

## ABSTRACT

**Agus Nur S, Muhammad.** 2009. *A Speech Act of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Speech Entitled "I Have a Dream"*. A final project. English department, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Semarang State University. First advisor: Dr. Djoko Sutopo, MSi. Second advisor: Drs J. Mujiyanto, M.Hum.

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Communication is the activity of exchanging meaning, ideas, feeling and information. It needs two participants or more. There are several ways of communication. Besides interpersonal communication and small group of communication, there is speech as one way of communication.

Speech is one of the real forms of communication activities that cannot be unconnected from language use. It will only be delivered in a special occasion and some preparations are needed there. Listeners should know what actually the speaker wants through his speech. By knowing it, we can decide what action that we will take, whether we will agree the message or even refuse it. Listeners could know what the speakers wants or the meaning of a speech by studying speech act. The writer uses Yule's speech acts theory to do the analysis since he thinks that the theory is the most proper theory.

This is a qualitative study. The theory includes; (1) *representatives*, which is speech acts that state what speaker believes to be the case or not. It is a speech acts that commits the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition, (2) *directives*, which is speech acts that speaker use to get someone else to do something, (3) *commisives*, which is speech acts that speaker use to commit them to some future action, (4) *expressive*, which is speech acts that state what the speaker feels. It is to express the speaker's inner state toward a certain thing, (5) *declarations*, are those kinds of speech acts that change the world or situation trough speaker's utterances.

The result of the study showed that the total data found in the speech, it can be known that there are 50 data or utterances contain speech acts. Among five speech acts, representative speech act exists in 25 utterances. The second commonly used is directive speech act. It is used in 13 utterances. The third commonly used is declaration speech act. It is used in 7 utterances. The forth commonly used is Commisive speech act. It is used in 4 utterances. And the most rarely used is expressive speech act since it only exists in one utterance.

From the explanation above, the writer can draw some conclusion. First, among the five kinds of speech act, representative is the most commonly used in speech. Second, the directive is the second commonly used after the representatives speech act. Third, the other kind of speech act, declaration is the third. Fourth, the commisive speech act is the fourth speech acts that commonly used. Fifth, the expressive is the most rarely used in the speech. Besides, he also has some suggestion to the readers. First, there are various topics in pragmatics that have not been explored like deixis, maxims, implicatures, etc. Second, it is better to give pragmatics study to the students of educational program since pragmatics is needed if we want to study about linguistics in depth.