

# SPEECH ACT ANALYSIS OF DUTERTE'S COMMEMORATIVE SPEECHES

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**ABSTRACT:** *The main objective of the study is to determine the dominant speech acts in five commemorative speeches of President Duterte. This study employed Speech Act Theory and Discourse analysis to determine how the speech acts features connote the pragmatic meaning of Duterte's speech. Identifying the speech acts is significant in elucidating the underlying message or the pragmatic meaning of the speeches. From the 713 sentences or utterances from the speeches, assertive with 208 occurrences from the corpus or 29% is the dominant speech acts. It was followed by expressive with 177 or 25% occurrences, directive accounts for 152 or 15% occurrences. While commissive accounts for 104 or 15% occurrences and declarative got the lowest percentage of occurrences with 72 or 10% only. It is significant to note that all speech acts are used by Duterte. These sentences when uttered by Duterte carry a certain power of language to move or influence people. Thus the present study shows the fundamental message perceived by the listeners. Moreover, the frequent use of assertive and expressive not only explains the pragmatic message of the speeches but also reflects the personality of President Duterte.*

**Keywords:** Duterte, Speech Act Theory, discourse analysis, commemorative speech, pragmatics.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language, in its multitude forms, is a powerful tool for communication. Its importance is unquestioned [1]. In fact, choosing the right language leads to educational success [2]. It helps us connect and maintain our social responsibilities to people around us. Thus, language is a significant aspect for people to be part of a speech community. By the use of it, man is able to not only express or influence others but is also able to identify one's role in society. While the language is described as an expression of who we are as part of society, it is also what connects us to the culture of politics in the country.

Politicians recognize the strong influence of language in generating respect among other leaders and building comradeship even to other nationalities. In the political arena, politicians are dependent on the use of language to educate, convince, influence and inform people through their speeches. Political speeches are crucial in upholding the dignity and self-worth of a politician.

In Philippine politics, essentially during and after elections, politicians in the country use language to their advantage or disadvantage. Most Filipinos approximate a politician's credibility through language choice they use in their political speeches. It can presumably make or break them since politicians communicate directly with the general public in order to convince them of their programs or ideas. Thus language and politics are social stances. Language as manifested in the political speech functions as the medium for communication with purposes of gaining and maintaining power in the society. Political language through speech influence people's thoughts, attitudes and perceptions on certain issues. This illustrates the power embedded in political speeches delivered to the public.

The president as the highest and most influential person in a country needs to be in constant communication with the people. Through political speeches, the president is able to address to the public about the government's plans and directions in the future. Through political speech, politicians express their feelings on some government's policies, whether it connotes agreement or disagreement. In the aspects of pragmatics, this means that political leaders

perform various acts through their speeches. These speech acts may ascertain various understanding from people, as [3] posited that pragmatics is 'meaning in use' and 'meaning in context'. While according to [4] one of the fundamental areas of inquiry in pragmatics is the speech acts in the language used. Therefore pragmatics is important to uncover the meaning of speech acts in political speeches. [5] explained that all utterances in a speech situation have functional or performative aspects of speech which he labeled as 'speech acts'. Therefore the speech acts in a political speech may depend on the speaker's intention and the listener's own interpretation in the context which the words are uttered.

Since most of the speeches delivered by the president in the public arena are focused on the government's 'War on Drugs Campaign', the present study instead analyzed commemorative speeches to show a different angle of how the president conveys messages to Filipino people in a more formal gathering.

The primary aim of this study is to determine the speech acts that illustrate the performative utterances premised from the commemorative speeches of President Duterte. Thus speech act analysis of the political speeches provides the understanding that political leaders perform various acts through their speeches.

### 1.1. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The present study aims to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the dominant speech acts in the five commemorative speeches of President Duterte in terms of illocutionary acts and perlocutionary acts?
2. How do the overall identified features project the pragmatic message of the speeches?

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

This study used the quantitative-qualitative research methods to probe into the dominant speech acts used in the commemorative speeches of President Duterte. This analysis is significant in illustrating the pragmatic message of the

President which performs various acts in the speeches delivered to the public.

The quantitative aspect of the study involved the use of simple statistical treatment such as frequency and percentage to find the dominant speech acts in the five commemorative speeches of President Duterte.

On the other hand, the qualitative aspect of the study involved the use of discourse analysis approach to elucidate the pragmatic and underlying message from the speech acts features in the speeches of President Duterte. The qualitative aspect of the study provides critical understanding on the power of language embedded in the political speeches.

## 2.2 MATERIALS

This paper analyzed the speech acts used in the five commemorative speeches of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. Political speech is a discourse with actors as politicians who are being elected or appointed as the central players in politics [6]. Presidential speech is a rhetorical institution whose speech matter to national interest and that of the public. The president of the Philippines, Duterte is now being known to have been using 'swear words' in most of his political speeches. The speeches of the president are also compared to an 'impromptu' described as a speech with only a short time of preparation. Thus the language used in the speeches of the current president is of interest among scholars. It was explained in the first part of this paper that the researcher particularly chose to examine the commemorative speeches of President Duterte so as not to concentrate on speeches that focused on the government's 'War on Drugs Campaign'.

The five commemorative speeches that were analyzed in the study were retrieved from the website of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) which is [pcoo.gov.ph/speeches/](http://pcoo.gov.ph/speeches/). This is the website of the government where all the speeches of the president can be visited and read by Filipinos. The commemorative speeches are National Heroes Day (August 29, 2017), 115<sup>th</sup> Philippine Coast Guard Anniversary (October, 12, 2016), 3<sup>rd</sup> year Yolanda Comemoration (November 08, 2016), New Year Vin D' Honneur, (January 11, 2017) and the 115<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of Bureau of Customs (February 8, 2017).

Commemorative speeches are focused on values with an inspiring message. Thus the commemorative speeches of President Duterte are expected to give honor and tribute to a person or institution in the commemoration.

## 2.3 PROCEDURES

To identify the dominant speech acts in the commemorative speeches of President Duterte, the researcher detached each sentence and labeled them with illocutionary acts and expected perlocutionary effects of the sentence. The illocutionary act of each sentence was then analyzed whether it functions as assertive, commissive, expressive, declarative and directive. The perlocutionary act of each sentence was also analyzed. From the analyzed illocutionary acts and perlocutionary acts, the pragmatic message of the President was derived. It was noted that the speech acts with the

highest frequency count and percentage were considered the dominant speech acts.

## 2.3 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The aim of the present study in determining the dominant speech acts and the underlying pragmatic message from the speeches of the President is anchored on the Speech Act Theory espoused by [7] that explains that one cannot account for meaning in the absence of the context of a speech act. During the analysis of the study, the researcher got two inter-raters to help in the analysis of the speeches of Duterte and in identifying the speech acts. The inter-raters were faculty members of the Language Department in a state university in Luzon.

The first objective in this paper is to determine the dominant speech acts in terms of illocutionary and perlocutionary acts is answered by calculating the frequency distribution of the speech acts. It then revealed the type of speech acts dominating in the commemorative speeches of President Duterte. To get the frequency this formula  $f/N=100\%$  was used in calculating the number of assertive, commissive, expressive, directive and declarative acts.

In the case of the second objective, a qualitative approach which is a discourse analysis was used.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 3.1 DOMINANT SPEECH ACTS

This part of the paper presents in detail the findings revealed in analyzing the illocutionary and perlocutionary acts identified from the five commemorative speeches of Duterte. The results and discussions are arranged in reference to the objectives of the study mentioned in the first section of this paper. The quantitative approach is used to show the frequency distribution of the number of types of speech acts while the qualitative approach was expounded following discourse analysis.

The data on Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 shows the results of the analysis showing the dominant speech acts identified from the five commemorative speeches.

**Table 1: Speech on the National Heroes Day**

Speech Acts	f	%	Ranks
Expressive	47	28	1
Assertive	36	20	2
Commissive	35	20	3
Declarative	32	18	4
Directive	24	14	5
Total	174	100	

Table 1 shows that the dominant speech acts are expressive which states that a speaker must commit to a certain action in the future. Expressive is the leading or dominant speech acts used in the commemorative speech of President Duterte in the celebration of National Heroes Day. Expressive has the highest number of occurrence with 47 or 28% of the corpus while assertive comprises of 36 or 20% occurrences in the speech. The commissive accounts for 35 or 20 % followed by declarative with 32 occurrences or 18%. The directive speech acts have the lowest percentage with only 24 occurrences or 14% from 174 statements delivered by President Duterte.

In the commemorative speech of President Duterte for the National Heroes Day, the expressive illocutionary acts are used to express the President's different emotions or feelings toward certain issues. The president in his speech thanks, dedicates, gives honor, apologizes and complains to people and organization in the country. The following examples illustrate this observation [Illocutionary Act (IA), Expected Perlocutionary Effect (EPE)].

***I really appreciate all the men and women connected with this enterprise***

IA: Expressive (expressing)

EPE: Thankful

***I dedicate again in front of the brave Filipino soldiers who died for us and we continue to honor them and this message I have imparted to the military and the police very clearly:***

IA: Expressive (Thankful)

EPE: Appreciation/ Gratefulness

***And so, publicly, I would like to thank you sir for accepting my offer to join the Cabinet, I really appreciate it very much.***

IA: Expressive (expressing)

EPE: Appreciation/Thankfulness

***So I'd like to thank all of you, especially the Diplomatic Corps for sharing this moment with us and we are all very happy.***

IA: Expressive (thanking)

EPE: Appreciation/Gratefulness

***This was handed to me by Secretary Diokno. He's a very, I think he's the best there ever was in his, in the, as Budget Secretary.***

IA Expressive (expressing)

EPE: Appreciation

It is noteworthy that President Duterte dedicates and gives honor to the Filipino soldiers who are considered a hero for their undying service to the country. The commemorative speech is to pay tribute to a person or institution, thus the speech of the President is expected to also give honor to the National Heroes in the country. On the other hand, the occurrences of the words 'thank you' are apparent from the excerpts that show the President's appreciation towards the people and institution that he seemed to trust. The President's admiration for Secretary Diokno can be particularly observed from the speech.

The expressive illocutionary acts from the commemorative speech postulated expected perlocutionary acts of Duterte being a grateful and an appreciative leader. Perlocutionary act according to [8] is important for the speaker to gain an effective effect. Therefore, Duterte was successful in utilizing more expressive speech acts in acquiring respect from the audience. It is an important trait for the President to also ensure people's good perceptions of him.

Other functions of expressive speech acts are observed from the following extracts:

***I am sorry for my country for there are citizens really that fall short of grasping a situation here.***

IA: Expressive (apologizing)

EPE: asking for sympathy with sarcasm

***Those guys... Genocide, ba't sino ba ang pinatay ko? Wala naman akong pinatay na bata, (Did I kill a child? I did not kill any child)***

IA: Expressive (complaining)

EPE: anger

The prominence of negative words in the speech of Duterte connotes the President's ill feelings towards people who are condemning his administration for the 'War on Drugs Campaign'. The purpose of expressive speech act according to [7] is to express sincerity. In the case of Duterte, the use of 'sorry' does not illustrate sincerity but instead obtained a pragmatic message of sarcasm for Filipino citizens who do not understand the government's campaign. It was followed by another sentence that may have a negative perlocutionary effect from the listeners. The sentences uttered by Duterte showed his anger towards people criticizing the President.

The commemorative speech of Duterte for the National Heroes Day celebration is dominated by speech acts of expressing the Presidents feelings of gratefulness, appreciation, complains and disappointments towards people and institutions in the country. This is essentially how the president projects himself through his speeches, a tough President who is not afraid to express himself and say whatever he has in mind.

**Table 2: 115<sup>th</sup> Philippine Coast Guard Anniversary**

Speech Acts (Illocutionary Acts)	f	%	Rank
Assertive	73	33	1
Expressive	66	29	2
Directive	35	15	3
Commissive	32	14	4
Declarative	24	10	5
Total	230	100	

The corpus yields a range of assertive speech acts as it accounts for 37 or 33% occurrences. This is the longest commemorative speech of the President with 230 sentences. Most of the illocutionary acts in the speech describe the current situation in the Philippines as Duterte states, informs, reports and announces some of the government's policies and achievements. The following extracts illustrate these observations:

***Sir, Ambassador, we have a long history of friendship and cooperation.***

IA: assertive

EPE: reporting/stating

***As a matter of fact, Japan is one of the biggest contributors to the assistance of the Filipino people.***

IA: assertive

EPE: reporting/stating

***And in my city alone, JICA projects are abundant and it has redounded to the benefit of my countrymen over in Mindanao.***

IA: assertive

EPE: reporting/stating

*We need the ships if you count the number of islands of about 7,000 plus that would account to so many great miles of coastlines.*

IA: assertive

EPE: reporting/stating

The illocutionary acts from the excerpts above demonstrate Duterte's approach of informing the Ambassador of Japan, one of the guests in the celebration, concerning the friendship between the two countries. This compelled Duterte to state the cooperation and assistance extended by Japan to the Philippines. Duterte also reported in the speech the need of the country for the ships that will benefit the Philippine Coast Guards.

This part of speech of the president obtains a perlocutionary act of informing the Ambassador of Japan of Duterte's appreciation of Japan's sustained help in the Philippines. As a leader, this is a strong point in Duterte's speech in building comradeship and maintaining a good relationship with Japan.

However, Duterte also stated in his speech he stands on several issues condemning his leadership style which may not be of much concern during the celebration of the Coast Guard's Anniversary. The following examples illustrate this observation:

*Our main focus now is terrorism, human trafficking and drugs.*

IA: Assertive

EPE: reporting/stating

*Here were a lot of substitutions, a lot of corruption going on. The human rights start to harp on, even the Human Rights nga and said, the culture of violence.*

IA: Assertive

EPE: reporting/stating

*Well, a crime against chastity, crimes against all—person.*

IA: Assertive

EPE: reporting/stating

*Human rights threatening me with the International Court of Justice case, stupid.*

IA: Assertive

EPE: reporting/stating

*You know the crime that you are accusing me must be a crime in my own country.*

IA: Assertive

EPE: reporting/stating

In a commemorative speech, the speaker is expected to deliver a tribute to a person or institution yet, in the speeches of Duterte, it is apparent that some issues were always mentioned during the speech. Although the purpose of assertive speech acts is to commit the speaker to the truth of the proposition, Duterte in claiming the truthfulness to the issues he uttered do not only gain expected perlocutionary acts of informing the public but may also convey a message of arrogance.

[8] argued that the perlocutionary acts are results or byproducts from the speaker's point of view whether intended or not. Thus Duterte's use of the word 'stupid'

being associated with the idea of Human Rights threatening the President with International Court of Justice may gain numerous negative perceptions. Duterte may contest that he is not stating stupidity to Human Rights nor to International Court of Justice, but the mere fact of using such word may convey a message of insult to the two institutions.

It is also significant to note that expressive accounts for 66 or 29% from the corpus, second to the assertive speech acts. It also proves that the current president of the country uses expressive speech acts in most of his speeches in delivering his ideas and philosophies to the Filipinos. This again may be a manifestation of what the President is projecting as a tough and strong leader.

**Table 3: 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Yolanda Commemoration**

Speech Acts (Illocutionary Acts)	f	%	Rank
Directive	40	34	1
Assertive	37	31	2
Expressive	30	28	3
Declarative	5	4	4
Commissive	4	3	5
Total	116	100	

The directive speech acts have the highest percentage of occurrences in the speech of Duterte delivered during the 3<sup>rd</sup> year Yolanda commemoration. The directives have 40 occurrences from the corpus that accounts for 34%. In the case of Duterte's speech, the speech acts are used in commanding and ordering specific people and institution involved in the celebration. This is in accordance with what [7] posited that the purpose of directives speech acts is to make the hearer perform a particular action. This is exemplified in the excerpts below:

*When you are paid for eight hours to do your work, magtrabaho ka ng eight hours (work for eight hours) Do not shortchange the public.*

IA: Directive (commanding and ordering)

EPE: Superiority/Determination

*Mike, maggawa ka ng bahay diyan, diyan ka tumira. (Build a house there, you stay there)*

IA: Directive (commanding and ordering)

EPE: Superiority/Determination

*Putang-ina yang tubig na iyan, gawaan mo sila ng swimming pool. (Son of a bitch, that water, you make them a swimming pool)*

IA: Directive (commanding and ordering)

EPE: Superiority/Determination

*Kindly cooperate, do not delay government projects. Putang-ina, you oversee the—I want this thing completed.*

IA: Directive (commanding and ordering)

EPE: Superiority/Determination

The cursing and swearing made by Duterte in the speech showed the president's disposition on the housing issue besetting the Yolanda victims. Duterte as the highest leader in the country exemplifies his superiority and determination by directly commanding and ordering a particular person in the said commemoration. The swear words used in the speech can be interpreted in two ways. The swear words carry a certain character of Duterte's anger and

disappointment towards the unfinished housing project for Yolanda victims. Thus the swear words make the command or order stronger conveying a message that it must be followed or else take the consequence of facing Duterte's anger. On the other hand, for people who are not fond of blasphemy or have a conservative stance regarding swearing, this can be interpreted as Duterte not respecting the people in the celebration. In comparison with the other two commemorative speeches of Duterte, this speech has not mentioned of the government's 'War on Drugs Campaign', it focuses solely on giving orders and commands about the deadline given by Duterte to finish the housing projects for Yolanda victims at the end of the year. While the speech does not give honor nor pay tribute to the Yolanda victims, it still conforms to the idea that commemorative speech should give emphasis on the sentiments and feelings of the people involved in the celebration. It is on this note that the researcher also would like to emphasize that it is in this speech that the president made a lot of code-switching by using English, Filipino and Visaya language. This may be done to make an appeal to the audience by using the language they also know.

**Table 4: 2017 New Year Vin D' Honneur**

Speech Acts (Illocutionary Acts)	f	%	Rank
Directive	16	33	1
Expressive	14	29	2
Commissive	9	19	3
Assertive	7	15	4
Declarative	2	4	5
Total	48	100	

From all the five commemorative speeches, the New Year Vin D' Honneur is the shortest speech of the president. It is only comprised of 48 short sentences. The directives only account for 16 occurrences or 33% from the corpus while expressive occurred 14 times in speech of Duterte or 29%. This again ascertains the presidents constant used of expressive speech acts demonstrating his will to express ideas on particular issues. While the directives of speech acts are used in suggesting and wishing for an assured cooperation from other people and institution present in the celebration. The following examples illustrate this observation:

***Let us, together work to further expand the areas of mutually beneficial collaboration.***

IA: Directive (requesting and wishing)

EPE: responsiveness/hopefulness/encouragement

***I wish for deeper and more meaningful engagements with our partners and friends.***

IA: Directive (requesting and wishing)

EPE: responsiveness/hopefulness/encouragement

***So I hope we can get together, act together, and just to preserve mankind.***

IA: Directive (requesting and wishing)

EPE: responsiveness/hopefulness/encouragement.

It is apparent from the excerpts that although the president used directives speech acts in his sentences, the results of the perlocutionary effects obtain a positive attitude of responsiveness, hopefulness and encouragement for the

listeners. It is also important to note that this speech is fairly different from other speeches of the president for it made use of the English language throughout the whole speech.

At this juncture, the researcher would like to make a critical comparison between the uses of directives from the two speeches of Duterte. It is noteworthy to recall that directives speech acts were also dominant in the speech of Duterte during the Yolanda commemoration. In that particular speech, the directives are used to give order and command complemented with swear words in embodying Duterte's vicious order as the highest leader in the country. It thus has gained perlocutionary effects of the president's anger and disappointments to people and institution and also his determination for his order to be followed. On the other hand, the directives speech acts in the speech delivered during the New Year Vin D' Honneur postulated more positive perlocutionary effects of hopefulness from the president. Therefore the choice of words used by the president is a factor for acquiring positive or negative effects from the listeners; however, it is done, intentional or unintentional. This adapts to [8] explanation that illocutionary acts uttered by the speaker may bring different perlocutionary effects to the hearer with such effects being special to the circumstances of utterance.

**Table 5: 115th Founding Anniversary of Bureau of Customs**

Speech Acts (Illocutionary Acts)	f	%	Rank
Assertive	55	38	1
Directive	37	25	2
Commissive	24	17	3
Expressive	20	14	4
Declarative	9	6	5
Total	145	100	

The speech delivered in the 115th Founding Anniversary of Bureau of Customs on February 8, 2017, is the last commemorative speech analyzed in the present study. Table 5 shows that assertives dominate the speech acts with 55 or 38% occurrences from the corpus of 145 sentences. The speech acts mostly announce and inform the listeners of the achievements of the Bureau of Customs being honored in the event. The following extracts from the speech exemplify this observation:

***The modest collection performance posted last November 2016 was an eye opener; it was the first time that government was truly able to exceed collection targets since December of 2014.***

IA: Assertive

EPE: informing/announcing

***As part of the efforts to continue to improve and monitor Customs' operations, as well as the criminal and illegal activities, we now have the CCTV cameras in strategic locations around the port area of Manila and the BOC building.***

IA: Assertive

EPE: informing/announcing

***The footages are also live streamed online so our people can see the Bureau of Customs' operations in real time.***

IA: Assertive

EPE: informing/announcing

The extracts are just a few examples of how Duterte made use of assertives in his speech by reporting the accomplishments of the Bureau of Customs. From the sentences uttered by the president, it is apparent that positive perlocutionary effects may be perceived by the listeners. Duterte's pride while reporting the achievements of the institution can be recognized as boastfully stating the increase of target collection and new equipment acquired by the Bureau of Customs. This is a good decision of the president's speechwriter or Duterte himself of reporting to the Filipinos of current undertakings of the government offices. However, it was also observed from the speech that some assertive speech acts are used to inform the public of the president's whereabouts by narrating it to the listeners.

These are exemplified in the following examples:

***You know, my office prepares a speech, every event, there's always one. But they limit it to about—the longest is about 3 minutes.***

IA: Assertive (stating/narrating)

EPE: (stating/narrating)

Even when I was Mayor, for the last 23 years and a Congressman, I limited myself to about 5 minutes.

IA: Assertive (stating/narrating)

EPE: (stating/narrating)

***Even my inaugural speech was just 4 and a half.***

IA: Assertive (stating/narrating)

EPE: (stating/narrating)

The examples evidently illustrate how the president use the assertive speech acts to his advantage by narrating some information on his daily activity as a friend telling a story. The perlocutionary effect may have a positive result of being perceived as appealing to the public as someone as ordinary as them. The illocutionary acts used in Duterte's speech were dominated by assertives with the primary purpose of stating and narrating information to the public.

**Table 6: Five Commemorative Speeches of Duterte**

Speech Acts	f	%	Rank
Assertive	208	29	1
Expressive	177	25	2
Directive	152	21	3
Commissive	104	15	4
Declarative	72	10	5
Total	713	100	

The five commemorative speeches of Duterte make a corpus of 713 sentences. These sentences when uttered by Duterte carry a certain power of language to move or influence people. Table 6 shows that the leading or dominant speech act from the corpus is assertive which accounts for 208 occurrences or 29% while expressive got the highest percentage that accounts for 177 occurrences or 25%. It was followed by a directive that got the third highest percentage of occurrences with 152 or 15%. While commissive accounts for 104 or 15% occurrences and declarative got the lowest percentage of occurrences with 72 or 10% only.

The result of the present study is similar to the findings from the three previous studies mentioned in the related literature. The study of [9] revealed that from the two speeches of Obama, assertive also dominated the speech acts in the sentences delivered to the people. The study of [10] found that Bush used sentences with assertive acts that expressed motivation to the listeners. On the other hand, [11] revealed that Adua, the President of Nigeria, used 60% of assertive in his Inaugural speech. The result of the present study with assertive dominating the speeches of Duterte, and the previous studies having a similar result that can be understood by elucidating the primary concept of assertive speech acts which according to [7] is for the speaker to commit to the truthfulness of the proposition uttered. The speakers in all the studies mentioned are all Presidents of their respective countries; therefore the use of assertive acts in committing to the truth is one strategy to convey a message of power amongst their people as the highest political leader in their country.

It is in this note that the researcher would like to give emphasis that while the speeches of Obama, Bush and Adua used assertive speech acts in informing the audience so as to motivate and persuade them, Duterte on his five commemorative speeches used assertive speech acts in reporting, claiming and narrating about himself to project his image as the president of the country. These observations are typified in the following examples:

***I am just a mayor of a far-away city in the south.....***

***I came from that place and I was not even a national figure.***

***I do not read speeches because it does not reflect what is in my heart.***

***I'm not a real big time politician.***

***I just live in a small town in Mindanao.***

***I was the favorite whipping boy when I became Mayor because I was really very strict.***

***I do not go out, after work, I go back to my bedroom and start on state papers.***

***I come from Mindanao.***

***I was a probinsyano; neither was I an actor ever since***

***I'm just an ordinary face there in the streets.***

***I was prepared to lose; for anyway, I was not prepared to win.***

***I did not even have one single governor in Luzon except Imee Marcos.***

***It was never my ambition to be President.***

IA: Assertive

EPE: (narrating)

The constant use of the pronoun 'I' signals the President's intention to narrate a part of who he is and who he was before becoming the highest political leader in the country. This observation was seen as an emerging pattern from the five speeches of Duterte, where the president frequently include that he was a nobody before becoming the president.

The assertive speech acts used to inform the public of a president who hails from Mindanao claiming he is only a 'probinsyano' who never dreamt of becoming a president, is an appeal for kindness and consideration from the listeners to be more understanding of the President. Duterte also mentioned in his three commemorative speeches that it was not his ambition to be the president of the country and was even ready to lose the election. These assertive illocutionary acts in the statements of Duterte clearly states the underlying message that it was the Filipino people who dream or who want him to be the president of the country. Thus perlocutionary effect that might be given by the listeners is empathy and understanding towards Filipinos who voted for Duterte.

### 3.2 The message of the Speech Acts in Duterte's speech

The commemorative speeches of President Duterte are worthy to be studied with various aims in language use and linguistics. In the case of the present study, the primary aim is to analyze the speech acts used by Duterte that illustrate the performative utterances in the speech. This study provides an understanding that Duterte performs different acts through his commemorative speeches.

It is interesting to note that Duterte used all five speech acts in his commemorative speeches. Duterte's commemorative speeches are expected to deliver honor and pay tribute during the celebration. Nevertheless, the study found out that the dominant speech acts in the speech of the president which are assertives were used in reporting, announcing and narrating information to the public. Most of the assertive speech acts in the 713 statements of Duterte are used to report the ongoing 'War on Drugs Campaign' of the government. The president mentioned the government's war against drugs, corruption, and trafficking in all of his four commemorative speeches. The only speech of the president that these issues were not discussed is during the New Year Vin D' Honneur, attended by other nationalities. It was also found out that Duterte's assertive speech acts are used in announcing the achievements of government's offices. The expressive speech acts got the second highest percentage with 177 occurrences from 713 sentences in the corpus. Duterte is known in the country as a political leader who is not afraid to say whatever he has in mind. Thus expressive speech acts are used by Duterte to express his disappointments to the people and institutions constantly criticizing his campaign against drugs. Other statements in the speech were used to apologize for the bereaved families of drug victims who were killed and other statements were used to show gratitude and congratulate government offices with their achievements. The directive speech acts that occurred in 152 sentences were used by Duterte to directly give commands to particular people and institutions in the government. It was observed that these directives are accompanied by expletives or

swearwords making the statements strong and atrocious for anyone who will hear the orders. It is significant to note that these directives are specific orders to policemen and military men like '*It is your duty to kill*', '*If you have to kill, go ahead*' and other similar sentences. On the other hand, commissive speech acts are used by Duterte to threaten corrupt official, drug addicts and specifically policemen who are involved in drugs. The president uses vicious words to threaten people on his desire to eradicate drug addicts and drug lords in the country, the statement includes '*If you do not leave, I will kill you*'. It is also interesting to note that the primary purpose of commissive speech acts are used by Duterte in promising police officers as their Commander-in-chief of his legal responsibility in issuing the order 'to kill' if they need to. Duterte's promise includes, '*I will go to prison with you*', which was mentioned in the speeches several times. Duterte also promises his undying love and service to the Filipino people with a better country by fighting against drugs.

The analysis of speech acts in Duterte's commemorative speeches show the underlying messages or the pragmatic meaning of the performative utterances, thus providing discernments on the different acts performed in the speeches.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

This present study explores the speech acts characteristics of the selected speeches of President Duterte to bring to the fore the meaning of the speeches. It was discovered through the analysis that the dominant speech acts used in the speeches are assertives and expressives. In most sentences, assertives were used to describe the present state of the government and the country. Duterte in his five commemorative speeches reports to the Filipinos the country's stand on the government's 'War on Drugs Campaign'. The use of expressives, on the other hand, shows the president's typical character of expressing his appreciation, gratitude and even his anger and disappointments to people or institutions in the country. Thus, the speech reflects the character of the president. The speech act theory helped in analyzing the sentences or utterances in the speeches of Duterte to better understand the underlying message or pragmatic meaning the president wants to imply. It was also observed that Duterte's speeches are direct and clear with speech acts that are easily identified. Therefore, the Speech Act Theory is a suitable framework for analyzing political speeches where utterances can be identified as speech acts.

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