

AN ANALYSIS OF BARACK OBAMA'S SPEECH ACT OVER THE CONFLICT IN SYRIA AND LOOMING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Agus Wardhono¹, Mukhlis Purnama Hadi²

Universitas PGRI Ronggolawe Tuban (UNIROW), Tuban¹

Email:agusward@gmail.com

Universitas PGRI Ronggolawe Tuban (UNIROW), Tuban²

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menginvestigasi dan menggambarkan fenomena *speech acts* yang digunakan oleh Barack Obama ketika berada di The White House tanggal 27 September 2013 mengenai konflik di Syria dan penutupan pemerintah federal. permasalahan penelitian ini adalah bagaimana *speech act* digunakan oleh Obama serta fungsi setiap ucapannya. Metode kualitatif deskriptif (konten analisis) digunakan untuk melaksanakan penelitian ini. data diambil dari transkrip perkataan Obama dalam konflik di Syria dan penutupan pemerintah federal di White House pada tanggal 27 September 2013. Dalam menganalisa data, setiap ucapan diidentifikasi dengan menganalisa berdasarkan pada aspek-aspek linguistik. Setiap ucapan diidentifikasi dengan menganalisa tipe bentuk dan arti ucapan dan mengumpulkan data komunikasi secara obyektif, sistematis, dan deskriptif. Berdasarkan hasil penemuan, *speech act* digunakan oleh Barack Obama bisa dijabarkan berikut ini: pertama, peneliti tidak menemukan yang terdeklarasi. Bahkan, ucapan Obama kebanyakan dalam bentuk tegas (representatif), peringkat berikut termasuk dalam komisif, direktif dan ekspresif. Pada waktu yang sama, fungsi ucapan lebih tergolong pada kolaboratif. Sedangkan posisi berikut termasuk dalam konfifial (ramah) dan kemudian kompetitif. Penelitian ini memberikan saran terhadap peneliti selanjutnya untuk menganalisa percakapan, debat atau dialog yang sejenis yang bertujuan untuk menginvestigasi teori *speech act*. Walaupun banyak bidang dalam pragmatik seperti strategi kesopanan, implikatur, dan deixis (pilhan kata).

Kata Kunci : *speech act, Barack Obama, penutupan pemerintah*

Abstract

This research attempts to investigate and describe the phenomena of speech acts used by Barack Obama when was The White House on September 27th, 2013 over the conflict in Syria and looming federal government shutdown. The research questions are how speech acts used by Obama and the functions of every utterance. The descriptive qualitative (content analysis) method is used to conduct this research. The data is taken from the transcript of Obama's speech over the conflict in Syria and looming federal government shutdown at White House, on sept 27th, 2013. In analyzing the data, the utterances in the speeches are identified by analyzing based on the aspects of linguistic. The utterances are identified by analyzing the form and meaning types of the utterances and collects the data of communication objectively, systematically, and descriptively. Based on the findings, speech acts used by Barack Obama can be described as follows: first, the researcher does not find declarative one. In addition, the utterances of Obama are mostly in the form of assertive (representative), the following ranks belong to commissive, directive, and then expressive. At the same time, the functions of the utterances mostly belong to

collaborative. While the following positions belong to convivial, and then competitive. Finally, it is suggested to further researchers to analyze such conversations, debates or dialogs in terms of investigating speech act theory. Though, there are many fields in pragmatics, such as politeness strategies, implicature, and deixis.

Keywords : *speech acts, Barack Obama, government shutdown*

INTRODUCTION

Being able to communicate effectively is the most important of all life skills. Knowing why communication occurs is an important 1st step as much as its context which avoids communication failure that might happen to the participants by their overlook the context while communicating. Using language are able to express many ideas such as ordering, requesting, and declaring. Unsuccessful communication can still occur, which brings misunderstanding between conversations. Speech acts theory is one of pragmatic area, which discuss on communication. The theory states that people produce an utterance as type of an action. It indicates that language is not only a system of representation but also a system of devices for engaging in various sorts of social activity. Concerning with the use of speech act for human activities, understanding the speaker's intention is essential to capture the meaning. In relation to this fact, the utterance which is produced by a president of a country is not merely to say something ordinary. It indicates that when he says something, it implies some action behind it. Hence, the researcher intentionally selects President Barack Obama's White House speech on September 27th, 2013. The topics he covered were the looming government shut down and the

Syrian Civil War. There are two reasons in case of selecting Barack Obama's speech as the object being analyzed. First, his speech seems to be considered as an interesting current even and can be analyzed as qualitative research. Another reason is that President Obama has extraordinary skills as an orator. The characteristics are not only from his utterances or the way performing the speech which is able to influence all the audiences, but also the implied meaning needs to be observed. Consequently, it is needed to analyze his linguistic approach to the Speech Act theory in order to understand what he is attempting to convey. Besides, linguistic approach is commonly used by the linguists and linguistic philosophers in relation to interpret text study.

Based on the approaches, the researcher investigates the following problems: First, What kinds of speech acts (focus on Illocutionary acts) used by Barack Obama in White House over the Conflict in Syria and looming federal government shutdown? Second What illocutionary functions used by Barack Obama in White House over the Conflict in Syria and looming federal government shutdown?

LITERATURE

A. Pragmatics

Yule (1996: 3) states that there are four

areas that pragmatics are concerned with. To understand how it got to be that way, it is important to briefly review its relationship with other area of linguistic analysis.

1. Pragmatics are concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). It has, consequently, more to do with the analysis of what people mean by their utterances than what the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves. *Pragmatic is the study of speaker meaning.*
2. This type of study involves the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how the context influences what is said. It requires a consideration of how speaker organize what they want to say in accordance with who they are talking to, where, when, and under what circumstances. *Pragmatic is the study of contextual meaning.* This approach also explores how listeners can make inferences about what is said in order to interpret the speaker's intended meaning.
3. This type of study explores how a great deal of what is unsaid is recognized as part of what is communicated. We might say that it is the investigation of invisible meaning. *Pragmatic is the study of how more meaning gets communicated than it said*
4. This perspective than raises the question of what determines the choice between the said and the unsaid. The basic answer is tied to the concept of distance. Closeness, whether it is physical, social, or conceptual, implies shared experience. On the assumption of how close or distant the listener is, speakers

determine how much needs to be said. *Pragmatic is the study of the expression of relative distance.*

B. An overview of Speech Act Theory

Normally during communication, sentences are designed to serve a specific function. It may be meant to inform or order someone to do something, it can even be associated with kindness. It means that each sentence takes a specific function depending on the context. John Austin (in Schriffin, 1994: 6) began to distinguish what he called 'constatives' and 'performatives'. A constative is simply saying something true or false while performative is doing something by speaking; paradigmatically, for instance one can get married by saying "I do". Performatives are actions of 'felicitous 'or 'infelicitous'(Austin, 1962). In addition, Yule (1996) pointed out that every action is formed through language and that speech act helps language to be functioned as not only to communicate but also to perform an act which naturally carries cultural values of the user.

In accordance to this point, Yule argued that this theory appeared from the basic insight that language is not only used to explain the word, but also to perform an action.

C. Kinds of Speech Acts

C.1. Locutionary Act

Austin (1962, cited in Sadock 2004: 2) states that locutionary acts are acts of speaking, acts involved in the construction of speech, such as uttering certain sounds or making certain marks, using particular words and using them in conformity with the grammatical rules of a

particular language and with certain senses and certain references as determined by the rules of the language from which they are drawn. According to Yule (1996: 48) the locutionary act is the basic act of an utterance in producing a meaningful linguistic expression. For example, in the utterance "I've just read some books", the locutionary act of this utterance is that the speaker has just read some books. They are classified into imperative, interrogative, and declarative (Yule, 1996: 54)

C.2. Illocutionary Act

The most crucial of Austin's is illocutionary act, Coulthard (1985: 18) argues that an illocutionary act is an act performed in saying something, the act identified by the explicit performative. In this case, a person is not just saying something but also doing it at the same time if the conditions are met in the future (Wardhaugh, 1988: 275). Basically, there are many types of illocutionary act from linguistic philosophers. However, the types are mostly taken from Austin and Searle's. In this case, Austin and Searle have rarely different types of illocutionary act. But both of them essentially give recognition that people use language to achieve a variety of objectives.

Moreover, Austin focused on how speakers realize their attention in speaking, while Searle focused on how listeners respond to utterance (Wardhaugh, 1986: 279). According to Leech (1983: 105-106), Searle's classification of illocutionary act is based on the following criteria, they are assertive (representative), directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative

C.3. Perlocutionary Act

This theory deals with the effect of illocutionary act which is focused on the listener. The speaker's utterance "It is cold here" (illocutionary act) can be included as perlocutionary act if the listener gives a respond to the speaker's; such as taking a jacket or closing the door. This aspect as the consequential effect of an utterance is achieved by saying something. The speaker cannot just say "I want persuade you" to show that they can persuade the listener. Another kind of this aspect are convincing, annoying, frightening, amusing, and soon. It is as the effect of language on the listener (Stubbs, 1983: 152). In short, if the listener intends to do something automatically the speaker will say something (locutionary), then the speaker will act accordingly to achieve what she or he wants (illocutionary). Consequently, the listener will do something as a response to the speaker's utterance (perlocutionary).

D. Speech Act Functions

As described in the previous discussion, speech acts are categorized among the utterance of the speaker (locutionary act); the interpretations of that utterance by the listener (illocutionary act); and the effect of that utterance on the listener (perlocutionary act) while the main focus is fairly associated with illocutionary. Since to that reason, Leech (1991: 104) states that there are four functions of speech act as follows:

a. Competitive

This illocutionary act aims to the social goal. For instance: ordering, asking, and demanding. In this function, the negative

politeness is used to reduce the unpleasant way between what the speakers want to the politeness should say.

b. Convivial

This illocutionary act aims incompliant with the social purposes, such as offering, inviting, greeting, thanking, and congratulating. In this context, politeness is utilized positively to make a pleasurable relationship towards society.

c. Collaborative

This illocutionary act aims at ignoring the social purposes, such as asserting, reporting, and instructing. This function does not contain politeness. It is committed to the speaker to show the truth of the expressed proposition. For instance, "I like this book."

d. Conflictive

This illocutionary act aims against the social purposes, for instance threatening, accusing, refusing, and reprimanding. It against politeness that is not at all since it is purposed the anger except in the irony sentence.

E. Felicity Condition

Austin, as quoted by Wardhaugh (1988: 275) generally classifies the felicity condition into three points. *First*, the conventional procedure must exist in order to specify who says what to do and to clarify the situation. *Second*, all participants must properly perform and conclude the procedure. *Third*, the necessary thoughts, feelings, intentions must exist too.

F. Speech

Basically, language and discourse can be classified into two expressions, verbal and written. In this case, the researcher puts on one of verbal expressions that is speech. In

consequence, he has mainly to discuss such theoretical basis of speech after redefining several aspects of speech acts. Speech is defined as way of speaking, act of speaking, and formal speech given to the audience (Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary, 2000: 1292).

RESEARCH METHOD

This research belongs to the interpretivism paradigm (related to explaining or understanding the meaning of a sentence or passage), because it is designed to be consistent with the assumption of qualitative study. In this case, qualitative research is defined to understand a particular social or human problem, situation, events, role, group, or interaction. The research is also based on building a complex, holistic picture, formed with words, reporting detailed views of informants, and conducted in a natural setting. It is an investigative process where the researcher gradually makes sense of a social phenomenon by: (a) contrasting, (b) comparing, (c) replicating, (d) cataloguing, and (d) classifying the objects of the study (Moeloeng: 2000). Then, this study uses descriptive qualitative design because the data of this study are in the form of text (speech transcript) that is not statistically analyzed.

A. Data Sources and Research Data

The primary source of this study is from the transcript of Barack Obama's speech over the conflict in Syria and looming federal government shutdown at the White House on Sept 27th, 2013. The research data are the kinds of speech act (focus on Illocutionary acts) and the function of speech acts used by Barack Obama. In this case, human (the researcher) can

interact with the object of research; they are also able to analyze phenomenological approach (Bogdan and Biklen, 2007: 31). Croker (2009: 11) states that in qualitative research, the researcher is the primary research instrument.

To collect the data, the following steps are done:

1. Watching the video of Barack Obama's repeatedly (the documentation of Barack Obama's based on the title).
2. Reading the transcript of Barack Obama Speech
3. Identifying the utterances
4. Selecting the utterances

Next collecting the data the researcher has to determine some steps that will be used to analyze them. In analyzing the data the researcher employs content analysis. According to Weber, (1990 cited in Hsieh and Shannon, 2005: 1278) he states that qualitative content analysis goes beyond merely counting words to examine language intensely for the purpose of classifying large amounts of text into an efficient number of categories that represent similar meanings. These categories can represent either explicit communication or inferred communication.

In analyzing the data, the writer uses some steps. They are as follows:

1. Describing the setting, participants, and topics of the speech
2. Describing the utterances based on the speech
The writer describes the utterances of each topic to identify the kinds of speech acts, locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts used by Barack Obama.
3. Categorizing the utterances according to the

topics

4. Analyzing and classifying the utterances based on the theory of speech acts
5. Classifying and analyzing the speech act function based on the theory of Leech (1991: 104).
6. Discussing

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The researcher classifies them into nine analysis which are the branches of 82 utterances. The analysis employs the felicity conditions theory to identify whether the utterances of that speech establish to be successfully delivered.

A. Research Findings

This research is carried from President Obama's speech when he was in the White House on September 27th, 2013 at 3:42 PM on the issues of conflict in Syria and looming federal government shutdown in Capitol Hill. Obama delivered the speech for 15 minutes 23 seconds which emphasized on three following issues: *Iran's new relationship*. At the time, Iran was transitioning from Mahmud Ahmadinejad to the newly-elected Hassan Rouhani. President Obama would further discuss the new administration's impact on coming to a resolution over Iran's nuclear program. Other important topics in his speech include the deteriorating situation in Syria concerning their growing civil war and the impending showdown between the president and congress which would eventually lead to the US Government shutting down.

Analysis 1

The first analysis deals with the opening of the speech from President Obama and the

situation of Iran's Nuclear Program with President Rouhani. In this case President Obama wanted to discuss foreign policy before addressing the budget situation with congress, and they are 9 Obama's utterances have been analyzed in this article.

[Utterance 2] “Before I discuss the situation in Congress, let me say a few things about two important opportunities in our foreign policy”.

President Obama perform an imperative sentence. So the form of locution or the form of utterance is **imperative**. *Locutionary act*, the utterance [2] simply means Obama's information. In this case is addressed American Foreign Policy. While *Illocutionary act*, the utterance [2] is belongs to **assertive (representative)**, because the speaker is committed to the truth of proposition. And to tell somebody about something, especially in an official way is known as **informing**. Furthermore, utterance [2] is collaborative category, because it includes politeness (except boasting). Then *Perlocutionary act*, utterance [2] brings an understanding to the hearers that Obama truly cares about foreign policy.

Analysis 2

The next analysis presents President Obama potentially opening a bilateral channel (the ongoing dialogue between Washington and Iran on all of the concerning topics between two governments). Obama would also attempt to build further trust between America and Iran, and one of Obama's utterances have been analyzed.

[Utterance 9a] “Now, we're mindful of all the challenges ahead”.

Obama performs an act which is

performed through declarative sentence. So the form of locution is declarative. *Locutionary act*, utterance [9a] means that Obama strongly trusts that United States of America and Iran are mindful of all the challenges ahead (the first communication between an American and Iranian President since 1979). While the *Illocutionary act*, utterance [9a] belongs to it. It can also be seen as commissive because the speaker committed to a future action, such as Iran ending their nuclear program. And this is seen as guaranteeing because it is a promise to do something or a promise something will happen in the future. Furthermore, utterance [9a] is in the convivial category because it requires listener to take a note of new information. However, what the US potentially sees is the start of a bilateral channel. Not just in these negotiations among the international community and Iran, but an ongoing dialogue between Washington and Iran on all of the issues of concern between the two governments. Which the US had lower level versions of that in the past, but never amounted to anything more. If this can be maintained and built upon, it can be the start of something historic. Then *Perlocutionary act*, utterance [9a] brings an understanding to the listener that Iran and U.S will support each other, which in turn will lead to a deeper relationship between the two.

Analysis 3

The third analysis tells about the speaker resolving (or taking a closer step toward a comprehensive solution) the issues with Iran. President Obama affirms that he seeks to build an alliance with Iran, rather than having a

relationship based on misunderstanding and accusation.

[Utterance 13] “*So the test will be meaningful, transparent and verifiable actions, which can also bring relief from the comprehensive international sanctions that are currently in place*”.

Obama performs an act which is performed through declarative sentence. So the form of locution is declarative. *Locutionary act*, utterance [13] Implies the continuance of the speaker statement that there will be comprehensive international sanctions if Iran continues to develop their nuclear weapons program. While today's announcement is just a first step, it achieves a great deal. For the first time in nearly a decade, we have halted the progress of the Iranian nuclear program, and key parts of the program will be rolled back. Iran has committed to halting certain levels of enrichment and neutralizing part of its stockpiles. Iran cannot use its next-generation centrifuges, which are used for enriching uranium. Iran cannot install or start up new centrifuges, and its production of centrifuges will be limited. Iran will halt work at its plutonium reactor. And new inspections will provide extensive access to Iran's nuclear facilities and allow the international community to verify whether Iran is keeping its commitments. While *Illocutionary act*, utterance [13] belongs to it. It can also be seen as commissive because the speaker committed to a future action, such as Iran ending their nuclear program. And this is seen as guaranteeing because it is a promise to do something or a

promise something will happen in the future. Furthermore, utterance [13] is in the convivial category because it requires listener to take a note of new information. Then *Perlocutionary act*, utterance [13] Brings an understanding to the hearer that the commitment of Iran's Government to the world about nuclear energy development.

Analysis 4

The next analysis investigates the civil war in Syria and the United States intervening on the behalf of their allies.

[Utterance 18] “*Now, as I said before, this comes on the same day that we can accomplish a major diplomatic breakthrough on Syria as the United Nations Security Council will vote on a resolution that would require the Assad regime to put its chemical weapons under international control so they can ultimately be destroyed*”.

Obama performs an act which is performed through declarative sentence. So the form of locution is declarative. *Locutionary act*, utterance [18] means Iran and America can arrive to a diplomatic solution about Iran's chemical weapons. President Obama has decided that the United States should take military action against Syria. This would not be an open-ended intervention. Meaning that the US would commit any troops to the region. Instead, U.S action would be designed to be limited in duration and scope. But President Obama is confident he can hold the Assad regime accountable for their use of chemical weapons, and prevent future usage against the Syrian people. The US has also positioned military assets in the region. While this is an *Illocutionary*

act, utterance [18] belongs to assertive (representative), because the speaker is committed to the truth of proposition. And to give people information about something that the speaker has heard, seen, or done (reporting). Furthermore, utterance [18] is collaborative category, because include politeness (except boasting). Then *Perlocutionary act*, utterance [18] brings an understanding that Assad regime's alleged use of chemical weapons has only complicated progress towards peace in the region.

Analysis 5

The fifth passage analyzes President Obama's information about the situation at Capitol Hill. He wants to keep government open, while pressing Congress to pass the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) along with his budget without congressional meddling.

[Utterance 21] *"Now, America's security and leadership doesn't just depend on our military strength or our reliance or our diplomacy. First and foremost, America's strength depends on a strong economy, where our middle class is growing and everyone who works hard has a chance to get ahead"*.

Obama performs an acts which is performed through declarative sentence. So the form of locution is declarative. *Locutionary act*, utterance [21] means that in order for the US to be independent country with big strong economy. They have to handle the stability of the world. While *Illocutionary act*, utterance [21] belongs to assertive (representative), because the speaker is committed to the truth of proposition. And to tell somebody about

something, especially in an official way is belongs to informing. Furthermore, utterance [21] is collaborative category, because include politeness (except boasting). Then *Perlocutionary act*, utterance [21] brings an understanding to the world that America keeps the commitment.

Analysis 6

The sixth analysis indicates the speaker's affirmation to keep government open. In this analysis, President Obama pins the shutdown on the Republicans. This is his view because the Republicans refused to pass President Obama's bill in its current form.

[Utterance 28] *"In fact, our deficits are falling at the fastest pace that they have in 60 years"*.

Obama performs an acts which is performed through declarative sentence. So the form of locution is declarative. *Locutionary act*, the utterance [28] takes a meaning that Obama informing the hearers the fact of United States of America in 60 years latest. In addition, the prospect of a shutdown contributed to a decline in stock markets around the world. U.S. stocks sank as Wall Street worried the budget fight could lead to something much worse for the economy, a failure to raise the nation's borrowing limit. Whether or not Congress averts a shutdown, Republicans are sure to move the health care fight to a must-do measure to increase the borrowing cap, which is expected to hit its \$16.7 trillion cap in mid-October. While *Illocutionary act*, the utterance [28] it belongs to assertive (representative), because the speaker is committed to the truth of proposition. And to tell somebody about something, especially in an

official way is belongs to informing. Furthermore, utterance [28] is collaborative category, because include politeness (except boasting). Then *Perlocutionary act*, utterance [28] brings an understanding that this economic problems make Capitol Hill (U.S.A) and Obama's administration got panic. (Capitol Hill indicates the possibility of confusion and chaos).

Analysis 7

The analysis deals with the effect of the government shutdown that addressed by Obama. His clear descriptive showed that the U.S in damage situation because of Republicans disagreement to sign the Affordable Health Act gives some impacts to the people of America.

[Utterance 43] *"There are probably young people in your office right now who came to work for you without much pay because they believed that public service was noble. You're preparing to send them home without a paycheck"*.

Barack Obama performs an acts which is performed through declarative sentence. So the form of locution is declarative. *Locutionary act*, the utterance [43] tells about Obama's words to blame on the Republicans, it will bring impact for social and humanitarian welfare. In addition, While there is no law requiring that nonessential employees be compensated if they are ordered off the job, Congress has in the past voted to reimburse their losses once shutdowns ended, Essential employees would not receive pay during the shutdown but would receive retroactive pay afterward, [reports](#) Brad Plumer of The Post's Wonkblog. While *Illocutionary act*, the utterance [43] Is the speaker expresses an attitude about a state of affairs (expressive) and it

belongs to blaming because the speaker say that somebody or something is responsible for something bad. Furthermore, utterance [43] is convivial category because it requires listener to take a note of new information. Then *Perlocutionary act*, utterance [43] brings an understanding to the audiences that the effect of federal government shutdown to the people, in addition Obama give the illustration of the impact.

Analysis 8

This part investigates the main point of Obama's statement about the long term of government shutdown, he even emphasize willing to make a whole bunch of tough decisions, ones that may not be entirely welcome by his own party (Democrats).

[Utterance 71] *"That's not how our constitutional system is designed. We are not going to do it"*.

Barack Obama performs an act which is performed through declarative sentence. So the form of locution is declarative. *Locutionary act*, the utterance [71] indicates as Obama's reason. In case of answering his own question to open the mind of American people. While *Illocutionary act*, utterance [13] belongs to it. It can also be seen as comissive because the speaker committed to a future action, such as Iran ending their nuclear program. And this is seen as promising because it is to tell somebody that something will definitely happen Furthermore, utterance [13] is in the convivial category because it requires listener to take a note of new information. Then *Perlocutionary act* of utterance [71] brings an understanding to

the audiences that U.S.A is the country with Democracy.

Analysis 9

This analysis deals with the ending of Obama's speech. At this time, he gives the messages of concluding from his speech today. Obama also give motivation to rebuild the U.S economy.

[Utterance 82] *“That's what I'm focused on. That's what Congress should be focused on as well”*.

Barack Obama performs an act which is performed through declarative sentence. So the form of locution is declarative. *Locutionary act*, the utterance [82] simply means Obama's conclude and hope in relation to the Congress and American people (hearer). However *Illocutionary act*, the utterance [82] it belongs to assertive (representative), because the speaker is committed to the truth of proposition. And it kinds of concluding because it decide or believe something as a results of what the speaker has heard or seen. Furthermore, utterance [82] is collaborative category, because include politeness (except boasting). In addition, *Perlocutionary act* of utterance [82] brings an understanding that listener get the point of Obama's speech.

B. Research Discussion

The locutionary acts used by Obama are in the form of declarative, interrogative and imperative. The most dominant is declarative, in the second rank is imperative and the last interrogative. In other words, the felicity condition, comprising propositional content, preparatory, sincerity and essential conditions

were fulfilled. It is also found that there are representative, directive, commissive, and expressive illocutionary act in Obama's utterances. The declaration is not found because the context of the utterances is to bring message about his effort for United States in this case to keep the government open (failure to raise it would be more dangerous than Government shutdown) and continuing resolution for Obamacare (Affordable Care Act).

4.2.1 Kinds of speech acts (focus on Illocutionary acts) used by Barack Obama in White House over the Conflict in Syria and looming federal government shutdown?

Referring to the result of the analysis, it is found out that Barack Obama performs locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts on the speech. Concerning with the types of the illocutionary acts based on Searle's theory are *declaration, representatives, directives, expressives, and commissives*.

Assertive seemingly appears from the beginning to the end of the speech, moreover it is the most dominant from the others. Commissive initially appears from the beginning until the middle of the speech. Next, directive and expressive. The declarative is not found because the context of the utterances is not to bring about the change in the world even though the purpose of the speech is in the opposite.

4.2.2 The function of speech act (illocutionary) used by Barack Obama in the White House over the Conflict in Syria and looming federal government shutdown.

Concerning with the second research focus that is the function of speech act, there are

four functions involving competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive.

At the same time, the functions of the utterances mostly belong to collaborative. While the following positions belong to convivial, and then competitive. It showed that President Barack Obama is very careful in using his utterances. Obama prefers to use explanation and report the issues, promising and guaranteeing rather than ordering. President Obama also very careful in being accusatory or confrontational.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Researcher found three kinds of locutionary acts that used by Obama, they are declarative, imperative and interrogative. The declarative form becomes the most dominant form in his utterances. It is used by Barack Obama in almost all functions of illocutionary act types, such as to inform, convince, state, describe, clarify, argue, request something or someone to do something, express his feeling, refuse. In this situation concerning with the topic of Obama's speech uses declarative form to explain or clarify something was happened or event in the past, to describe situations, to explain his strategies or plants, to assert, to convince the hearer, and even to gives argumentations. The *imperative* is due to the fact that it is only used by Obama to make commands, to request or to give instruction. On the other hand, Obama uses interrogative to ask the hearer about something. Concerning with the types of illocutionary act, the researcher does not find only declarative one. As well as conflictive

which is one of the function of speech act (illocutionary act), the declarative is not found because the context of the utterances is not to bring about the change in the world even though the purpose of the speech is in the opposite. In addition, the utterances of Obama are mostly in the form of assertive (representative) which means committed the speaker to the truth of expressed proposition. The following ranks belong to commissive, directive, and then expressive because there is nothing for declarative. At the same time, the functions of the utterances mostly belong to collaborative. While the following positions belong to convivial, and then competitive.

REFERENCE

- Austin, J. 1962. *How to Do Things with Words*. (2nd edn.). Oxford: Clarendon Press
- Bogdan, R. C., & Biklen, S. K. 2007. *Qualitative Research for Education: An Introduction to Theory and Methods* (5th ed). Boston: Pearson.
- Coulthard, M. 1985. *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis*. New edition. London: Longman.
- Croker, A. Robert. 2009. An Introduction to Qualitative Research. In J. Heigham & R.A. Croker. *Qualitative Research in Applied Linguistics: A Practical Introduction*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan
- Hsieh, F. H and Shannon, S. E. 2005. *Three Approaches to Qualitative Content Analysis: Journal Qualitative Health Research: Sage. Vol. 5* (pp.1277-1288)
- Leech, Geoffrey. 1991 [1983]. *Principles of Pragmatics*. Singapore: Longman.
- Moeloeng. 2000. *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung: Remaja Rosda Karya.
- Sadock, Jerrold. 2004. Speech acts. In: Laurence

- R. Horn and Gregory Ward (eds). *The Handbook of Pragmatics*. Oxford: Blackwell, 53-73.
- Stubbs, M. 1983. *Discourse Analysis: The Sociolinguistic Analysis of Natural Language, Models of Thought and Language*. San Francisco: Freeman
- Schiffrin, Deborah. 1994. *Approaches to Discourse*, Oxford: Blackwell Publisher.
- Wardhaugh, Ronald. 1988. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Weber, R.P. 1990. *Basic Content Analysis*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.
- Yule, George. 1994. *An Introduction: The Study of Language*. London: Cambridge University Press.
- www.thenewyorktimes.com accessed on January 20, 2014
- http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/transcript-president-obamas-sept-27-statement-on-looming-government-shutdown-iran/2013/09/27ab-11e3-b75d-5b7f66349852_story.html
Accessed on December 2, 2013
- www.CNN.com accessed on January 20, 2014
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama
accessed on April, 1th 201