

Determining Illocutionary Act with VARIES Models

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Abstract. Research on the use of language is growing over time as many theories of language use are found. Language is no longer just for communicating but identifying something either implicitly or not. This paper discusses the language use to identify the act of utterance by knowing the context and social background in panel discussion conducted by descriptive qualitative approach with content analysis method and focused on language use based on the phenomenon of the panel discussion. The data in this study was in the form of utterance containing lexical items which is used to refer to speakers' language uses in conveying social background and action. This research applied sociopragmatic approach to analyze speakers' social background using VARIES Model theory and speakers' meaning using Illocutionary Act theory through language use. The result of this study shows that vocational language can determine acts such as representative, expressive, directive speech act; age language to directive speech act; religion language to representative, directive and expressive speech act; informality language to representative, expressive and declarative speech act; education background to representative, directive, expressive, commissive speech act; sex language to representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative speech act

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1. Introduction

Human as social creature needs interaction to others. Communication can not be separated from human's life. People can speak and understand others said by knowing language. It is called a communication process where people convey the information to each other, such as thought, concept, purpose, feeling, and also conveying emotions directly through conversation. People have to know not only when to speak and when to listen to others to achieve a flowing conversation but also how to interpret of what others mean and how to react based on the meaning of others' words. Then, people need to pay attention to others to get what they mean. Discussion becomes one of human communication forms which talks or debates about a certain topic. It will be referred to as panel discussion if it involves a group of people gathered to

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discuss a topic in front of audiences and guided by a moderator who guides the discussion and sometimes elicits audience questions with the goal of being informative and entertaining. Because communication can not be separated from human's life, language becomes an essential thing to interact to others. In order to achieve the goals of communication, it is a must for people to use language well because the examination of language use patterns strengthens people's understanding of human communication and the primary purpose for each language.

One of the most important problems in the study of language use is that of the interpretation of utterances. Relating to Hudson [1], the uses of language are to communicate and to identify social groups. Since people can determine social background from utterances, the interpretation of utterances can be detected. Language does not occur in isolation. To get the meaning, social context (social background) and context of situation (environmental background) which the utterances were uttered is needed. Levinson [2] defined pragmatic as the study of language use which studies of relation between language and context which is basic to an account of language understanding while sociolinguistics sees language as a social phenomena and it is related with the social structure and system of society. Therefore, language can not avoid being influenced by factors like social status, vocation, social role, education background, sex, age, religion, belief, etc. Both speaker and hearer in the language communication must know and have assumptions about their status in relation to the other. Social status will be an important factor to determine who should initiate the conversation. In another case, the conversation between two person that have the same sex but different in age may differ with the conversation between those who have the same sex and age. Social background and circumstance of speech communities affect language use. Then, social background plays an important role for determining what the meaning and the purpose of the utterance.

Relating to previous explanation, one of the ways to know the context of speech communities is language then language becomes the DNA of a society through which we can determine vocation, religion, education, sex and other social backgrounds. People use language to determine their social background and how they use the language influenced by the social background itself. Then, language can do both communicate to each others and identify their social groups. Research on language use is growing over time as many theories of language use are found. This study found that knowing the social background and circumstances, people will be able to determine the purpose or the act of the communication using certain theories

To investigate the social background of speakers, the researcher deals with VARIES Model proposed by Adeyanju [3]. This theory gives many contributions for getting further social backgrounds. Gender, social class, regional differences are a few determining factors of people's language variation. According to Milroy and Gordon [4], most sociolinguists do not consider these effects straightforward but social class indeed plays a very important role in creating language variations. People can easily be categorized into their social background that

they belong to by observing their use of language. The stance of these scholars is what later metamorphosed into the VARIES model, a set of acronyms that classifies language in use in society into : Vocational jargons, Age related language, Religion/Religious language, Informality, Educational Jargons, and Sex for language. These social backgrounds bring us to know speaker's purpose in conveying his utterance. Words are not just uttered, people do things with words. It must have a purpose. When people attempts to express themselves, they do not only produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words (language usage). People will show their intention or purpose in communication process through what they thought with showing actions through their utterance (language use). The action is called Speech Act. Speech act includes acts such as reporting, promising, requesting, suggesting, etc. The researcher deals with Illocutionary Act proposed by John Searle [5]. Searle [6] broadly classifies illocutionary acts into five categories, namely: 'assertives', 'directives', 'commissives', 'expressives' and 'declaratives'. However, less uses VARIES model as their theory to analyze social background of speaker's utterance and none uses this theory to determine the act of utterance as in Illocutionary Act theory.

Less is known about the big issue of United State of America presidential election in 2016. This presidential election became a trending topic around the world, causing a lot of of debated among the community. The issue debated whether digital media is good for democracy or not. BBC News on YouTube has issued several news about this, even opening a panel discussion to discuss this issue. The panel discussion entitled *Is digital media good for democracy?* which invited special guests according to the topic was brought. As the guests have powerful positions in their social groups and certain knowledge about the topic would be brought, they are able to be representatives of their groups. Their social background would bring them to speak purposeful utterances. This study used sociopragmatic approach to analyze speakers' utterances. Sociopragmatic is the combination of sociolinguistic and pragmatic approach. The researcher applied sociolinguistic approach to identify social background of speech community and pragmatic to analyze meaning of speakers' utterances. This study is to investigate social background of speakers and analyze how the social background affects the speaker's meaning through their language use. Variables of VARIES Model performed different illocutionary acts among the various heterogenous social groups in speech community as social background can determine what the meaning and the purpose of the utterance.

2. Review of Literature

Recently, sociopragmatics approach is used world-wide, especially in language education for a number of purposes. According to Leech [7], sociopragmatics is sociological interface of pragmatics which based on the language used in different cultures of language communities in different social situations, among different social classes, gender, etc.. This study uses VARIES Model theory which is first proposed in 2002 for analyzing social background so that just few

did research on this. Its result can determine Illocutionary Act based on Searle's illocutionary act theory. Then, the theoretical framework for this are VARIES Model theory [3] and Illocutionary Act theory [5].

a. VARIES Models

VARIES Model is a social background theory proposed by Adeyanju [3]. The VARIES Model is an set of acronym which analyze language use based on sociological factors otherwise called social variables. VARIES Models classifies language into: V for vocational language, A for age language, R for religion language, I for informality language, E for educational background, S for sex language. The goals of any users of the VARIES model, i.e. sociolinguist is able determine how social institutions affect language and how the varied users of language affect social groups. Sociolinguist is also able to identify social groups and recognize the socio-cultural groups reflected in language use of speech community by using VARIES model.

Vocational language model is to identify socioeconomic characteristics such as a particular career, a person's employment or main occupation, a trade or profession and a habit of speech community through their utterances. In the study occupation and language, one of the concerns is how socioeconomic or occupation affects the ways in which people use language. Age language is to identify their different ages or socio-strata of speech community through their utterances. In the study of age and language, one of the concerns is how age affects the ways in which people use language. According to Holmes [8], the features of people's speech is vary at different ages. In analyzing differentiate age in language use, it does not only focus on vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar but also age-graded pattern or slang, another area of vocabulary. All of these criterias can reflect a person's age. When people belong to the same chronological age group, they often speak similiary. Religion language is to identify tradition, religion or belief of speech community through their utterances such as prayers and worshipping. In study of religion and language, one of the concerns is how belief affects the ways in which people use language. People from certain belief will use certain language. Informality language is to identify ethnicity of speech community through their utterances. Generally, every ethnicities has certain jargon that it will be classified to be informal language in their major group. In study of ethnicity and language, one of the concerns is how ethnicity affects the ways in which people use their language. Educational jargon is to identify education background of speech community through their utterances. In study of education and language, one of the concerns is how education affects the ways in which people use language. If the speaker and the hearer have the same educational background, they will have the same understanding about something. Sex language is to identify social classification of individuals into the categories female and male based on cultural understanding of the body through their utterances. In the study of sex and language, one of the concerns is how sex affects the ways in which people uses language. If speaker speaks to hearer, the hearer will know that the speaker is

female or male without seeing her/him. The hearer know the sex of the speaker because the speaker uses certain diction in her/his utterances.

b. Illocutionary Act

Austin [9] believed that words are not just uttered, people do things with words. Every words consists of meaning and action. The most discussed of speech act theory is illocutionary act. According to Searle [10], illocutionary act is a way of using language in society. It is the basic unit of human linguistic communication. Searle [6] broadly classifies illocutionary acts into five categories, namely: ‘assertives’, ‘directives’, ‘commissives’, ‘expressives’ and ‘declaratives’. These classifications are based on the three main principles, namely, (1) the illocutionary meaning uttered by speakers (illocutionary act type), (2) words adapted to world of reality (direction of fit), (3) psychologically expressed with sincerity (psychological states/ sincerity condition).

Table 1 Searle’s Classification of Speech Acts (adapted from Yule [11]).

Speech act type	Direction of fit	S = Speaker H = Hearer
Assertives	Make words fit the world	S believes X
Commissives	Make the world fit words	S intends X
Directives	Make the world fit words	S wants X
Declarations	Word changes the world	S causes X
Expressive	Make words fit the world	S feels X

Searle has also proposed a contribution to the speech act theory concerning the felicity conditions. The felicity conditions are conditions that must be in place, its criteria must be satisfied for an utterance or speech act to achieve its purpose. The use of speech acts is influenced by four conditions. It are called constitutive rules of speech act. According to Searle [5], the four conditions are propositional content, preparatory condition, sincerity condition, and essential condition. Propositional condition is a condition in which an utterance is produced, preparatory content is procedure of the utterance, sincerity is that the speaker is sincere in committing what he or she has been uttered, and essential states that a speaker intends to act as it can be seen from the utterance or that he or she is also able to perform it. The utterance will be felicitous only if it fulfills these four conditions.

Vocation, age, religion, ethnicity, education, sex can represent almost the entire social background of the speaker because it has a greater influence. By analyzing the social background of the speakers using this theory, the researcher will easily determine what kind of illocution the speakers will say according to the social background the researcher gets.

3. Research Method

This research is conducted by using descriptive qualitative research with content analysis method. By using descriptive qualitative research, the phenomenon on its context could be analyzed clearly and described deeply. The primary data of this research is the utterances spoken by several participants on one of The Big Question's episode of BBC News : *Is digital media good for democracy?* recorded at London's Brunel University on 19th February 2017. The source of data in this research is BBC News on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/zDdWbStC2VU>).

The researcher used visual analysis to collect the data. The procedures of the data collection were downloading and editing the transcript then selecting and marking the utterances which contains social identity and illocutionary act. The technique of analyzing the data in qualitative research are preparing, understanding, presenting and interpreting data according to Cresswell [12]. After collecting, selecting and marking the data, the researcher analyzed social background of each speakers through their utterances using VARIES Model theory. Then, this social background helped the researcher determining types of illocutionary acts in their utterances.

4. Results and Discussion

"Is digital media good for democracy or not?" discussion has a goal that is to know whether digital media good for democracy or not. Then, all of the participants of that panel discussion involves participants who have the same social background especially on socioeconomic characteristic and education background to get the goal of the topic. The following describes how social background can determine types of illocutionary acts using VARIES Models theory and Illocutionary Act theory. For the sake of this study, some examples of utterances from Panel Discussion which debated whether social media is good for democracy or not, it goes as follows:

DATA 1

***Broadly political policies use online communications for two things.** The first thing is to find and recruit supporters who will go and take those vital actions to support them primarily offline as other panel members have mentioned so they are going to go knock on the doors because nothing beats that face-to-face communication. **The second thing they do and we did in 2015 campaign is** to find and reach out to those swing voters in their marginal seats that can decide that election and speaks them about the issues they care about'*

The utterance *'the second thing they do and we did in 2015 campaign is...'* shows speaker's socioeconomic characteristic. The speaker is involved on political campaign in 2015 because 2015 is the year which presidential election of United States was held, which means that the speaker is conservative party of 2015 election. The utterance is vocational language since it represents speaker's career. The speaker not only uttered but also did action with his words. The

speaker intended to perform ‘giving information’ to the hearer from the utterance. The following will describe felicity conditions for the utterance.

Table 2 Felicity Conditions of DATA 1

Preparatory Condition	The speaker of Data 1 believes what speaker says is true due to his knowledge, speaker is able to produce the utterance, speaker can pronounce the utterance clearly so that it can be clearly heard by hearers, speaker is not under other people’s control in producing utterance, and by uttering the utterance, speaker informs hearers thing that is mentioned in his utterance.
Propositional Content	The utterance is produced as a reply to the other’s question
Sincerity	The speaker is sincere about what he did and how he did as conservative party director
Essential	The speaker intends to perform giving information to hearers

Data 1 is representative speech act because it describes speaker’s understanding on certain matter. The speaker believes what speaker says is true due to speaker knowledge. Data 1 fulfills the felicity condition of representatives. The preparatory condition of data 1 is the fact that speaker is able to produce the utterance. The speaker can pronounce the utterance clearly so that it can be clearly heard by the hearers. Speaker is not under other people’s control in producing utterance. By uttering the utterance, the speaker informs hearer thing that is mentioned in utterance. Thus data 1 fits the preparatory condition of representatives. Data 1 is produced as a reply to the other’s question therefore the speaker accomplishes the propositional content of representatives. When the speaker produces the utterance, the speaker is sincere about what speaker did and how speaker did in 2015 election online. The speaker knows exactly what speaker is saying because the speaker is a conservative party director of digital and creative in 2015 election. He is part of that election. Thus, the utterance completes the sincerity. Essential of data 1 is shown by the intention of the speaker in uttering the utterance. By telling the genuine information, the speaker really intends to give information to the hearer. The intention of informing as it is mentioned in the utterance clearly show by the speaker. Consequently, the utterance fits the essential condition of representatives. Relating the felicity condition of the utterance, it can be seen that the utterance is felicitious. The utterance is representative of informing. With knowing socioeconomic characteristics, it can determine what type of illocutionary act the speaker will use. Particular career and experience make speaker have some stereotypes about something. These stereoptypes make the speaker uses representative speech act because the speaker attempts to state what he/she believes The speaker intends to giving information based on his experience and belief so that vocational language brings speaker to use representative act on she/his utterance.

DATA 2

'The danger with people like me on the left of politics is we think well the mainstream media's biased against this. Most of the press supports the Conservative Government. So successfully you said I'm not good, we're not just gonna do things for likes or clicks, we're going to target the people we need to win over who aren't in our natural coalition '

There are two sides of politics. They are left politics and right politics. The speaker stated that he is on the left of politics. Left politics is characterized by an emphasis on “ideas such as freedom, equality, fraternity, rights, progress, reform, and internationalism” while Right politics is characterized by an emphasis on “notions such as authority, hierarchy, order, duty, tradition, reaction and nationalism”. It is speaker’s belief in politics. His statement represent his belief, thus it is religion language. The speaker stated that people on the left of politics is danger because of what they belief about the mainstream media therefore religion language brings the speaker uses representative speech act. Not only stated but also showed feeling, the speaker intends to show disagreeing on a certain thing or to show speaker’s evaluation. The following will describe felicity condition of the utterance.

Table 3 Felicity Conditions of DATA 2

Preparatory Condition	The speaker of Data 2 wants to express feeling on certain thing as it is stated, speaker is able to utter the utterance in which speaker has the capability to produce the linguistics units, and speaker is not under other’s pressure to utter the utterance
Propositional Content	The speaker expresses dislike toward other’s statement or attitude about certain matter
Sincerity	The speaker is sincere that someone has disturbed and judged him
Essential	The speaker intends to show disagreeing or speaker’s evaluation. The utterance is expressive of attitude since it is expression of disagreeing toward the hearer’s attitude or argument

The circumstance of the utterance is after hearing other’s statement about left campaign and parties which the speaker believes, the speaker feels that it is not right and he didn’t like other’s attitude on his believe and job. The utterance of is expressive speech act since it expresses speaker’s disagree or dislike toward hearer’s attitude. The preparatory condition of data 2 is that the speaker wants to express feeling as it is stated in the utterance. The speaker is able to utter the utterance in which speaker has the capability to produce the linguistics units and speaker is not under other’s pressure to utter it. Since the circumstance of data 2 supports the production of the utterance, it is clear that the utterance fits the propositional content. Sincerity of data 2 is proven when the speaker was sure that someone has disturbed and judged. The utterance also

meets the requirement of essential since it is meant to show disagreeing or to show speaker's evaluation. The utterance is expressive of attitude since it is expression of disagreeing to the hearer's attitude or argument. Expressive of attitude is a kind of expressive speech act and data 2 is felicitous. Religion language brings the speaker uses expressive speech act since the speaker has certain knowledge or belief about something and when the hearer makes judgement about what the speaker believes, the speaker does express with her/his utterance.

DATA 3

'Yes, I did. I think as a woman or as a feminist campaign online and you just opened to that which is sad but like I found that online trolling is an important form of sexism like in current way in that is documented'

The speaker clearly said words which represents social classification of individuals into the categories female based on cultural understanding of the body thus it is sex language. It can be concluded that the speaker is a woman or female because she clearly said she is a woman. It also represents socioeconomic characteristic of speaker as a feminist campaign online. The following will describe felicity condition for the utterance.

Table 4 Felicity Conditions of DATA 3

Preparatory Condition	The speaker of Data 3 believes what speaker says is true due to speaker knowledge, speaker is able to produce the utterance, speaker can pronounce the utterance clearly so that it can be clearly heard by the hearers, speaker is not under other people's control in producing utterance, and by uttering the utterance, speaker informs the hearers the thing that is mentioned in her utterance.
Propositional Content	The utterance is produced as a respon to the other's statement
Sincerity	The speaker is sincere that online trolling is an important form of sexism like in current way in that is documented
Essential	The speaker intends to state what she knows about it

Data 3 is representative speech act because the data describes speaker's understanding on certain matter. The speaker of data 3 believes what speaker says is true due to speaker knowledge. Data 3 fulfills the felicity condition of representatives. The preparatory condition of data 3 is the fact that speaker is able to produce the utterance. The speaker can pronounce the utterance clearly so that it can be clearly heard by hearers. The speaker is not under other people's control in producing data 3. Data 3 is produced as respon to other's statement therefore the speaker fulfills the propositional content of representatives. When the speaker produces the utterance, she is sincere that online trolling is an important form of sexism like in current way in that is documented. The speaker knows exactly what she is saying because she is a woman and a

feminist campaign online. Thus, the utterance completes the sincerity condition. Essential of data 3 is shown by the intention of the speaker in uttering data 3. By performing it, the speaker intends to state what speaker knows about the thing. The intention of stating as it is mentioned in the utterance clearly show by the speaker. Consequently, the utterance fits the essential of representatives. Relating the felicity condition of the utterance, it can be seen that the utterance is felicitous. The utterance is representative of stating. Sex language and vocational language brings the speaker uses representative speech act since the speaker has certain knowledge based on experience as woman and feminist campaign.

5. Conclusion

Interestingly, there is a relationship between social background and illocutionary act. Social background plays an important role for determining meaning of utterance. By knowing social background of the speaker, it is easy to get what the meaning and the purpose of the utterance. In fact, using VARIES Model to determine social background can determine what types of illocutionary act the speaker will use. Socioeconomic characteristic of speakers or vocational language brings the speakers to use representative, expressive, directive speech act. Particular career and experience make speaker have some stereotypes about something. These stereotypicals make the speaker use representative speech act because the speaker attempt to state what he/she believes, expressive speech act because the speaker has his/her stereotype about something which others may not be agree or disagree with and directive speech act because the speaker attempts to give suggestion, direction, advise to the hearer according to what he/she believes and experiences. Different ages or socio-strata makes the speaker use directive speech act. Belief or religion language makes speaker use representative, directive and expressive speech act. Informality language makes speaker use representative, expressive and declarative speech act. Educational background makes speaker use representative, directive, expressive, commissive speech act. Having understanding about certain things make the speaker uses representative speech act to state what he/she knows, directive speech act to give suggestion according to what he/she knows, expressive speech act to express their feeling toward certain thing according to what he/she knows, commissive speech act to commit him/herself to do something according to what he/she knows or experiences. Sex language makes speaker use representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative speech act. The findings fulfill the purpose of this study; to find VARIES Models to determine speakers' social backgrounds and to analyze how social background influences people using language to perform an action in Illocutionary Act.

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