

Assertive Speech Act of President Moon Jae-In's Speeches as a Representation of South Korea Diplomacy Towards North Korea

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ABSTRACT

This research is a descriptive qualitative research which has a purpose to uncover the diplomatic representation of South Korea towards North Korea by using the study of assertive speech-act. The data of this research are speech videos of president Moon Jae-In taken from YouTube with its transcription and were carefully examined using speech-act classification that was suggested by Searle and Korean assertive speech-act verb classification proposed by Jang. Two international relations experts were also interviewed to strengthen the representation data in terms of its political implication. The result of this research shows that the assertive verb & function of *합의하다* 'habeuihada' (agreeing) dominates in President Moon Jae In's speeches. Based on the result of the interviews with international relations experts, the assertive speech acts of President Moon Jae In do represent the diplomatic state and attitude of the two Koreas, the benefits and the losses, as well as the influence of United States of America in the diplomacy done by South Korea towards North Korea.

Keywords: *Assertive speech-act, context, President Moon Jae-In's speech, diplomacy*

1. INTRODUCTION

Speech as a tool of communication has various functions, starting from expressing one's thoughts to influencing people. In the implementation of speech, it can be done in various fields such as religious fields known as sermon or in the political field such as speeches delivered by the head of state. As a tool in carrying out political practice, speech is widely researched to find out the purpose of its delivery. In linguistics speech is widely studied in the usage of language that has meaning in it, both grammatical and lexical meaning.

Speech act is one part of linguistics, especially pragmatics which is used in examining a speech. Speech as an oral expression does not solely having an explicit meaning but also implicit meanings. Searle (1969) argues that speech acts are divided into assertive, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative speech acts. Assertive speech acts are defined by Searle as speech acts that bind the speaker to the truth of the proposition in each

utterance. In this regard, Yunelia (2017) conducted a study of assertive speech acts in Donald Trump's presidential speech. Also, Rohid (2018) who examined the reception of assertive speech acts on the speech of United States president Barack Obama during his visit to Cuba on March 22, 2016. These studies related to assertive speech acts in the speech of the head of state above show that the assertive speech acts that appear can represent the purpose and motives of delivering the speech itself.

The speech of the head of state in its implementation was also carried out by South Korean president Moon Jae In when he conducted a diplomacy with North Korea especially during the 2018 Inter-Korea Summit. Regarding the phenomenon of President Moon's speech at the 2018 Inter-Korean Summit explained by Sung (2018) that President Moon made a short speech during the first 2018 Inter-Korea Summit held on April 27, 2018 together with leader Kim. Furthermore Kim (2018) stated in his research that President Moon also made a short speech about the results of the 2nd Inter-Korea Summit held on

May 26, 2018. Then according to Daehanminguk Jeongbu (2018) President Moon made a speech at the 3rd Inter-Korean Summit in Pyongyang North Korea and is one of the historic speeches because it was done in front of 150 thousand people of North Korea. Based on research and explanation of the above phenomena, it can be said that research related to assertive speech acts on the speech of the head of state may have been conducted. However, this research is not solely revealing how assertive speech acts appear in the speech of a head of state, especially South Korean president Moon Jae In, but also how assertive speech acts that appear in the speech can represent diplomacy carried out by South Korea during the 2018 Inter-Korean Summit as a country which has a conflict with North Korea. This research is expected to be able to contribute to the development of pragmatics, especially assertive speech acts in Korean and to be used as a reference for Korean language teachers and students in teaching or learning linguistics.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Speech-Act Theories

Stalnaker in (Nadar, 2009) stated that pragmatics is the study of deixis (at least in part), implicature, presupposition, speech acts and aspects of discourse structure. The speech-acts theory was first introduced by an English philosopher named J.L Austin on his essay “How to do things with words?” in 1962 and developed by an American philosopher called Searle in 1969 who wrote a book called “Speech-acts: an essay in the philosophy of language”. In his essay, Austin stated that basically when a person says something, he or she also do something that we called “action” or “performative utterances”. For example, when someone use some verbs like promise, apologize or name in the speech like “I promise to come on time”, “I apologize for coming late” and “I name this ship Elizabeth” means that the person is not just about saying something but also made an act of promise, apologize and give a name. Searle also stated in his book that communication is not just a symbol, word or sentence but also the result of utterance in the form of speech-acts behaviour. According to Austin, speech-acts can be classified into three different types, they are locutionary-act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary act. The locutionary act is the act of saying something with a certain sense and reference; the illocutionary act is an act of something that the speaker wants to achieve; and perlocutionary act means that the act performed as a consequence of saying something. Austin also distinguishes five more general types of utterances according to the illocutionary acts, they are verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives and expositives.

Using Austin’s framework, Searle later classifies the illocutionary acts into five different types based on various characteristic features, they are assertive or representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative.

2.1.1. Assertive Speech-Act

According to Searle, the illocutionary point of assertive is that they commit speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition. This type of state means that the speaker believes to be the case or not. For example, such as suggesting, putting forward, swearing, boasting, concluding and etc. Fraser (1974) made a taxonomy of illocutionary acts into eight types and one of them is act of asserting with some examples of the verbs such as acknowledge, admit, claim, deny, notify, observe, swear and etc. In Korean language, Jang (Jang, 1987) explained that there was also an assertive act called ‘평서화행’ with some examples of negative verbs like 부정하다 and 부인하다, and positive verbs like 선언하다 and 승인하다. In total, Jang found 253 words related to assertives act in Korean language and the table below shows how Jang classify the Korean assertive verbs.

Table 1. Korean Assertive Verbs

번 (No.)	화행동사 (Speech-act Verbs)	화행 (Speech-act)
1.	선언하다 <i>Seoneonhada</i> (Stating)	평서 <i>Pyeongseo</i> (Assertive)
2.	합의하다 <i>Habeuihada</i> (Agreeing)	평서 <i>Pyeongseo</i> (Assertive)
3.	확인하다 <i>Hwaginhada</i> (Confirming)	평서 <i>Pyeongseo</i> (Assertive)
4.	논의하다 <i>Noneuihada</i> (Discussing)	평서 <i>Pyeongseo</i> (Assertive)

2.2. Context

Leech (Leech, 1983) explained that context is the background knowledge that is shared by speakers and interlocutors that helps the interlocutors to interpret the intention of the speakers. Huang (2007) also stated that context is related to the basis of semantics and pragmatics. Context in a broad meaning may be interpreted as a reference to relevant features from a dynamic setting or in an environment where linguistics are systemically used. Ariel in (Huang, 2007) states that there are 3 contexts in pragmatics, namely physical, linguistic and general knowledge. Physical context refers to the physical arrangement of speech. For example, “He’s not the chief executive; he is. He’s the managing director”. The

interpretation of the sentence depends on measurable knowledge of the physical context, such as space-time location of the speech. Linguistic context refers to the surrounding utterances in the same speech. What appears in the preceding speech plays an important role in understanding the removal of construction that have been used. For example, in the sentence, “John: Who gave the waiter a large tip? Mary: Helen”. Afterwards, the context of general knowledge includes a number of background assumptions that are shared between the speakers and interlocutors.

2.3. South Korean Presidential Speech

In its implementation, speech in the political field especially presidential speech is one of the well-known speeches among the public. According to Ramanda et.al (2017) the leader of a country has certain purposes that he or she wants to convey, whether those are conveyed expressly or implicitly. Hwang et.al (2015) clearly stated that president or leader of a country often use speeches as an effort to convey the vision of the country, the philosophy of state administration and policy direction to its people. Lee (2010) also said that presidential speech states the government’s plan or the philosophy of state affairs including the value orientation and government policy priorities. From the statement of Hwang et al & Lee can be concluded that even in South Korea, the president’s speech has a purpose to convey various interest related to the government. Based on the history, Park (2013) stated in his research that since being elected as the first president of South Korea, Rhee Syng-Man has made many political speeches related to the disputes & conflicts with North Korea. Hwang et al. also stated that the previous South Korean Presidents from Park Chung-Hee to Roh Moo-Hyun discussed a lot about international relations and economy especially in the trade sector. Furthermore, President Park Geun-Hye’s speeches according to Lee (2013) and Wright (2015) mostly discussed about the South and North Korea relations, human rights issues and cooperation between countries such as United States, China, Japan, Russia and other countries. The current South Korea’s President Moon Jae-In in his speeches according to Jung (2019) often used the word “우리” as a form of peace in the Korean peninsula. This shows that president Moon wishes to resolve the issue of peace with North Korea. From the statements that have been presented regarding the speech of South Korean president, it can be said that each presidential government has a different focus on issue in delivering speeches.

2.4. South Korean Diplomacy Towards North Korea

According to Kim (2005) after the Korean War, there was no Inter-Korean summit until 1971. After that at least there were 12 annual meetings held between 1971 until 2000. In 2000, President Kim Dae-jung became the first President of South Korea to visit North Korea, 55 years after the peninsula was divided. Since then, the trade between two countries was also increased. Moon & Steinberg (1999) stated that under President Kim Dae-Jung, South Korea adopted the sunshine policy in pursuit of more peaceful relationships with North Korea. After elected as a president in 2017, Moon Jae-In was determined to continue Kim Dae-Jung’s sunshine policy and use more peaceful ways to deal with North Korea. In his research, Taylor (2017) stated that On the first November 2017, president Moon Jae-In during the speech at the national assembly announced that South Korea would not force the north to denuclearize Korean peninsula with some stressful ways. It can be seen from how North Korea willingly to take part in the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics and also created a joint team with the south. Furthermore, it triggered both countries to hold the first 2018 Inter-Korean Summit on April 27 which resulted in the signing of the panmunjeom declaration. After that, On May 26 the second Inter-Korean Summit was held and discussed the agreement in more detail also the upcoming meeting of North Korean Leader’s Kim Jong-Un and US President’s Donald Trump. Afterwards, the third summit was held in Pyeongyang on September 18 until 20 and it was also the first time for the president of South Korea visited Pyeongyang (Roberts, 2019).

3. METHOD

This research was conducted by applying descriptive qualitative methods. Qualitative descriptive was chosen due to its ability to describe the facts that emerged in President Moon's speech through assertive speech acts that can represent South Korean diplomacy towards North Korea. Participants of this study were one international relations lecturer at a university in Bandung and a South Korean student studying international relations. The data sources in this study were 5 videos of President Moon Jae In's speech on YouTube during the 2018 Inter-Korean Summit along with the script which was uploaded by the video uploader. First, the data were analysed by separating speech sentences one by one. Each sentence is classified into the type of speech acts and speech function stated by Searle (1969) and the assertive verbs argued by Jang (1987). After that the results of the assertive speech act review were commented on by 2 international relations

experts through a brief interview to represent the diplomacy conducted by the two Koreas.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Assertive Verbs and Speech Function of President Moon’s Speech

Based on the research conducted, there are 166 items of speech acts that appeared in President Moon Jae In's speech and assertive speech acts appeared the most with a number of 96 items with a percentage of 57,8% followed by expressive speech acts (24.7%), commissive speech acts (7.3%), declarative speech acts (6%) and directive speech acts (4.2%).

Furthermore, by using the classification of speech acts in Korean argued by Jang, out of a total of 97 sentences that indicated assertive speech acts, there are 4 verbs that often

appear in President Moon Jae In's speech namely 합의하다 *habeuihada* (Agreeing) by 21%, 확인 하다 *hwaginhada* (ascertaining) 15.7%, 밝히다 *balkhida* (declaring) 15.7% and 논의 하다 *non-eui-hada* (discussing) 10.5%.

Table 2. Total Distribution of Speech-Act Classification

No.	Speech-Act Classification	Frequency	Percentage	Sequence
1.	Assertive	96	57,8%	1
2.	Expressive	41	24,7%	2
3.	Commissive	12	7,3%	3
4.	Declarative	10	6%	4
5.	Directive	7	4,2%	5
	Σ	166	100%	-

Table 3. Total Distribution of Assertive Verbs

No.	Assertive Verbs	Frequency	Percentage	Sequence
1.	합의하다 <i>Habeuihada</i> (Agreeing)	4	21%	1
2.	확인하다 <i>Hwaginhada</i> (Confirming)	3	15,7%	2
3.	밝히다 <i>Balkhida</i> (Stating)	3	15,7%	3
4.	논의하다 <i>Noneuihada</i> (Discussing)	2	10,5%	4
5.	생각하다 <i>Saenggakhada</i> (Thinking)	1	5,3%	5
6.	동의하다 <i>Dongueihada</i> (Approving)	1	5,3%	6
7.	제의하다 <i>Jeeuihada</i> (Proposing)	1	5,3%	7
8.	평가하다 <i>Pyeongkahada</i> (Assessing)	1	5,3%	8
9.	시작하다 <i>Sijakhada</i> (Starting)	1	5,3%	9
10.	선언하다 <i>Seoneonhada</i> (Declarating)	1	5,3%	10
11.	재확인하다 <i>Jaehwaginhada</i> (Reconfirming)	1	5,3%	11
	Σ	19	100%	-

4.1.1. Assertive Verbs and Speech Function ‘Agreeing’

The assertive verb 합의 하다 ‘agreeing’ appears in President Moon Jae In's speech in 4 sentences with a percentage of 21%. The following is the sentence in President Moon's speech which contained the assertive verb 합의 하다 ‘agreed:

“우리는 또한 종전선언과 평화협정을 통해 한반도의 불안정한 정전체제를 종식시키고

항구적이고 공고한 평화체제를 구축해 나가기로 합의했습니다.”

(We have also agreed to come out by making a peace announcement and ending the form of ceasefire instability on the Korean peninsula through a final declaration of war and a peace agreement)

In the sentence above the 'agreeing' speech function that appears means that President Moon as a speaker tells the public that he has made an agreement with leader Kim to take action to remove all the dangers of a ceasefire and

fear of war on the Korean peninsula. The context that arises in the sentence is the physical context in the form of declaration of the end of the war and a peace agreement made by two countries to end the ceasefire.

4.1.2. Assertive Verbs and Speech Function 'Confirming'

The assertive verb '하다'confirming' appears 3 times with a percentage of 15.7%. The following is the sentence in President Moon's speech containing the assertive verb 확인 하다 'confirming':

“이제 우리가 사는 땅, 하늘, 바다 어디에서도 서로에 대한 일체의 적대행위를 하지 않을 것입니다.”

(Now the land, the sky, the sea wherever we live, will not clash with each other)

The sentence in President Moon's speech above means that President Moon Jae In as a speaker tells the audience as a speech partner to ensure that there will be no more war on the Korean peninsula. The words land, sky and sea that appear in the sentence become symbols in the military such as the army, sea and air of the two countries that will not confront each other anymore. The context that arises is the history of the two Koreas that had fought a great deal with the war in 1950.

4.1.3. Assertive Verbs and Speech Function 'Stating'

The assertive verb 밝히다'stating' appears 3 times with a percentage of 15.7%. The following are the sentences in President Moon's speech containing the assertive verb 밝히다 'stating':

“또한 김정은 위원장은 비핵화 과정의 빠른 진행을 위해 폼페이오 장관의 방북과 트럼프 대통령과의 2 차 북미 정상회담이 조속히 열리기를 희망한다는 뜻을 밝혔습니다.”

(Furthermore, leader Kim Jong-Un also stated his concern about Secretary Pompeo's visit to the north and the second US-North Korea Summit that will be hold in the near future to speed up the process of denuclearization)

The assertive verb that appears in the sentence above explained that North Korea will do some cooperation with the US to speed up the denuclearization on Korea Peninsula. The context that appears in the sentence is in

the form of linguistic form which means the sentence above explained the next sentence that appears in the speech. The next sentence is “이와 같이 북한이 우리와 비핵화의 구체적 방안에 대해 진지하게 의논한 것은 지난날과 크게 달라진 모습입니다” (With this, the matters discussed by the North and South Korea regarding the concrete policy of denuclearization shows a big difference from the previous day). It means that the first sentence explained the cooperation agenda carried out by North Korea and the US such as Secretary Pompeo's visit to the North is an effort to implements denuclearization policy.

4.1.4. Assertive Verbs and Speech Function 'Discussing'

The assertive verb 논의 하다 'discussing' appears 2 times with a percentage of 10.5%. The following is the sentence in President Moon's speech containing the assertive verb 논의 하다 'discussing':

“김정은 위원장과 나는 서로에 대한 굳건한 믿음으로 평화와 번영, 통일을 위해 정기적인 회담과 직통전화를 통해 수시로 논의할 것입니다.”

(Me and leader Kim Jong Un will often have discussions by chatting in person or by telephone to bring about peace, prosperity and unity with strong trust between one another.)

In the sentence above, the 'discussing' function appears to explain the current situation between the two countries that will discuss many things related to peace, prosperity and unity. In this case, the two leaders will communicate by meeting in person or by phone. The context that appears in the sentence is in the form of physical context which means there is an agenda that will be carried out by the two countries as the main topic of discussion and also conduct all the meetings directly or indirectly.

4.2. South Korean Diplomacy Towards North Korea

4.2.1. The Form of Diplomacy

Regarding the diplomacy conducted by South Korea towards North Korea in accordance with the results of interviews with 2 international relations experts about the assertive speech acts that appeared in President Moon Jae

In's speeches, it is showed that assertive speech acts can represent diplomacy conducted by South Korea towards North Korea namely a diplomacy in the form of public diplomacy. According to the experts, there are several sentences in President Moon's speech that indicated public diplomacy. The sentence below is one the examples of the public diplomacy that appears in the President Moon's Speech:

“평창평화 올림픽으로 만들었고, 긴장과 대립의 상징이었던 판문점에 평화와 번영의 새로운 길을 내고 있습니다.”

((South and North Korea) have made the Pyeongchang Olympics to be a Peace Olympics and paved a new path for peace and prosperity in Panmunjeom that was once a symbol of tension and confrontation).

In the sentence above, the experts argue that the form of public diplomacy can be seen from the South and North Korea collaboration in the Pyeongchang Olympics. At the Olympics, the two Koreas sent a joint athlete team from their respective countries. Through the cooperation between South and North Korea at the Pyeongchang Olympics, we can see that both Korean people and the international community believe that the two Koreas are indeed trying to make peace. And it also true that the sentence above is a statement ('to stating') the condition between the two countries that usually stated by a leader of the country in the form of public diplomacy. The cooperation in the Pyeongchang Olympics is in line with the main purpose of public diplomacy, which is a process of communication between a government and a foreign public to provide an understanding of the country's attitudes, culture, national interests and policies related to the country.

4.2.2. Urge for Peace in Korean Peninsula

Based on the interview with the experts, it can be concluded that the diplomacy carried out by South Korea is an effort to convince the public about their cooperation to achieve peace in Korean Peninsula. The sentence below is one of the examples that indicated the urge for peace in both countries:

“한반도에 더 이상 전쟁은 없을 것이며 새로운 평화의 시대가 열리고 있음을 함께 선언하였습니다.”

(We both declared there is no further war on the Korean peninsula and the new era of peace has opened)

According to the experts, both Koreas want to do a denuclearization to achieve peace in Korean Peninsula which repeatedly stated by president Moon Jae-In in his speeches. It also true that the assertive function of 'Agreeing (to agree)' can be seen from the sentence above that both Koreas want to eliminate the war in Korean Peninsula and also want to live in peace by succeeding both Inter-Korean and North Korea-US summits.

4.2.3. Response from Both Koreas and International Community

The sentence below is one of the examples that indicated the response from both Koreas and International Community:

“우리의 도보다리 대화는 그 모습만으로도 전 세계인들에게 큰 감동을 주었습니다.”

(In fact just by looking to our conversations in Dobo Bridge already give a great sense of emotion to people from around the world)

Both the experts argued that the Korean & international community have a positive response about the new Inter-Korean relation lead by president Moon Jae-In. The meetings between the two countries would not have been possible without the people's desire to unite with North Korea. It is true that the assertive speech function of "stating (to state)" is well-implemented in the sentence, which means that president Moon Jae-In tried to show that what he did is for the sake of his people.

4.2.4. The Disadvantages and Advantages in Conducting Diplomacy for Both Koreas

The sentence below is one of the examples that indicated the disadvantages and advantages in conduction diplomacy for both Koreas:

“남북이 서로 자유롭게 오가며 서로 돕고 함께 발전한다면 온 세상이 깜짝 놀라게 될 것입니다.”

(It surprised the whole world when the two Koreas could visit each other freely, help each other and grow together)

According to both experts, some sentences in president Moon's speech show that the diplomacy between the two countries has more advantages than the disadvantages. Although, it is known that diplomacy conducted to achieve profits and minimize the losses. The experts think that the cooperation between the two Koreas is a way to achieve peace and prosperity in Korean Peninsula. It is true that the assertive speech function of "stating (to state)"

can be seen clearly in the above sentence as a way to state and convince the people to support the summit.

4.2.5. The Role of United States in Diplomacy Conducted by Two Koreas

“김정은 위원장은 판문점 선언에 이어 다시 한번 한반도의 완전한 비핵화 의지를 분명히 했으며, 북미정상회담의 성공을 산하고 평화와 번영을 위해 협력하겠다는 의사를 피력하였습니다.”

(Leader Kim Jong-Un once again in Panmunjeom Declaration realizes his desire for full denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the success of the North Korea - US summit and makes a statement on his thought about cooperation to achieve the peace and prosperity.)

Based on the interview with the experts, the history of World War II influenced the role of the US in the relationship between two Koreas. There was an ideological competition involving the two Koreas, especially for South Korea which has been a long-time partner for the US. With various historical backgrounds, it can make the US a significant influence even though it is not directly involved in the diplomacy between two Koreas. In his speech, president Moon also stated about the South-North-US relations for several times. The assertive speech function of ‘confirming (to confirm)’ can be seen from the above sentence as a way to confirm the US role in the diplomacy between the two Koreas.

5. CONCLUSION

The results of the research show that it is true that assertive speech acts are the greatest in number of speech acts that appear in the speech of President Moon Jae In. Then the most assertive verb that appears in the speech is the verb 합의하다 habeuilhada (agreeing). The results of interviews with 2 international relations experts show that assertive speech acts that appear in President Moon's speech can describe the type of diplomacy conducted by the two Koreas, namely public diplomacy. Then it also shows the seriousness of South Korea in both the president and his people to make peace with North Korea, the disadvantages and advantages in conducting diplomacy and the role of the United States in diplomacy conducted by the two Koreas.

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