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PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF JOE BIDEN'S VICTORY SPEECH 2020

Sumera Baby¹, Uzma Afzal², Zeemal basharat³

¹Director & Principal at Leads School System project of Lahore Leads University, Lahore Pakistan. Educator & trainer at NCHD, Member of "Save the Children" UK, former organizer at CCF (ILO) & Sudhar IT Alliance.

^{2,3}M.phil scholar at Riphah International University, Lahore, Pakistan.

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Abstract:

This study was regulated to pinpoint the role of speech act as rumination of political leader's ideologies. Accordingly, the intention of the study is to engross on pragmatic function of locution, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts of the speech by using Austen and Searle's speech act theory. Joe Biden's victory speech was analyzed on different prospect of speech acts; conversationalization and collectivization elements are enhanced in the speech to indicate global upshot of political speeches. The data was drawn from victory speech of Joe Biden, randomly chunks were extracted from the speech, systematic sequence with original data step 1 to step 20 was presented, descriptive analytical and percentage graph data analysis approach were used. Data analysis was shown in descriptive analytical form and percentage (OREFP) graphs. This (ORFP) proclaims that Joe Biden uses commissive and assertive sentences more as compare to other speech acts to show his power authority and future planning. Findings also manifest that political leaders have more broad internal intentions of excitement, attraction and attachment in their speech acts; they have some hidden ideologies and propose behind the speech. So speech acts are the derivation to acknowledge their hidden messages and intentions.

Introduction:

Pragmatics is an extensive domain of study in Linguistics explicate as it is study of meanings related to context in which speaker communicates. In simple words communicative function is basically intended in 'Pragmatics' in form of speech, utterance, formal in formal conversations and many more. Meaning in any language is core of communication among people of discrete societies belong to different cultures and meanings do vary from culture to culture. Meaning and context in pragmatics are inter-dependent of each other's it means that meaning cannot be conveyed in absence of context and context is nothing without meaning. Discussing about language use through which people communicate with each other and communication is a speech which can be in written or spoken form. Speech makes speaker capable of expressing some particular purposes. Speech is dependent on speaker's will which is an individual choice (Gallaway, 1994:184).

In speech words or utterances used by speaker in any context sometimes use as performative verbs, which are those utterances in language is not only about words/ utterances but also presenting some actions. J. L. Austin (1962) and J. Searle (1976) proposed "Speech Act Theory" in this perspective. In pragmatics, language use is highlighted according to context which is central interest in pragmatics. Practical use of language is reflected through lexical choices. In this paper, political victory speech of Joe Biden (President of United States of America) is analyzed under framework of Austin's and Searle's "Speech Act Theory" in pragmatics/ discourse. Political speech is a rich domain for study in which every utterance uttered by politicians can be analyzed and these speeches are being analyzed from many decades. Speech Act Theory is perfect choice for such type of analysis of any political discourse.

As John L. Austin explains three speech act; Locutionary act: an act which is performed through utterances, Illocutionary act which is related to the intensions of interlocutor behind any utterance, Perlocutionary act is the effect of those utterances on hearer. And Searle proposed this theory which is categorized as: declarative, expressive, directives, representative, assertive, verdictive.

The main purpose of this paper is to analyze the victory speech of Joe Biden that political discourse does have performative verbs in it and how politicians took benefit of their position can be investigated through discourse and pragmatics. Not the whole speech but few chunks from his speech are extracted to point the speech act. Performative Political Speeches are taken to investigate the importance of context in pragmatic meaning with the help of Speech Act Theory. Many politicians use assertive and commissive speech acts in delivering speeches to show authenticity of their utterance with intentions of acts in real life ahead.

Objectives of the study:

Objective of this study is to analyze the victory speech of Joe Biden on linguistic and ideological proportion on pragmatic level by using the theory of speech acts of Austin's and Searle's (1962). This study also has an intention of making distinguished conventional and cultural theme of the speaker for some specific political, social and cultural purposes with hidden ideologies and techniques. Furthermore it has a target to introduce some political speech factors in correlation to the context in which the speech was submitted and to calculate how the identified features extrapolate the messages in the speech.

Literature Review:

Human speech is a complex phenomenon. It is very difficult to have a better understanding of communication system. Different researchers from different fields gave different theories in order to fully understand and interpret human speech. Researchers tried to simplify this complex phenomenon under some parameters. Every linguistic expression involves a certain social, physical, psychological and historical background. Nader Hanna and Deborah Richards (2019), argued using Searle Austin theory of speech acts and they argued that this SAT theory is very practical in nature and helps to decode communication effectively. To them Searle and Austin's Theory ensures the understanding of verbal expression from different dimensions. They further added that for communication reliability and better understanding, the preferred medium should be verbal in nature as it allows listener to fully grasp the intention of the speaker.

Texts of different genres need to be interpreted differently. Shiva Shankar Subramanian, Trevor Cohn and Timothy Baldwin (2019) worked on the text of political domain. They argued that pragmatics play an important role in analyzing and interpreting the intention of speaker through linguistic utterances. They discussed that speech acts give us platform to understand that how context is exploited and how the speaker manipulates the speech according to the required background. Austin and Searle firstly proposed speech act theory which is valid till now and considered to be reliable, effective and practical in nature. Searle and Austin's contribution was challenged by Derrida. This notion is discussed by Hassan Baktir (2013), who researched the contributions and effectiveness of Austin, Searle, Gnatrri and Derrida towards the understanding and interpretation of complex phenomenon of human speech system.

Communication is not a simple process of conveying information but a method that involves speakers and listeners in a harmony. Verbal message is not only sufficient to decode the intended meanings but other key ingredients are also needed. This notion is favored by Susan Akinkurolere (2020), he claimed that along with the linguistic expression, non-verbal features including body language, paralinguistic features and sign language also aids hearer to fully understand the intended message which the speaker wants to propagate. He investigated in his research work that how politicians use and manipulate linguistic expression as per use. Political speeches are written and conveyed by the politicians under a specialized occasional and immediate context that matches the interests of the speaker and listener. Susan used political speeches of Nigerian President as a raw data for analysis. She expressed the notion that democrats deliberately use assertive style in order to perform performative speech act. She added that without the presence of specific context, one cannot understand the linguistic message completely and for better understanding, the context should be shared by all the parties involved in a speech event. Context can be of many layers, all are needed to be understood.

Communication Analysis also helps the researchers to study speech acts in relation to communicative events. Marta Gonzalez Lloret (2016), also discussed the same stance in her research production. She argued that how the participants initiate and practice speech interaction in an effective pattern. Another research conducted by Sana Ilyas and Dr. Qamar Khushi (2012), shed light on the usage of linguistic expression on social media platform. They limited their study only to Facebook application. They came to know that status uploaded are mostly based on the expressive speech acts including the aspects of directives and assertive. Language is found towards poetic rather than prose genre as social media is a source of expressing and sharing thoughts often.

Methodology:

In this research a political speech of Joe Biden is tabbed. It was victory speech of Joe Biden with a point of stopping deprecating and criticizing one another to find a trick of adjustment, delivered in November, 2020. Speech was downloaded from internet. Randomly some chunks are selected from speech, pragmatically speech was analyzed by using linguistic framework of speech act theory of Austen (1962) and Searle (1969), and furthermore conversationalization terminology of Fairclough (1994) and collectivization presented by Van Leeuwen (1996) was used to elaborate pragmatic approaches in speech. Each chunk of speech was nominated by original data step 1 to original data step 20; data was divided into two portions: phase 1 and phase 2 for elaborative interpretations. Speech data analysis was presented descriptively and in percentage table form for further intricacy and refinement.

Analysis:Original Data of Speech

Let us criminal demonization, In America.....Begin to end here and now.

The refusal of Democrats and republicans to cooperate with one another is not some mysterious force beyond the control.....It is a decision, a choice we make, And if we decide not to cooperate then we can decide to cooperate, And I believe that is the part of mandate given to us from American people.....They want us to cooperate, in their interest, and that's choice I'll make for American educators, this is a great day for y all.....You're gonna have one of your own in the white house, And Jill gonna make a great first lady, I am so proud of her (cheers) I'll have the honor of serving with a fantastic vice of president, who you just heard from Kamala Harris, who makes history as the first woman, the first woman from south Asian descent, the first daughter of immigrant ever elected in this country! (Cheers).....Don't tell me it's not possible in United States (cheers).....It's a long overdue.....Now that what I want the administration look like and act like, for all of those of you who voted for president trump, I understand the disappointment tonight. I've lost couple times myself, but now give each other a chance (cheers) It's time to put away harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other again, and to make progress. We have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies. They are not our enemies, they are Americans, and they are America. Our works begin with getting Covid under control. On Monday I will name a group of leading scientists and experts as transition advisers to help

Take the Biden---Haris Covid plan.....

It will be constructed out of compassion, empathy and concern.

God loves you all.

DATA ANALYSIS**Phase 1:**

Original data step: 1 Locution: Let's criminal demonization in America begin to end here now.

Illocutionary act: Direct: Directive (appealing) Indirect: Declarative (change) **_Expected**

Perlocutionary act: Unitary

Original data step: 2**Locution:** It's a decision, a choice we make and if we can decide not to cooperate then we can decide to cooperate. **Illocutionary act:** Direct: Commisive (pledge) Indirect: Declaration (change) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** collectivism

Original data step: 3**Locution:** The refusal of democrats and republicans to cooperate with one another is not some mysterious for beyond the control.

Illocutionary act: Direct: Assertive (stating) **Indirect:** Verdictive (judgment) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** hopefulness

Original data step: 4: **Locution:** I believe, that is part of mandate given to us from American people.

Illocutionary act: Direct: Assertive (stating) Indirect: Commisive (intention)

Expected Perlocutionary act: confirmative, informatory and sympathetic

Original data step: 5 **Locution:** They want us to cooperate in their interest and that's the choice.

Illocutionary act: Direct: Directive (suggestion) Indirect: Assertive: (statement) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** determination unity, sympathy, pacification

Original data step: 6 **Locution:** I will make for American educators. **Illocutionary act:** Direct: Commisive (intention) Indirect: Assertive (stating, informing, changing) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** :(determination)

Original data step 7: **Locution:** This is a great day for us all. **Illocutionary act:** Direct: Expressive (pleasure) Indirect: Assertive (informing) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** cheerfulness

Original data step: 8 **Locution:** You're gonna one of your own in the white house. **Illocutionary act:** Direct: Assertive (statement) Indirect: Verdictive (conviction)

Expected Perlocutionary act: sympathetic **Original data step: 9** **Locution:** And Jill's gonna make a great first lady, I am so proud of her (cheers)

Illocutionary act 9: Direct: Declaration (change) Indirect: Expressive (psychological state) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** excitement, sympathy, expressing pleasure

Original data step: 10 **Locution:** You always had my back, and I always have yours **Illocutionary act:** Direct statement: Commisive (promise) **Indirect:** Assertive (statement) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** Sympathy

Phase 2:

Original data step: 11 **Locution:** I said at the outset, I want to represent this campaign to represent and look like American, we have done that **Illocutionary act:** Direct: Declaration (declaring) Indirect: Commisive (intention) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** Hopefulness

Original data step: 12 Locution: Now that what I want the administration look like and act like, for all of those of you who voted for president trump, I understand the disappointment tonight. **Illocutionary act:** Direct: Commisive (future planning) Indirect: Expressive (sharing sorrows) **Expected Perlocutionary acts:** Sympathy, inspiring, encouraging

Original data step: 13 Locution: I've lost couple times myself, but now give each other a chance (cheers) **Illocutionary act** Direct: Assertive (stating) Indirect: Directive (appealing) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** unitary, collectivism, sympathy

Original data step: 14 it's time to put away harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other again, and to make progress.

Illocutionary act: Direct: Commisive (future planning, suggestions) indirect: Assertive (statement) **Expected Perlocutionary effect:** Encouragement, hopefulness

Original data: step 15 Locution: we have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies. **Illocutionary act:** Direct: Assertive (stating) Indirect: Expressive (suggestion)

Expected Perlocutionary act: encouragement, directing, counseling, suggesting

Original data: step 16 Locution: they are not our enemies, they are Americans, and they are America

Illocutionary act: Direct: Assertive (stating) Indirect: Representatives (claiming, generating hypothesis)

Expected Perlocutionary act: Unitary

Original data: step 17 Locution: Our works begin with getting Covid under control. **Illocutionary act:**

Direct: Declaration (change) Indirect: Commisive (future decision) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** hopefulness, encouragement

Original data: step 18 Locution: On Monday I will name a group of leading scientists and experts as transition advisers to help Take the Biden---Haris Covid plan..... **Illocutionary act:** Direct: Commisive (promise) Indirect: Declarative (act of change) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** determining, hopefulness

Original data step: 19 Locution: It will be constructed out of compassion, empathy and concern.

Illocutionary act: Direct: Commisive: (promise) Indirect: Assertive (stating) **Expected Perlocutionary act:** hopefulness

Original data step: 20 Locution: God loves you all. **Illocutionary act:** Direct: Representative (statement of fact) Indirect: Expressive (determination)

Expected Perlocutionary act: Sympathy, affection, positivity

Original data	Conversationalization	Collectivization
A choice we make and if we can decide not to cooperate.	A choice	(We make) (we can)
Let’s criminal demonization	Let’s	Let’s
You’re gonna one of your own	Gonna, your own	You’re
God loves you all.	God loves	All
We have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies.	We have to stop	We, our
I believe, that is part of mandate given to us from American people.	I believe	American people, us

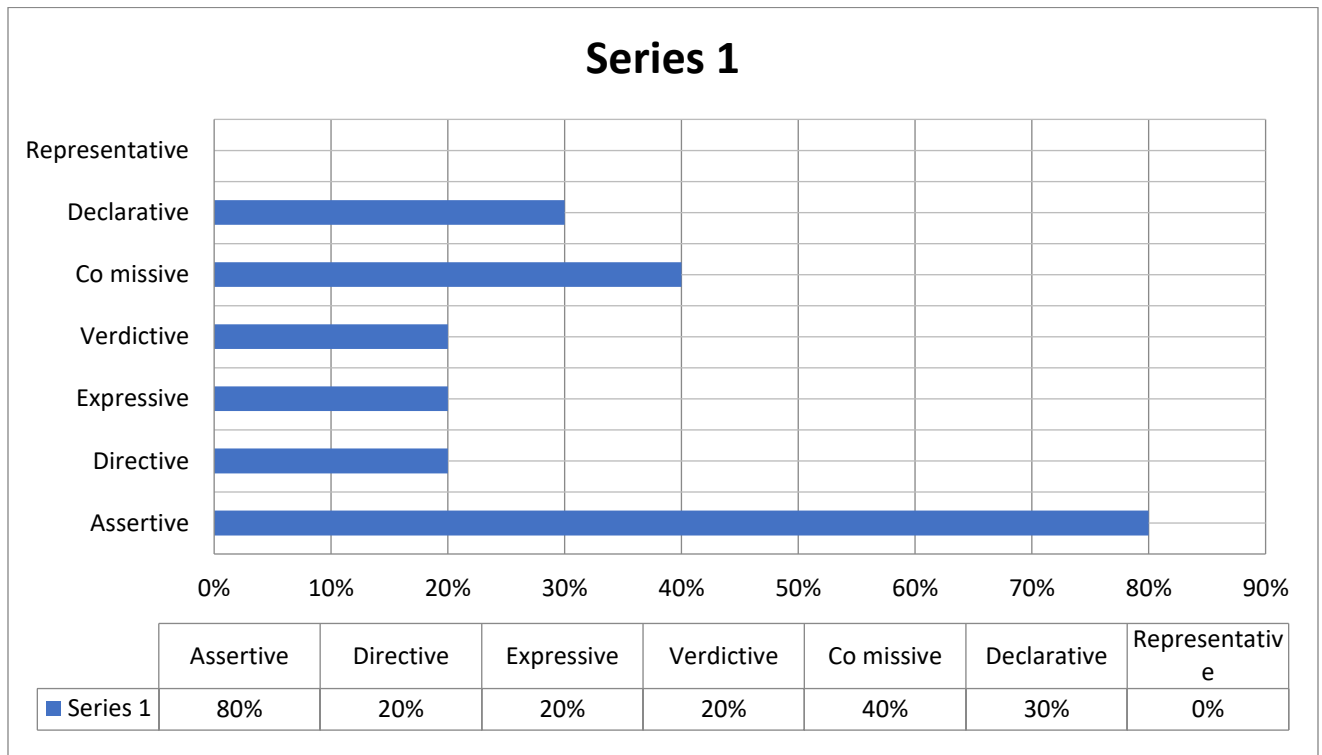
Data in percentage (phase 1)

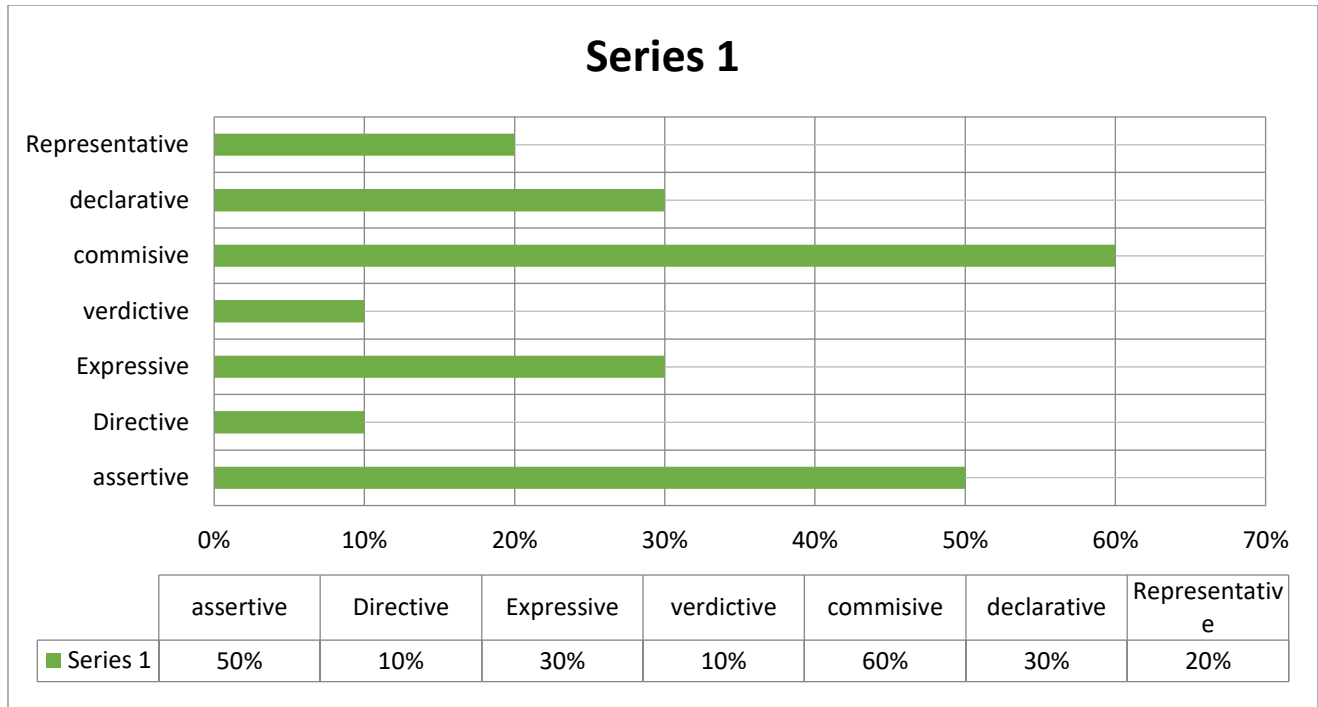
Speech acts(direct and indirect)	frequencies	Percentage
Assertive	8	80%
Directive	2	20%
Expressive	2	20%
Verdictive	2	20%
Co missive	4	40%
Declarative	3	30%
Representative	0	0%

Data in percentage (phase 2)

Speech act	Speech acts(direct and indirect)	frequencies	Percentage
assertive		5	50%
Directive		1	10%

Expressive	3	30%
verdictive	1	10%
commissive	6	60%
declarative	3	30%
Representative	2	20%





Discussion:

To clarify and unveil hidden ideologies, social practicality and norms, language is such a weapon that transmits thoughts in form of data to convey message. Every communicator performs different acts according to situation; this research is about political language analysis with conventional linguistic strategies according to politics. Pragmatically, politics have some background hidden ideologies and purposes to get attention of the audience with intentionality, mass orientation, natural and cultural specificity, emotiveness, modality and intersexuality elements to create interest of the audience. So, same criteria was analyzed in Joe Biden’s speech with speech act theory of Austen and Searle (1962), this is also focused that speech act could be indented and unintended; sometimes speaker does not focus on another meaning that may be indirect. In speech of Joe Biden, commissive and assertive sentences were on high peak with 80% to 70% range because political speech has characteristics of promises, woes and future plans, where a leader uses commissive and assertive sentences to elaborate future planning and goals. It is universal phenomena to use commissive and assertive sentences to show power and integrity, every politicization has an intention to do something extraordinary in speech to get the attention of audience by presenting excitement, power, hopefulness, inspiration, determination and sympathy, so results come out as perlocutionary acts that listener gets, if we observe the speech pragmatically, it may be with different meaning according to listener’s perception, if Joe Biden said in his speech (I want to represent this campaign to represent and look like Americans) he has different meaning but it depends upon the listener what type of meaning he interprets. When Joe Biden says “You’re gonna one of your own in the white house” his purpose may be to get sympathy and love or may be its just political technique to get attention of the audience, so linguistically it may have elaboration on syntactical level but it also evaluate linguistic approach and listeners attention as well on direct and indirect level. Furthermore according to the terminology of Fairclough and Leeuwen, speeches proclaim collectivization and conversationalization which make these speeches more attractive by using collective

terminologies like {we, us, Americans, their, unitary, all, let's, they, each other, all of those, for us all} all these words show double meanings and understandings on the part of receiver. Contrarily, the assertive acts in victory speech are 80% in 1st phase, and commissive acts are 60%, which illustrate Joe Biden's promises with audience, future planning statements and contents. Actually political speeches intimate power dominance and authoritative elements in different expressions of speaker. Sentences are analyzed on both direct illocutionary sense and indirect illocutionary sense to show that speaker has intention to say more than what he utters and he wants to do more than his utterances. Overall relative percentage frequency shows that political leaders use assertive and commissive sentences more as compare to other sentences to show their power, Joe Biden's speech is also full of commissive and assertive sentences which has an effect on listener of determination, hopefulness and success. Use of let's we, Americans, us, show Joe Biden's sympathetic and love intentions for audience on the one hand, contrarily all political speeches, with same universality has same intentions of attracting and inspiring, so speech acts according to speech act theory and assimilation are the reflection of speakers thoughts, intentions and ideologies.

Conclusion:

It is suffice to say that speech acts are the derivation of analysis of any communication to identify and discover the force and features of communication. Joe Biden's speech comprises of many triangulations of speech acts to excite, to elaborate and to inspire, as we observe in speeches of other leaders. It is also observed that act of saying something has more than utterances with broad perceptions and intentions. Speech acts are the reflection of particular genre and thoughts of speaker with different perspective. These speech acts are the focus on background ideologies of the political leaders to get attention of audience by attracting with different speech acts with different attractive tools of promise, planning and excitement. By using speech act theory of Searle and Austin (1962), researcher introduces different angles of speech for broad understanding of political speech.

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