Speech Acts Contained in English Modal Verb Will and Indonesian Adverb akan in Bush’s and Sby’s Victory Speeches as Elected Presidents

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Abstract

This is a contrastive study comparing the use of English modal verb will in Bush’s victory speech with the use of Indonesian adverb akan in SBY’s victory speech. The aims of this study are (1) to identify type of speech acts contained in the English modal verb will in Bush’s speech and in the Indonesian adverb akan in SBY’s speech; (2) to identify percentage of the use of speech acts contained in the English modal verb will as well as Indonesian adverb akan, and; (3) to identify tendency of the use of direct speech act and indirect speech act through the use of English modal verb will and Indonesian adverb akan by Bush and SBY. To achieve the aims of this study, the researcher employs the descriptive analytical method and critical discourse analysis approach. The results of this study show that (1) Bush employed English modal verb will to express directive speech act in the form of invitation as well as assertives speech act in the form of assertion, prediction, and statement, while SBY employed Indonesian adverb akan to express commissives speech act in the form of promise as well as declarative speech act in the form of declaration; (2) 50%

Keywords: contrastive studies, English modal verb will, Indonesian adverb akan, descriptive analysis, critical discourse analysis

1 Introduction

Language is an instrument employed by politicians to convey their message to the public. By language, politicians, corresponded to their capacities, can drive public in order to gain supports or for the continuation of the government. This is a contrastive study focusing on comparisons of the use of English modal verb will in Bush’s victory speech as the elected president delivered on September 14th, 2000 and the use of Indonesian adverb akan in SBY’s victory speech as the elected president delivered on October 9th, 2004.

From this study, the researcher will obtain speech acts contained in the use of English modal verb will presented by Bush and Indonesian adverb akan presented by SBY. The researcher selects Bush’s victory speech delivered on September 14th, 2000 and SBY’s victory speech delivered on October 9th, 2004 by the consideration that the years were Bush’s and SBY’s opportunities to be first time elected as presidents. Thus, the researcher was urged to determine how both politicians set their speech acts when they received the presidency for the first time.

Related study analyzing speech acts contained in the modal verb, [5], entitled The Modal verbs: A speech act of Request in the Speech of the President of the United States Barak Obama, revealed that modal verbs containing speech acts functioning as request are often stated in the form indirect speech. Started from that information, in this study, the researcher limits modal verb to analyze i.e. will and comparing the modal with Indonesian adverb akan. The selection of modal verb will and adverb akan is based on the equivalence of their meanings and their functions.

The aims of this study are (1) to indentify type of speech acts contained in the English modal verb will in Bush’s speech and in the Indonesian adverb akan in SBY’s speech; (2) to identify percentage of the use of speech acts contained in the English modal verb will as well as Indonesian adverb akan, and; (3) to identify tendency of the use of direct speech and indirect speech through the use of English modal verb will and Indonesian adverb akan by Bush and SBY.

2 Methods

This is a contrastive study conducted by employing descriptive analytical method and critical discourse analysis approach. The methods as well as the type of this study differs from the aforementioned related study, in which the related
study employed pragmatic analysis method and was not a contrastive study which compares two or more objects of study. The related study analyzed speech acts contained in the modal verbs (can, will, and must) in Barack Obama’s political speech while this study analyzes speech acts contained in the modal verb will in Bush’s speech and compares it to speech acts contained in the adverb akan in SBY’s speech.

Contrastive study, according to [3] is a study which “…investigates the differences between pairs (or small sets) of languages...”. In this study, the researcher compares the function of English modal verb will and Indonesian adverb akan to identify speech acts contained in them. The method employed is the descriptive analytical method which according to [2] is a method that “… is intended to draw out some new insights into the ways in which the author...interpreted his... citations and to provide a new vocabulary for describing his exegetical techniques”. In other words, descriptive analytical method is a technique of analysis employed by describing and defining collected data as it is. Then, the researcher makes critical evaluations toward the data based on related theories.

Besides that, critical discourse analysis approach, according to [7] is “…a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context”. The definition shows that a text either written or oral contains either explicit or implicit meanings expressed by the speaker for a certain purpose. In this study, the researcher employs critical discourse analysis approach as an approach directing this study to the meanings either explicit or implicit in the use of English modal verb will and Indonesian adverb akan in order to identify the type of speech acts.

Sources of the data of this study are Bush’s and SBY’s speeches which are downloaded from internet. The scripts of the speeches are then given numbering in accordance with the sequence of the sentences. After that, the researcher selects sentences of the script of Bush’s speech contained modal verb will and sentences of the script of SBY’s speech contained adverb akan. The researcher analyses the function of modal verb will and adverb akan to identify type of speech acts contained in them, and then gather the result of the analysis in tables and pie charts.

3 Discussion

According to [8] sentence is divided into 4 types that is: declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamation. Declarative sentence functions to make a statement; interrogative sentence functions to make a question; imperative sentence serves in giving order; and exclamation is used to express strong emotions. The researcher will identify the types of sentences of the collected data. Then, the researcher will identify the types of speech acts contained in the English modal will and Indonesian adverb akan by using theories proposed by Searle.

Speech acts, according to [6], are divided into five groups, namely: assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. Assertive is a speech act serves in giving statement, assertion, prediction, conclusion, and the like. Besides that, directive is a speech act functions to make the listener to do something. This kind of speech act covers advice, suggestion, coercion, invitation, order, request, permission, etc. Commissives is used by the speaker to propose action or condition that will occur in the future. Examples of this speech act are vow, promise, and threats. Next, expresses serves in expressing speaker’s psychological condition. This kind of speech act covers thanks, apologies, congratulation, etc. The last is declarations, which is used by the speaker to declare a certain condition and information. For instance, declaration, appointment, bequeath, and nominate.

Additionally, Searle also suggested two kinds of speech acts based on the way the speaker delivers his/her illocution acts, that is direct speech act and indirect speech act. In a discourse, the meaning of an utterance can be clearly seen by its surface structure or can be hidden. The speaker conveys the meaning of his utterance explicitly when the surface structure of the language used has clearly conveyed the meaning he meant (direct speech). In contrast, sometimes the meaning cannot be seen from the surface structure, which is usually called implicit meaning. Implicit meaning is hidden behind the surface structure of the language (indirect speech). Therefore, in this study, analysis and critical evaluation of the collected data are needed in order to gain the real meaning of modal will and adverb akan.

In the Bush’s victory speech bellow, there are 14 sentences that contain 16 items of English modal verb will. The 16 item will be analyzed as follows:

1. It is an experience I will always carry with me,...

The English modal verb will above is employed by Bush for assertion that the certain experience, as he has already said, will be made as his guidelines. Assertion belongs to assertives speech acts. The meaning of declarative independent clause above is conveyed by direct speech.

2. ...an example I will always follow.

This dependent clause is a part of the independent clause number 1. At this dependent
clause, modal verb will is also used for assertion, so that this modal verb will is classified into assertives speech acts. The meaning of this declarative dependent clause is not hidden and conveyed by direct speech act.

3. I believe things happen for a reason, and I hope the long wait of the last five weeks will heighten a desire to move beyond the bitterness and partisanship of the recent past.

Modal verb will in this sentence is used by Bush to express a prediction that he expected. The function, prediction, is classified into assertives speech acts. The use of modal verb will in this sentence belongs to indirect speech since the surface structure of the sentence is declarative sentence but the deep structure of this sentence is imperative, in which Bush persuade or invite the listener to enhance their desire to move beyond hatred and attitude to pro on a party in the last few days. Another marker of invitation in this sentence is I believe....

4. Together, we will work to make all our public schools excellent, teaching every student of every background and every accent, so that no child is left behind.

Modal verb will in the imperative sentence above functions as an invitation which belongs to directives speech acts and conveyed by direct speech act. The use of adverb together indicates that Bush invited public to participate in realizing government’s program.

5. Together, we will save social security and renew its promise of a secure retirement for generations to come.

Similar to the imperative sentence no. 4, this sentence Bush delivered his invitation through direct speech act. The modal verb will contained in it functioning as invitation is classified into directives speech acts. The function, invitation, is supported by the adverb together describing Bush’s invitation to the listener.

6. Together, we will strengthen Medicare and offer prescription drug coverage to all of our seniors.

Modal verb will in the imperative sentence above is used by Bush to invite people to participate in realizing government’s program. Since the modal verb will here functions as an invitation, this modal is classified into directives speech acts. The meaning of this sentence is delivered by using direct speech act.

7. Together, we will give Americans the broad, fair and fiscally responsible tax relief they deserve.

Modal verb will in this sentence functions as an invitation so that it creates an imperative sentence. The use of adverb together strengthens the function of modal verb will used by Bush to invite public to participate in realizing government’s program. The meaning of this sentence is conveyed by direct speech act.

8. Together, we’ll have a bipartisan foreign policy true to our values and true to our friends.

The meaning of this sentence is conveyed by direct speech act. Modal verb will in this imperative sentence functions as an invitation. This modal is classified into directives speech acts.

9. And we will have a military equal to every challenge, and superior to every adversary.

Modal verb will in the imperative sentence above functions as an invitation. The meaning of this imperative sentence is conveyed by direct speech act. The modal verb will functions as an invitation is classified into directives speech acts.

10. Together, we will address some of society’s deepest problems one person at a time, by encouraging and empowering the good hearts and good works of the American people.

Once more, modal will in the imperative sentence above functions as an invitation. Invitation is a function classified into directives speech acts. The meaning of this imperative sentence is conveyed by direct speech act.

11. This is the essence of compassionate conservatism, and it will be a foundation of my administration.

Different with previous sentence, modal verb will in this declarative sentence functions as an assertion. The function of assertion is classified into assertives speech acts. The meaning of this sentence is delivered by direct speech act.

12. I have faith that with God’s help we as a nation will move forward together, as one nation, indivisible.

Modal verb will in this sentence functions as an prediction. Bush stated that he believes on the prediction of his nation’s future which is helped by God. Prediction is a function of assertives speech acts. The meaning of this sentence is delivered by indirect speech act. This sentence actually functions as an invitation to the listener. It aimed at the listener to be motivated to promote and strengthen the unity of the nation. The marker of invitation laid at I have faith that...
13. **And together we will create an America that is open, so every citizen has access to the American dream.**

Modal verb will in this sentence functions as an invitation and forms imperative sentence. Invitation is a function classified in directives speech acts. The meaning of this sentence is conveyed by direct speech act.

14. **Whether you voted for me or not, I will do my best to serve your interests, ...**

This independent clause contains a modal verb will functions as an assertion. This clause forms a declarative sentence and the function of this modal will is classified into assertives speech act. The meaning of this sentence is conveyed by direct speech act.

15. **...and I will work to earn your respect.**

This independent clause is a part of independent clause no. 14. Similar to the independent clause no. 14, this independent clause contains a modal verb will functions as an assertion. Assertion is a function classified into assertives speech acts. The meaning of this sentence is delivered by direct speech act.

16. **I will be guided by president Jefferson’s sense of purpose: to stand for principle, to be reasonable in manner, and, above all, to do great good for the cause of freedom and harmony.**

Modal verb will in this sentence is used as a statement forming declarative sentence. Statement is a functions classified in assertives speech acts. The meaning of this sentence is conveyed by direct speech act.

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The meaning of this sentence is conveyed by direct speech act.

2. **Saya akan bekerja keras melanjutkan tugas pengelolaan kehidupan pemerintahan dan kenegaraan.**

Adverb akan in this declarative sentence functions as a promise. Promise is a function classified into commissives speech act. The meaning of this sentence is conveyed by direct speech act.

3. **Saya berjanji untuk menjadi Presiden untuk semua insan Indonesia, untuk memberikan yang terbaik bagi seluruh insan Indonesia, dan akan berdiri di atas semua golongan.**

Adverb akan in the second dependent clause in this declarative sentence indicates a statement of planning in the future. The function of statement of planning is similar to promise which is classified into commissives speech acts. The function of promise is supported by verb ...berjanji... in the independent clause in this sentence. The meaning of this sentence is conveyed by direct speech act.

4. **Dalam jangka dekat mendarat, saya akan memusatkan perhatian untuk menjalankan tiga agenda.**

In this declarative sentence, SBY clearly employed time marker that is ...jangka dekat mendarat..., so that adverb akan which is used in the sentence containing direct speech act indicates a promise in the future. The function of adverb akan in this sentence is classified into commissives speech acts.

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Figure 1: Percentage of The Use of Speech Acts in Bush's Victory Speech

In the script of SBY's victory speech in 2004, there are 17 items of Indonesian adverb akan. The 17 items will be analyzed bellow:

1. **Insya Allah, saya akan mengemban amanat rakyat ini.**

The Indonesian adverb akan in this sentence indicates that SBY promising the listener by expressing his readiness to performs his duties in the future. Adverb akan in this declarative sentence functions as a promise which is classified into commissives speech acts.
5. **Jangan sampai ada gap di antara Pemerintahan Ibu Megawati dan Pemerintah saya yang Insya Allah akan dilantik tanggal 20 Oktober nanti.**

Adverb akan in this sentence functions as a declaration. Declaration is a function of declaration speech acts. The meaning of this declarative sentence is delivered by direct speech act.

6. **Saya akan merancang struktur dan deskripsi tugas Pemerintahan saya.**

This sentence containing direct speech act in this sentence implies that SBY hasn’t perform the action at the time he deliver the speech so that adverb akan employed in this declarative sentence is a promise for performing the action in the future. The adverb akan is classified into commissives speech acts.

7. **Saya akan menentukan agenda dan prioritas kabinet.**

Adverb akan in this declarative sentence functions as a promise which will be performed by SBY in the future. SBY explicitly expressed his purpose using direct speech act. The function of adverb akan in this sentence is classified into commissives speech acts.

8. **Saya akan menetapkan aturan main dan etika yang harus dihormati seluruh anggota Pemerintahan saya.**

The use of adverb akan in this declarative sentence indicates a promise which will be realized in the future. The adverb akan which is employed in the sentence whose meaning is conveyed by direct speech act is classified into commissives speech acts.

9. **Saya akan memulai proses penunjukan Calon Menteri, dan akan segera melakukan komunikasi dan seleksi calon-calon Menteri.**

Similar to the use of adverb akan in the previous sentence, in this declarative sentence functions as a promise and is classified into commissives speech acts. SBY expressed the meaning of his utterance by direct speech act.

10. **Saya akan memfinalisasi penyusunan kabinet dan mengumumkannya pada tanggal 20 Oktober.**

Adverb akan in this declarative sentence functions as a promise which will be realized in the future. This kind of adverb is classified into commissives speech acts. The meaning of this sentence is conveyed by direct speech act.

11. **Saya akan segera bekerja secara dini dan intensif dengan lembaga-lembaga tinggi negara.**

This declarative sentence whose meaning is delivered by direct speech act contains adverb akan functioning as a promise which will be performed in the future. Here, adverb akan is classified into commissives speech acts.

12. **Saya akan melakukan review APBN tahun 2005.**

Adverb segera which is used in this declarative sentence indicates that the action hasn’t performed when the speech is delivered. Thus, adverb akan is employed to express promise meaning that the action will be performed in the future. The meaning of this declarative sentence is expressed by direct speech. Besides that the use of adverb akan is classified into commissives speech acts.

13. **Saya akan melakukan review proses penegakan hukum, termasuk di bidang korupsi.**

Adverb akan in this declarative sentence is classified into commissives speech act functioning as a promise. The meaning contained in this sentence is expressed by direct speech act.

14. **Saya akan segera mengambil langkah awal untuk menyelesaikan konflik di daerah.**

Adverb segera in Indonesian is employed to express a plan to as soon as possible perform a certain action. In other words, the action hasn’t performed when SBY deliver his speech. To express his ability to state the promise to do action in the future, SBY uses adverb akan. The function of this adverb is classified into commissives speech acts. The meaning of this sentence is delivered directly.

15. **Saya akan segera melakukan langkah pemberantasan korupsi.**

In this declarative sentence, the use of adverb segera indicates that the corruption eradication hasn’t performed when the speech is delivered. But, by adverb akan, the speaker states his ability to perform his promise, eradicating corruption, in the future. The function of adverb in this sentence is classified into commissives speech acts and the meaning is delivered by direct speech act.

16. **Saya akan segera melakukan langkah untuk menstimulasi ekonomi.**

Similar to the use of adverb akan in the previous sentence, in this declarative sentence the adverb akan is employed to express a promise to perform an action in the future. The function of this adverb is classified into commissives speech acts. Direct speech act is employed in this sentence.
17. *Dan saya akan segera meletakkan fondasi yang efektif untuk memajukan pendidikan nasional.*

Adverb akan in this sentence functions as a promise. The function of this adverb is classified into commissives speech acts and the meaning of this sentence is conveyed by direct speech act.

Table 2: The Use of Adverb Akan In The SBY’s Victory Speech

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Figure 2: Percentage of The Use of Speech Acts in SBY’s Victory Speech

4 Conclusion and Recommendation

From the analysis, the researcher identifies 94% of the use of Indonesian adverb akan is employed by SBY to express promise which is a function of commissives speech acts and the remaining 6% is employed to express declaration which is a function of declaratives speech acts. Besides that, 50% of modal verb will is employed by Bush to express invitation which is a function of directives speech acts and the remaining 50% is employed to express assertion, prediction, and statement which are functions of assertives speech acts. It indicates that, although modal verb will in Indonesian is equivalent to adverb akan, Bush and SBY employed them for different purposes. Bush employed modal verb will for directives speech acts, a type of speech act in which it is expressed to make listener to do something, and with the same percentage employed modal verb will for assertives speech acts, a type of speech act in which it is expressed to make statement. While SBY tended to employ adverb akan to express promise which is a function of commissives speech acts, a type of speech acts to propose action or condition that will occur in the future, in which the percentage is 94%. The remaining 6% is employed to express declaration, a type of speech acts used for declaring a certain condition and information which is a function of declaration speech acts.

Further, related to direct and indirect speech acts, Bush in his sentences containing modal verb will used 87% of direct speech act and the remaining 13% of indirect speech act. In addition, SBY in his 17 sentences containing adverb akan employed direct speech act in all of his sentences (100%).

The researcher recommends other researcher whose the study about the topic of this study to identify the function of language contained in speeches or other political media not only through modal verbs and adverb but also through other components of language such as grammatical, lexical, and semantic.

References


