

FELICITY CONDITIONS AND PERSUASION: A SPEECH ACT ANALYSIS OF PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE PERFORMANCES

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Abstract

This study examines the use of speech acts in persuasive communication during presidential election debates by analyzing how locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts operate within political discourse and shape public responses. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, the research draws data from official debate transcripts and audience reactions on platform X, focusing on how utterances function pragmatically and how audiences interpret or resist the intended messages. The analysis employs Austin's and Searle's speech act theory, supported by the felicity condition framework, to identify persuasive strategies embedded in assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative acts. Debate utterances were transcribed, categorized, and compared with public responses to determine whether the perlocutionary effects aligned with or diverged from the intended illocutionary force. Findings reveal a dominant use of assertive acts in shaping arguments and influencing public perception, although the degree of perlocutionary success varied across topics. Audience responses reveal that felicity conditions—particularly propositional content, sincerity, and essential conditions—play a crucial role in determining whether persuasive attempts succeed or result in misunderstanding, resistance, or rejection. Positive alignment between illocution and perlocution emerged when messages were perceived as credible and contextually grounded. In contrast, infelicities occurred when audiences doubted the intentions, accuracy, or feasibility of the claims presented. Overall, the study underscores the centrality of speech acts in shaping persuasive political discourse and demonstrates how public interpretation significantly impacts the effectiveness of persuasive communication in electoral contexts.

Keywords— Felicity Conditions, Persuasive Communication, Pragmatics, Illocutionary Acts, Perlocutionary Effects, Presidential Debate, Speech Acts

Introduction

Rhetoric is used when a person prepares, organizes, and delivers their speech. Oka and Basuki (in Fitriani & Chan, 2022) stated that every individual who speaks is essentially engaged in rhetoric, as humans are social creatures and interact with each other through language. It plays a vital role in communication within a community (Ilmi & Baehaqie, 2021). Language and communication are fundamental components in human interaction that affect almost every aspect of social life (Pinker & Jackendoff, 2009; Tomasello, 2010). Through communication, individuals not only convey information but also build relationships, express ideas, and influence the attitudes and behaviors of others. Effective communication depends not only on delivering a clear message, but also on how the receiver understands and interprets it. Language style, intonation, and word choice play a crucial role in creating meaning that can be accepted or even responded to with specific actions (Naruse & Moss, 2021). To gain a deeper understanding of how messages are conveyed and received in communication, a study of the language itself is

necessary. It is the linguistic theory that plays an important role, as it helps explain the mechanisms by which language shapes meaning and influences social interaction.

In persuasive communication, speeches and debates are the main media where rhetoric is carefully used to influence listeners. (Charteris-Black, 2011; Khranchenko, 2023). Persuasive communication can be defined as the process of influencing others by paying attention to the psychological aspects of the recipient of the message, so that the recipient consciously makes decisions or actions according to their own wishes (Zaenuri, 2017). This can be achieved through the right choice of words, the preparation of intense arguments, and conveying messages that resonate with both the listener's emotions and logic. In debates, speech acts can take the form of invitations, insinuations, or subtle criticisms designed to persuade listeners or win them over.

The year 2024 is significant for Indonesia and the United States, as it marks the year of the Presidential elections. The election marks the end of the terms of President Joko Widodo (2019-2024) in Indonesia and President Joe Biden (2020-2024) in the United States. In Indonesia, one presidential candidate who is interesting to study is Anies Rasyid Baswedan, former Governor of DKI Jakarta (2017-2022). Anies Rasyid Baswedan often attracts the attention of the Indonesian public through his speeches, which employ a distinctive language style that sometimes creates mixed perceptions within the community. In the United States, a figure who is also interesting to study in terms of his communication style is Donald Trump, the 45th former president of the United States (2016-2020), who is running again in 2024. Through speeches and debates, they attempt to convince the public by presenting critical and constructive ideas. Voters can understand the agenda offered by the candidates in a free and democratic manner. Candidates are expected to compete fairly by presenting clear visions, missions, and programs, and comparing them with those of other candidates.

Previous studies show that Donald Trump ideologically employed Van Dijk's twelve discourse strategies in his campaign speeches to construct a positive image of his own group while creating a negative image of opposing groups (Kadim, 2022). The findings are in line with Alessandro Nai (2019) This highlights the tendency of populist leaders, such as Trump, to employ extreme and divisive communication styles as a strategy to garner public support. In the media sphere, this communication pattern is also evident in how Trump and Hillary Clinton used Twitter as a primary campaign channel during the 2016 U.S. presidential election, replacing the role of mainstream media and enabling more direct and unfiltered political communication with the public. (Enli, 2017).

On Anies Baswedan's rhetorical side, he demonstrates consistency and strategic planning across various political debate settings. An analysis of the 2017 Jakarta gubernatorial debate, for instance, reveals that Anies employed subtle political language strategies through multiple forms of euphemism—such as verbal play, substitution, and circumlocution—to soften potential conflict while simultaneously constructing a persuasive positive image before voters. (Ardhan & Syukri, 2018). These findings align with studies on the 2024 presidential debates, which show that the selection and framing of specific issues, such as education, were crafted through rhetorical choices that emphasized his competence while reducing opportunities for direct attacks from opposing candidates (Hadaina et al., 2024). Furthermore, broader discourse-based analyses indicate that these communication strategies operate within the framework of positive discourse typical of contemporary Indonesian politics, where issue framing is carried out in a more measured and performative manner, aimed at constructing a strong leadership image (Nasihah & Ni'mah, 2024).

Authors see an interesting potential in comparing Anies Rasyid Baswedan's communication style with Donald Trump. Trump is famous for his unconventional approach, in which he often speaks bluntly and without preamble, a style that contrasts starkly with Anies Rasyid Baswedan's more subtle and nuanced rhetoric. Interestingly, presidential elections in Indonesia and the United States are scheduled to take place around the same time in 2024, providing the author with the opportunity to analyze two very different communication styles.

In a presidential debate, what a speaker says is not just about information. Every word, every sentence, is often constructed to persuade, influence, or even moving the audience. Anies Rasyid Baswedan, for example, tends to use language that is subtle, structured, and full of

narratives that touch on intellectual and moral values. In contrast, Donald Trump is known for being more outspoken, often using controversial statements as a strategy to gain attention or evoke emotions in certain parties. These two very different approaches are interesting to analyze in more depth, particularly in terms of how the two figures utilize speech acts to achieve their desired persuasive effects. space

Using speech act studies analysis, this research will dissect the persuasive communication strategies that emerge in both candidates' speeches and debates. Each form of linguistic action—whether commanding, claiming, pleading, or even satirizing—will be examined to understand how its utterances shape audience interpretation and reaction. To capture these effects more accurately, X (formerly Twitter) was selected as the primary platform for collecting data related to the speech acts used in the presidential debates. In the digital age, political rhetoric no longer ends on the debate stage; instead, it continues and evolves in online spaces where voters reinterpret arguments through memes, short clips, and expert commentary. This dynamic shows that debate rhetoric is not only tied to locutionary and illocutionary acts delivered by the candidates but also to the perlocutionary effects generated in the digital public sphere (Marzuki et al., 2025).

X is particularly relevant for this study because its text-based nature allows users to engage in direct, structured discussions that reveal more explicit interpretations of candidates' speech acts. As noted by Rieder et al. (2016), Twitter facilitates a deeper exchange of ideas compared to visually driven platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, or YouTube. Moreover, the platform's design encourages users to articulate their responses in written form, making it easier to track audience reactions, evaluate argument structures, and identify patterns of agreement, critique, or misperception. These characteristics make X the most suitable medium for analyzing how locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts materialize in public discourse.

Within this context, the 2024 Indonesian presidential debate drew significant attention to Anies Rasyid Baswedan, whose distinct language style—often rich in figurative expressions and nuanced meanings—generated diverse interpretations among the audience. Such stylistic choices, while rhetorically effective, sometimes led to misperceptions among viewers unfamiliar with complex linguistic forms. This study focuses solely on examining these linguistic features, without any intention of taking a political stance, to understand how they compare with Donald Trump's rhetorical approaches and how both candidates' speech acts influenced audiences, both directly and through mediated responses on social media.

Based on this description, the research questions are thus aligned with the analytical direction of the study:

1. What is the difference between the speech acts used by Anies Rasyid Baswedan and Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election debate?
2. How do Anies Rasyid Baswedan and Donald Trump use locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts during the 2024 presidential election debates, particularly in ways that generate perlocutionary effects reflected in social media comments?

Based on these research questions, this study aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the direct comparison between the speech acts employed by the two presidential candidates. It will also offer a comprehensive explanation of how the relationship between speech acts in presidential debates is reflected on social media through the perlocutionary responses that emerge. Ultimately, it will provide insights into how specific styles of speech acts impact perlocutionary reactions on social media during a presidential debate.

Literature Review

1. Pragmatics and Persuasive Communication

According to Rohmadi (2023), pragmatics is a branch of language study that is closely related to context. The pragmatics study helps in understanding the intentions that speakers want to convey when interacting with their interlocutors (Thomas, 2014). This statement aligns with early developments in pragmatic studies, which laid the groundwork for the emergence of advanced theories, including J.L. Austin's theory of speech acts (Austin, 2025). As a branch of

linguistics that focuses on context, pragmatics opens up an understanding that the meaning of utterances is not only determined by linguistic structure, but also by the situation in which the language is used. Austin developed the idea that utterances do not merely convey information but can also function as actions, depending on the social context and the speaker's intention.

Austin's work, entitled "How to Do Things with Words," discusses the theory of speech acts that originated from a critique of the traditional view in the philosophy of language, which considered that the primary function of language was to describe reality and be judged as true or false. This view, which Austin referred to as the descriptive fallacy, ignored the fact that not all utterances aim to state facts. Austin then introduced the concept of performative utterances, which are forms of speech that do not describe something but instead perform a specific action when uttered under appropriate conditions. However, in his later work, Austin realized that the boundary between performative and constative utterances was not entirely clear. This led him to formulate a more comprehensive theory, namely that every utterance contains three types of acts: the act of uttering (locutionary act), the act within the utterance itself (illocutionary act), and the act that the utterance causes in the other party (perlocutionary act) (Searle et al., 1980).

Persuasive communication aims to influence changes in people's attitudes, views, and behaviors. Experts often emphasize that this process is closely related to psychological aspects, because persuasive communication is designed to bring about conscious change through an approach that is gentle, flexible, and respectful of human values. This approach is carried out without involving pressure or threats, so that individuals who are influenced feel comfortable and engage voluntarily (Zaenuri, 2017).

Effective communicators utilize personal credibility, logical arguments, and emotional appeals to convey messages that are both relevant and meaningful to their audience (Dika et al., 2023). This communication is designed to be accepted voluntarily by the recipient, fostering awareness and understanding without pressure. The persuasive approach is widely used in various contexts, such as advertising, political campaigns, education, and interpersonal relationships, where its success is primarily determined by the match between the message content, the audience's characteristics, and the chosen media. With its human nature and reliance on ethical principles, persuasive communication is an effective means of creating positive change without violating the rights or comfort of others.

2. Presidential Debate

Presidential debates are one of the methods that enable the public to gain a better understanding of the personalities, views, and visions of each candidate (Benoit, 2013; Kraus, 2013). This opportunity provides a space for the people to participate directly in choosing the leaders of their nation. This direct election also fosters optimism for the development of democratic values that surpass those of the representative system. This debate activity is expected to lay the foundation for democratic practices that prioritize rational, value-based political principles, enabling people to choose leaders who possess the ability, credibility, and integrity more wisely.

In the debate, candidates are required to convey their ideas clearly and effectively. The language used must adapt to the characteristics of the community to attract their attention and sympathy. Statements delivered in the debate can take the form of promises, aspirations, criticisms, or even attacks on political opponents. The Electoral Commission formulates debates as one of the methods of political education for citizens. Debates have an essential role in influencing the preferences of novice voters and rational voters who have not yet decided on their choices (Bayu, 2020).

Debates are not only a platform for self-promotion, but also a reflection of a candidate's readiness to face real challenges in the future. Presidential candidates who can convey their ideas in a structured manner, answer questions with logical arguments, and demonstrate empathy for community problems will have a greater chance of gaining support. Therefore, debates are not just a ritual of democracy, but also a stage for demonstrating leadership qualities that are substantial and relevant to the nation's needs.

Research Method



The research method used in this study was a descriptive qualitative method, which aims to generate an in-depth understanding of the use of speech acts in persuasive communication during the 2024 presidential election debates (Relisa & Alwi, 2024). This method is used to understand the meaning, intention, and impact of utterances as demonstrated through linguistic interactions. Using an inductive reasoning approach, the analysis begins by observing naturally occurring utterances in the debate. Then it categorizes them into speech acts based on the theories of Austin and Searle.

The research data consists of two main types. First, the data comprises candidates' utterances obtained from the official debate videos of Anies Rasyid Baswedan on the Kompas TV YouTube channel and Donald Trump's debates on The Wall Street Journal channel. All statements with potential persuasive functions were carefully transcribed, including claims, criticisms, promises, appeals, and other rhetorical forms relevant to speech act theory. Second, the data consists of public responses collected from the platform X (Twitter). These responses were gathered from comments, tweets, and public conversations that directly reacted to the candidates' statements. The selection of responses was conducted purposively, including only comments that directly relate to the debate statements and contain indications of perlocutionary effects, whether in the form of acceptance, rejection, misinterpretation, or emotional reactions.

The data collection process was carried out through several systematic stages. The researcher first watched the debate videos repeatedly to ensure an accurate understanding of the candidates' utterances. Next, every statement considered to contain persuasive elements was recorded and transcribed, along with the context in which it was delivered. After that, each utterance was analyzed to identify its illocutionary type by marking the words, phrases, structures, or intentions that indicate assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, or declarative functions. On the other hand, relevant public responses were gathered from platform X using keywords and hashtags related to the debate topics. Once all the data were collected, the researcher matched the public responses with the intended illocution to assess whether the resulting perlocution aligned with the speaker's intention or instead showed resistance or shifts in meaning. All data were then organized into a table that includes the locution, illocution, and perlocution to facilitate further analysis.

The data analysis was conducted using the interactive model of Miles and Huberman, which includes data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. In the data condensation stage, the researcher selected only the utterances and responses relevant to the study's focus and coded them based on the types of speech acts. In the data display stage, the condensed results were organized into analytical narratives and tables to visualize patterns in the use of speech acts as well as trends in public responses to specific statements. This stage enabled the researcher to see more clearly the relationship between illocutionary intentions and perlocutionary effects. Finally, conclusions were drawn through an interpretive process that considered emerging patterns, meaning consistency, and the alignment between the speaker's intentions and the public's responses. Verification was carried out continuously by reviewing the raw data, analytical tables, and the context of the utterances to ensure that the findings produced were accurate, credible, and accountable.

The conclusion-drawing process in this study also included an analysis of felicity conditions to evaluate the success of the perlocutionary effects of each candidate's utterance. After the locution and illocution were identified, public responses were analyzed to determine whether the four prerequisites of speech acts—*propositional content*, *preparatory*, *sincerity*, and *essential conditions*—were fulfilled. The fulfillment of these conditions was observed through how the public reacted to the candidates' statements: whether they understood the intended proposition, accepted the basis or background of the speech act, believed in the sincerity of the candidate's intention, and acknowledged the function of the speech act as intended. When public responses aligned with the illocutionary goals—such as showing support, being persuaded, or demonstrating understanding of the candidate's ideas—the speech act was considered felicitous. However, when responses showed rejection, doubt, misinterpretation, or a shift in focus, the perlocution was viewed as infelicitous. Thus, the interpretation of felicity conditions was carried out not only through linguistic analysis of the candidates' utterances but also through direct interpretation of public reactions as indicators of the success or failure of

speech acts in the context of persuasive communication

Results and Discussion

This study analyzes the discourse of speech acts on platform X (Twitter) from July to August 2025. It collects 88 available tweets and 40 screenshots of relevant posts, although the account owners have deleted some. The collected data is organized in a table that includes identification numbers, locution (the actual utterance), illocution (the intended action), and perlocution (the impact or effect on the audience). Next, the perlocution is grouped based on the relevant speech sessions and analyzed to identify positive and negative sentiments within each session. The most dominant sentiment is then discussed using the framework of felicity conditions to assess whether the speech act meets the criteria for successful perlocution in influencing the audience. The findings from each session are then summarized to provide an overview of the emerging sentiments.

1. Illocutionary Act on Anies Rasyid Baswedan and Trump Debate

The presidential debate is a form of persuasive communication aimed at influencing public opinion, making the quality of communication in the discussion very important. Compelling communication is closely related to presidential election campaigns, as it plays a key role in designing and running campaigns that aim to convince voters through messages that affect their emotions, beliefs, and values, while also conveying the candidate's vision, platform, and promises (Hapsari et al., 2025). Generally, during debates, presidential candidates employ various speech acts to convey their messages to the audience. A speech act refers to the use of language that not only aims to communicate information but also to influence, persuade, or even encourage the audience to think or act according to their views and plans. In other words, the debate serves as a platform for presidential candidates to engage in persuasive communication aimed at building credibility and garnering public support. Therefore, analyzing the speech acts employed in presidential debates is crucial to understanding how candidates utilize language as a tool to shape public perception. In analyzing the speech acts used by Anies Rasyid Baswedan and Donald Trump in their respective debate contests, five main types of speech acts were identified: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Each type of speech act serves a specific purpose and function in communication, whether to convey beliefs, encourage action, demonstrate commitment, or express feelings. In a debate forum, the dominant use of certain types of speech acts significantly impacts the success of communication and how the audience responds to the message conveyed.

In Anies Rasyid Baswedan's speeches, the assertive speech act dominates, accounting for 50% of the total speech acts used. Assertives serve to convey a belief or opinion that the speaker genuinely holds to be true, with the intention of convincing the audience of the validity of the presented viewpoint or idea. In his debate and statements, Anies Rasyid Baswedan frequently uses assertives to express his vision and beliefs on various important issues, such as freedom of speech, legal system reform, and improving the quality of education. For example, when Anies Rasyid Baswedan discusses freedom of speech, he strongly asserts that young people have the right to express their opinions without fear of physical violence. This statement exemplifies an assertive speech act designed to persuade the audience that freedom of speech is a fundamental right that should be respected in a democratic system. Additionally, on the topic of the rule of law, Anies Rasyid Baswedan also uses assertiveness to emphasize that changes in the legal system are necessary to create justice. By employing assertive speech acts, Anies Rasyid Baswedan seeks to persuade the audience to adopt his perspective, which holds that a more effective legal system will promote social justice in Indonesia. In political communication, assertive speech acts are crucial because they strengthen arguments and persuade the audience of the validity of a given opinion. In addition to assertives, directives are also used by Anies Rasyid Baswedan, comprising 33.3% of his speech acts. Directives are used to encourage the audience to think further or take action in accordance with the ideas presented. Anies Rasyid Baswedan uses this type of speech act to urge the audience to participate in the changes he proposes. However, the frequency of this usage is lower compared to assertives. Commissive

speech acts (reflecting commitment or intent to act) make up 13.3% of the total speech acts used by Anies Rasyid Baswedan, indicating that while commitment is essential, commissives are less common than assertives. Declarative and expressive speech acts each account for only 3.3% and 10%, respectively, showing that although both types of speech acts are essential for providing emotional depth or status, they are not used as frequently as assertives.

In Anies Rasyid Baswedan's speeches, the assertive speech act is the most dominant, making up 50% of all speech acts used. Assertives are used to express beliefs or opinions that the speaker considers proper, to convince the audience that the ideas being presented are valid. Throughout the debate and his speeches, Anies frequently employs assertiveness to share his vision and beliefs on key issues, such as freedom of speech, legal reform, and improving the quality of education. For instance, when discussing freedom of speech, he firmly states that young people have the right to express their opinions without facing physical violence. This is an example of an assertive speech act intended to convince the audience that freedom of speech is a fundamental right that should be respected in a democracy. Similarly, when discussing the rule of law, Anies employs assertiveness to emphasize that reforming the legal system is crucial for achieving justice. By using assertiveness, he aims to persuade the audience to accept his belief that a better legal system will enhance social justice in Indonesia. Assertive speech acts are crucial in political communication because they help strengthen arguments and persuade the audience of the truth of the speaker's views. In addition to assertives, Anies also uses directives, which make up 33.3% of his speech acts. Directives are used to encourage the audience to think more deeply or take action in line with the ideas being presented. Anies employs this type of speech act to motivate the audience to participate in the changes he proposes, though they are used less frequently than assertives. Commissive speech acts, which reflect commitment or intention to act, account for 13.3% of his speech acts, showing that while commitment is essential, these speech acts are less common than assertives. Declarative and expressive speech acts make up 3.3% and 10%, respectively. While both types are valuable for adding emotional depth or status, they are used less often than assertive speech acts.

Based on these findings, we can conclude that the assertive speech act is the most dominant type of speech act used by both Anies Rasyid Baswedan and Trump. Although both figures use assertive speech acts in different ways, they both rely on them as the primary tool to express their beliefs and introduce their views to the audience. In Anies Rasyid Baswedan's case, assertive speech acts dominate, making up 50% of his total statements, while Trump uses them in 44.4% of his statements. This suggests that assertive speech plays a crucial role in political communication, as it is employed to establish credibility and persuade the audience of the speaker's viewpoints or ideas.

2. Felicity Condition on Perlocutionary Act

The analysis of the communication styles of Anies Rasyid Baswedan and Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential debates reveals a dominant use of assertive speech acts by both. Assertive speech acts are used to make claims or factual statements that express the speaker's beliefs or opinions. In debates, particularly in political campaign genres, this type of speech is essential for asserting a position and convincing the audience. In the full transcripts of Anies Rasyid Baswedan's debates from the first to the third, he used assertive speech acts in 197 utterances. In comparison, Trump used assertive speech acts in 110 utterances in the full transcripts of his first and second debates. The frequent use of assertive speech by both indicates how crucial this element is for grabbing the audience's attention and building credibility as a candidate for leadership. However, despite both using assertive speech acts, their approaches to persuasive communication differ greatly. **Trump uses more expressive speech acts**, with 32 utterances found in the full transcripts of the first and second debates. These are used to express feelings or make emotional judgments about situations, reflecting the sentiments of the American public. On many occasions, Trump uses harsh and provocative expressions, such as calling Joe Biden "Sleepy Joe." Such expressions are intended to evoke an emotional response from the audience, such as anger or support for him as a more decisive and more assertive figure. In contrast, **Anies Rasyid Baswedan employs more directive speech acts** (71 utterances), which focus on guiding the audience to act in accordance with the ideas he presents.

For example, he encourages his supporters to think more rationally about the country's situation, including issues related to education, social inequality, and the legal policies being manipulated by the elites. Anies tends to speak with a more rational and data-driven approach, while Trump often relies more on the emotional power in his speeches.

To understand why this difference is significant, we need to look at the role of Felicity Conditions in the success of their communication. Propositional content conditions refer to the clarity of the propositions or claims presented by the speaker (Hanks, 2015). In this case, both Anies Rasyid Baswedan and Trump meet this condition by presenting explicit claims about legal system reforms in Indonesia and policy changes in America. However, the success of their assertive speech acts does not solely rely on the clarity of the propositions, but also on an essential condition: whether the audience accepts the speaker as an authority with the credibility to make such claims. Anies Rasyid Baswedan, with his background as the former Governor of Jakarta, had authority in speaking about legal reforms; however, the Indonesian audience may desire stronger emotional expressions to feel a sense of sincerity and connection with the candidate. On the other hand, Trump, with his bold and often controversial speaking style, is seen as more authentic by his supporters, even though this style frequently invites criticism on social media. Additionally, preparatory conditions are crucial in persuasive communication. In Indonesia, the audience is more likely to respond to expressive speech acts that convey emotion or sincerity. Similarly, **in the United States, the audience is more inclined to accept direct and passionate expressive speech acts.** Although both use assertive speech acts as the primary form of communication, they each require expressive elements to build a stronger emotional connection with their audience. **Sincerity conditions**, which relate to the speaker's sincerity, are also crucial. If the audience doubts the sincerity of the message, the perlocutionary effect (the impact of the speech on the audience) is likely to fail. Here, Trump often succeeds because his communication style is seen as more authentic and resonates with the hearts of the people, even though it can be controversial. In contrast, **Anies Rasyid Baswedan may feel the need to use more emotional expressions to engage the Indonesian audience, who often prioritize sincerity in speech.**

A presidential debate not only measures how well a candidate can win over the audience with words or persuasion but also how the candidate demonstrates their vision, integrity, and commitment to leading the country. Therefore, success in a debate, which is often measured by speaking ability, clear explanation of ideas, and effective argumentation, is not the primary factor in determining who will win the presidential election. While Felicity Conditions provide an essential perspective for assessing the effectiveness of a message, we must also recognize that success in a debate does not necessarily determine the winner of the presidential election. The debate is indeed one forum where presidential candidates can showcase their speaking abilities, present their vision and mission, and interact with their political opponents. However, in the end, the debate is just one aspect of the overall political process, which is much more complex. The speech acts used in the debate have a significant impact on public perception. Still, there are many other factors, such as track record, proposed policies, the candidate's ability to solve real-world problems, and even factors like those mentioned by Anies Rasyid Baswedan in the debate, that can be more significant in determining the winner of the presidential election. Many other external factors also play a crucial role in deciding who will be elected president. Political dynamics are among the primary factors that influence the election process. These dynamics encompass elements such as political party coalitions, alliances formed between candidates, and the political strategies employed to garner support. This factor can be very decisive because, even if a candidate performs well in the debate or has a clear message, without solid political support and a strong coalition, winning the election can be very difficult.

Conclusion

This study confirms that the comparison of speech acts in the presidential debates between Anies Rasyid Baswedan and Donald Trump reveals distinct linguistic patterns that nevertheless play equally essential roles in shaping persuasive communication and public responses. The findings also reaffirm that both candidates rely heavily on assertive speech acts

as their primary tool for conveying positions, expressing beliefs, and building credibility. The perlocutionary effects that emerge on social media, however, depend on the extent to which the felicity conditions of each utterance are met. However, this study is limited by the available volume of public data, the fluctuating dynamics of comments on platform X, and the analytical scope that focuses on only two candidates within a single debate period. Even so, future research has the potential to explore the relationship between types of speech acts, the demographic characteristics of digital audiences, and the influence of cross-platform social media in a more comprehensive manner, thereby obtaining a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of contemporary political communication.

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