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# ASSERTIVE SPEECH ACTS IN BAHASA INDONESIA DEBATE COMPETITION 2019

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## ABSTRACT

The aim of the research is to get deep understanding about assertive speech act, its form and function in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019. The data of the research is assertive speech act which is classified based on the form of assertive speech that includes declarative, interrogative, and imperative and the function of assertive speech namely stating, demonstrating, suggesting, informing, and asserting. Meanwhile, the source data of the research is a video of Bahasa Indonesia debate competition in 2019 with the topic “Dewan Ini Percaya Bahwa Negara Berkembang Seharusnya Menerapkan *Filial Responsibility Law*.” The data then processed through content analysis method that applies qualitative approach. Analysis on findings showed that declarative as a form of assertive speech act has highest intensity of 77.85%, interrogative as much as 12.14% and imperative as much as 10%. Meanwhile, stating as assertive speech act has highest intensity of 26.42%, showing as much as 22.14%, informing as much as 17.14% , suggesting as much as 10.71%, and asserting as much as 10.71%,. The result of the research is recommended as

insight to the public, as well as a consideration of Bahasa Indonesia teaching materials for higher education and secondary schools.

**Keywords:** speech acts, Bahasa Indonesia debate competition, content analysis.

## **Introduction**

In the midst of the current condition of Indonesia, there are so many aspirations of the community that demand significant changes in various aspects of life. And it certainly requires the right space so that aspirations can be conveyed. Likewise in the sphere of education. Students should be directed to express themselves positively, especially in terms of expressing opinions and ideas because students have various kinds of positive potential and bright ideas that can be used as alternative suggestions, especially regarding the problems experienced by Indonesia at this time.

One of the activities that can be a medium for students to express their ideas and opinions is debate activity. Quinn (2005) stated that debate is an activity that involves two arguments from two opponents or more, in discussing and deciding issues and differences. Catterall (2002) stated that by arguing that the academic ability of participants as learners can improve, especially in terms of reading and understanding skills. Students will read a lot and find out information to be used as argument material. In addition, Hall (2011) stated that arguing made the participants more mature in mentality and character. The participants argue and argue politely and do not use harsh words that offend the debate opponent. For that, they hone their emotions and mentality so that they can be more controlled in expressing opinions or arguments.

Bahasa Indonesia debate competition is a debate competition for senior high school students who have talent and interest to select the best student in debate. The student will be

facilitated to expand his/her skill in argumentation, problem solving, and opinion delivery systematically and interestingly. The whole activities are expected to develop the capacity of Indonesian young generation in participating in democracy and global affairs actively. The activity held on 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 in Banjarmasin was aimed at training the students to think creatively and analytically, able to communicate actively and deliver arguments in public with proper Indonesian language.

Purwo (1990) stated that someone in saying a sentence does not merely say something with the pronunciation of the sentence, because in the pronunciation of a sentence someone also takes action. Likewise the speech delivered in the 2019 Indonesian Language Debate Competition (LDBI). Through this paper, the researcher tries to understand more deeply the assertive utterances spoken at the 2019 Indonesian Language Debate Competition (LDBI). The approach used is to review various statements in the debate competition. it is a speech act approach. Because this paper examines oral discourse from <sup>9</sup> a speech act perspective, the theory needed in this analysis is of course the speech act theory.

Austin (1970) classifies speech acts into three types of actions, namely, the act of informing or stating something called a locutive act, the act of wanting the speech partner to do something is called an illocutionary act, and the act of influencing the speech partner or requiring a reaction or effect or certain results of speech partners which are called perlocution acts. In illocutionary acts, <sup>2</sup> there are assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative <sup>11</sup> speech acts. Assertive speech acts are speech acts that involve the speaker on the truth of the proposition being expressed. Unlike other illocutionary speech acts, assertive or representative speech acts are forms of speech that function to state, inform, suggest, show, and affirm.

Assertive speech acts can be found in events of everyday life, including in debate activities such as the 2019 Indonesian language debate competition. The communication built in the 2019 Indonesian language debate competition is expressed through conversations between participants. The conversation is in the form of discussion, giving arguments to each other and refuting the arguments of the debate opponents, the conversation can be analyzed with a pragmatic approach. Besides that, one of the most important things in pragmatic interpretation of speech, the concept that connects the meaning of conversation with context is the concept of a speech act.

The 2019 bahasa Indonesia debate competition has assertive speech acts that show a relationship between the speaker and the interlocutor in various sentence forms. This appears as in the following speech.

“Di sini saya, Aisya Isnani selaku Tim Pemerintah pembicara pertama menyatakan bahwa saya sangat setuju terhadap mosi yang diberikan yaitu dewan ini percaya bahwa negara berkembang seharusnya menerapkan *Filial Responsibility Law*.”

The speech is a form of assertive speech acts in the form of news sentences with the function to inform and state. The assertiveness that emerged at that time was an information and statement conveyed by the first speaker of the government team. When viewed from the aspect of the speech sentence form is a news sentence. It can be seen that the speech is in the form of news sentences used by the first speaker of the government team to inform information to other debate participants. Meanwhile, the verb "to state" which is used by the speaker in the speech makes it clear that the news sentence serves to state something, namely the approval of the first speaker from the government team to the motion given in the debate.

The reason the researchers chose the bahasa Indonesia debate competition in 2019, was because of the many assertive speech acts that included the forms and functions found in the Indonesian language debate competition so that it was interesting to research and describe clearly. And also, debate activity can be a forum that trains students to hone their speaking skills. And it can improve the academic abilities of students through reading and understanding activities, because students will read a lot and find out information to be used as argument material in debate activities. Debating activities will also make students more mature in terms of mentality and character, because in arguing and listening to opinions, they learn how to control their emotions and mentality.

### **Materials and Methods**

<sup>2</sup> Speech act is an individual symptom, psychological in nature and its continuity is determined by the speaker's language ability in dealing with certain situations. In speech acts, it is more seen in the meaning or meaning of actions in speech (Chaer and Agustina, 2004). The speech act is defined as the ability to interpret or the meaning of action in a narrative situation. This opinion is supported by Cunningsworth's opinion in Tarigan (Tarigan: 1990), which states that speech act theory is a theory that focuses on how to use language in communicating the intentions and goals of the speaker and also with the intent of using the language he implements. Both of these opinions can be concluded that speech tindak is a communication process for speakers and interlocutors in interpreting the goals and intentions of the interlocutor in a situation.

Yule (2006) stated that representative or assertive is a type of speech act that states what the case speaker believes or not. Examples of speech included in this type of speech act are statements of facts, affirmations, conclusions, and descriptions. In accordance with Yule and

Kreidler, Cruse (2011) asserts that assertive speech acts bind <sup>17</sup> the speaker to the truth of the statement expressed. Cruse classifies utterances in this category as statements, suggestions, bragging, complaints, claims, reports, and warnings. All utterances included in this assertive speech act, for Yule, also reveal the speaker's proposition stating his belief in the truth.

<sup>3</sup> This research is a descriptive qualitative research using content analysis method. The research subject studied was a video debate competition with the data object in the form of speech indicating the form of directive speech acts. The research object is then analyzed using content analysis with <sup>3</sup> a qualitative approach. The data in this study are in the form of assertive speech acts which are grouped based on the form of assertive speech, namely the form of news, questions, and orders as well as the functions of assertive speech, namely the function of stating, showing, suggesting, informing, and asserting. Meanwhile, the data source for this research is a video Indonesian debate competition 2019 with the motion, “Dewan Ini Percaya Bahwa Negara Berkembang Seharusnya Menerapkan *Filial Responsibility Law*”.

<sup>3</sup> The data collection techniques and procedures used in this study are (1) documentation, namely evidence of the 2019 bahasa Indonesia debate competition, (2) recordings, namely the 2019 bahasa Indonesia debate competition video downloaded from YouTube so that the data can be observed repeatedly to reinforce and analyze the data that has been collected, (3) transcripts, transcribe the data against the research data sources that have been downloaded to facilitate data collection and analysis. Data collection techniques and procedures consisting of documentation, recordings, and transcripts were used in the study because the research instrument was the researcher himself. The data collection procedure uses an inductive procedure, which means that the data obtained is analyzed and then grouped into predefined categories.

This study uses data analysis procedures using the theory of Miles and Hubberman (1994) which includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The analysis procedure is carried out on the research sub-focus in accordance with the theory stated in the previous theory review section. The details of the data analysis procedure used in this study are as follows

At this stage of the data analysis procedure, the researcher selects, simplifies, categorizes, and transforms the data that has been transcribed into speech. Furthermore, to assist the categorization process in selecting, simplifying, and analyzing, an analysis table is used based on the criteria previously formulated in the literature review. The following table of analysis is meant.

**Table 1.** Format of Classification of Assertive Speech

No	Tuturan Asertif	Bentuk			Fungsi
		KB	KT	KP	

Information:

KB : Declarative sentences

KT : Interogative sentences

KP : Imperative sentences

Moleong (2004) argues that checking the validity of data in qualitative research is carried out by the following four criteria: which aims to increase the degree of confidence in the research results, the following things can be done: extension of participation, persistence / regularity of observations, triangulation, peer checking through discussion, case analysis negative, member checking, detailed descriptions, and auditing.

In order to obtain correct findings and interpretations regarding the application of assertive speech acts in the Indonesian language debate competition in 2019, theoretical triangulation was carried out as suggested by Glasser and Strauss and logical triangulation by Corbin. Theoretical triangulation is done by confirming the results of the analysis with several theories as described in before chapter. The aim is to gain credibility of the research findings. Logical triangulation is done by confirming the results of data analysis to peers. The confirmation results can be used to increase the accuracy and reliability of the data analysis results from the conclusions of this study. Thus, the bias in data analysis that allows researchers to do so can be reduced.

## **Result and Discussion**

This discussion is presented in the following order, (1) Assertive speech acts in the 2019 Indonesian language debate competition based on its form, (2) Assertive speech acts in the 2019 Indonesian language debate competition based on its function.

### **a. Assertive speech acts in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019 based on their form**

Speech acts based on sentence suitability make each sentence determine the form of a speech act. There are various kinds of speech acts in the form of declarative sentences, interrogative sentences, and imperative sentences. The following is an explanation of the various forms of speech acts found in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019.

#### **Declarative sentence**

Declarative sentence is a sentence whose function is to tell something to others so that the expected response is only attention as reflected in the eye that shows attention (Ramlan, 2005).

The following is an explanation of the findings of declarative sentences found in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019.

a) *“Di Indonesia belum ditetapkan wacana ini.”*

The above speech is a declarative sentence. This statement was made by Aisya Isnani to inform other debate participants that the Filial Responsibility Law has not been established / implemented in Indonesia. Thus it is clear that the speech is a declarative sentence.

b) *“Nah, negara berkembang adalah negara yang belum maju atau masih dalam tahap atau proses menuju negara yang maju.”*

On the sentence "... negara berkembang adalah negara yang belum maju atau masih dalam tahap atau proses menuju negara yang maju." is the information provided by the first speaker from the government team on the definition of developing countries. The information was conveyed for the participants from the opposition team to know. Thus it is clear that the utterance is a declarative sentence.

### **Interrogative sentences**

Kridalaksana (1984) defines interrogative sentences as a form of verbs or sentences used to express questions. On the other hand, it is stated that what is meant by an interrogative sentence is a sentence that contains the meaning of a question. The following is an example of an interrogative sentence in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019.

a) *“Apakah di sini dua juta lima ratus rupiah itu sanggup untuk membiayai tiga orang dalam satu bulan?”*

The above speech is an interrogative sentence which is marked by the question word "what". This question sentence was delivered by the first speaker of the opposition team after showing an example related to the UMR in South Kalimantan which only amounted to two million five hundred thousand rupiah. The question sentence was spoken with the intention of questioning

the government team as the party who agreed with the implementation of the Filial Responsibility Law in a developing country like Indonesia, whether the monthly income of two million and five hundred thousand rupiah would be sufficient if they had to pay for the life of husband and wife and their parents. With this question verb, it is clear that the sentence is an interrogative sentence.

### **Imperative sentences**

Kridalaksana (2008) stated that imperative is a form of sentence or verb to express an order or obligation or prohibition to carry out an action. Furthermore, Keraf (in Rahardi, 2005) defines a command sentence as a sentence that contains an order or request for someone else to do something, as the person who ordered it wanted. The following is an example of a command sentence in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019.

- a) *“Sebelum itu, kita harus menelaah apa maksud mosi kita pada hari ini, yaitu dewan ini percaya bahwa negara berkembang seharusnya menerapkan kebijakan tersebut.”*

The above speech is a command sentence form with a function to show. The first speaker from the opposition team asked the debate participants to review the meaning of the motion under debate. The order was intended because the opposition team considered that based on the speech or arguments presented by the government team, it was stated that the government team did not clearly understand the intent of the debate motion.

- b) *“Lagi-lagi pembicara kedua disini mengabaikan 7 juta pengangguran di Indonesia yang belum dapat pekerjaan, 7 juta tersebut didominasi oleh usia non produktif. Nah disini saya silahkan.”*

The speech "...saya silahkan" is an imperative sentence form granting permission. In the speech, the second speaker from the opposition team invited the government team to deliver an interruption before the second speaker from the opposition team continued his team's argument. With the word "please" in the speech, it is clear that the speech is an imperative sentence.

#### **b. Assertive speech acts in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019 based on their function**

##### **Stating**

The function of stating verbs is a speech or expression to provide information or inform someone. The following is an example of the function of stating in the 2019 Indonesian debate competition.

- a) *"Di sini saya, Aisya Isnani selaku Tim Pemerintah pembicara pertama menyatakan bahwa saya sangat setuju terhadap mosi yang diberikan yaitu dewan ini percaya bahwa negara berkembang seharusnya menerapkan Filial Responsibility Law."*

The above speech was conveyed by Aisya Isnani as the first speaker from the government team at the beginning of his speech to state the government's approval of the motion given in the debate competition. With the verb "to state" it is very clear that the sentence is assertive utterance with the function of stating.

##### **Informing**

Informing function is to provide information, notification, or news to others. The following is an example of the function of informing in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019.

- a) *“Filial Responsibility Law adalah aturan di Amerika Serikat yang menyatakan bahwa anak yang sudah dewasa harus bertanggungjawab terhadap semua kebutuhan orang tua mereka yang sudah tua.”*

The sentence above is an assertive speech with an informing function. Through this speech, one speaker from the government team opened his argument by telling the other debate participants what Filial Responsibility Law is. Thus, it is clear that the sentence is an assertive speech with a function to inform.

### **Showing**

The function of showing is to provide clues about something to others. The following is an example of the function to show in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019.

- a) *“Tanggung jawab tersebut meliputi, bahan sandang, pangan dan juga papan dan juga yang lain – lainnya.”*

This sentence was spoken by the speaker 1 of the government team to show some examples of the forms of children's responsibility towards their parents. Aisyah Isnani shows that the form of children's responsibility towards their parents includes clothing, food and shelter as well as others. Based on this speech, it is clear that the news sentence serves to show.

### **Suggesting**

The function of suggesting speech is a speech or expression that provides suggestions or opinions for someone to do what is suggested. The following is an example of the function of stating in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019.

- a) *“Seharusnya di sini pemerintah lebih menekankan untuk memecahkan masalah-  
masalah seperti meningkatkan lapangan pekerjaan, meningkatkan sumber daya*

*manusia yang ada di Indonesia, bukan malah kita memperhatikan, wah kita harus membiayai orang tua kita karna itu adalah kewajiban dari seorang anak. Tidak begitu. Itu nantinya akan membuat Indonesia akan semakin terpuruk dikarenakan hal tersebut.”*

This sentence is a speech delivered by speaker I from the opposition team. These remarks were suggestions given by Nasya's speakers regarding urgent matters that should be done by the government. With the word “*seharusnya*” in the speech, it is clear that the sentence is an assertive speech with the function of suggesting.

### **Asserting**

The function of asserting utterances is utterances or expressions that are conveyed firmly. The following is an example of the function of stating in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019.

- a) *Kemudian saya **tekanan** bahwa menurut UU No.87 Tahun 2017 dan UU No.20 Tahun 2002 yang menyatakan bahwa pendidikan karakter itu lebih utama daripada pendidikan ilmu pengetahuan. Dimana pendidikan karakter juga tidak mengesampingkan ilmu pengetahuan. Kembali saya tekanan, tidak mengesampingkan ilmu pengetahuan.*

This sentence was spoken by the first speaker of the opposition team with the intention of emphasizing that character education is more important than scientific education. The speech “*saya tekanan...*” in the sentence makes it clear that the speech was intended to confirm the arguments of the opposition team.

## **Conclusion**

After conducting the analysis, several types of assertive speech acts were found based on the forms contained in bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019, namely declarative sentences, interrogative sentences, and imperative sentences. The most dominant form of sentence that appears is declarative sentences. This type of speech act is the most prominent and widely used in the bahasa Indonesia debate competition 2019, such as stating, informing, showing, suggesting, and asserting. The percentage of occurrences of declarative as a form of assertive speech act has highest intensity of 77.85%, imperative sentences as much as 12.14%, and interrogative as much as 10%. Then it can be seen that based on the function of the sentence spoken in the debate competition, Stating as assertive speech act has highest intensity of 26.42%, namely what was said by the speaker with the intention of saying something to the speech partner, then followed by Showing as much as 22.14%, namely the speech expressed by the speaker the purpose of showing something to the speech partner, Informing 17.14%, namely utterances or expressions expressed with the intention of informing or conveying information to the interlocutor, Suggesting 10.71%, namely utterances expressed to provide suggestions so that the speech partners do what is expressed, and Asserting as much as 10.71%, namely utterances or expressions conveyed firmly by speakers.

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<sup>8</sup> The author realizes that the preparation of this thesis is far from perfect. Therefore, constructive suggestions and criticism are expected. In conclusion, the authors hope that this thesis can be useful and provide new insights, especially for the academic community of the Graduate School of Language Education and society in general.

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