

# An Analysis of Illocutionary Speech Acts of Government Officials of the Republic of Indonesia in the Face of Coronavirus Disease 19 Global Pandemic

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This research aimed at analysing the type of illocutionary speech acts used by government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic. The data of this research took the form of fragments of speeches suspected as illocutionary acts of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic in online media during January-April 2020. The data were collected using recording and documentation techniques. They were then analysed using pragmatic equivalence technique and heuristic approach. The research result indicated that the illocutionary speech acts of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic were: representative/assertive, directive, expressive, commissive, declaration. The scientific novelty of the study lies in language discussion of the current global pandemic Covid-19.

**Keywords:** *Illocutionary speech acts, speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia, Covid-19 global pandemic, pragmatic.*

## Introduction

In January 2020, news began to spread regarding a novel respiratory virus spreading in Wuhan, China. On February 1, 2020, 14.3 thousand cases had been identified, and it was no longer limited to Wuhan, rather it had been identified in other major cities in China, including Beijing and Shanghai. What initially seemed like a limited issue, particularly to

China, had immediately been a global problem since countries in Europe, North America and Africa declared their first cases. The World's Health Organisation announced a global health emergency on January 30, 2020, and on March 11, 2020, Covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19 pandemic had spread throughout the world, including Indonesia, and it had messed things up at a worrying level.

The impact of this outbreak was visible globally when countries around the world closed their borders, and cities were closed. Indonesia was one of those countries affected by this virus. The responses from government officials of the Republic of Indonesia were also varied. The government of the Republic of Indonesia established Government Regulation of Indonesia Number 21 the year 2020 concerning Large-scale Social Restriction in an attempt for Accelerating Covid-19 Handling. Cities and towns in Indonesia began to implement Large-Scale Social Restriction (PSBB).

Following the Government Regulation of Indonesia Number 21 the year 2020, Large-Scale Social Restriction meant restricting the activities of a certain population in an area suspected to have been infected by a disease and contaminated in such a way to prevent any possible disease from spreading or contamination. This Large-Scale Social Restriction was a form of implementation of health quarantine in an area, in addition to home and hospital quarantines. The restrictions were made at least to involve dismissing schools and works, restricting religious activities, and restricting activities in a public place or facility. Anyone violating this Large-Scale Social Restriction could be subjected to punishment, be it imprisonment for a maximum of one year and a fine of Rp100 million.

The rhetoric or language jargons in many places were strengthened as the government officials of the Republic of Indonesia endeavoured to deal with the Covid-19 global pandemic. These officials encouraged society to comply with Large-Scale Social Restriction. They gave various directives in the face of this Covid-19 global pandemic in online media news. When a government official delivered a statement, they surely had an intention, be it the actual one (explicit) or the hidden and or disguised one (implicit). To convey a speech intention, one—either deliberately or indeliberately—must make use of various linguistic tricks to achieve the intention or goals they wanted when uttering a speech to their speech partner. These linguistic tricks included such use of numerous types of speech act which was either deliberately or indeliberately used to convey a message.

For this reason, it was interesting to study the speech acts of these government officials from a linguistic perspective. In linguistics, speech acts became a domain of pragmatic studies, i.e. a linguistic study from the perspective of its use for communicating. Based on the definition of pragmatics proposed by Levinson (1983, pp. 1-53), Leech (1983, p. 5), Parker (1986, p.1), and Mey (1994, p. 5), it could be stated that a unit of pragmatic analysis was different from

that of syntactic analysis, and it was also different from that of semantic analysis. The unit of pragmatic analysis was speech acts. Speech acts were an entity of a central nature in pragmatics. It was thanks to this central nature that speech act had the main nature in its role for the analysis of pragmatic topics.

Albab and Setiawan (2018) conducted research entitled "The Illocutionary Acts of Directive on Lazada\_Id Advertising in the Instagram". The research aimed at analysing the illocutionary speech acts of the directive in the Lazada\_Id advertising Instagram account. The research had something in common with this research for they both studied illocutionary speech acts in social media. The difference was that their research data and their sources took the form of illocutionary speeches of advertising directive in Lazada\_Id Instagram account, and the writer's research data and their sources were the illocutionary speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic.

Yuniawan, et al. (2020) research entitled "Deixis Analysis In The Speech Of President Joko Widodo At the Inauguration" analysed the type of deixis in the President Joko Widodo's Speech text in his inauguration as the president of the Republic of Indonesia. The research shared its target on President Joko Widodo, who was one of the government officials of the Republic of Indonesia with this research. The research used syntax theory to analysed the form of deixis in the speech text of President Joko Widodo. It differed with the research the writer conducted, i.e. using pragmatic theory to analyse the type of illocutionary speech of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic.

Yergaliyeva et al. (2020), conducted research entitled "Virtual Linguistic Personality as a Reflection of People Linguistic Culture: on the Example of Kazakhstani Political Internet Commentaries". This study aims to determine the parameters of a personal and textual generation of Kazakhstani political Internet comments and reconstruction of a virtual language personality and this research analysed the illocutionary speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic.

Based on this problem background, this research aimed at analysing the illocutionary speech acts of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in the face of Covid-19 global pandemic. Theoretically, this research would give a benefit in providing more detailed information on the illocutionary speech acts and speech marker selection strategy in the government officials' utterances. Practically, this research was expected to be a reference for government officials and the society in selecting the appropriate and proper speeches or non-hoax nor -fake speeches concerning Covid global pandemic.

## Theory

The speech act is important in pragmatic studies. Uttering a certain speech could be deemed as performing an act (influencing, asking), in addition to the speaking or uttering the speech itself. It is the activity of performing the act of uttering speech which constitutes a speech act. Based on a number of criteria, there are some types of speech act, namely constative, performative, locutionary, illocutionary, perlocutionary, representative, directive, expressive or evaluative, commissive, declaration or established, direct, indirect, literal direct, non-literal direct, literal indirect, and non-literal indirect (Rustono, 2017, p. 59).

Referring to Austin's (1962) opinion, Gunarwan (1994, p. 43) suggested that uttering a speech could be seen as performing an act, in addition to the speaking (uttering) the speech itself. This activity of uttering or speaking the speech with a certain intention constitutes the speech act. A speech act is not merely a direct representation of its meaning elements (Sperber & Wilson, 1989). Regarding the various possible intentions for communicating, Leech (1983) argues that a speech act should consider five aspects of speech situation which include: (1) speaker and hearer, (2) speech context, (3) speech goal, (4) speech act as a form of act or activity, and (5) speech as a product of verbal act.

Furthermore, in a more operational sense, Searle (cited in Gunarwan 1994, pp. 47-48) details the validity requirements for a speech act to promise into five, namely: (1) speaker should intend to fulfil what they promise, (2) speaker should believe that their hearer believes that the promised act benefits the hearer, (3) speaker should believe that they can fulfil the promise, (4) speaker must predict the act to be performed in the future, and (5) speaker should be capable of predicting the act they will do themselves. If those validity requirements are not completely met, a speech of promising becomes less valid.

In regard to speech, there are three types of acts which should receive some attention, namely: (1) locutionary act, (2) illocutionary act, and (3) perlocutionary act (Austin, 1962, p. 94, Searle, 1969, pp. 23-24). In short, Gunarwan (1994, p. 45) terms them locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary.

Locutionary or social activities in full is a speech act intended to state something. Locutionary is merely a speech act or act of speaking, i.e. the act of saying something with a word whose meaning matches the meaning of that word in a dictionary and the meaning of the sentence matches its syntactic rule (Gunarwan, 1994, p.45). In an locutionary act, the intention or function of the speech is not questioned.

Illocutionary act means the act of doing something (Austin, 1962, pp. 99-100, Gunarwan, 1994, p.46). Unlike locutionary, illocutionary act is a speech act which has an intention and

function or power of speech. The question asked regarding illocutionary acts is "What purpose this speech is uttered for?" rather than "What does the uttered speech mean?" The intention which can be identified by asking what the speech is uttered for constitutes an indicator that the speech is illocutionary. It is, however, not easy to identify an illocutionary act. This is possible since illocutionary acts have something to do with who speaks to whom, when and where the speech act is performed, and so forth. To make the identification easier, some verbs can be used to mark illocutionary speech acts. Some of these verbs include *reporting, announcing, asking, suggesting, thanking, proposing, acknowledging, uttering congratulation, promising, urging* etc (Leech, 1983).

The speech uttered by a speaker often has a perlocutionary force or effect. It is this effect produced by uttering something which Austin (1962, p. 101) refers to as perlocutionary acts. This speech effect or force can be created by the speaker either deliberately or indeliberately. It is this speech act whose utterance is intended to influence the hearer which constitutes perlocutionary acts. Some verbs can identify perlocutionary acts. These verbs include *persuading, deceiving, encouraging, irritating, frightening, pleasing, relieving, humiliating, attracting attention, and so on* (Leech, 1983).

This uncountable number of speech acts was classified by Searle (1969) into five types. These five types of speech acts include (1) representative/assertive, (2) directive, (3) expressive, (4) commissive, and (5) declaration. According to Brown and Yule (1996, p. 19), the clearest device to indicate the illocutionary force (illocutionary force indicating device or IFID) is the type of speech within which a gap exists for a verb which explicitly mentions the illocutionary act being shown. Such a verb can be said as a performative verb (V<sub>p</sub>). In oral language, the illocutionary force indicating device which can be used if the performative verb does not exist is by identifying the sequence of words, pressure, and intonation. Another device can also be used, such as the low voice quality to warn or threaten.

Unlike oral language, the method which can be used to identify illocutionary markers in written language is by including the context when the speech is uttered. The said context can take the form of when the speech is uttered, to whom, where, how is the social status of the speaker and the hearer, and how is the situation when the speech is uttered (relaxed or formal/serious). By including or incorporating this context, we can easily identify what illocutionary act is intended by the speaker through his/her speech.

## Methods

This research was designed in a descriptive qualitative manner. Descriptive qualitative research was the one which described the data accurately based on the natural quality of the data themselves (Djajasudarma, 1993, p. 15). This descriptive qualitative nature led to the in-

depth discussion of the issue on the type of illocutionary speech acts of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic using the pragmatic theory framework.

The data in this research were illocutionary speeches or fragments of illocutionary speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic. The source of data in this research was the illocutionary speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic from January to April 2020 in online media news. The considerations were that (1) there were illocutionary speeches in online media news of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic; (2) the speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic in online media news had its unique characteristics, i.e. using Javanese, Indonesian language, and English; (3) the readers of online media news of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic were all Indonesian population; and (4) in online media news, the government officials of the Republic of Indonesia were relatively active and productive in uploading information related to Covid-19 global pandemic.

The data in this research were collected by (1) recording and (2) documenting in such forms as articles, photographs, drawings (Sudaryanto, 2015, p. 133; Rohidi, 2011, p. 208; Mahsun, 2005, p. 133). This record and documentation technique was used to collect the data suspected to be illocutionary speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic in the form of words, phrases, and sentences in online media news. The data were sorted using two criteria, data similarity and difference. The two criteria included the similarity and difference of types of illocutionary speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic. The data were analysed using pragmatic equivalence technique. This technique was used based on the assumption that the language under study was associated with those matters beyond the language in question (Kesuma, 2007, p. 47; Mahsun, 2007, p. 112, Sudaryanto, 2015, p. 13).

The data were also analysed using a heuristic approach. A heuristic approach is used to solve the problem experienced by speakers to interpret illocutionary speech acts. Heuristic analysis is analysed from the surfacing problems that have prepositions and context, and at the end, the analysis is to conclude as a hypothesis. The steps of analysis are: (1) reading the speech acts of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic; (2) categorising the data with heuristic technique; (3) filling the datasheet; (4) identifying the type of illocutionary speech acts of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic; (5) writing a hypothesis; (6) double-

checking the collected data; (7) finalising the findings based on collected data and hypothesis; and (8) writing the description (Leech, 1983, pp. 61-63).

This research used an interactive analysis model, i.e. the interaction between three components; data reduction, data presentation, and data verification. They were done during the data collection process. When it was thoughtless appropriate, an exploration was made to the field note (Miles & Huberman, 1992, p. 23).

## Findings and Discussion

At the initial part of the discussion, it was necessary to point out the periodisation of speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with this Covid-19 global pandemic. This was because the data analysis found that the government officials changed their stand in uttering their speech in dealing with this Covid-19 global pandemic. Such periodisation was divided into three phases, namely: (a) initial phase: the period of this phase ranged from January to March 14, 2020; (b) critical phase: this phase began from March 15, 2020; and (c) advanced phase: this phase lasted from March 16, 2020, to April 2020 (until this research was conducted). The analysis results of this research were presented as follows.

The representative/assertive illocutionary speech act took the form of joke, suggestion, statement, and report. The directive illocutionary speech act took the form of prohibition, expectation, and direct order. The declaration illocutionary speech act took the form of establishment or decision. The expressive illocutionary speech act took the form of interrogation and disappointment. The commissive illocutionary speech act took the form of promising. The most dominant speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic were representative/assertive illocutionary speech act. The analysis results of this research were presented as follows.

Based on the analysis of research data, the representative illocutionary speech act was found. The representative/assertive speech act of government officials was explained in the following data.

(1) *"Corona (masuk Batam)? Corona kan sudah pergi. Corona mobil?"* (Corona (came to Batam)? Corona had gone. Corona the car?) (Data 1, detik.com, February 10, 2020).

In a speech (1), this speech stated by Luhut Binsar Panjaitan (Coordinating Minister of Maritime and Investment of RI) was a representative/assertive illocutionary act since it indicated a truth – in the speaker's version – regarding the belief that "Corona had gone". The use of "*sudah*" (had) showed something which had happened. Hence it could be deemed as a fact/truth by the hearer (public). Furthermore, the one stating this was a minister.

However, this statement was contradictory with the next speech, i.e. “*Corona mobil?*” (“Corona the car?”) which was uttered in a joking tone. This speech context was when Luhut Binsar Panjaitan was asked by journalists on a rumour that COVID-19 had been detected to be in Indonesia. This speech was uttered on February 10, 2020, which was the initial phase of COVID-19 virus entry to Indonesia. Furthermore, the following data (2) strengthened the explanation in data (1).

(2) “*Ingat, yang kita lawan ini virus, bukan bakteri lho ya. Virus itu self limited disease. Artinya, self limited disease itu sembuh sendiri. Tidak diapa-apain juga sembuh sendiri.* (Remember, what we fight against is a virus, not a bacteria. The virus is a self-limited disease. Meaning, a self-limited disease will recover naturally. Even if nothing is done to it, it will heal) (Data 6, iNews.id, March 2, 2020)

The speech data (2) was started by Terawan Adi Putranto (Minister of Health of RI) on March 2, 2020. This period was still in the initial phase of COVID-19 virus entry to Indonesia. The representative/ assertive illocutionary act in data (2) was that the speaker stated that COVID-19 virus was classified as a *self-limited disease* which was explained by the speaker as a disease which will heal naturally, even without having to be taken care of.

The selection of speech marker ‘*tidak diapa-apain juga sembuh sendiri*’ (even if nothing is done, it will heal) created an impression of ‘making light’ of the danger posed by COVID-19 virus. This statement was then defied by the fact that the spread of this COVID-19 virus was pretty fast, and if no medical handling was given appropriately, it could even lead to death. A similar statement was uttered by President Joko Widodo on March 3, 2020, as indicated in the following speech.

(3) “*Virus korona ini gejalanya mirip flu, dan faktanya, sebagian besar pasien baik di RRT, Jepang, Iran, sampai Italia dapat sembuh dan pulih kembali. Jadi kita tidak perlu terlalu ketakutan masalah ini, tetapi tetap harus hati-hati dan waspada dalam setiap beraktivitas*”. (This coronavirus has similar symptoms as flu, and in fact, most patients in both China, Japan, Iran and even Italy can be healed and recover. Thus, we do not need to be excessively frightened by this issue, yet we need to be constantly careful and on alert in our every activity) (Data 7, fb President Joko Widodo, March 3, 2020).

Speech (3) was a representative/assertive illocutionary speech act for it stated that the symptoms of COVID-19 virus were similar to those of flu. This speech was stated by President Joko Widodo on March 3, 2020, which was the beginning period that Covid-19 began to be identified in Indonesia. The speaker showed the fact that most patients in other countries were healed and recovered. The selection of speech markers ‘*mirip dengan flu*’ (similar to [those of] flu) and ‘*dapat sembuh dan pulih kembali*’ (could be healed and

recover) were then tied with the directive illocutionary speech act of prohibition '*jadi kita tidak perlu terlalu ketakutan masalah ini*' (Thus, we do not need to be excessively frightened by this issue) and this indicated an impression that the government had not too much information on the danger of this virus hence they left an impression of making light of this Covid-19 virus at the initial phase.

Furthermore, from the analysed data, directive illocutionary speech act was also found. According to Searle (1969), directive speech act means a speech made by its speaker intended to make the hearer do an action mentioned in the speech. The directive illocutionary speech act found in the speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic in this research was the prohibitive imperative directive illocutionary speech act. This could be seen in the following data analysis.

(4) "*Masker (habis di pasaran) salahmu sendiri, kok beli. Enggak usah (pakai), masker itu buat yang sakit.*" ("[If] masks (were gone from market) it's your own fault, who told you to buy it. No need to (use it), masks are only for the sick ones.") (Data 2, kompas.tv, February 16, 2020)

In data (4), there was a directive illocutionary speech act in the form of prohibition as characterised by the word "*enggak usah (pakai)*" (No need to (use it)). The context of this speech was when the Minister of Health, Terawan Adi Putranto, answered journalists' questions regarding mask scarcity in the market. If anyone sold it, the price had been beyond reasonable. This speech was made on February 16, 2020.

The speaker answered the question using an imperative sentence '*enggak usah (pakai)*' ((No need to (use it)) and it was followed with a declarative sentence '*masker itu buat yang sakit*' (masks are only for the sick ones). This prohibition made the society think they did not need to buy masks as a preventive step for being infected with the Coronavirus. This prohibition contradicted the order/recommendation issued by the government regarding the use of mask sometime later.

In addition, based on the data analysis, an expectation directive illocutionary speech act was also found. This could be explained in the following data analysis.

(5) "*Saya juga berharap masyarakat tetap waspada, tetap tenang, beraktivitas seperti biasa.*" (I also wish that the society will stay alert, stay calm, and do their activities as usual) (Data 7, fb Presiden Joko Widodo, March 3, 2020)

The speech data (5) was uttered by President Joko Widodo on March 3, 2020. In this speech, the President wished that the society would remain alert, calm and did their activities as

usual. The speech marker 'berharap' (wish) indicated an order uttered subtly so that the compliance to perform this order was not binding either.

Then, unlike the speech made on March 3, 2020, President Joko Widodo delivered another speech on March 15, 2020, which could be classified as a direct directive illocutionary speech act. This could be seen in the following data analysis.

(6) *“Sebagaimana kemarin telah disampaikan bahwa salah satu menteri kami terdeteksi positif terinfeksi COVID-19. Dengan kondisi ini, saatnya kita kerja dari rumah, belajar dari rumah, ibadah di rumah.”* (As has been stated yesterday that one of our ministers has been detected positive with COVID-19 infection. Under this circumstance, the time has come for us to work from home, study from home, and worship at home) (Data 11, sekretariat kabinet.go.id, March 15, 2020).

In the speech data (5), the President used the speech marker 'berharap' (wish), in this speech (6), the president expressly used the imperative sentence with the root verb forms, i.e. '*kerja*' (work), '*belajar*' (study), and '*ibadah*' (worship). The use of root verbs was intended to show that the order was compulsory and binding, no longer expectation directive illocutionary speech act such as in speech (5).

It was this speech (6) which became the turning point of the government's stand in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic. Since the time President Jokowi made this speech, the seemingly less attentive government changed into a more careful and alert one towards the potential wider spread of Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. This situation was confirmed in the following speech.

(7) *“Oleh karena itu, mulai hari ini sesuai dengan rekomendasi WHO, kita menjalankan masker untuk semua. Semua harus menggunakan masker.”* (Therefore, starting today with WHO's recommendations, we implement masks for all. Everyone must use masks.” (Data 17, liputan6.com, April 5, 2020)

This speech data (7) was made by Achmad Yurianto (Spokesperson of Covid-19 Handling Acceleration Task Force) on April 5, 2020. This speech was a direct imperative illocutionary act since it used the speech marker '*harus*' (must) which showed an '*kewajiban*' (obligation). The speech marker '*semua*' (everyone) also nullified what had been stated by the Minister of Health who suggested that masks needed to be used only by the sick ones as had been explained in speech data (4) above.

The seriousness of government of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic became even more visible as President Joko Widodo made the speech (6) on March

15, 2020. The following speech confirmed the direct directive illocutionary speech act uttered by President Joko Widodo.

(8) *“Saya telah perintahkan pada semua menteri, gubernur, bupati dan walikota agar memangkas semua rencana belanja yang tidak prioritas di APBN maupun di APBD.”* (I have ordered all ministers, governors, regents and mayors to cut all non-priority expenditure plans in both the State and Regional Budget) (Data 15, sekretariat negara.go.id, March 24, 2020)

The context of speech data (8) was the government’s response to deal with the COVID 19 effect on the state’s economy. Thus a large budget was needed to tackle the effects. Therefore, President expressly used the speech marker *‘memerintahkan’* (to order) all officials below him to cut the non-priority budgets in both State or Regional Budgets to be used for dealing with the effects of Covid-19 global pandemic.

The use of speech marker *‘memerintahkan’* (to order) was a direct directive illocutionary speech act. This indicated the government’s commitment—in this case, President—to respond to Covid-19 global pandemic effects on every aspect of social life.

In addition, from the data analysis, a declaration illocutionary speech act was also found. The illocutionary declaration speech act of the government of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic could be explained in the following data.

(9) *“Pemerintah telah menetapkan COVID-19 sebagai jenis penyakit dengan faktor risiko yang menimbulkan kedaruratan kesehatan masyarakat dan oleh karenanya pemerintah menetapkan status kedaruratan kesehatan masyarakat.”* (The government has established Covid-19 as a type of disease with risk factors which create public health emergency and therefore the government establishes the public health emergency status) (Data 16, sekretariat negara.go.id, March 31, 2020)

The speech data (9) was uttered by the President Joko Widodo in his capacity as the head of government to *‘menetapkan status kedaruratan kesehatan masyarakat’* (establishes the public health emergency status) which was indeed his authority as the President. The authority to *‘menetapkan’* (establish) emergency status is the one specifically owned by a president as the head of government. For this reason, the speech data (9) was a declaration illocutionary speech act. This speech was made on March 31, 2020, which characterised the escalated state emergency status of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 pandemic. In this phase, the government had factually seen a huge danger and potential impacts of Covid-19 global pandemic.

Furthermore, based on the data analysis, the expressive illocutionary speech act was also found. The expressive illocutionary speech act of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic was explained in the following data.

(10) *“Apakah mungkin karena kita (kebal karena) sering minum jamu? Atau mungkin karena kita sudah kebal dari dulu karena sudah sering kena batuk pilek, jadi begitu ada virus dikit saja virusnya mental.”* (Is it possibly because we (are resistant for) frequently drinking *jamu*? Or is it maybe because we have been resistant since long ago for frequently being caught cough and cold, hence when a virus comes it is repelled) (Data 4, *kompas.com*, February 24, 2020)

The speech data (10) was uttered by Doni Munardo (Head of National Agency for Disaster Response/Covid-19 Handling Acceleration Task Force) on February 24, 2020. This speech was an interrogative expressive illocutionary speech act since it used an interrogative sentence to express the ‘proud’ attitude for believing that Indonesians were resistant to COVID-19. This belief was based on the habit of drinking *jamu*, which had been inherited from generations to generations since long ago. This speech was, of course, intended to convince the society that they did not need to be frightened by COVID-19. The use of rhetoric interrogative speech in data (12) left the impression of making light of Covid-19 issue, which during that phase had been detected in Indonesia.

Other speech data which was also an expressive illocutionary act was found in Moh. Mahfud MD’s (Coordinating Minister of Politic, Law, and Security of RI) statement on March 4, 2020, as follows.

(11) *“Ada sesuatu yang belum jelas sudah konferensi pers Corona. Seperti di Cianjur itu mengkhawatirkan. Dan baru diumumkan ternyata enggak ada. (Pasiennya) enggak terinfeksi Corona. Itu baru disiarkan televisi barusan. Oleh sebab itu, setiap daerah harus membuat tenang dan tidak membuat situasi seperti menakutkan ya, biasa-biasa saja.”* (Something has not been clear, yet a press conference has been made regarding Corona. Such as the case in Cianjur, so worrying. And it is announced when turns out there is no cases. (The patient) is not infected with Corona. It was broadcasted in television just a moment ago. Therefore, every region should calm their people, rather than making it look frightening, just act normally.” (Data 9, *kompas.com*, March 4, 2020)

Speech data (11) was an expressive illocutionary speech act which expressed the speaker’s ‘disappointment’ to regional governments which hurriedly held a press conference on the existence of person positively infected with Covid-19 when it turned out untrue. The speaker’s disappointment was expressed using the word ‘mengkhawatirkan’ (so worrying) since the speaker was concerned that it could lead to mass fear in society.

Furthermore, from the data analysis, a commissive illocutionary speech act was also found. The commissive illocutionary speech act of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with COVID global pandemic was explained below.

(12) “*Tapi, (ini) guyonan sama Pak Presiden, ya, insya Allah (virus) Covid-19 tidak masuk ke Indonesia karena setiap hari kita makan nasi kucing, jadi kebal.*” (Yet, (it’s) a joke with Mister President, well, God willing, the Covid-19 (virus) does not come to Indonesia since everyday we eat *nasi kucing* (literally: cat rice), hence we’re resistant) (Data 3, [jpnn.com](http://jpnn.com), February 17, 2020)

The speech (12) was uttered by Budi Karya Sumadi (Minister of Transportation) on February 17, 2020. In this speech, the speaker used the speech marker ‘*insya Allah*’ (God willing) and ‘*tidak (akan) masuk ke Indonesia*’ ([will] not come to Indonesia) which was intended to ‘promise’ that Coronavirus would not come to Indonesia. However, this speech was concluded with a sentence in a joking tone, i.e. ‘*karena setiap hari kita makan nasi kucing, jadi kebal*’ (since every day we eat *nasi kucing* (literally: cat rice), hence we are resistant). Hence it left the impression of making light of Covid-19 danger which had been around the corner as being detected to had come to Indonesia during that phase.

The same applied to the speech uttered by Bahlil Lahadalia (Head of Coordinating Agency for Investment) as follows.

(13) “*Katanya virus Corona enggak masuk ke Indonesia karena izinnya susah.*” (It is said that Coronavirus does not come to Indonesia since it is hard to obtain a permit) (Data 5, [okezone.com](http://okezone.com), February 24, 2020).

The speech data (13) was made on February 24, using a ‘promising’ tone yet it was followed with a joke speech marker ‘*karena izinnya susah*’ (since it is hard to obtain a permit). This matched with the speaker’s background who was a leader of a state institution dealing with a permit for investment. However, it was less relevant since the speaker had no competence to answer Covid-19 global pandemic issue from a health perspective.

## Conclusion

The speeches of government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic had illocutionary force, namely: representative/assertive illocutionary speech act, directive illocutionary speech act, declaration illocutionary speech act, expressive illocutionary speech act, and commissive illocutionary speech act. In addition, their speeches in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic in the initial phase –March 15, 2020-, left the impression of being ‘*less serious*’, ‘*not based on valid evidence/information*’, and



*'uncoordinated'* in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic. The use of speech markers in this phase tended to be in a joking tone. Later on, in the post-March 15, 200 phase, their speeches indicated a 'highly alert', 'more careful in giving information', and 'one-door information' impressions in stating policies related to responses to Covid-19 global pandemic. This indicated that the government officials of the Republic of Indonesia had some seriousness in dealing with Covid-19 global pandemic.

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