A Speech Act Analysis of the United Nations Secretary-General's Opening Remarks to the General Assembly Emergency Special Session on Ukraine

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Abstract

This study examines language use as social action. Using Austin's (1962), Bach's (2003), and Searle's (1969) speech act theory and categorizations of constative utterances, performative utterances, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts, this study examines the speech acts used by the UN's Secretary-General in his opening remarks in the Emergency Special Session on Ukraine. The study likewise examines the intended social actions and the social effects they have on the audience. This study reveals that the UN's Secretary-General made use of a balance between the usage of utterances that express a belief, intention, and desire (constative utterances) and utterances that carry social actions (performative utterances). This study furthermore reveals that reporting, informing, and announcing are the most popular constative utterances in the speech to provide Security Council members a comprehensive idea about the situation in Ukraine and the possible consequences. The study also affirms that directive and assertive illocutionary acts are the most popular performative utterances used in the speech to achieve the perlocutionary effects of asserting, stating, claiming, concluding, requesting, urging, advising, requiring, and ordering. Speech analysis reveals that the UN's Security General did not use any declarative illocutionary act as he intended to avoid jumping to conclusions, on the one hand and avoid taking sides, on the other hand.

Keywords: speech acts, illocutionary acts, perlocutionary acts, constative utterances, performative utterances, United Nations

1. Introduction

On the 24th of February, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin in a televised address announced a "special military operation" to "demilitarize and denazify" Ukraine (Putin, 2022). In his speech, the Russian President talked about the difficulties of reaching agreements with Ukraine and NATO. He also talked about the developments of the Ukrainian army with the support of NATO and NATO's intentions to expand close to the Russian borders, which is viewed as a danger by the Russians. According to Putin, ignoring the situation is irresponsible on the part of the Russians. Putin also stated that Ukraine is increasingly becoming anti-Russian as it allowed NATO to open military infrastructure on Ukrainian territories and received modern weapons. For that, Putin stated that "in accordance with Article 51 of Part 7 of the UN Charter, with the sanction of the Federation Council of Russia and in pursuance of the treaties of friendship and mutual assistance ratified by the Federal Assembly on 22 February of this year with the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic, I have decided to conduct a special military operation". The special military operation/invasion started at around 5 am local time.

The special military operation/invasion received conflicting international reactions. The Ukrainian President, the US president, NATO Security General, European Union leaders, Japanese Prime Minister, Canadian Prime Minister, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and many more leaders condemned the special military operation/invasion. China, India, Pakistan, Iran, Syria, Ethiopia, Cuba, Venezuela, and Belarus did not condemn the special military operation/invasion of Ukraine and a number of countries raised concerns and called for a peaceful settlement of the situation. The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Guterres, asked the Russian President to stop the troops from attacking Ukraine and give peace a chance. The United Nations, on the 28th of February, held a General Assembly Emergency Special Session on Ukraine, and the Secretary-General, António Guterres, delivered an address in which he urged that "soldiers need to move back to their barracks; leaders need to move to peace" (Guterres, 2022). In this article, the speech acts of Mr. Gutierrez's opening

remarks to ceasefire and start negotiation will be analyzed based on the dimensions of speech act theory.

Speech act theory studies language as not merely a medium to convey and express; it examines language as a source of action. The production and issuance of words and symbols are considered the basic units of communication. The meaning of these produced and issued words, however, is a process that includes, but is not limited to, the construction of mutual understanding between the communicators. This mutual understanding does not fully, or even partially, depend on the meaning of these utterances based on the language functions. The constructed mutual understanding, or the construction of meaning, is context-specific and intention specific. According to Austin (1962), there are two main kinds of utterances which are constative utterances and performative utterances. Constative utterances are the utterances that denote or describe the situation in relation to what is considered true or false. Performative utterances, on the other hand, do not describe. They are utterances that convey or express the thoughts, attitudes, or feelings of the person who performs the linguistic act.

Speech acts theory provides the theoretical framework for conducting this study. The analysis of the Secretary-General of the United Nations' speech will provide insights into the linguistic acts used in calling for peace. The study intends to answer the below questions:

1.   How are constative and performative utterances used in the speech?

2.   What illocutionary acts are used in the speech and what are their perlocutionary effects?

3.   How did the UN's Secretary-General maintain impartiality in the speech?

The examination will look at the use of constative utterances and performative utterances and their purposes (Austin, 1962). The intended social actions and their social effects on the audience are also analyzed. The examination will also investigate the five classes of the illocutionary act: assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives (Searle, 1969).

2. Literature Review

Speech act theory is part of the discipline of pragmatics. Pragmatics can be looked at as the study of language in different communicative contexts or situations. Pragmatics, as a discipline, analyzes the use of language based on internal and external factors that include, but are not limited to, who communicates to whom, when, why, and how. It includes communicators' presuppositions, their knowledge of the world around them, and their knowledge of each other (AlAfnan, 2022a, 2022b, Bayat, 2012). It further takes the analysis into what knowledge was taken into consideration in these communicative events and what elements of knowledge were left out or ignored (AlAfnan, 2021a). In this analysis, the intentions of speakers are an integral part of the analysis as it assists in providing an in-depth understanding of communicative events (AlAfnan, 2015, 2021b).

In addition to expressing and conveying messages in their communicative events, communicators perform social action (Austin, 1962). The analysis, based on speech act theory, is carried out as action-based. Austin (1962) distinguished between two different kinds of utterances that are constative utterances and performative utterances. Constative utterances are the utterances that demote the situation as either true or false. For example, if a teacher asked a student if he had forgotten the textbook and the student answered "Ahhhh", the student here provided input on whether the situation is true or false. Performative utterances, on the other hand, are the utterances that provide/ perform an action. For example, "I name this ship Queen Elizabeth" (Austin, 1962, 5), which performs the action of naming.

Austin (1962) proposed a three-way taxonomy for analyzing speech acts that are the locutionary act, the illocutionary act, and the perlocutionary act. The locutionary act refers to the articulating of utterances or the act of saying something. The illocutionary act is the act of saying something that has certain action attached to it as requesting, warning, informing, complaining, threatening, etc. The perlocutionary act refers to what has been achieved by performing the illocutionary act (i.e., deterring, promising) (Austin, 1962). In other words, the perlocutionary act, according to Levinson (1981), refers to the intended or unintended consequences of the speaker's utterance in that given social context.

Later on, Searle (1969) expanded speech act theory by providing a couple of categorizations that are direct speech acts and indirect speech acts. Direct speech acts refer to the utterances that provide a direct relationship between the linguistic form and the intended meaning or function they carry as in the following example. A declarative is used to make a statement: "You wear a seat belt." (Yule, 1996, p. 55). Indirect speech acts are performed when there is no direct relationship between the structure and the intended meaning as in an interrogative that is used to make a request: "Could you pass the salt?" (Yule, 1996, p. 56). Further to that, Searle (1969) provided five categories of illocutionary acts that are: assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. Assertive class is used to commit the speaker to social action. Directives are used to direct the hearer to do something or act accordingly. Commissives are the illocutionary acts to commit the speaker to do something in the future. Expressive illocutionary acts are used to express the feeling of the speaker, and, finally, the declarations class of illocutionary acts help make a potential difference in situations based on the speaker's institutional role.

Speech act theory was used in various studies to examine language as social action (Ackerman, 1979, Akinwotu, 2013, Altikiri, 2011). It was used to examine requests, politeness, apologies (AlAfnan, 2022, 2021a, Bardovi-Harlig, 2012, Nureddeen, 2008), inaugural speeches (Putri, 2018), defamation texts (Sholihatin, 2020), and language learning settings (Budiasih et al., 2016). Even though some studies focused on examining the use of speech acts in political discourse, they mainly focused on presidential speeches where motivation, persuasion, and possible political gains are intended. This study, unlike previous studies, examines speech acts used in the speech of the United Nations Secretary-General in addressing a political and military situation that does not only affect the involved parties but the rest of the world as well, if the situation escalates. This study analyzes the UN's Secretary-General remarks to the General Assembly Emergency Special Session on Ukraine that was delivered on the 28th of February, 2022 – four days after President Vladimir Putin announced the special military operation/invasion.

3. Methodology

This study examines the usage of speech acts in the [1]UN's Secretary-General Remarks to the General Assembly Emergency Special Session on Ukraine on the 28th of February, 2022. It examines language use as a source of social action. The investigation is carried out in two layers that are the usage of Austin's (1962) two different kinds of utterances that are constative utterances and performative utterances and Searle's (1969) five categories of illocutionary acts (assertives, directives, commissives, expressives and declarations).

The types of constative utterances will be investigated based on Bach's (2003) categorization. Bach (2003) explained that affirming utterances are used to state if the social act is true. Alleging utterances are used to accuse someone. Announcing utterances are used to make an announcement. Answering utterances are used to provide answers. Concurring utterances are used to express an agreement with a point. Denying utterances is used to deny something. Disclosing utterances are used to reveal something. Identifying utterances is used to recognize something. Informing utterances are used to provide information. Predicting utterances are used to forecast. Reporting utterances are used to report on something or to report on an issue. Stipulating utterances are used to state that something is a requirement.

This study makes use of the mixed approach (qualitative and quantitative) that is based on content and discourse analysis. Examples from the speech will be highlighted, listed, and functionally analyzed. The usage of speech acts will be stated and contextually analyzed to provide an in-depth understanding of the social action. The frequency of usage will also be reported to provide statistical horizons, on the one hand, and quantitative depth, on the other hand. Brown (2001) divides research design into four parts: "purely statistical, statistical with some qualitative, qualitative with some statistics, and purely qualitative" (p. 253). The hybrid approach will, unlike the qualitative or quantitative alone, provide statistical evidence and descriptive/narrative perspectives.

The study is mainly based on content analysis and discourse analysis. It intends to examine the text in context (Zhang & Wildemuth, 2009). Content analysis is categorized as "a research method for the subjective interpretation of the content of data through the systematic classification process of coding and identifying themes or patterns". Hsieh and Shannon, 2005, p.1281). Discourse analysis, on the other hand, is categorized as the analysis and the interpretation of speech, text, or some other talk that is practiced and regulated as a social phenomenon (Gee, 2005). Even though the discussion in qualitative studies may sound subjective, the objectivity is reflected in the in-depth examination of the text in a contextual framework, on the one hand, and the frequencies of occurrences as part of the quantitative analysis. The addition of the frequency of occurrence to the content analysis and discourse analysis provides statistical evidence and frequency depth that would add credibility to the findings.

4. Analysis

The analysis in this study is four-fold. Initially, an overview of the context is provided. After that, the selected speech is put in context. Then, the speech acts are analyzed based on Austin's (1962) speech acts categories. Finally, the categorizations of the illocutionary acts are analyzed based on Searle's (1969) and Bach's (2003) taxonomies.

4.1 A Contextual Overview

On the 24th of February, the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, announced "a special military operation" in Ukraine. This announcement was not received well by NATO and a number of countries around the world. On the 28th of February, four days after starting the special military operation/invasion, the UN called for a General Assembly Emergency Special Session on Ukraine, in which the UN's Secretary-General delivered the opening remarks. Since 1950, the UN held 10 emergency sessions in line with resolution 377A(V), which is widely known as the 'Uniting for Peace' Resolution.

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[1]https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2022-02-28/secretary-generals-remarks-the-general-assembly-emergency-special-session-ukraine-delivered

4.2 The Speech

Around 100 countries addressed the General Assembly. The UN Secretary-General delivered the opening remarks in eight minutes and twelve seconds. The opening remarks consist of seventy-six sentences and one thousand ninety words. The most popular word used in the speech was "humanitarian" as it was repeated ten times. The word "peace" was used five times and the word "conflict" was also used five times. The Secretary-General referred to "Ukrainian" five times as he also referred to "Russians" five times. He also used the word "negotiations" and "escalating" twice each. The speech included references to "support" (4 times), "crisis" (6 times), "solution" (3 times), and "challenges" (3 times).

The speech listed a number of entities (people, places, and organizations) that include the United Nations Organization, Central Emergency Response Fund, Ukraine, and the UN Charter. The speech also referred to several concepts that include International Law, Humanitarian needs, peace, solutions, efforts, war, and conflict. The speech was aired live and was watched by millions of people around the world.

4.3 Speech Acts Analysis

Austin (1962) stated that utterances can be categorized into constative utterances and performative utterances. Constative utterances relate to labeling or stating that a social act is true or false. Further, Bach (2003) categorized constative utterances into 12 categories that are: affirming, alleging, announcing, answering, concurring, denying, disclosing, identifying, informing, predicting, reporting, and stipulating. Constative utterances, according to Bach (2003), have illocutionary acts just as performative utterances. Performative utterances, which Austin (1962) categorized as illocutionary acts, are the utterances that provide insights into the attitude, feelings, or thoughts of the communicator. Searle (1969) categorized illocutionary acts to five groups that are the assertives, commissives, expressives, declarations, and directives. The analysis on the constative and performative utterances will be carried out based on Bach's (2003) and Searle's (1969) categorizations. In this regard, constative utterances also carry illocutionary acts.
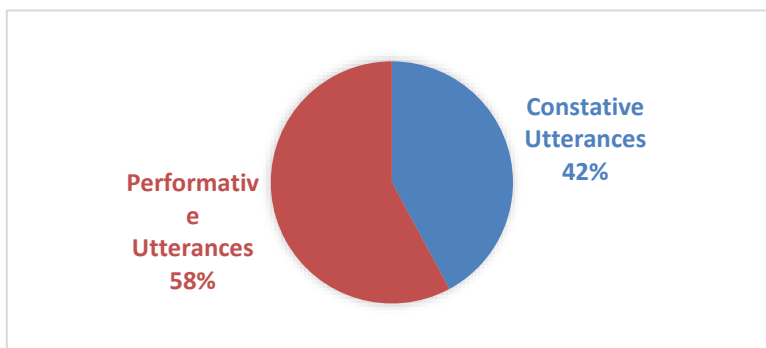

Figure 1. Number of constative and performative utterances used in the speech

The speech of the UN's Secretary-General includes instances of both types/categories of utterances as figure 1 shows. The speech included 32 instances of constative utterances, which is equivalent to 42% of illocutionary acts, and 44 instances of performative utterances, which is equivalent to 58% of illocutionary acts. It is worth highlighting here that Bach (2003) considered constative utterances as communicative illocutionary acts. This differs from Austin's (1962) initial attitude towards constative utterances.

4.3.1 Constative Illocutionary Acts

The use of constative communicative illocutionary acts in the speech included eight out of the twenty-two categories provided by Bach (2003). Mr. Guterres used constative communicative illocutionary speech acts to report, inform, disclose, predict, affirm, stipulate, announce, and identify as outlined in table 1.

Table 1. The use of constative illocutionary acts

Constative illocutionary acts	No. of occurrences	Percentage
Report	11	34.37%
Inform	8	25%
Disclose	3	9.37%
Predict	2	6.25%
Affirm	1	3.12%
Stipulate	1	3.12%
Announce	9	28.12%
Identify	2	6.25%
Total	37	100%

The Secretary-General used the constative communicative illocutionary acts to "report" on the fight in Ukraine. As example 1 shows, the Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly about the special military operation/invasion. Given that the speaker is the Secretary-General of the UN, the expected perlocutionary effect of this reporting is stating a fact. To "report" is the most popular constative communicative illocutionary act used by Mr. Guterres as it was used eleven times (34.37%).

> **EX. 1:** It (the fight) is raging across the country, from air, land and sea.

The second most popular constative illocutionary act was "announcing". Announcing was used by the speaker to make a formal public statement about an appointment or a plan. As example 2 shows, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Mr. Amin Awad as the UN crisis coordinator to Ukraine. The perlocutionary effect of this utterance is "declaring" the appointment to the General Assembly (GA). Announcing was the second most popular constative illocutionary act in the speech as it was used in nine instances (28.12%).

> **EX. 2:** I have appointed Amin Awad as the UN Crisis Coordinator for Ukraine.

The Secretary-General also used the "informing" constative illocutionary act in eight instances (25%). The informing was used (perlocutionary effect) to provide facts about the situation on the ground in Ukraine. As in example 3, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly about the situation in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. The informing communicative constative illocutionary act was less popular than reporting and announcing in this speech.

> **EX. 3:** The capital, Kyiv, is encircled from all sides.

It is also noticed that Mr. Guterres used the communicative constative illocutionary acts to disclose, predict, identify, stipulate, and affirm.

> **EX.4:** The Ukrainian government has distributed a meaningful number of arms to the population with the stated objective to participate in the defense of the country.

In example 4, the illocutionary act is "disclosing" as the intended social action of the sentence, or the perlocutionary effect is unveiling the acts of the Ukrainian government. The Secretary-General of the UN obviously supports the actions of the Ukrainian government as he used the word "defense". This means that he considers the Russian operation/invasion as aggression and the act of the Ukrainian government to arm the civilians as self-defense, even though this may lead to a bigger number of causalities as the "population" might be trained to be soldiers in a war field.

> **EX. 5:** We face what could easily become Europe's worst humanitarian and refugee crisis in decades.

In example 5, the speaker uses the communicative constative illocutionary act of "predicating". The prediction here is carried out (the perlocutionary effect) to provide an indirect "warning" to the General Assembly and the international community. This prediction is carried out based on the evaluation of the current situation (i.e., the special military operation/invasion) and the experience in similar situations (i.e., the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan). The warning is provided to alert European countries about the possible consequences.

> **EX 6:** …an immense distraction from the real challenges facing humanity. The climate crisis and biodiversity loss; vitally needed socio-economic recovery from the pandemic; healing the divides of race and gender; and so many other pressing 21st century challenges.

The speaker in example 6 uses the communicative constative illocutionary act of "identifying" to point out to the real issues and challenges faced by the world. As the Secretary-General of the UN identifies the situation in Ukraine as an "immense distraction" from major issues, the precautionary effect of this act is definitely a setback to the efforts to address the other major challenges listed in example 6. The Secretary-General provides a priority list in which the invasion of Ukraine is listed on the top.

> **EX 7:** I count on every Member State to live up to the principles of the Charter.

In example 7, the Secretary-General uses the communicative constative illocutionary act to "stipulate". The reference in this utterance is to the UN Charter which consists of articles that address international law and the multilateral system. The Secretary-General stipulated member states live up to the principles of the UN Charter in order to avoid humanitarian and economic consequences. As such, the perlocutionary act in this utterance is hoping and demanding member states to abide and act in accordance with the Charter.

> **EX. 8:** Humanitarian aid is vital.

In example 8, the speaker "affirms" publicly the importance of humanitarian aid. He is stating that this fact is true. The perlocutionary act in this utterance is indirectly demanding member states to provide humanitarian support to the Ukrainian people.

4.3.2 Performative Illocutionary Acts

The speech of the UN's Secretary-General, as figure 1 shows, included 44 instances of performative utterances, or illocutionary acts. As table 2 shows, the speech included 3 expressive illocutionary acts, 17 directive illocutionary acts, 7 commissive illocutionary acts, and 17 assertive illocutionary acts.

Table 2. The use of performative illocutionary acts

Performative illocutionary acts	No. of occurrences	Percentage
Expressives	3	6.8%
Commissives	8	18.18%
Assertives	17	38.63%
Directives	17	36.36%
Total	44	100%

As table 2 shows, the Secretary-General used the communicative expressive performative illocutionary acts three times. According to Searle (1969) expressive illocutionary acts are used to express how the speaker feels about a situation. This includes thanking, welcoming, deploring, and apologizing. The three instances of expressive illocutionary acts in the speech were used to "thank" (2 instances) and "welcome" (1 instance). As example 9 shows, the illocutionary act of expressiveness is used to thank the countries that have offered to host and facilitate negotiations between Ukraine and Russia.

> **EX. 9:** I thank the countries who have offered to host and facilitate negotiations.

It is also noticed that the Secretary-General used directive illocutionary acts 17 times. The directive illocutionary acts are intended to be requesting (8 instances), urging (3 instances), advising (3 instances) requiring (2 instances), and ordering (1 instance). As example 10 shows, the speaker "advised" Ukraine and Russia to engage in negotiations. Even though it is tempting to believe that the perlocutionary act in example 10 is thought of/interpreted as ordering, the position of Secretary-General does not allow him to make binding decisions or give orders to UN member states. His position only allows him to provide requests, suggestions, and/or advice.

> **EX 10:** It is never too late to engage in good-faith negotiations and to address all issues peacefully.

Example 11 provides an example of commissive illocutionary acts from the speech. The speaker used commissive illocutionary acts in eight utterances that were used to "guarantee" (4 instances) and "promise" (4 instances). As example 11 shows, the Secretary-General provided a guarantee (provided a strong assurance) to the Ukrainian President that the United Nations will not abandon the Ukrainian people.

> **EX. 11:** I spoke with President [Volodymyr] Zelenskyy and assured him that the United Nations would not abandon the Ukrainian people and conveyed our determination to enhance humanitarian assistance.

The Secretary-General also used the assertive illocutionary act intensively in the speech. The assertive illocutionary act was used in 17 utterances that intended to "assert" (9 times), "state" (3 times), "claim" (2 times), and "conclude" (2 times). As example 12 shows, the Secretary-General used an assertive illocutionary act to "state" that some possible consequences of the war (i.e., humanitarian crisis, refugees, nuclear war) are frightening.

> **EX. 12:** Some of the possible consequences of a worsening conflict are terrifying to contemplate.

The speech did not include any instance of a declarative illocutionary act. Even though at times, it was tempting to consider the functional use of a number of utterances as declarative in relation to their ability to change the state of the world, the power embedded in the position of the United Nations' Secretary-General does not entail this capability.

5. Discussion

The intention of carrying out speech act analysis is to bring forward the intended/functional meaning in speeches based on contextual use. The examination of language is not merely looked at as a description of statements whether they are true or false; the examination of language is moved to the contextual use that carries social action. In other words, the examination of language is viewed as a social activity that carries, in addition to the locutions (the utterances), illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary effects. The illocutionary acts are the intentions of speakers based on the social context as in by saying something, we do something (Austin, 1962), and the perlocutionary acts are the effects that these illocutionary acts have on the listeners.

As Russia started a special military operation/invasion of Ukraine on the 24th of February, the entire world reacted to this move in different ways. The UN called for an Emergency Special Session, in which the UN's Secretary-General delivered the opening remarks. This study examines the speech acts of these opening remarks to find out more about the social actions that the UN's Secretary-General called for, the illocutionary acts that he used, and the perlocutionary effects this speech carries.

The speech included seventy-six sentences. These seventy-six sentences included more performative utterances than constative utterances, which reflects that the speech was more of social action based than description-based. The

constative and performative utterances belonged to a number of communicative illocutionary acts depending on the intended social action as they also had a number of perlocutionary effects. These illocutionary and perlocutionary effects were analyzed based on Searle's (1969) and Bach's (2003) categories.

In relation to constative utterances, the Secretary-General used eight categories: report, inform, disclose, predict, affirm, stipulate, announce, and identify. Constative utterances are used to state facts to the representatives of the member states. These facts were presented to report on the situation in Ukraine and inform members about certain facts related to humanitarian needs. The constative utterances were also used to disclose some information about the situation in Ukraine and predict some upcoming scenarios to help everyone decide on the resolution or take measures. The Secretary-General also used constative utterances to identify challenges and stipulate conditions/measures. The constative illocutionary acts are mainly descriptive utterances that provide input.

In relation to performative utterances, it is noticed that the Secretary-General used four out of the five performative illocutionary acts categories. The speech included assertive, commissive, directive, and expressive illocutionary acts, but did not include declarative illocutionary acts. The commissive illocutionary acts were mainly used to provide "guarantee" and "promise" to the international community, the Ukrainian people, and the Ukrainian President. These guarantees and promises can be viewed with credibility as they come from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The assertive illocutionary acts were mainly used to "assert", "state", "claim", and "conclude". The Secretary-General made assertions regarding the situation in Ukraine and claims regarding the on-ground situation. The Secretary-General also provided conclusions and statements regarding the challenges that this conflict brings to international law and the multilateral system. Assertive illocutionary acts were among the most popular performative illocutionary acts used in the opening remarks.

It is also noticed that directive illocutionary acts were very popular in the speech. The Secretary-General used directive illocutionary acts for "requesting", "urging", "advising", "requiring", and "ordering". The Secretary-General requested, urged, and advised the two parties involved in the conflict to avoid targeting civilians and protect the UN's on-ground personnel. He also reminded the two parties of their obligations toward international law and asked them to move for peace. He also urged the international community to mobilize support to assist refugees.

In addition to the three categories above, the Secretary-General also used expressive illocutionary acts in his speech. The expressive illocutionary acts were not very popular in the speech, and they mainly had the intention of "thanking" and "welcoming". The Secretary-General thanked the countries that offered assistance to the UN in relation to hosting and facilitating talks and welcomed peaceful efforts to end the invasion.

Noticeably, the UN's Secretary-General did not use a single declarative illocutionary act. The position of the Secretary-General does not allow him to make direct declarations as the declarations shall be agreed on by the member states. The Emergency Special Session on Ukraine was held to discuss two possible resolutions: one to condemn Russia and one to avoid condemning Russia. At the stage of delivering the opening remarks, coming up with declarative performative illocutionary acts is not expected from the Secretary-General.

6. Conclusion

This study examined the use of speech acts in the opening remarks of the UN's Secretary-General in the General Assembly's Emergency Special Session on Ukraine. The study made use of Austin's (1962), Bach's (2003), and Searle's (1969) categorizations of constative and performative utterances including illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. The analysis revealed that the UN's Secretary-General made use of a wide variety of constative and performative utterances in his speech to reach his intended social action. He made use of eight constative illocutionary acts to report, inform, disclose, predict, affirm, stipulate, announce, and identify. He also made use of assertive, commissives, directive, and expressive illocutionary acts to "guarantee", "promise", "assert", "state", "claim", "conclude", "request", "urge", "advise", "require", "order", "welcome", and "thank". Interestingly, the UN's Secretary-General did not make use of the declarative performative illocutionary act in his speech to avoid imposing any ideas on the member states before they make the decision.

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