



## A Pragmatics Study of Indirect Speech Acts in President Joko Widodo's State Address

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### Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to obtain an overall understanding of indirect speech acts found in some State Address by the President of Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo. This research uses qualitative descriptive method to get deepening understanding about indirect speech acts found in some State Address of the President Joko Widodo. Data got from the speech of President Jokowi in some of his state activities and those utterances are the ones which express indirect speech acts. Based on data analysis, it is found that President wants to convey through his indirectness in some of his State Address. Moreover, the State Address in its context is conveyed in a formal situation, so it would appear less ethical if he uses indirect speech acts more than the direct ones.

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## INTRODUCTION

Speech acts are basically acts of communication. They are used to express a certain attitude, and the type of speech act which is performed corresponds to the type of attitude being expressed. For example, we use a statement to express our belief; a request to express a desire; or an apology to express regret. As an act of communication, a speech act is said to be succeed if the hearer identifies, in accordance with the speaker's intention, the attitude being expressed. There are two forms of speech acts that are widely known: direct and indirect speech acts. And this paper will limit the analysis only about the indirect one.

In general, indirect speech acts are the actions of the speaker conveyed implicitly to his hearer. It is understood that one does not always say the same as what he means; a speaker can mean very different, even contrary to what he

says. The speaker communicates to the hearer more than he actually says by way of relying on their mutual shared background information, also with the general powers of rationality and inference on the part of the hearer.

Speech is a form of speech to disseminate ideas and even instill influence by giving systematic direction of thought, Agustin (2008: 1). Based on the background above, this research tries to analyze the used of indirect speech by Joko Widodo, also known as Jokowi, is the seventh and current President of the Republic of Indonesia, in office since 2014. Previously, he was Mayor of Surakarta and Governor of Jakarta. He is actually the first Indonesian president without high-ranking political or military background. The use of language in the president's speech supports the creation of good speech. The use of the language reflects the power in the text of the speech in 2015 which mostly uses declarative, imperative, and interrogative sentences, Malikha (2015). Jokowi is well-known with his *blusukan* where he regularly visits population centers, especially slums. During the visits, he usually tries to listen and witness firsthand about issues addressed by local residents such as the price of food, housing difficulties, flooding, transportation, etc.

Jokowi is also famous for his polite manner of speech. In every activity, formal and informal, he talks or discusses with everyone using a polite speech. He also often slips a joke in his speech which makes the atmosphere more relaxed. This article will discuss about the indirect speech acts found in several State Address of the President, and also will describe the meaning of what he wants to convey to the hearers.

Previous studies which are relevant to the topic can be seen from this paragraph. First, research by Dewi from Airlangga University (2013). In her research, Dewi analyzes the way Japanese people speak based on the movie titled Death Note. The result of the study shows that Japanese people use indirect speech in order to disguise their words. In this research, there are some declarative sentences used as interrogative and imperative and some interrogative sentences used as declarative and imperative. The second is a study by Supriyati and Tarmini (2014) The research is about speech act of command on dialog in Laskar Pelangi movie and its implications on Indonesian learning at Junior High School. The findings of the research show that there are two types of speech act of command that is, direct and indirect. Third is study by Fitriah and Fitriani from Syiah Kuala University in

2017. The study is meant to describe the meaning of locution speech act, the intention of illocution and perlocution speech acts, types of utterance context, and the way used to deliver locution, illocution, and perlocution found in novel *Marwah di Ujung Bara* written by R.H. Fitriadi. Types of utterance contexts found in the novel are physical, linguistics, epistemic, and social contexts. On the other hand, the ways used to deliver speech act are direct literal, indirect literal, indirect non-literal.

Based on previous study, this research tries to fill the gap of study about indirect speech acts by using data from the utterance of Presiden Jokowi in ceremony. This study will specifically examine the indirect speech used by President Jokowi in his official state speech. The expected goal with the existence of this research is to see the form and purpose that President Jokowi wants to convey by using indirect speech. This study uses a pragmatic approach that only focuses on the indirect speech of Jokowi's speech by analyzing the intent of the indirect utterances that are said in the speech.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **1. Pragmatics**

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that discusses what belongs to the structure of language as a means of communication between speakers and listeners, and as a reference for language signs on the "extralingual" things discussed. In pragmatics, there are 5 aspects of speech situations, namely speaker-listening, speech context, utterance, illocutionary, and utterance. A speech is not always a direct pretense of the elements of meaning of its elements. It is clear that besides the element of time and place that is absolutely demanded by an utterance, there are other aspects that need to be considered so that we can understand a speech situation or speech act, Wijana dan Rohmadi (2009: 14-16). So, Learning pragmatics is one of the ways to create effective communication because by knowing the meaning by seeing the context, the hearer can understand what the speaker's intention, Taping et al. (2017:226).

The following is an explanation of the aspects of speech or speech acts:

#### a) Speakers and Opponents

The concept of speakers and speech opponents also includes the writer and reader if the speech is related to the written media. The aspects related to

speakers and opponents of speech are age, socio-economic background, gender, level of familiarity, etc. So it is very important to know who is the speaker and who is the opposite of speech in the conversation.

b) Context of speech

The context of linguistic research speech is the context in all relevant physical aspects or social settings of the speech in question. Context that is physical, commonly called context (context), while the context of social settings is called social context. In the pragmatic context, it is essentially all knowledge background (background knowledge) that is understood together by speakers and opponents of speech.

c) Speech Objectives

The forms of speech expressed by speakers are motivated by intent and purpose. In this connection various forms of speech can be used to express the same purpose.

d) Speeches as Forms of Action or Activity

If grammar handles linguistic elements as abstract entities, such as sentences in syntactic studies, propositions in semantic studies, etc., pragmatics relate to verbal acts that occur in certain situations. In this connection pragmatics handle language in a more concrete level than grammar. Speeches as entities that are concrete are clearly speakers and opponents of speech, as well as the time and place of the statement.

e) Speeches as Verbal Action Products

The speech used in the framework of pragmatics, as stated in the fourth criterion is a form of speech acts. Therefore, the resulting speech is a form of verbal action. As an example sentence *Is your hair too long?* Can be interpreted as a question or order. In this connection it can be stressed that there is a fundamental difference between sentences (sentence) and utterance. Sentence is a grammatical entity as a result of language identified through its use in certain situations.

Levinson (1983:5) states that pragmatics is the study of language use; the study of relation between language and context which is basic to an account of language understanding, and involves the making of inferences connecting what is said to what is mutually assumed. Pragmatics becomes the medium to solve any problem between the speaker and the hearer, especially related to the

perspectives. Yule (1996:3) gives wider definition about pragmatics; according to Yule, pragmatics is the study of the speaker meaning, the study of the contextual meaning, and the study of how more gets communicated than said.

## **2. Speech Acts**

Speech acts as a way of communicating greatly affects our individual lives. Speech is an expression of one's personal ideas, and emphasizes two-way, giving and receiving relationships. One of the important things in the pragmatic conversation interpretation is the concept that connects the meaning of conversation and context is the context of speech acts, a concept developed by Austin (1962) and Searle (1969). The concept departs from the fact that when someone speaks the sentences in a dialogue that is carried out, it is generally accompanied by different performance acts.

According to Searle (1969), to understand language, one must understand the speaker's intention. Since language is intentional behavior, it should be treated like a form of action. Thus, Searle refers to statements as speech acts. The speech act is based unit of language used to express meaning, an utterance that expresses an intention. Often many utterances are equivalent to actions, like when someone says: "I now pronounce you as husband and wife", the utterance creates a new social or psychological reality. Aitchison (2003:106) defines speech acts as a number of utterance behaviors somewhat similar to actions. He also says that when someone utters a sequence of words, the speaker is often trying to achieve some effects by using those words; an effect which might be accomplished by an alternative action.

Based on Austin (1962:107), in speech act theory, the utterances are split into three aspects: 1) locutionary act (performing an act of saying something); 2) illocutionary act (performing an act in saying something); and 3) perlocutionary act (performing an act by saying something). Yule (1996:53-54) then lists five types of general functions performed by speech acts: 1) declarations (speech acts that change the world by the utterances and words); 2) representatives (speech acts that state what the speaker believes to be the state or not); 3) expressives (speech acts that state what the speaker feels); 4) directives (speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something; and 5) commissives (speech acts that speakers use to commit themselves to some future action).

Clark & Carlson (1982:337) explain that speech acts actually cannot be fully

understood without considering the hearers as well as the speakers. Speech acts are directed at real people, whose abilities to recognize put limits on what speakers can do with their utterances. There are two forms of speech acts that are widely known: direct and indirect speech acts. Leech (1983:108) mentioned that indirectness is a widely used conversational strategy. People tend to use indirect speech acts mainly in connection with politeness since they diminish the unpleasant message contained in requests and orders. But, politeness is not the only motivation for indirectness. According to Thomas (1995:143), people also use indirectness when they want to make their speech more interesting, when they want to reach goals different from their partners' or when they want to increase the force of the message communicated. Someone who uses indirect speech act actually wants to communicate different meaning from the apparent surface meaning; it means that the form and function are not directly related (statements, questions, command/requests).

### **3. Indirect Speech Acts**

According to Yule (1996:55), one of the most common types of indirect speech acts in English is the form of an interrogative. The speaker is not only expected the answer when saying the utterance, but also an action from the hearer, for example: 'could you pass the salt?' Furthermore, Black (2006:19) argued that when someone chooses one speech act rather than the others, and leaves the hearer to find out the meaning of what he said, then that is when we are dealing with indirect speech acts.

When we are talking about speech acts, especially the indirect ones, we cannot ignore the most important thing which affects the use of everyday language. And that thing is called context. According to Brown & Yule (1996:35), the context began to be considered important for linguists since the beginning of 1970s. They begin to realize the role of context in interpreting sentences. The context of an utterance really determines its meaning intended by the speaker. Both speaker and hearer need to consider the context which is included in speech acts, especially the indirect ones. In order to understand the meaning of speaker's utterances, he needs to know to whom, where, and in what situation he conveys the message or intention.

Conversation is basically an oral spoken activity between two or more participants that generally takes place in a relaxed atmosphere. Conversation is a

tool that allows the realization of cooperation and politeness in language activities. Therefore, an understanding of the implicature is necessary so that what the speaker says can be understood by the hearer. According to Yule (1996:35), implicatures are used to explain what the speaker might define, suggest, or mean which is different from what is actually said. The implicature is the delivery of a meaning that is different from the meaning of the utterances literally. So, it can be said that implicature has a contribution to the interpretation of indirect speech acts. So, actually what is the connection between indirect speech acts, context, and implicature? In the implicature, the relationship between the actual utterance and the unspoken intention is not that absolute. It means that there is a context situation which accommodates the emergence of that utterance. The implicature is used to consider what the speaker can suggest or mean as something different from what appears to be literal. Thus, the form of implicature is poured into the action performed by the speaker to the hearer which we refer it as indirect speech act.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach because in this study produces descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from people or behavior that can be observed, Bogdan and Taylor in (Moleong, 2011: 4). This research focuses on the speech of President Jokowi in the State Speech. The data used in this study is data in the form of presidential speech containing indirect speech acts.

Sources of data in this study are divided into two, namely primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data source in this study was President Jokowi's speech in a state speech. The secondary data sources in this study are books, internet, or reference material that can provide information related to this research.

The work method applied in the study, first of all, recording the speech of President Jokowi in a state speech. Furthermore, classifying and determining the forms of indirect speech used by President Jokowi during the speech. Furthermore, making an analysis of the indirect speech used by President Jokowi. Finally, interpretation of the purpose of using indirect speech acts in the speech.

## DISCUSSION

In this part, the writer will explain some of utterances said by President Joko Widodo in some of his state activities, and those utterances are the ones which express indirect speech acts. The writer will also try to define the hidden messages President wants to convey through his indirectness in some of his State Address.

### Data 001

No.	Utterance	Translation
1.	"Aspek strategis kedua adalah perombakan manajemen anggaran pembangunan. Berulang kali telah saya sampaikan bahwa kita harus meninggalkan paradigma lama, yaitu paradigma <b>anggaran dibagi rata.</b> "	"The second strategic aspect is the reshuffle of budget management in development. I have repeatedly pointed out that we must leave the old paradigm which is <b>dividing budget equally.</b> "

From data 001, it can be seen that in the first utterance mentioned above is excerpted from State Address of the President for the 71<sup>st</sup> Proclamation of Indonesian Independence on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Joko Widodo delivered the speech in the House of People Representative and Assembly at Provincial. Generally, his speech is about National Development which he has conveyed continuously on various occasions. On the first utterance above, we can see that Jokowi aimed to reshuffle the budgeting management in order to fasten the development of Indonesia. He mentioned that the officials should leave the old perspective about this matter. By using indirect speech, the statement as in "**dividing budget equally**" is actually referred to the improper use of development budget funds. He seemed to be sarcastic toward the officials who were misusing the funds for personal gain. So that is why he intended to reshuffle the budget management, in giving his utterance, Joko Widodo used indirect speech in order to avoid that kind of thing happened again in the future.

The use of indirect speech can be seen in data below:

### Data 002

No.	Utterance	Translation
2.	"Begitu pula tradisi lama penggunaan <b>kalimat-kalimat bersayap</b> pada nomenklatur penyusunan anggaran harus ditinggalkan karena berujung pada tidak efisiennya penggunaan dana pembangunan."	"Similarly, the old tradition of using <b>winged sentences</b> on budget nomenclature should be abandoned since it leads to inefficient use of development funds."



The second utterance mentioned above is still excerpted from Jokowi's State Address on August 16<sup>th</sup>, last year. He was still talking about the utilization of budget in National Development just like the first utterance. In this matter, he asked the people especially officials to leave the tradition of placing winged sentences in budget nomenclatures. In understanding the meaning of implicature in indirect speech acts is not easy, people should understand the context and situation of the utterance. The use of indirect speech in his utterance "**winged sentences**" is referred to the additional terms applied by the responsible parties in budget management with the purpose of personal gain. Thus that is allowing the inefficient use of budgeting. Presiden Jokowi uses indirect speech in order to make his speech more polite because it is spoken in formal situation.

The use of indirect speech can be seen in data below:

**Data 003**

No.	Utterance	Translation
3.	"Harus diingat bahwa kodrat bangsa Indonesia adalah kodrat keberagaman. Takdir Tuhan untuk kita adalah <b>keberagaman</b> . Dari Sabang sampai Merauke adalah keberagaman."	"It must be remembered that the nature of Indonesia is diversity. God's destiny for us is <b>diversity</b> . From Sabang to Merauke, we are diverse."

The third utterance mentioned above is excerpted from Jokowi's speech during Pancasila Day, last June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. That was the first time the government held a flag ceremony to celebrate the Pancasila Day. Overall, the President mentioned about diversity that Indonesia has Pancasila Day has become a moment to remind Indonesian people to always respect each other despite of our different tribes, races, or even religions. As seen from the utterance above, it is clearly seen that Jokowi wants us to remember that our nature as Indonesian is the **diversity**; as noted in our official national motto, "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika", which means Unity in Diversity. Through that utterance, the President wants to convey a message that Indonesian people should respect and appreciate each other, and that we shouldn't mock others who have different tribes, races, or religions.

The use of indirect speech can be seen in data below:

**Data 004**

No.	Utterance	Translation
4.	"Selain itu, diperlukan keteguhan	"In addition, it takes persistence

	<p><i>dalam menjunjung ideologi bangsa, konstitusi Negara, dan nilai-nilai keutamaan bangsa. Tanpa itu, kebesaran kita sebagai bangsa akan punah, akan <b>digulung oleh arus sejarah.</b></i></p>	<p>in upholding the nation's ideology, the national constitution, and the values of nation's virtues. Without them, our greatness as a nation will be extinct, and will be <b>rolled by the history.</b></p>
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The fourth utterance mentioned above is excerpted from Jokowi's State Address during annual assembly with The People's Consultative Assembly on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. His speech generally talks about the challenge Indonesia facing in the era of global competition. To win the competition, to become a winning nation, Indonesia has to venture out of its comfort zone. Indonesians should be creative, optimistic, and eager to make breakthroughs. It is done to accelerate national development and to improve Indonesia competitiveness as a nation. The meaning of "our greatness as a nation will be extinct" is that our nation will be lost if people do not always uphold our dignity in the eyes of the international world. To be a nation which is appreciated by other countries, we must always remember Indonesia's ideology and constitution. And then, the meaning of "**rolled by the history**" is that if we forget our own ideology, constitution, and values as a nation, then Indonesia itself would be gone.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analyzing data, it can be concluded that Presiden Joko Widodo uses indirect speech in his speech because he wants to make his speech more polite in formal situation. As many people know, President Joko Widodo is actually an outspoken person whenever he talks about national issues. Basically, he always expresses his perspectives straightly and firmly. Based on the analysis on the previous part, it appears that Jokowi does not use much indirect speech acts during his State Address delivery. There are various reasons of why he does not use indirectness in his speech; and one of it is because of the State Address is delivered in such formal situation, so there may be limitation on what to say or express in front of the public. So, when he wants to deliver some messages during his State Address but there he is limited to do so, Jokowi use indirect speech acts to show politeness, to reduce potential conflicts which may occur if he explicitly discloses his utterances. President Jokowi might purposely use indirect strategies in his speech

because he wants to increase the force of the message in his speech.

For the next researcher, the study of indirect speech acts can be analyzed by using pragmatics field by using different sources. This study only analyzes the meaning of indirect speech acts and also the function of using that in formal situation especially in ceremony. While, this research can be broadly analyzed by using the diction of using indirect speech acts and also the effect of indirect speech acts to hearer.

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