

# Speech Acts Analysis of dr. Peter Senge's Interview in the Fowler Center's Roberta Baskin about the Future of Education

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**Abstract**—This research is concerned with speech act produced by dr. Peter Senge as the speaker and Roberta Baskin as the host in a program of talk show. The objective of the study to analyze and describe the types of speech act, to classify the locution, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts, to analyze the most dominant speech act produced in the interview and to describe the reasons or purposes of the use of the speech acts. The study adopts qualitative and quantitative research. In analyzing the data, it uses speech act theory by Austin and Searle and transitivity analysis of SFL by M.A.K. Halliday specifically to identify the circumstance of reason and purposes. The results of this study shows that the types of speech acts used are directives, representatives, commissives, and representatives. The dominant utterance used is representative utterances 41%. It means that this interview represents a situation or condition which can be assumed as truth or falsity. Locution is also dominant in this interview by 75%. Then, the reason and purpose of Peter Senge's that should be different from the past and it starts to learn in the concrete one.

**Keywords**— *SFL; speech act; speech act analysis*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The discussion about education always becomes never ending discussion because education is fundamental to development and growth. Through education, we can acquire, learn and develop skills and knowledge. It also brings positive changes in human life. It enhances the knowledge, skill and intelligence.

Unconsciously, education also can create awareness and expand our vision. We become more aware about ourselves, about the society about everything that surrounds and affect our life. For instance, there are many of students do not like math but unconsciously we use math in our daily life so it becomes the reason why education is the important things. Also, education is as a bridge for eradicating the unemployment problem in the country. It is also essential to improve the trade and commerce and to bring prosperity to the country. Based on the explanation above, it becomes the core reason why a country should have own educational system. However, in performing the good or appropriate educational system is not easily applied. Problems would come from the environment, society, teacher, students, classroom and so on. Then, there will

be upgrading or the growth educational system in several decades which is based on the needs, situation and condition to make it better and achieve the goals of education itself.

According to the workshop from Case Western Reserve University got from YouTube Channel, dr. Peter Senge gives an overview about the future education [1]. He is a Senior Lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and on the Fowler Center for Business as an agent of World Benefit's Advisory Board. He is also Founding Chair of the Society for Organizational Learning (SoL), a global community of corporations, researchers and consultant committed "to increase our capacity to collectively realize our highest aspirations and productively resolve our differences". He has written several books which discuss about education system and the overview of school system. It can be inferred that he has many experiences and knowledge in education field. It becomes the reason of this research to analyze dr. Peter Senge's interview about future education theme to get the act and meaning of future education from him as the global guru.

Speech act theory by Austin's theory will be used in analyzing dr. Peter Senge interview [2]. Speech act theory originated as a theory within the philosophy of language to explain the ways that we can use language [3]. In this study, the researcher would like to analyze the utterance of Peter Senge and Roberta Baskin. In analyzing the utterance, it can get the meaning and act or performs of the speaker.

Based on Isnawati and Diana, Austin's theory of speech act will use three elements of act utterance such as locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act [2]. It has four elements that will analyze the Peter Senge's utterance that are directive, representative, expressive and commissive [2].

According to the previous study by Isnawati, speech act can be found in conversation. The conversation here is the interview between dr. Peter Senge and with Roberta Baskin by speech act based on Austin's and Searle's theory [2]. Then, the research questions are formulated as follows:

- What types of speech acts are found in dr. Peter Senge's interview?
- What are the most dominant speech acts frequently used by dr. Peter Senge in the interview?

- What are the underlying reasons and purposes for the occurrence of speech acts in the interview of dr. Peter Senge?
- What are the conclusion of future education system that dr. Peter Senge notify in those interview?

According to the research question above, the objectives of the research are to describe the types of speech act which are produced by Peter Senge and Roberta Baskin in the interview, to explain and analyze the most dominant speech act produced by Peter Senge in the interview by using speech act analysis based on Austin and Searle' theory and to know and describe the purpose and reason of Peter Senge in the interview by using transitivity analysis of SFL based on Halliday. Specifically, in analyzing the circumstances of purposes and reason [4].

## II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Based on Plato's Cratylus in Jan Rankema, he describes that "speech as a form of action and words as instruments with which action can be performed" [5]. As we know that language as a tool in order to communicate with one another and it is an instrument in which the objectives can be achieved and it cannot be considered to be separated from the speaker and listener in performing communicative acts. The term of communicative acts called speech act theory. In speech act theory, language is seen as form of acting.

The idea of speech act means, there is a meaning that would like to be delivered and the meaning exist based on the act of the speaker [3,5,6]. John Austin presents a new picture of analyzing meaning in which meaning is described in a relation among linguistic conventions correlated with words or sentences, the situation where the speaker actually says something to the listener and associated intentions of speaker. It means that meaning exist among these relations is depicted successfully by the concept of acts: in uttering a sentence, that is, in utilizing linguistic conventions, the speaker with an associated intention performs a linguistic act to the listener [6]. It is also supported by Jan Rankema in her book that "speech act theory has had a strong influence on the field of discourse studies as this theory focuses on the question of what people are doing when they use language" [5].

According to Austin's theory, that an utterance which is uttered by a speaker has a meaningful message, in which addressed to the listener and/ or readers to do what is uttered. Austin also emphasizes that "to say something may be to do something". It can be inferred that someone say something based on their action such as what they have done, what they will do and so on. On any occasion in which speech acts perform an action which is mentioned above. An action performed produced an utterance which consist three aspects of acts, which can be seen in the Austin's categorization of speech acts as follows: locutionary, Illocutionary, Perlocutionary [7].

Isnawati and Diana stated in their research that Searle improves on Austin's speech act theory by that illocutionary act has five classes: directives, expressive, representative, commissive. Specifically, directive has reminding, advising, asking, warning and agreeing; expressive has the expression of sharing, disappointment, protesting, and indifferences and so

on; representative has the expression of stating, informing and concluding [2,5]. To be able to gain the types of speech act, conversation is one of the sources of getting the types of speech acts because through conversation, it can gain many utterances in which it can identify the acts of the speaker through language and as we now that conversation facilitate the speaker to express their utterances directly.

Transitivity analysis of SFL has three term; *Process*, *Participants* and *Circumstances* [4]. The process is used in analyzing what kind of event/ state is being described. Participants is the entities involved in the process such as actor, sener and sayer. Then, Circumstances is specifying the when, where, why and how of the process. Each term above has a categorization in term transitivity. In term Circumstances has several types such as location, extent, origin, destination, manner, cause, contigency, accompaniment, role, matter [4]. In this study, it uses circumstance in term of reason and purposes because the researcher would like to analyze what are the underlying reasons and purposes for the occurrence of speech acts in the interview of dr. Peter Senge.

## III. RESEARCH METHOD

Qualitative and quantitative research was used in this research. Qualitative research was applied to analyze the data in the form of the text in the interview's script and quantitative research was used to count the quantity and percentage of speech acts used by dr. Peter Senge's interview to conclude which speech acts is dominantly used.

In analyzing the data, it used speech act theory by Austin and Searle. The speech act' theory was used to answer the first and second research question in describing the speech act used and which one the speech acts dominantly used. Then in identifying the term of purpose and reason of Peter Senge based on the utterance expressed in the interview using transitivity analysis of systemic fungsional linguistic (SFL) by M.A.K. Halliday' theory specifically use part of Circumstances in subtype of reason and purpose.

## IV. FINDINGS

The utterances of this interview have 122 sentences which are categorized into Austin and Searle speech acts' theory. It categorized into locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary and specifically it also categorized into directives, commissive, expressive and representative.

The dominant types of speech acts used by dr. Peter Senge were Representative (41%) and Locution (75%) while the lowest percentage are Commissive (0%) and Illocutionary (5%). Actually, Peter Senge does not use commissive in his interview because there are not the utterances indicating commissive expression.

Then, to identify the reason and purposes, it uses transitivity analysis in SFL based on the theory of M.A.K Halliday. It focused on the term of circumstances. Specifically, it is the circumstance of reason and purposes. The circumstances of reason got 20% and circumstances of purposes got 27%.

## V. DISCUSSION

As mentioned before about in analyzing the speech acts, the researcher used Austin and Searle' theory about speech acts, it identifies locution, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. Also, it specific elaborates directives, representative, expressive and commissive.

In answering the first research question, it can be seen the types which were found in dr. Peter Senge' interview are Directives, Representatives, Expressive, Commissive.

### A. Directives

In directives act, the speaker tried to get the listener to do something. In this case, many of directives utterance about the expression of asking in which the speaker would like to get more explanation from Peter Senge' overview. It can be seen that Roberta Baskin ask Peter Senge to answer the question such as from the conversation in the opening after introducing the guest, she said, "And Peter I just got a quote in a daily quote / that was sent to me / that is perfect for you it's by Aristotle, *what is the essence if life to serve others and to do good and I think about that in terms of you know talking about teaching and you are a great teacher so when you look at today's schools and you think about how they are preparing tomorrow's leadership, what gives you hope?*". Based on the sentence above Roberta Baskin asked Peter Senge to do something in ways answering her question. So, it can be identified that all of the questions from Roberta Baskin is the directives acts specifically in types of expression of asking something.

Then, the directives act used by Peter Senge were reminding, advising, asking, warning and agreeing while the most dominant directives acts used by Peter Senge are the expression of reminding and warning. In this case, it can be seen that Peter Senge would like to give another overview which different from Roberta Baskin' statement also remind her that the concept is not like as simple as she mentions. It can be proven based on this statements, "*No, what's really hard to see because it really doesn't show up in the kind of macro statistics or the big events/ that get covered by our media is/, there is also an extraordinary ray of profound changes /that are going on/ and if you think about probably couldn't be any other way if you have only one basic premise /which is the kind of era/ we have lived through you could say the last two 300 years of the industrial age*".

Peter Senge used this type of speech act to get someone else to do something and to make the audience realize about the concept that explained by Peter Senge. Based on the interview, there were several statements given by Roberta Baskin contradicted with Peter Senge so he used directives in term of reminding, advising, warning and agreeing. Then, in term of "to do something" means that Peter Senge asked the audience to open mind and change their mind.

### B. Representatives

The dominant utterances occurred in this interview are representatives' utterances. The speaker tried to explain the fact and opinion about the situation and condition of education in the present. Actually, the term of education here is not only for

school management but also education in general especially for self-improvement or leadership. It is also about school system in the present, business management, industrial and so on. Roberta Baskin asked several questions to Peter Senge discussing about the present condition appeared as an example in the opening Roberta Baskin asked about, "*What is the essence of life to serve other and to do good?*" and "*when you look at today's school and you think about how they are preparing tomorrow leadership, what gives you hope?*". Based on the interview, Peter Senge believe that his utterance expressed is considered can be truth because he stated the case, condition, problem based on the experience, what he see, observe and find in the reality.

Actually, based on the question, Roberta Baskin would like to discuss the term education generally as mentioned before not only focus to the school system because as we know that education is everywhere. It can be proven in the next question which is asked by Roberta Baskin.

The representative utterances can be seen in the opening in which Roberta Baskin greet the audience and introduce herself also the guest that is dr. Peter Senge, in this section the utterance is representatives specifically in expression of informing. Then another representative utterance found when dr. Peter Senge answered the first question in which he told about his experience who always interacted in the school management so he knows about the system in the school. It proven in the expression, "*Well, I have a benefit of a very kind of selective opportunity so the people I get to hang out with the schools, I get to visit the places, I get to see them people really doing things are not really the main street, there are extraordinary a rave of inspiring innovation is going on in mainstreams public schools today and I see kids and teachers engaged in very deep learning all the time and teachers , principals, leaders in school systems really sticking their neck out a lot to do things that is way beyond what you would normally expect to see*". According to the statements, it becomes the truth of Peter Senge that he has seen the present condition of education and when Roberta Baskin asked the question about "*when you look at today's school and you think about how they are preparing tomorrow leadership, what gives you hope?*". Peter Senge told about his experience firstly and consider the phenomenon to answer the question. It is one of the utterances use representatives. There are 50 utterances of representative so the speaker explained about the truth and opinion condition or in term of education.

### C. Expressive

Expressive also found in analyzing Dr. Peter Senge's analysis. Peter Senge used expressive in order to represent psychological expression. It shows speech acts to state what the speaker really feels. In this interview, the speaker used several expressions which include in Expressive. There are 26 utterances specifically the expression of sharing, disappointment, protesting, and indifferences and so on.

According to the expression, Dr. Peter Senge would like to express his feeling that the understanding of future education. As an examples based on the interview, "*Government is not that's not really the function of government and in a by and*

*large but business does do that so I don't think this is all that new in a way the problem has become that the way business is managed more and more over the last I'd say 20 30 40 years*". Based on the utterances, it was kind of indifference expression in which Peter Senge expressed his feeling that it did not like his view. Then, there was an expression of protesting, "**No, No, No, he said no**". Roberta Baskin also use the expression of thanking in the closing of the interview, "**Peter Senge thank you so much for sharing your insights and thoughts and in a really big way lighting the way for a future path for all of us this has been great thanks**". Thus, it can be seen the feeling of Peter Senge and Roberta Baskin that there are several question or concept which is given by Roberta Baskin is contradict.

#### D. Commisive

There are not utterances expressed by Peter Senge consist of the expression of commisive. In this case, it can be inferred that dr. Peter Senge only give his opinion about the present condition of education. It can be proven that the explanation of dr. Peter Senge told about his experience in the present. Then, there were not the expression performing the promising of Peter Senge in the future but he can see the future education based on the case or event that occur or happen in the present.

#### E. Locution, Illocutionary and Perlocutionary

Furthermore, in the type of speech act in Austin's side, this interview dominantly used Locution. It can be seen in the table above that the percentage of Locution is higher than others that is 75%. It can be inferred that dr. Peter Senge only answered, explained and stated Roberta Baskin question. Peter Senge only explained the answer based on the question and told about his experience, what he saw in the reality and what commonly happened in the reality. Most of Roberta' Baskin utterance used Perlocutionary because she needed the response from dr. Peter Senge and hopeful will give the effect to the audience to get the overview about the discussion. Then, there were also some of the utterance of Peter Senge who used illocutionary but there are only 18%. In this case, Peter Senge would like to give the specific purpose of the speaker's mind, as an example, "You want to do in your classroom as a teacher or something, you want to do in cities where you have a new business to kind of foster urban renaissance in cities whatever it is, there has to be something concrete that allows you to focus your energy but you also have to have that awakening because it's not like there's an option". Based on the statements Peter Senge would like the audience and Roberta Baskin realize about this concept.

#### F. Circumstances of Purpose and Reason

Then, in answering the third research question about the purpose of Peter Senge in expressing his idea or opinion by using Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

The researcher can answer the third research question about the reason and purposes of the speaker by using transitivity analysis of SFL Halliday [4]. It analyzes the circumstances of purpose and reason to know what are the underlying reasons or purposes for the occurrence of speech acts in the interview of

dr. Peter Senge. Peter Senge would like to inform the audience that the term future education.

In the opening of the interview, Peter Senge would like to inform that he has many experience in observing the school condition directly. It can be proven in the first answer, He said that, "I have a benefit of a very kind of selective opportunity so the people **I get to hang out with the schools, I get to visit the places, I get to see them people really doing things are not really the main street, there are extraordinary a rave of inspiring innovation is going on in mainstreams public schools today and I see kids and teachers engaged in very deep learning all the time and teachers, principle, leaders in school systems really sticking their neck out a lot to do things that is way beyond what you would normally expect to see**. According to the statment above, Peter Senge would like to inform that the term of education here should reflect to the present condition of education. "*when you look at todays' school and you think about how they are preparing tomorrow leadership, what gives you hope?*". It can be infered the purposes of Peter Senge to explain and answer the question reflecting to the present condition about education so the future education should perform the concrete one based on the reality.

Then, there are several point of view which is asked by Roberta Baskin which contradicted with Peter Senge. It means that the reason of Peter Senge expressed the utterance because he wants the audience realize about it, as an example; "**No, what's really hard to see because it really doesn't show up in the kind of macro statistics or the big events/ that get covered by our media is/, there is also an extraordinary ray of profound changes /that are going on/ and if you think about probably couldn't be any other way if you have only one basic premise /which is the kind of era/ we have lived through you could say the last two 300 years of the industrial age**". Based on the statements, Peter Senge would like to inform the audience that the assumption about the troubling about the chasm between poor and rich person can not be proven specifically based on the result of statistic which is shown by media. Then, in creating a better worls, business sense and what goes on in our school

Overall, the purposes of this interview, Peter Senge would like to explain that the term of future is not going to be like te past and you have to have a sense of what you want to do and you have to something that really insipre and learn something from the concrete one. Peter Senge also gave an overview about future education means leadership. The meaning of leadership can be proven that as a teacher we can manage ourselves to analyze something or problem in term of why and how so it can be helpful in facing the future students that if we see the problem, we have to see the students' context and see the how and why and the teacher can analyze the concrete one of the problem. It can be inferred that leadership of the teacher should be built based on analyzing and it can build the leadership of the teacher. Then, how we manage our self and our office and it is not only in school envirmnt, he gave a case in other field such as business and so on. Then, he also states that education system should give the question to the students about how and why so the students can analyze and give their diagram and it can make the student learn to analyzing something. The purposes above are proven based on

the utterance, “I don’t know any of us /could say critical mass/ let’s just say a certain significant number it’s not 25% and it’s probably not 10% but *it’s also not one-tenth of one percent of people in institutions are trying to come to this awakening that futures not going to look like the past.*”. He also states that, “I really think that’s not trivial, I think if you get to that as a conviction, I spent a lot of time in South Africa in the mid to late 1980s apart, he was still firmly in place but I tell you, you could feel *in South Africa a growing number of people white and black who knew that the future was not going to be like the past that’s really important and then secondly you have to have a sense of what you want to do, you have to something that really inspires you that’s concrete that’s tangible whether or not it’s something*”. Then, he also give a case that he saw in the school and it can be inferred that to teach the students, we should start to make the students learn to analyze how and why, in the opening of the interview.

## VI. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, based on the speech act of the interview, it used the category of speech acts. The four speech acts are directives, representative, commissive and expressive. However, the researcher does not find the utterance of commissive in which the content or information which is explained or discussed in this interview talked about the present case, situation and dr. Peter Senge over view in the present so there was not the expression indicate the kinds of speech act which perform action in the future or promising something in the future. In this interview, dr. Peter Senge who dominant speak more than Roberta Baskin because the explanation about “Future Education” delivered by Peter Senge. Directives used by Roberta Baskin in which she offers or ask dr. Peter Senge to answer the question and so on. Representative as the dominant type of speech act used by dr. Peter Senge. It achieves 41% rather than other in which

Directives 37%, Expressive 21%, Commissive 0%. Then, Locution is dominantly use than other. In this case so Peter Senge state and inform the case and his experience in which it relates with the realization of the speaker’s utterances, Locution 75%, Illocutionary 5%, Perlocutionary 21%. Illocutionary expressed by Peter Senge in which he wants to change the audience and Roberta Baskin assumption about the concept and Peter would like to them realize it implicitly. Perlocutionary expressed by Roberta Baskin because she would like get response and effect from Peter Senge in ways answer and explain the questions. Thus, we can see that speech acts also can be used to get the meaning of the utterance of someone based on the category of speech acts. The researcher expect that what is presented in this study can give benefit for the readers.

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