AN ANALYSIS SPEECH ACTS OF DIRECTIVE AND EMOTIONAL EXPRESSIONS IN THE 2016 U.S PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

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ABSTRACT

A strong feeling of people can be conveyed through words in their speech acts. In the presidential debates, the candidates tried to convince and persuade people with great ideas followed by strong feelings in their speech acts. This study focus on speech act of directive, one of the five speech acts stated by Searle (1976), that refers to acts in which the words used to make the hearers do something. The study aims to explain the types of directive speech act, basic emotions, and the social factors influence the words use. Data of this study were taken from the three transcripts of the 2016 US presidential debates posted in the website of Washington Post. A qualitative method was used to gather in depth analysis of all the phenomena of the study and explained those with words by using the socio-pragmatic-discourse approach. The results show (1) various types of directives speech act, such as commanding and suggesting;(2) the reflection of emotions in each type of the directive speech act, such as Anger and Sadness; and (3) direct and indirect strategies used by the speakers.

Keywords: speech act of directive, types, basic emotions, strategy speech acts