentence of the first faction reaction uses the declarative type of speech act because the speaker expresses the statement that conveys the intention to prioritize certain groups including disabled individuals, women, elderly individuals, and children.
- c) The second bolded sentence of the first faction reaction uses the representative type of speech act because the speaker expresses the statement that conveys the speaker's belief and assertion that everything that the government serves is just a recurring matter.
- d) The first bolded sentence of the second faction's reaction uses the expressive type of speech act because the speaker expresses the statement that contains his view regarding farmers and fishermen being included in the vulnerable groups of society.
- e) The second bolded sentence of the second faction's reaction uses the expressive type of speech act because the speaker expresses the statement that contains his view regarding his ability to answer the previous question. In the end, the sentence also expresses polite thanks.
- f) The first bolded sentence of the third faction's reaction uses the directive type of speech act because the speaker expresses his view of needing to correct the previous faction's opinion with his own.
- g) The second bolded sentence of the third faction's reaction uses the commissive type of speech act because the speaker expresses that he will commit to the plans stated before.

- Second debate

Question	Answers from the first faction	Reaction from the second faction	Reaction from the third faction	The last reaction from the first faction
<p>"Apa kebijakan paslon untuk mendapatkan akses teknologi dan pengembangannya guna memperkuat pertahanan indonesia?"</p>	<p>"<sup>1st</sup><b>kita merasakan keluarga-keluarga kita hp komputer menghadapi tantangan hacking</b> karena itulah <sup>2nd</sup><b>menurut kami, perlu sekali kita membangun satu struktur pertahanan cyber yang serius dan ini tidak cukup dengan memberikan tugas pada sekelompok orang. Satu adalah dengan membangun satu system yang komprehensif-</b>"</p>	<p>"<sup>1st</sup> <b>saya berpandangan pak Anies terlalu teoritis, semuanya bagus, indah. Tapi yang nyata tentang masalah cyber dan AI adalah sumber daya manusianya atau awaknya. Saya begitu jadi Menteri, saya membentuk empat fakultas baru di bidang sains teknologi engineering, dan mathematics.</b> <sup>2nd</sup><b>Kita menyiapkan putra putri terbaik untuk menguasai know-how nya bukan barangnya."</b></p>	<p>"<b>-Yang pertama kita mesti menguatkan BSSN. Kita penting untuk membuat security system yang lebih baik selain membangun SDM dan infrastruktur yang baik, maka kecepatan dan covernya harus tinggi. Maka kalau kita kemudian membuat satu system</b></p>	<p>"<b>-Kalau tadi disebut ada yang teoritis, ada yang kedua yang tidak dilaksanakan. Jadi selama lima tahun ini apa yang dikerjakan dalam mempertahankan system cyber kita? Justru di situ letak masalahnya. Jadi Ketika anggaran uang begitu besar dialokasikan, justru bukan untuk mempertahankan yang hari ini menjadi serangan paling modern yang terjadi. Ini adalah ancaman yang paling nyata."</b></p>

			<i>infrastruktur yang bagus, jangan dikorupsi-”</i>	
--	--	--	---	--

Based on the table above, below are contexts that surrounded the conversation chains as well as the type of speech act used according to the theory of Searle in Levinson (1983:240):

- Contexts: The table above revolves around the need to enhance Indonesia's defense capabilities through technology and cybersecurity measures. Overall, the interactions centered around the importance of technology access, development, and cybersecurity measures to strengthen Indonesia's defense capabilities. Different factions express their opinions and proposed strategies, highlighting the need for comprehensive cyber defense structures, investment in human resources, and the prevention of corruption.
- Speech acts used:
  - a) The first bolded sentence of the first faction's answer uses the representative type of speech act because the statement expresses the speaker's view of the world specifically about the matters of current cybercrime that happened within homes and families.
  - b) The second bolded sentence of the first faction's answer uses the commissive type of speech act because the statement expresses how the speaker utters the proposition to build a serious defense cyber system in the future when possible.
  - c) The first bolded sentence of the second faction's reaction uses the expressive type of speech act because the sentence expresses how the speaker uttered a psychological state of the speaker to the previous answer by the first faction's answer.
  - d) The second bolded sentence of the second faction's reaction uses the commissive type of speech act because the statement expresses how the speaker is committing to a plan of creating bright young generations in the future.
  - e) The bolded sentence of the third faction's reaction uses the declarative type of speech act because the statement expresses the speaker's emphasized demand that commands the decision to strengthen the BSSN, National Cyber and Cryptography Agency, in the Indonesian government.
  - f) The bolded sentence of the first faction's reaction uses the representative type of speech act because the statement expresses the speaker's view about the current threat to Indonesia.

- Third Debate

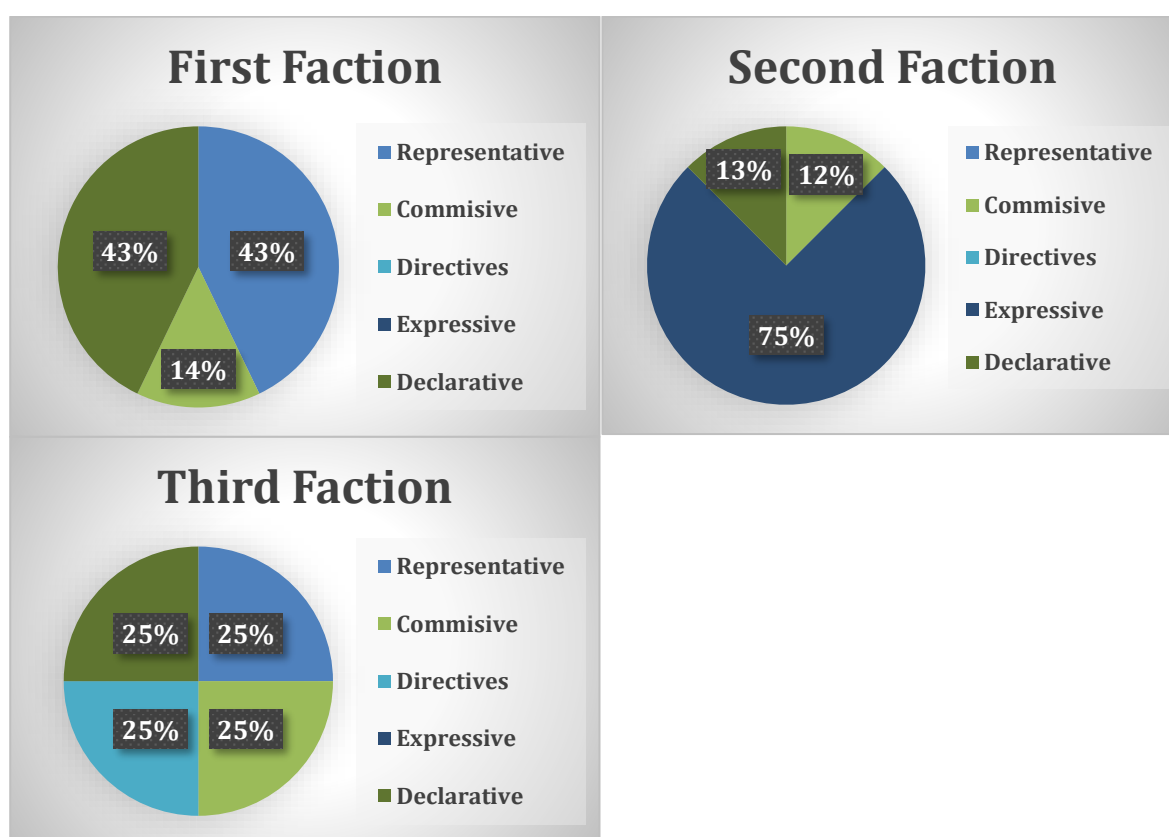
Question	Answers from the second faction	Reaction from the third faction	Reaction from the first faction	The last reaction from the second faction
<p>“Apa pandangan dan sikap paslon terhadap budaya dan proses destruktif terhadap tumbuhnya kebudayaan yang responsif?”</p>	<p>“Budaya adalah karakter bangsa, tanpa kita membanggakan dan menghormati budaya artinya kita kehilangan jati diri kita sebagai bangsa. Sebagai bangsa, semua bidang harus kita bantu, kita lindungi. <b>Kami merencanakan ada dana abadi budaya untuk memberi dorongan untuk semua pelaku budaya di semua bidang.</b> Sebagai contoh, Pencak Silat, bela diri warisan nenek moyang kita. Pemerintah bukan hanya regulator, pemerintah di depan pelopor intervensi. Bila perlu bekerja untuk rakyat membantu bidang budaya, pemerintah juga harus di depan menjaga dan melestarikan semua budaya kita di semua bidang, terima kasih-”</p>	<p>“-Apakah itu nyanyi, apakah itu film makers, apakah itu para penulis buku, sehingga mereka perlu dilindungi, berikan itu kepada mereka agar mereka bisa mengurus sendiri. <b>Kalau mereka kemudian pemerintah enggak perlu takut,</b> masa takut sama pentasnya. Kamu boleh loh pentas tapi enggak usah ngomong politik, enggak pemerintah mesti dikritik-“</p>	<p>“-karena itu yang harus dikerjakan pemerintah adalah menciptakan ekosistem yang sehat sehingga para budayawan bisa memunculkan ekspresinya dan budaya itu bukan hanya dirawat kalau dirawat seakan-akan dia warisan masa lalu saja, budaya itu harus dikembangkan terus-menerus berkembang karena itu kami melihat perlu dibentuk dan <b>kami berencana kementerian kebudayaan yang nantinya akan menjadi penyalur sumber daya dari negara untuk diberikan kepada kalangan budayawan-”</b></p>	<p>“Saya kira kedua respons itu masuk akal, <b>saya bisa menerima dua respons itu memang banyak benarnya.</b> Ya kita harus benar-benar memberi ruang untuk inisiatif untuk inovasi kreativitas tapi jelas pemerintah harus tidak ragu-ragu dan pemerintah harus berani untuk turun tangan menjaga situs-situs, membantu museum-museum, membantu istana-istana, sultan-sultan kita yang banyak sudah mau roboh ini, harus kita bantu warisan budaya sejarah kita. Hal-hal seperti itu harus kita perhatikan <b>saya juga setuju itu kalau saya jadi presiden, saya memikirkan kementerian kebudayaan bahwa ide yang baik dari bapak, saya bisa terima dan saya dukung, terima kasih.”</b></p>

Based on the table above, below are contexts that surrounded the conversation chains as well as the type of speech act used according to the theory of Searle in Levinson (1983:240):

- Context: The table focuses on discussing the need to provide space for initiative and creative innovation in preserving and safeguarding our cultural and historical heritage. It mentioned the importance of the government's role in protecting historical sites, museums, palaces, and our rich cultural heritage, which are at risk of deterioration or destruction.
- Speech acts used:
  - a) The bolded sentence of the second faction's answer uses the declaration type of the speech act because it uses the verb “merencanakan” which has the meaning to declare something. In this context, it is to declare that he wants to make economic financial plans for cultural actors in all fields.

- b) The bolded sentence of the third faction's reaction uses the representative type of speech act because the sentence gives the meaning of an opinion based on the speaker's belief to tell the government to not be scared of any type of criticizing art expression.
- c) The bolded sentence of the first faction's reaction uses the declaration type of the speech act because it uses the verb "berencana" which has the meaning to declare something. In this context, it is to declare that he wants the Ministry of Culture will be a distributor for resources from the state to be given to cultural figures so they can grow and develop.
- d) Both the first and second bolded sentence of the second faction's reaction uses the expressive type of speech act because both sentences above explain the expression of accepting something. In this context, the sentences embraced toward statements of both parties in the previous reaction in a positive way.

The data listed above showed how each candidate always uses at least one type of speech act during their speaking time within the three debates, with the intention to clarify and emphasize their points, beliefs, and views to the people. Below are the charts to the how much each candidate uses all types of speech acts:



**Figure 1. Type of speech act**

## Discussion

According to the diagrams above, this study reveals that:

- **First faction**  
The first faction showed the use of speech act presentation of 43% declarative, 43% directive, and 14% commissive. This percentage showed that first faction debates calmly, structured by emphasizing the power of systematic rhetoric and communicated by choosing strong diction to sway public opinion. (Kompas, 2024)
- **Second faction**  
The second faction showed the use of speech act presentation of 13% declarative, 25% commissive, and 75% expressive. This showed the percentage that the second faction debates dynamically, straight to the point, and communicates firmly but relatively uncontrolled so that an emotional impression appears. (Kompas, 2024)
- **Third faction**  
The third faction showed the use of speech act presentation of 25% declarative, 25% representative, 25% commissive, and 25% directive. This percentage showed that the third faction debates with popular language which is very close to the people but has not been able to convey clear concepts in answering the questions. (Tempo. co, 2023)

From the explanation of the diagrams above, the researchers conclude that each candidate has differences in debate. The style of their communication skills in presidential electorate debate could influence public opinion about how they convey their ideas, ensure the society, and talk about important issues firmly as a competent leader so that it has the potential to influence people's thoughts and their decisions during the election day.

## 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the study reveals that speech acts were powerful tools for conveying messages, persuading the electorate, and establishing credibility and this paper managed to shed light on the influential role of speech acts in shaping candidates' discourse and communication strategies.

The research highlights a diverse range of speech acts used, including assertions, promises, requests, and subtle attacks, strategically influencing the electorate's perceptions. It emphasizes the effectiveness of different speech acts and the importance of linguistic strategies in political communication.

This research underscores the significance of speech acts in political debates and their power in shaping public opinion and influencing electoral outcomes. It calls for further exploration of speech acts as a vital aspect of political communication and continued examination of candidates' linguistic strategies in future electoral contexts.

## References

- Arifin, A. (2011). *Komunikasi politik: filsafat, paradigma, teori, tujuan, strategi, dan komunikasi politik Indonesia*. Graha Ilmu.
- Arifin, H. Z., Wibowo, W., & Sosrohadi, S. (2010). *Bahasa Indonesia Akademik: Mata Kuliah Pengembangan Kepribadian*. Tangerang: PT. Pustaka Mandiri.
- Arifin, S., Wibowo, W., & Sosrohadi, S. (2010, September). *Bahasa Indonesia Akademik: Mata Kuliah Pengembangan Kepribadian*. PT PUSTAKA MANDIRI.
- Ariyanti, L. D., & Zulaeha, I. (2017). *Tindak Tutur Ekspresif Humanis dalam Interaksi Pembelajaran di SMA Negeri 1 Batang: Analisis Wacana Kelas*. *Jurnal Seloka*, 6(2), 111-122.
- Azizah, S. N., & Rustono, R. (2020). *Tuturan Ilokusi dalam Wacana Pidato Kampanye Prabowo Subianto pada Pemilu 2019*. *Jurnal Sastra Indonesia*, 9(2), 144-150.
- Bach, K. (1994). *Conversational implicature*. *Mind & Language*, 9(2), 124-162.



- Brown, P., & Levinson, S. C. (1983). Universals in language usage: Politeness phenomena. In E. N. Goody (Ed.), *Questions and Politeness: Strategies in Social Interaction* (pp. 56-289). Cambridge University Press.
- Coulthard, M. (1977). *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis*. Longman.
- Goffman, E. (1967). *Interaction Ritual: Essays on Face-to-Face Behavior*. Anchor Books.
- Grice, H. P. (1975). Logic and Conversation. In P. Cole & J. L. Morgan (Eds.), *Syntax and Semantics, Vol. 3: Speech Acts* (pp. 41–58). Academic Press.
- Hidayat, A. (2016). English Education: Jurnal Tadris Bahasa Inggris. *Speech Acts: Force Behind Words*.
- Horn, L. R. (1984). Toward a New Taxonomy for Pragmatic Inference: Q-Based and R-Based Implicature. In D. Schiffrin (Ed.), *Meaning, Form, and Use in Context: Linguistic Applications* (pp. 11–42). Georgetown University Press.
- Heritage, J., & Sefi, S. (1992). Dilemmas of Advice: Aspects of the Delivery and Reception of Advice in Interactions between Health Visitors and First-Time Mothers. In P. Drew & J. Heritage (Eds.), *Talk at Work: Interaction in Institutional Settings* (pp. 359–417). Cambridge University Press.
- Levinson, S. C. (1983). *Pragmatics*. Cambridge University Press.
- Levinson, S. C. (2013). Action formation and ascription. In N. Enfield, & P. Kockelman (Eds.), *Distributed Agency* (pp. 48-59). Oxford University Press.
- Muhid, A. (2024, April). *JOLLT Journal of Languages and Language Teaching. Analyzing Speech Accommodation Model in 1st Debate of the 2024 Indonesian Presidential Candidates*.
- Mey, J. L. (1985). *Whose Language? A Study in Linguistic Pragmatics*. John Benjamins Publishing.
- Searle, J. R. (1969). *Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*. Cambridge University Press.
- Searle, J. R. (1979). *Expression and Meaning: Studies in the Theory of Speech Acts*. Cambridge University Press.
- Sosrohadi, S., Syukri, M., & Sosrohadi, A. (2024). *ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities. Unveiling Political Persuasion: Speech Acts in the 2024 Indonesian Presidential Candidates' Speech Texts*.
- Suma, M., Rahman, F., Dalyan, M., Rahman, F. F., & Andini, C. (2023). Literature And Family Development: A Character Building Education. *Journal of Namibian Studies: History Politics Culture*, 39, 220-232.
- Tarigan, H. G. (2015). *Berbicara Sebagai Suatu Keterampilan Berbahasa*. Bandung: Angkasa.
- Thomas, J. (1995). *Meaning in Interaction: An Introduction to Pragmatics*. Longman.
- Vanderveken, D. (1991). *Meaning and Speech Acts: Volume 3: Formal Semantics of Execution*. Cambridge University Press.
- Widyantoro, D. H. (2007). *Pragmatik: Kajian Teoretis dan Analisis*. Penerbit Graha Ilmu.
- Wierzbicka, A. (1985). Different cultures, different languages, different speech acts: Polish vs. English. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 9(2), 145-178.