



**THE SPEECH ACT OF COMMISIVE AS USED ON  
THE SADIQ KHAN'S SPEECHES**

**THESIS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study aims at describing speech act of commissive used by Sadiq Khan in campaign. This study is largely qualitative, the data were collected by downloading the campaign speech from relevant websites. The writer analyzed the use of speech acts by using pragmatic approach and the theories used are Searle (1976), Brown and Levinson (1987). The writer focuses on the forms of commissive speech act was found in Sadiq Khan's speeches. The writer found there are six type's of commissive speech act in Sadiq Khan's speeches, namely promising, planning, offering, opposing, refusal and pledging. And the strategy used by Sadiq Khan to delivered speech act of commissive in the speech are direct literal, direct non literal, indirect literal and indirect non literal strategy.

***Keywords : Pragmatics, speech act of commissive, direct, indirect***

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Observing the language which is used in public, it can be seen that language is not only used to convey information or ideas, it is also used to express a message. Due to that, language can be used as a power to make someone to do something this is called in the speech act theory as a performative verbs. According to Austin (1975) that someone speaks it will have the power to do something, he classifies the speech act into 3 types: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. Then it is developed by Searle (1976) becoming five types: assertive, directives, commissive, expressive, declaration.

Talking about speech act theory, the author tries to analyze the speech act of commissive which means kind of speech act that commit the speaker to some future action, Searle(1976). This theory is widely used by political figures, one of the political figures is Sadiq Khan, on this occasion, the writer examines the speech acts commissive which found in the Sadiq Khan's speeches, for example “I promise to always be a mayor for all Londoners” this is a commissive speech act. According to Cutting (2002) commissive includes acts in which the words commit the speaker do the future action. Many people around the world have been surprised with election result in London city. Because no one predicted that Sadiq Khan would win and become the new major of London. Sadiq Khan shocked the world. It is not because of his good looking and wealthy, but he was a leader of the Islamic religion who is a minority in the place which he led. This is one reason

why the writer wants to focus on the study about the commissive speech act used by Sadiq Khan as a source data.

Khan was elected as the Mayor of London in the 2016 mayoral election, succeeding Conservative Party Mayor Boris Johnson. He resigned as MP for Tooting on 9 May 2016. His election as Mayor of London made him the city's first ethnic minority mayor, and the first moeslim to become mayor of a major Western capital. Khan held the largest personal mandate of any politician in the history of the United Kingdom, and the third largest personal mandate in Europe. As mayor he introduced reforms to limit charges on London's public transport, backed airport expansion, and focused on uniting the city's varied communities. He was a vocal supporter of the unsuccessful Britain Stronger in Europe campaign to retain UK membership of the European Union.

In this study, the writer is interested in studying the use of the language used by Sadiq Khan in term of speech act of commisive. As we know that language is the ability to acquire and use complex systems of communication, particularly the human ability to do so, and a language is any specific example of such a system. The scientific study of language is called linguistics. To facilitate researcher in researching his study, researcher used the theory of multiple figures, one of the expert is Searle (1979). Searle believed that a theory of language must be a theory of communication, and that language theory must analyze the communicative utterances in terms of their intentions. In this study, there is also a study about the intention. Intention is a mental state that represents a commitment to carrying out an action or actions in the future. Intention involves mental



activities such as planning and forethought. In Speer and Wilson book (1995) distinguish two levels of intention: informative (an intention to inform the hearer of something) and communicative (the intention to inform the addressed of that informative intention).

These intentions can be inferred through a series of conventional rules. In this sense, human communication is a rule-governed activity, and Searle attempts to discover the nature of these rules. The researcher chooses this theory because it related with the topic.

The approach which used in this study is a pragmatic. So many researchers who studied the pragmatic, particularly speech act, it can be seen from the results of research that examines the speech act both in terms locutionary, perlocutionary, illocutionary or other branches of pragmatic, the writer choose pragmatic as approaches in this research and interested to studying the speech act, in speech act is also divided to 5 section, in this study, researcher will examine speech commissive act in one of phenomenal world leader, Sadiq Khan.

## **1.2 Problem Limitation**

From the amount of data which presented, there are many problems can be studied, in this study, the authors limited the study only focused on the speech act commissive and examine whether the types of commissive spoken directly or indirectly. Based from five types of speech act from Searle (1976), the types are declarations, representatives, expressive, directives and commissive. Five types of speech act can be identified in every speech which delivered in speaking.

In this research, there are some problems that can be studied from this topic, for example: commissive speech act, politeness, expressive, declaration. In the other hand in this research, the writer focuses to find the speech act of commissive speech act and direct indirect speech in Sadiq Khan's speeches script, and to answer the research question, the writer will use theory from some experts.

### **1.3 Formulation of the Problem**

As a political figure many of those words contain something that should he keep in the future, for example promise, promise is one part of commissive speech act. In political speeches, there are many things that can be studied, but in this research the writer only focuses analyzed the types of commissive speech act and analyzed the strategy which used by Sadiq Khan to express the Speech Act commissive.

The present study reveals some information regarding the use of commissive speech acts in political domain, especially in gubernatorial election and explain what types of commissive speech act sentences which used by Sadiq Khan and to show the direct and indirect statement which is found in Sadiq Khan's speeches. Based on the background above the researcher tries to identify and limit the research questions:

1. What are the types and key words of commissive speech act used by Sadiq Khan?
2. How are the speech act of commissive delivered by Sadiq Khan?

#### **1.4 Purpose of the Research**

The research purpose is a statement of "why" the study is being conducted, or the goal of the study. The goal of a study might be to identify or describe a concept or to explain or predict a situation or solution to a situation that indicates the type of study to be conducted. The purposes of this research are:

1. To find out a number of types of commissive speech act.
2. To describe the strategies used by Sadiq Khan in the speech act of commissive

#### **1.5 Significant of the Research**

Based on the background of the study, the writer expects that the study give a meaningful contribution to the pragmatic study and enlarge the view of the students of English Department, in particular, to answer public curiosity why Sadiq Khan could be elected in the area that the majority of non-Muslim religious and for the pragmatic observes in general. The writer hopes that this research could be a reference in another study in researching commissive speech act, became the inspiration for researchers who will examine pragmatic, especially in speech act.