



**FULFILLING THE FELICITY CONDITIONS OF
REPRESENTATIVE ACT IN WINFREY'S SPEECH
*LEARN FROM EVERY MISTAKE***

A THESIS

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Magister
Pendidikan of English Language Education

by

**Indah Yulianti
0203517096**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION
PASCASARJANA
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI SEMARANG
2021**

DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I, Indah Yulianti, hereby declare that this thesis entitled "Fulfilling the Felicity Conditions of Representative Acts in Winfrey's Speech *Learn From Every Mistake*" is my work and has not been submitted in any form for another degree at any university or another institute of tertiary education information derived from the published and unpublished works or others has been acknowledged in the text, and a list of references is given in the bibliography

Semarang, 24 September 2021

Yang membuat pernyataan,



Indah Yularti

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As it all matters of the heart, you will know when you find it.

(Steve Jobs)

To Universitas Negeri Semarang

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First and foremost, Thanks to Allah for The blessing He has given to me to complete this thesis.

It is an honor for me to be grateful to the director of Pascasarjana Universitas Negeri Semarang, the first deputy director, the second deputy director, and all English lecturers of Pascasarjana Universitas Negeri Semarang. Furthermore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my first advisor, Prof. Dr. Januarius Mujiyanto, M.Hum. Because of their understanding and thinking, I can finish this thesis. His guidance and thinking have developed a good basis for this thesis. I am also grateful to my second advisor, Prof. Dr. Mursid Saleh, Ph.D., for his comment and the result of his thinking, also his support while completing this thesis.

Thanks to my parents, Rokhani and Eryati, my sisters Ratna Septi Hastuti and Trias Ayu Lestari, my nieces Kinaraisa Zivara G., Deandra Sakti M., and Fakhrotuzzulfa Nabila, and my nephew Iqbal Faiq who give their motivations to finish this thesis. It would have been difficult to complete this thesis without their support and love.

Thanks to all my friends of English Education 2017 who always give their support to complete this thesis. Thanks also to Ninik Jumaedah, Atika Fitriani, and Fajar Sodik, who always supported me and motivated me to finish

this thesis and helped me when I found some difficulties in finishing this thesis.

Thanks also to other writers who give inspiration and correction in this thesis.

Semarang, 24 September 2021

Indah Yulianti

ABSTRACT

Yuliari, Indah. 2021. *Fulfilling the Felicity Conditions of Representative Act in Winfrey's Speech Learn from Every Mistake*. Thesis, English Language Education, Pascasarjana, Universitas Negeri Semarang. Advisors: I. Prof. Dr. Januarius Mujiyanto, M.Hum., II. Prof. Dr. Mursid Saleh, Ph.D.

Keyword: speech act, felicity conditions, representative, directive, expressive, declarative, commissive, case study.

This study was about fulfilling the felicity conditions of the representative act in Winfrey's speech *learn from every mistake*. This research analyzed each utterance of Winfrey's speech entitled *Learn from every mistake*. Each statement is categorized based on five types of speech acts. Then, the felicity was analyzed based on Searle's theory of Felicity Conditions. This study was a qualitative case study. The subject of this research was Winfrey's speech entitled *Learn from every mistake*. The video was published on YouTube on 18th May 2019. The findings showed that all the utterances in the representative act fulfilled the preparatory conditions. Related to the propositional content condition, the statements in the representative acts were also felicitous. Then in sincerity condition, the sincerity condition in all utterances in Winfrey's speech entitled *Learn from every mistake* was felicitous. The consideration came when the statements were in a joke. It meant that the speaker did not sincerely utter the utterances. But there was a note that the statements in a joke were felicitous that both the speaker and the hearers understood that the statement was a joke. The last conclusion was in the essential condition. Based on the analysis, all of the utterances in the representative act in Winfrey's speech entitled *Learn from every mistake* were felicitous in essential condition.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER	i
APPROVAL SHEET	ii
PERNYATAAN KEASLIAN	iii
MOTTO AND DEDICATION	iv
ACKNOWLEDGMENT.....	v
ABSTRACT	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	viii
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	xi

CHAPTER

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Topic	1
1.2 Reason for Choosing the Topic	4
1.3 Research Question	5
1.4 Objectives of the Study.....	6
1.5 Significances of The Study	7
1.6 Scope of the Study	8
1.7 Definition of the Key Terms	9

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LUTERATURE

2.1 Review of Previous Study	13
2.2 Review of Theoretical Studies	17
2.2.1 Concept of Speech act.....	17
2.2.2 Locution, Illocution and Perlocution	18
2.2.3 Felicity Conditions of Speech act	22
2.2.4 The Types of Felicity Condition	23

2.2.5	The Classifications of Speech act	26
2.2.6	Context, Register and Genre	29
2.3	Theoretical Framework	35
3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
3.1	Research Assumption	36
3.2	Research Design	36
3.3	Subject and Object of the Study.....	37
3.4	Role of the Researcher	37
3.5	Instruments of Collecting Data	38
3.6	Methods of Collecting Data.	39
3.7	Procedures of Data Analysis.....	40
3.8	Unit of Analysis.....	40
3.9	Triangulation	40
4.	FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS	
4.1	Findings.....	42
4.1.1	The Fulfillment of Preparatory Condition of Representative Act in Winfrey’s Speech <i>Learn from Every Mistake</i>	43
4.1.2	The Fulfillment of Propositional Content Condition of Representative Act in Winfrey’s Speech <i>Learn from Every Mistake</i>	46
4.1.3	The Fulfillment of Sincerity Condition of Representative Act in Winfrey’s Speech <i>Learn from Every Mistake</i>	51
4.1.4	The Fulfillment of Essential Condition of Representative Act in Winfrey’s Speech <i>Learn from Every Mistake</i>	56
4.1.5	The Relation Between Four Felicity Conditions and the Felicity of the Speech	59

4.2 Discussions	62
4.2.1 The Fulfillment of Preparatory Condition of Representative Act in Winfrey’s Speech <i>Learn from Every Mistake</i>.....	62
4.2.2 The Fulfillment of Propositional Content of Representative Act in Winfrey’s Speech <i>Learn from Every Mistake</i>.....	64
4.2.3 The Fulfillment of Sincerity Condition of Representative Act in Winfrey’s Speech <i>Learn from Every Mistake</i>.....	66
4.2.4 The Fulfillment of Essential Condition of Representative Act in Winfrey’s Speech <i>Learn from Every Mistake</i>.....	68
4.2.5 The Relation Between Four Felicity Conditions and the Felicity of the Speech	69
5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS	
5.1 Conclusions	71
5.2 Suggestions.....	73
REFERENCES	75

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix

1. Transcript of Winfrey's Speech <i>Learn from Every Mistake</i>	84
2. Directive Act.....	93
3. Declarative Act.....	95
4. Expressive Act.....	96
5. Commissive Act.....	98
6. Representative Act	99
7. Analysis of Felicity Condition in Directive Act.....	106
8. Analysis of Felicity Condition in Declarative Act	113
9. Analysis of Felicity Condition in Expressive Act	115
10. Analysis of Felicity Condition in Commissive Act	122
11. Analysis of Felicity Condition in Representative Act	126
12. Triangulation Checklist Expert 1	167
13. Triangulation Checklist Expert 2	170

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Topic

People need to communicate with other people. This one is crucial because expressing ideas, feeling, and thinking communicates by using spoken or written language. Spoken language is a primary way of expressing feelings and thoughts. Every day, the people create utterances in asking and delivering meaning. Spoken language is also a way of asking someone to do something. It means that utterance is about the statements and the meaning and what is done by the utterance. In the pragmatic field, it is called a speech act.

By producing utterances, the people try to deliver meaning to the interlocutor by using linguistic utterances. In providing the purpose or act, someone can use a non-linguistic form, for example, by using gestures. In using and producing utterance in transferring meaning by using the linguistic expression, it is the dimension of the locution act. In another situation, someone has a goal in creating utterance. The utterance is in expressing something in mind. This dimension is included in the illocution act. When the utterance containing to get an effect, it is called a perlocution act in a pragmatic field.

Locution, illocution, and perlocution are about producing utterance, giving meaning, and asking for something as an effect of the statement. According to Yule (1996, p.48), locution is the basic of utterance in producing linguistic expression. Illocution is about creating utterance with some kind of function in

mind, then perlocution is the creating utterance and intending to affect. Meanwhile, Hurford, Heasley, and Smith (2007, p.269) stated that illocution carried out by the speaker making utterance is the act viewed in terms of utterance's significance within a conventional system of social interaction and the perlocution act carried out by the speaker making utterance is the act of causing a specific effect on the hearer and others.

Based on those explanations, illocution is about producing utterance with a specific objective in social interaction. Perlocution is about the effect of the statement by the hearer. In making this clearer, there is an example. When two people are in a room, then speaker A produces utterance "This room is too hot," the utterance is an illocution with a purpose. The purpose is to ask speaker B to turn on the fan or air conditioner. If speaker B asks, "I will turn on the fan," there is a speech act. If there is no response or speaker B asks, "I agree with you, this room is small and hot," there is speech act misunderstanding. It happens because there is no effect of the utterance "This room is too hot."

In pragmatic, speech act is classified into five classifications. They are declarative, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive. According to Yule (1996, p. 53), the directive act is about changing the world by using utterance, the representative is about producing utterance in expressing speaker's belief, the expressive speech act is about creating utterance in expressing speaker's feeling, the directive is about asking someone to do something by using

utterance, and commissive speech act is about producing utterance to express a future action.

The directive speech act is about changing the situation by using utterances. There is an effect after uttering an utterance. In a representative speech act, the speaker tries to deliver their belief, opinion or fact, by using utterance. Expressive is about producing utterances in expressing feelings. The directive is about asking for someone to do something. Then, the commissive speech act tells a commitment in the future.

In pragmatic studies, speech act has an essential role because speech act is about the intention of utterance to get the intended effect from the listener. Meanwhile, the speech act must fulfill the felicity condition. It means that utterance should be suitable for the condition when the utterance is uttered. The utterance should also be sincere and have a clear goal, and the speaker is willing to deliver utterance. Yule (1996, p.50) states that felicity condition is certain expected or appropriate circumstances for the performance of a speech act to be recognized as intended. Also, failed utterances are not described as false but rather as improper, unsuccessful, or, in general, infelicitous (Horn and Ward, 2006, p.56). It means that the felicity condition in the speech act is about the appropriate condition and criteria that must be fulfilled for an utterance to achieve the purpose of the utterance itself.

There are some experts' arguments about the types of felicity conditions. Searle and Yule state the most popular theories. Searle (1969, p.66) says that there

are four conditions to make a felicitous utterance, preparatory condition, propositional content, sincerity condition, and essential condition. In a different statement, Yule (1996, p.50) adds general felicity, meaning that participants understand the language being used and are not playing acting or being nonsensical. It means that an utterance must fulfill the felicity condition to achieve the statement's purpose.

In the teaching and learning process, the speech act is essential. The speech act takes a significant role in the whole teaching and learning process by the teacher and students. The primary key of teaching-learning English is communicating and understanding by using English. Besides, the purpose of teaching is to absorb and develop science, technology, and art and increase international relationships (Harmer, 2001, p.4). So, understanding students' language is essential as the beginning of students' success in understanding and capturing the material provided by the teacher.

Furthermore, transferring knowledge, controlling the classroom, organizing the activities, and giving instructions to the students were done through teacher talks that contained the speech acts. In the speech acts, there are also some conditions or some criteria that must be met for a speech act to achieve its purpose. Sometimes, it is not accessible to the students to understand what the teacher said. In reality, occasionally, there is a misunderstanding between teachers and students. The students often misinterpret the intentions of what the teacher intended. It happened due to Indonesian students whose identity as foreign

language learners. Hence, having adequate knowledge of Pragmatics, especially the felicity conditions in speech acts, is vital to minimize misunderstanding during the teaching and learning. One of the factors of success or failure of the teaching-learning process is determined by the use of appropriate speech acts based on the felicity conditions.

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher is interested in researching the fulfillment of felicity conditions in speech act in the speech of Winfrey entitled learn from every mistake. But, this study will be focused on how the felicity conditions are fulfilled in the representative act.

1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

People as social creatures need to communicate with other people. In Expressing feelings, ideas and thinking are possible to deliver effectively only by using language in spoken or written. It is essential to produce an utterance that is suitable for the goal of the utterance. The meaning will be delivered well by producing appropriate utterances with its felicity conditions. The ability to catch the meaning of illocution is also vital to building a speech act. We know that one of the significances of language is delivering the speaker's ideas, facts, and opinions. So, it will be essential to analyze how the speaker has ideas and how the ideas are given.

The speech act takes a significant role in the whole teaching and learning process by the teacher and students. The primary key of teaching-learning English is communicating and understanding by using English. So, understanding

students' language is essential as the beginning of students' success in understanding and capturing the material provided by the teacher.

Furthermore, transferring knowledge, controlling the classroom, organizing the activities, and giving instructions to the students were done through teacher talks that contained the speech acts. Sometimes, it is not accessible to the students to understand what the teacher said. In reality, occasionally, there is a misunderstanding between teachers and students. The students often misinterpret the intentions of what the teacher intended. It happened due to Indonesian students whose identity as foreign language learners. Hence, having adequate knowledge of Pragmatics, especially the felicity conditions in speech acts, is vital to minimize misunderstanding during the teaching and learning. Based on those reasons, their researcher needs to investigate fulfilling the felicity conditions of a representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake*.

1.3 Research Problems

This study's research question is how the fulfillment of felicity conditions in representative acts in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake*? Based on the general research questions, I will specify five research questions:

1. How is the preparatory condition fulfilled in representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake*?
2. How is the propositional content condition fulfilled in representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake*?

3. How is the sincerity condition fulfilled in representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from every mistake*?
4. How is the essential condition fulfilled in representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from every mistake*?
5. How is the relationship between four felicity conditions and the felicity of speech?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions, the researcher formulates the objective of the research. The objectives of this study are:

1. To explain how the fulfillment of the preparatory condition in the representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake*;
2. To explain how the fulfillment of the propositional content condition in the representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake*;
3. To explain how the fulfillment of the sincerity condition in the representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake*;
4. To explain how the fulfillment of the essential condition in the representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake*.
5. To explain how the relation between four felicity conditions and the felicity of speech.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The preparatory condition fulfilled in the speech act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake* in the representative act is explained. Theoretically, this research shows the reason and belief about why the utterance is spoken. Practically, this research will help the reader understand why the statement is expressed to create a logical utterance. Pedagogically, this research contributes to developing material in teaching speech act in felicity condition.

The propositional content condition fulfilled in the representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake* is explained so that theoretically, this study shows clearly how to create utterances followed by acceptable condition and fit the meaning in its spoken utterance in each type of speech act, namely declarative, expressive, representative, directive and commissive. Practically, this study explains how to use utterance in achieving an intended action when using language. Pedagogically, this study also can be used as a reference for the reader in developing and implementing speech acts, especially in developing acceptable language. This study also can be used as a material for teaching pragmatics.

The sincerity condition fulfilled in the representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake* is explained so that theoretically, this research clearly shows psychological attitude concerning utterance's propositional content. Practically, this research helps the reader understand the concept of sincerity felicity in expressing an appropriate circumstance. Pedagogically, this research will be used as a reference in understanding speech acts, primarily felicity

conditions to achieve the purpose of the speech. Hopefully, this research contributes to developing material in English teaching.

The essential condition fulfilled in the representative act in Winfrey's speech *Learn from Every Mistake* is explained so that theoretically, this research clearly shows the intention of utterance. Practically, this research helps the reader understand the concept of essential felicity in expressing an appropriate circumstance in the speech act. Pedagogically, this research will be used as a reference in understanding the intention of utterance. So the goal of performed utterance will be achieved.

The relation between four felicity conditions and the felicity of speech is explained. Theoretically, this research clearly shows each felicity condition's impact on creating a felicitous speech. Practically, this research will show how important each felicity condition create a felicitous speech. Pedagogically, this research can be used as a reference in understanding the impact of four felicity conditions in creating felicitous speech.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on fulfilling the felicity condition in the Representative act in Winfrey's speech entitled *Learn from Every Mistake*. It is about the existence of four felicity conditions in the speech act. They are propositional content, preparatory condition, sincerity condition, and essential condition. This study also focuses on fulfilling four felicity conditions in the representative act.

1.7 Definition of Key Terminologies

To make the variable in this research understandable, the writer explains the key terms. They are as follows:

1. Speech act

Speech act makes the intention of the speaker known, a hearer can infer from the semantic content of the utterance how the sentence uttered is being used, that is, what type of action is being performed with it. It means that a speech act is about using language in performing an act.

2. Felicity conditions

Hurford (2007, p.282) states that the felicity conditions of an illocutionary act are conditions that must be fulfilled in the situation in which the act is carried out if the act is to be said to be carried out properly, or felicitously

3. Propositional Content

According to Searle (1970), the Propositional content condition explains the illocutionary forces specify the acceptable conditions regarding propositional content. In other words, it is the proposed condition of the speaker or hearer. Propositional content specifies the kind of meaning expressed by the propositional part of the utterance. For example, promises refer to future acts by speakers.

4. Preparatory Condition

Preparatory condition is about the prerequisite of utterance to be spoken. The speaker has to have a specific belief about the speaker's act and conditions, and also, the speaker is required to have the power of authority over the hearer.

5. Sincerity Condition

The sincerity condition is about the speaker's psychology related to the propositional content of the utterance. In other words, the sincerity condition is about the speaker's belief when producing a statement.

6. Essential condition

The essential condition is about the intention of utterance. The essential condition has to do with its purpose to get the hearer to perform the intended act.

7. Declarative Speech act

According to Cruse (2000, p.343), declarative is said to bring about a change in reality: that is to say, the world is in some way no longer the same after they have been told. Yule (1996, p.53) states that the directive act changes the world using utterances. The directive speech act is about changing the situation by using utterance. There is an effect after uttering an utterance.

8. Representatives speech act

Cruse (2000, p. 343) states that a representative action is called an assertive act. Assertive commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition state,

suggest, boast, complain, claim, report, warn (that). Yule (1996, p.53) states that representative means that the speaker represents the world as they believe.

9. Expressive speech act

The expressive act is about producing utterance in expressing the speaker's feelings. Yule (1996, p.53) states that expressive speech acts state what the speaker feels. They represent psychological states and can be pleasure, pain, dislike, happiness, sadness, etc.

10. Directive speech act

The directive act is about asking someone to do something by using utterances. Yule (1996, p.54) states that the directive speech act is a speech act that the speaker uses to get someone else to do something.

11. Commissive speech act

The commissive act is about producing utterance to express a future action. Cruse (2000, p. 343) states that commissives commit the speaker to some future action in promise, vow, offer, undertake, contract, threaten. Besides, Yule (1996, p. 54) states that the commissive speech act is used to commit the speakers to future actions.

12. How

The word "How" in this research, especially in the research question, refers to the result-oriented. It means that this research will show the felicity conditions resulting from Winfrey's speech.