

An Analysis of Speech Acts in the Inaugural Address of Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as the President of the Republic of Ghana on January 7, 2021

OPEN ACCESS

Manuscript ID:
ENG-2021-09033978

Volume: 9

Issue: 3

Month: June

Year: 2021

P-ISSN: 2320-2645

E-ISSN: 2582-3531

Received: 29.03.2021

Accepted: 10.05.2021

Published: 01.06.2021

Citation:

Demuyakor, John. "An Analysis of Speech Acts in the Inaugural Address of Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as the President of the Republic of Ghana on January 7, 2021." *Shanlax International Journal of English*, vol. 9, no. 3, 2021, pp. 1-12.

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.34293/english.v9i3.3978>



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Abstract

Speech acts as an important element during communication, because it explains the thoughts of the speaker(s). A speech act is more about what is performed when uttering words and not about individual words or sentences that are known to form the basic elements of human communication. An attempt to do something through speaking is what is known as a speech act and a lot of things can be done through speaking. A speech act is studied under speech act theory and is found in the domain of pragmatics. Using a qualitative research design, the key objective of this study is to analyze the types of speech acts adopted in the inaugural address of Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as the President of the Republic of Ghana for his second term on the 7th January 2021. This study analyzed the Inaugural Address using Searle's theory of speech act as a theoretical framework with emphasis on Searle's five categories of speech act. The study showed that out of a total of 74 locutionary / Statements in the inaugural address, assertive acts are 40.5% of the utterances, commissive acts are 25.6%, while directive, expressive and declarative have small portions, of 13.5%, 12.2%, and 8.2% respectively.

Keywords: Inaugural address, Speech acts, Speech act theory, Domain of pragmatics, Human communication, Ghana

Introduction

The speech act theory was initiated by John Langshaw Austin in the year 1960 and further improved by John Searle in 1969. Austin distinguishes three key aspects of the speech act as including the illocutionary act, which denotes saying something; the illocutionary force, which denotes the speaker's intention or aim of giving a speech, as well as the perlocutionary effect, which denotes the effects of a speaker's utterances. Today, the word "speech act" is frequently utilized to specifically denote an illocutionary act. Alternatively, the illocutionary force is used to refer to the intended impact of a speech since the illocutionary act is often deemed to be the actual action executed by a speaker's utterances or remarks, while the impact of the speaker's remarks on the listeners is revealed through the perlocutionary impact. Indeed, Austin, (1962), Hymes, (1981), and Abbeduto, (1983) utilize the term "illocutionary act" to denote the speech act, which forms the core of this important theory. Without a doubt, it is impossible to comprehend this particular theory in isolation irrespective of its pragmatic intention, which is to explore the meaning of utterances.

Indeed, besides one's linguistic knowledge (vocabulary and grammar rules), every speaker of any given language ought to possess extra-linguistic knowledge regarding the world to be successful when communicating with others.

On-linguistic knowledge normally plays a significant role not only in the creation but also in the understanding of various utterances. An utterance may not make sense if it is not produced in a proper context that includes all the essential conditions necessary for effective communication. As highlighted by Austin, (1962) & Searle, (1969), these essential conditions, the communicative competence of the speaker, his/her choice of the various forms of linguistics, in addition to the relationship between a speaker and the audience are all explored from a practical perspective. Consequently, this particular study intends to explore the forms of speech act from the opening inaugural address of President Nana Akufo-Addo, the President of Ghana, analyzing it from the perspective of John Searle's five major speech act categorizations.

Literature Review and Underpinning of the Study Speech Acts

As noted by Austin, (1970) by speaking, an individual normally carries out an act. Indeed, whenever a speaker produces an utterance or pronounces a word, it implies that the speaker is carrying out a particular type of activity, which may include asking a question, giving an order, or making a request. These types of acts are what is referred to as speech act. The idea from Austin's works can be seen in the performative verb, which is the remarks or utterances whose actions are not linguistically clear, and which can be made clear by making use of the formula developed from a performative verb, for instance, "state" or "argue". Lastly, the intended action can be observed from a significant focus on the sentence from the issued utterance of a speech.

Mike, (2017) & Searle, (1976) declares that speaking any given language is equivalent to taking part in the role-governed type of behaviour. Also, in Searle's book "Speech Act: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language", Searle, (1969) notes that speaking any given language is similar to performing a speech act, including producing a statement, asking questions, giving commands, in addition to performing abstract acts, such as discussing and predicting. Searle's main idea regarding the speech act is simply its contextual as well as textual features, which gives a speech act the illocutionary force.

Allan, (1986) & Allan, (1998), who is another renowned linguist, says that a speech act forms one important way through which may speaker perform or pass his/her message since, in every one of their utterances, speakers often carry out acts, that include stating an opinion or fact, asking questions, offering advice, granting permission making a request or a prediction, or giving a promise or an offer, or discussing. Indeed, speech acts imply that every word or utterance made by an individual has a purpose, with the speaker being the person who knows the exact question that he or she wants to ask using diverse methods. Austin, (1962) distinguishes three essential sense which expresses the things that an individual is doing, hence three forms of actions that are concurrently performed.

Locutionary Act: The expression of a given sentence with a determinative sense as well as reference.

Perlocutionary Act: The generation of effects on listeners occasioned by a speaker's utterance. It also refers to the impact of an utterance on the listeners or the audiences. Prelocutionary is the after-effects of uttering a word. It can also be described as the impact on the audience or listeners' reactions towards a speaker's utterances. A Prelocutionary act or effect is thus a speech act, as revealed by the psychological consequence, including persuading, inspiring, enlightening, or in other words, causing somebody to either realize or do something. This is distinguished from the Locutionary and the illocutionary acts.

Illocutionary Act: Austin, (1962) describes an illocutionary act as a semantic "illocutionary force" produced by an utterance, hence its real and intended meaning. Austin, (1962) adds that an illocutionary act can also be viewed as a speaker's intention, and therefore implying that what a speaker says often has an intention in mind. Searle, (1976) categorized illocutionary acts to include assertive, expressive, declarative, commissive, as well as a directive. To carry out an illocutionary act implies using a locution with a given force. Consequently, based on Hymes, (1981) & Abbeduto, (1983), the illocutionary act can be viewed as a speech act acknowledged by the listener. Searle, (1969) claims that, by performing or carrying out an illocutionary act, an individual characteristically executes propositional acts

(referring/discussing and predicting), in addition to uttering a word (morphemes as well as sentences). Further, the speaker utilizes language expressions to detect the things he or she is communicating.

Inaugural Speeches

The most notable political speeches are often presidential inaugural or opening speeches (Joo, & Woo, 2010). Indeed, they usually of great importance to the new leader as they form a special instant when he or she stands before not just the whole country but even the whole globe to express his or her political policies and ideologies for the nation's growth during his or her duration as president (Biria, & Mohammadi, 2012 and Joo, & Woo, 2010). By depending fully on this particular form of discourse, the aim of the president is normally to convince the citizens, boost their confidence and morale, in addition to seeking huge support from all his or her citizens (van Dijk, 1997). To be successful in this particular task, the leaders often weigh their utterances in the speech in addition to polishing them through employing not only diverse language skills but also by employing various strategies (van Dijk, 1997, Biria, & Mohammadi, 2012 and Joo, & Woo, 2010).

Metaphor forms one of the major strategies that may be employed to influence the listeners. This strategy seems to be applied widely and has also been utilized effectively. As Lakoff & Johnson, (1980), Lawler, et al., (1983), and Younis, (2016) mention, metaphors are often pervasive. Indeed, not only are they applied in language but are also applied in action. Conceptualizing a given concept or idea with regards to another is considered to be the most effective way that ensures that audiences easily and comprehend various abstract concepts as compared to adopting words, which have solid references. Without a doubt, metaphors form an important means to not only manifest but also clarify speech acts used by politicians.

As quoted by Green, (2020), Sameer, (2017), and Schlesinger & Lau, (2000), epideictic (also known as demonstrative) discourse often inspires a speaker to express his or her ideas to the listeners. If these particular characteristics are to be realized, then-presidential inaugurations should be considered to be

epideictic rhetoric since they are often conveyed on ceremonial events, link past and future with present contemplation, in addition to affirming or praising the shared ideologies that have an important role in terms of guiding the succeeding administration. They also compel the audience to scrutinize the traditional values or employ the use of sophisticated literary language to amplify and re-affirm what is not only already known but also believed. According to Campbell & Jamieson, (1985) and Sameer, (2017), the general attributes of epideictic rhetoric as transformed by the very nature of presidential inaugurations produce five interrelated aspects that describe the presidential inauguration speech, in addition to distinguishing it from other epideictic types. They include:

- Unifying the audience
- Setting forth political ideologies relating to the succeeding administration
- Rehearsing shared values borrowed from the past
- Enacting the requirements as well as the limitations of the new office
- Employing the right epideictic audience address strategies

The Theoretical Underpinning of the Study

In this particular study, the researcher employed the use of Searle's Theory as a basis for this research.

Searle's Theory

Searle, (1969) and Searle, et al., (1980) contend that the appropriate or right conditions cited by John Austin only took care of the ceremonial as well as ritual speech acts, including the pronouncement of a couple as husband and wife. Searle, (1979) and Searle, et al., (1980) further disapproves of the classifications by Austin (1962) arguing that they were based on overlapping criteria. Moreover, Searle, (1979) and Searle, et al., (1980) contend that Austin failed to explain the existing distinction between the speech act verbs and the actual speech acts. Searle, (1979) and Searle, et al., (1980) also mentioned that certain verbs could be located in more than one given class, providing an example of the verb, "to describe", which they contend is incorporated by Austin, (1962) within the two classes of verbs, that is, "expositive" as well as "verdicatives".

Besides, several verbs were grouped under a particular type but failed to satisfy the description for that particular type. The verbs “nominate” and “appoint”, for instance, do not indicate making a decision that is either supporting or against a particular course of action. Consequently, Searle, (1979) and Searle, et al., (1980) substituted Austin’s classification with another classification based on what they perceived as appropriate conditions. It is imperative to observe that Searle relies on twelve important dimensions of differences in which the illocutionary acts vary from one another. The focus is, however, on three essential dimensions through which Searle develops his classification. According to Searle, (1979) and Searle, Kiefer & Bierwisch, (1980), *they include the illocutionary points, the sincerity condition, and the direction of fit.* The three dimensions are discussed below:

The Illocutionary Point

Searle describes an illocutionary point as a part of but not similar to an illocutionary force. In this case, one can argue that an illocutionary point relating to a given request is usually similar to that of any command, as both try to compel the audience to carry out a given action. One can thus argue that various elements come to congregate to create the illocutionary force, with the illocutionary point forming one of the elements.

Dimension Fit

As Searle, (1969), Searle, (1979), and Searle, et al., (1980) note, there are clear differences as far as the dimension of fit existing between words and the world is concerned. Searle exemplifies that by providing this particular situation: An individual visits a supermarket and has a shopping list from his wife. The list contains the words “bacon”, “bread” and “butter”. Assuming he moves around the supermarket with the shopping cart, picking those particular items and behind him is store personnel who follows records everything that he places in his shopping cart. It is evident from this particular scenario that both the shopper and the store personnel have similar lists. However, the purpose of the two identical lists is relatively different. Indeed, for the shopper, the objective of his list is to ensure the world

matches the words. The individual has to ensure actions suit the list. The contrary is true for the store personnel whose objective is to ensure that the words correspond to the world, and therefore ensuring that the list corresponds to the shopper’s actions.

Proposition Content

Differences regarding the propositional content are often established through the use of devices that determine illocutionary force. This particular dimension depends on variations between a prediction and a report. In the case of speech acts, Searle (1979) further categorizes them into the five forms, including *assertives / representative, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives.* They are explained below:

Assertive / Representative: Searle (1997), Allan, (1998), and Searle, et al., (1980) note that the purpose of this particular class or group is to commit a given speaker to do something, for instance to the reality of an expressed proposition. “Assert”, “report”, “complain”, “state” and conclude from some of the verbs that belong to this group.

Directives: Directives simply describe a speaker’s attempt to compel the listener to act in a certain way. They may entail humble attempts such as “I request you to do”, or “I beg you to”. Sometimes the attempts may be harsher, for instance, “I command that you”. Command, order, advise, permit, beg, and entreat form some of the verbs in this particular class.

Commissives: Commissives commit a given speaker to a future intended action. It generally tells a lot about the speaker’s intention. It signifies threats, vows, promises, warranties, and oaths. For instance, I pledge to pay his school fees if she performs well”. Accordingly, Searle, (1979) and Searle, et al., (1980) argue that the description of Commissives as provided by Austin, (1962) appears to be unexceptional. Given this, he accepts it as it is with a forewarning that various verbs that Austin registered as part of commissive verbs do not belong to the group at all. Some of the verbs include “favor” and “intend”.

Expressives: This particular class expresses an honest wish regarding a given condition. “Apologize”, “congratulate”, “condole” as well as

“welcome” form some of the verbs belonging to this particular class.

Declaratives: As Searle, (1969) and Searle, (1979), this particular class demands correspondence between reality and propositional content. For instance, if an individual successfully executes the act of selecting someone else as a chairperson, then he or she becomes the chairperson.

Materials and Study Methods

This research adopted qualitative approach as its research design. Creswell, (1994), Creswell, (1998), Bogdan & Biklen (2003), and Labaree (2021) described the qualitative research design as a research design that puts its primary importance in investigating small samples relating to deliberately selected respondents, not trying to influence contextual or related factors, but instead seeking, utilizing diverse methods, to comprehend various aspects from the respondents perspective, and developing not just a rich but a comprehensive picture of a given phenomenon under investigation. The researcher generally utilizes the speech act theory, with the issue under investigation being analyzed as well as interpreted by employing the use

of Searle’s five essential classifications of speech acts (Commissive, Assertive or Representative, Directive, Declarative and Expressive). The speech was divided into approximately 70 statements, with the data gathered from the presidential Inaugural speech of the second term of Nana Akufo-Addo, who is the President of the of Ghana on the 7th January 2021, sourced from at <https://presidency.gov.gh/index.php/briefing-room/speeches/1850-inaugural-address-by-the-president-of-the-republic-nana-addo-dankwa-akufo-addo>. With Searle’s five categories of speech acts as a guide, the researcher analyzed the inaugural speech and thereafter compiled the report in line with the speech acts seen within the address.

Analysis and Study Results

The researcher analyzed the inaugural speech by President Akufo-Addo from the lens of Searle’s five classifications of the speech acts (*Commissive, Assertive or Representative, Directive, Declarative and Expressive*) as well as the theoretical framework of this particular study. To make simpler the analysis, the speech was divided into 74 statements as seen in table 1 below;

Table 1: Speech Act, Speech Act Category, Opening/Inaugural Speech by President Akufo-Addo

Locutionary /Statement	Searle’s Speech Act Category
“Mr. Speaker”	Direct, Representative
“I would like to extend a sincere welcome to the excellences and distinguished leaders of our sister nations, from not just our region, but the entire continent, in addition to the distinguished representatives who have come from other friendly countries and global bodies, who are here with us, on this important occasion”	Direct, Expressive
“I thank each of you for availing yourself for this presidential inauguration, despite the COVID-19 pandemic”	Direct, Expressive
“Your presence here today is undoubtedly a clear show of solidarity as well as friendship, and this tells a lot about your interest in seeing Ghana attain its goals and desires, something we are extremely grateful”	Direct, Representative
“To begin with, I must express my sincere well done to my friend as well as colleague, Honourable Alban Bagbin, on his appointment as the speaker of the 8th Parliament of this nation”	Direct, Representative
“Almost thirty years of dedicated service to the Ghanaian Parliament has resulted in this particular moment, which has witnessed your promotion to the third greatest office of our country”	Direct, Representative

<p>“Together, we will chart a new territory in as far as governance as well as politics of our country is concerned, as this marks the first instance in the history of his republic in which a president from one party will be compelled to work with a Parliament Speaker from another party”</p>	<p>Direct, Expressive</p>
<p>I have great confidence that by the supreme interest of our citizens in safeguarding good governance, even as we run the affairs of the nation”</p>	<p>Direct, Directive</p>
<p>“I take this moment to assure all of you of my unwavering determination to work with all of you in advancing not just peace and progress, but the prosperity of the beautiful people of Ghana”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissive</p>
<p>“Once more, sincere congratulations to the president, the re-elected as well as the new members of the national assembly”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissive</p>
<p>“A few minutes ago, I uttered, the oath of office permitting to serve as Ghana’s President”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>
<p>“I vow to follow the footsteps of my predecessors, that is the first and the second presidents of the Republic of Ghana, their Excellencies Jerry Rawlings as well as John Kufour, who served the country on two consecutive terms as president”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>
<p>“I cannot take this particular honor as well as a privilege that has been bestowed on me lightly, I, therefore, thank the Almighty God and the people of the nation, who, by a big margin, considered by the second mandate as president”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissive</p>
<p>“It is a show of the trust as well as confidence that you, the people of Ghana, have put in me, not just in appreciating the achievements of my first, four years as president, but more importantly they work that is expected to be executed in the coming four years, even as we strive to steer our country towards progress and prosperity, following the destruction caused by the COVID-19 pandemic”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>
<p>This is undoubtedly a big task that I committedly take, and I guarantee all the people of Ghana that I will do my best to deliver”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissive</p>
<p>The attainment of this particular mandate will happen within the context of the maturing democracy of this nation”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissive</p>
<p>The people of Ghana have shown, not once, their determination to establish not just a free and democratic country, but a peaceful country, which respects individual freedoms and human rights, democratic accountability principles and the rule of law”</p>	<p>Direct, Expressive</p>
<p>“A good governance structure that is built based on power separation offers the most effective tool that safeguards the country’s values, with a well-financed parliament as well as judiciary acting as the key accountability bodies of the nation”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>
<p>This has undoubtedly been the major driver of Ghana’s public policy over the last four years, and there will be no stopping”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissive</p>
<p>“Unity, as well as the stability of this nation, are the expected products of the development of our great nation”</p>	<p>Direct, Declarative</p>
<p>“This is the only way in which we can guarantee that our country as governance system in which those who control the government are under the control of the individuals who are being governed”</p>	<p>Direct, Expressive</p>
<p>“The absolute spirit of the people of Ghana, which I have personally witnessed in my entire life, is the foundation on which the Ghanaians can build their dreams”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>
<p>“Indeed, approximately four years back, at my inauguration as president, I encouraged the people of Ghana to be citizens and not spectators”</p>	<p>Direct, Directive</p>
<p>“I pleaded with you to play an active role in building the country that we want-a democratic, prosperous as well as a united nation that was envisaged by the country’s founding fathers”</p>	<p>Direct, Directive</p>

“During my initial term as the president of this nation, I managed to rely on the contribution of every citizen to build Ghana”	Direct, Representative
“What I have observed over the past four years as president is further proof, if any is required, that the people of Ghana detest poverty and are determined to achieve significant developments”	Direct, Commisive
“Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our nation’s economy has continued to show some resilience and a relatively faster recovery rate than initially anticipated, and was, without a doubt, one of the globe’s fastest-growing economies”	Direct, Representative
“Ghana is among the best destinations in Africa in terms of foreign direct investment, with some of the globe’s largest multinationals in Ghana confirming this fact”	Direct, Representative
Establishing a stronger economy as well as undertaking a structural transformation towards value-added activities that create employment for our youths and improve their standards of living, will form the major pre-occupation of my term”	Direct, Commisive
“Together, we must ensure that the key doctrines of social justice are attained”	Indirect, Commisive
“Many argued it was way beyond us, but, as a country, we have proved that financial considerations ceased to define the fate of our beautiful children”	Direct, Representative
“Since we have implemented the Free Senior Secondary School education policy, then each Ghanaian Child has a chance to attain senior secondary school education as the minimum”	Direct, Declarative
“Quality healthcare access is no longer a luxury as ordinary citizens can now afford, following the renewal of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Our objective is to attain Universal Health Coverage sooner than later”	Direct, Declarative
“Food production in our country has significantly increased, and a great effort is being made to enhance the standards of living of all our farmers”	Direct, Declarative
“The recently built warehouses across the nation are storing surpluses meant for export, and the inventive program of “Planting-for-Food-and-Jobs” has undoubtedly turned out to be an absolute pillar in which the prosperous future of the country’s agricultural sector is being developed”	Direct, Representative
“The construction of our roads is now much faster than it was previously, and, truly, I accept that we still have more kilometers that need to be constructed”	Direct, Commisive
“We described the past year as ‘Year of Roads”	Direct, Declarative
This year forms the second ‘Year of Roads’, even as we carry on with our goal of minimizing the country’s road infrastructure deficit”	Direct, Representative
“The construction of our railway, in which significant amount of energy as well as resources is dedicated, will no doubt facilitate the accessibility of the nation, and result in the development of a greatly accessible nation, and will as well, help attain the important goal of not just the regional, but also continental integration”	Direct, Commisive
“The outbreak of the COVID-19 emphasized the need for countries to be more self-reliant”	Direct, Representative
“The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for nations to stop living on the edge, especially in the current, complex globe”	Direct, Representative
This is extremely unsafe for the nation’s survival;therefore, it is necessary that create buffers to safeguard as in every aspect of lives as people of this beautiful nation”	Direct, Expressive
“So, at a time when countries were not only experiencing a great shortage in terms of the supply of personal protective equipment (PPEs)but also being sold at exorbitant prices within the global market, the innovativeness of the Ghanaians shone through”	Direct, Representative

<p>“We made, right here within our country, our sanitizers, gowns, liquid soaps, medical scrubs, face masks amongst others”</p>	<p>Direct, Directive</p>
<p>“We can, certainly, develop nation beyond aid, and this is possible only if we fully exploit not just the enterprise, but also the inventiveness of the country’s young people”</p>	<p>Direct, Directive</p>
<p>“The outstanding role being assumed by the young people in terms of the digitization process our country is clear evidence that the goal of digitalizing Ghana is a possibility, and the country is bound to join the most digitized nations in the continent in the few years to come”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>
<p>“In the same way, I anticipate that the locally-produced Eku juice, which is among the many outcomes of my government’s “One-District-One-Factory” flagship policy, to quickly replace the many imported juices in many of our supermarkets, and this not because anyone has declared so, but because the quality of our locally-produced juices are as good, if not better”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>
<p>“I am yet to be convinced that our local gin, “Akpateshie”, would ordinarily be pronounced by anybody as an important product within the world market”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissive</p>
<p>“My ceaseless trust in the energy, as well as the drive of the people of this country, makes me consider that we can attain the level of prosperity that we have always aspired to be, and very soon, we shall have a good reason to feel proud of everything that we have been able to achieve”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>
<p>I cannot assure its taste or effectiveness, as I stopped consuming alcohol several years back, but I want to disclose that, “Apio”, which is not made in Ghana, but also beautifully packaged, can effectively compete even in the most sophisticated global markets”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissives</p>
<p>Mr. Speaker, we acknowledge that the democracy that each of us is seeking to build as well as entrench in the country will finally be attained if we create a prosperous country, and the people of Ghana are at peace not just with themselves, but with the world as well”</p>	<p>Direct, Directive</p>
<p>I swear before this distinguished House, as well as to the beautiful people of this great nation that everything that I intend to do will serve the common good of this country, and, considering the strong foundation that was already laid during my initial term in office, we intend to take important steps towards minimizing infrastructure deficit, which has afflicted us for a longtime”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissives</p>
<p>The remaining 15% of the Ghanaian communities that have no electricity shall be taken care of by the time my second term as president ends”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>
<p>“The construction of hospitals within the districts that lack even one hospital has already started, a process that is intended to be concluded in a year”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissives</p>
<p>“The percentage number of our people who cannot access clean water is about to reduce drastically, following the start of numerous water projects in nearly every part of the nation”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>
<p>“Many Ghanaians live in deplorable housing conditions, and we intend to tackle the issue with vigor”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>
<p>“With discipline as well as extreme caution, just like we have managed since the outbreak of the COVID-19 in March 2020, we, the Ghanaians, can minimize the positive cases of the virus, which presently stand at over 900, and consequently open up the nation not just to the region and the continent, but to the entire globe”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissives</p>
<p>“We have taken a bold decision to re-open all our learning institutions again because we trust in our fundamental belief that education is undoubtedly the key to a better future”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissives</p>
<p>“We will try everything possible to safeguard not just the safety of our children, but that of the teachers and the non-teaching staff”</p>	<p>Direct, Commissives</p>
<p>“We, the people of Ghana, have always known our place within our neighborhood, not just within our continent, but also across the globe”</p>	<p>Direct, Representative</p>

“We acknowledge that security challenges and poverty afflict our region, therefore we will continue to work harder and play our role in creating a safer as well as a happier place”	Direct, Declarations
“We will execute our part in terms of not just the deliberations, but also the activities about the organizations in which Ghana belong, whether Commonwealth, African Union, United Nations, La Francophonie, and many others”	Direct, Commissive
“Granted the honor to host the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area, Ghana expects to be among the major drivers of its achievements”	Direct, Representative
“The AfCFTA offers us, we Africans, a great opportunity that enables us to not only exploit but also develop our vast resources, which benefits our citizens, ending the long-period exploitation of Africa’s vast wealth that has only been benefiting others”	Direct, Representative
“In the exact words of Kwame Nkrumah, the historical first president of our beautiful country, “it is certain that, as Africans, we must establish African solutions to our African problems, and this can only be possible if Africa is united”	Direct, Representative
“Divided we become weak; United, the African continent could turn out to be the greatest force for the betterment of the globe”	Direct, Representative
“Fellow Ghanaians, I would like to invite every one of you to join me in this exhilarating task of building our nation”	Direct, Directive
“There are ceaseless opportunities, but only if we stay united”	Direct, Directive
“Whatever our forefathers dreamt of; we shall attain! If what we inherited from our forefathers are dreams as well as visions, then we ought to leave not only legacies of accomplishments, but also realities to our kids and their grandchildren”	Direct, Directive
“For, I have faith in the unlimited prospects of our country and us, the people of this beautiful nation”	Direct, Assertives
“So, let us play our part, and, with a strong faith in God, seize our desired destiny”	Direct, Directive
“Mr. Speaker, my prayer is that the Almighty bless every one of us, as well as our nation, and make Ghana better and stronger”	Direct, Expressive
“Your Excellences, once more, akwaaba”	Direct, Expressive
“I want to appreciate you all for your sincere attention”	Direct, Expressive

Table 2: The Frequency of Speech acts in the Inaugural Speech by President Nana Akufo-Addo

Speech Acts	Frequencies	%
Commissive	19	25.6
Assertive	30	40.5
Directive	10	13.5
Declarative	6	8.2
Expressive	9	12.2
Total Number of Acts	74	100

Discussion

This section talks about the findings and the related interpretation of the inaugural address and the speech acts applied by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

Assertive (40.5%)

The President during the inaugural address told the citizens about the need to review certain aspects of their national lives. Moreover, in the inaugural address, he gave out some words which could be termed as motivation to the people. According to the theory, the act can be used to unravel the meaning of what believes to be the true meaning of the case or not (Searle, 1969, Searle, 1979, Haverkate, 1990, Sameer, 2017, Genova, 1972 & Reyes, 2008). During the inaugural address, the President was always giving statements that can cat as suggestions to the citizens.

Directive (13.5%)

According to the results, the most useful act is the directive act and it was used by Nana Addo Dankwa Akofu-Addo the inaugural address on 7th January

2021. The president always made gave motivational speeches to citizens through the use of the directive act. The reason behind this was that the Ghanaians citizens needed a lot of motivation to be able to make their contribution towards the development of the nation. According to the theory, the act is used to make speech acts in case the speaker wants someone else to do something (Allan, 1998, Sameer, 2017, Genova, 1972 & Reyes, 2008, Searle, 1969 and Searle, 1979). Therefore, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo often uses it to give motivation to citizens. Usually, the President used it in case the citizens did something that was termed impolite. The President would then do a motivational talk directly to the citizens.

Commissive (25.6%)

Based on the analysis of the inaugural address by Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on the 7th of January, 2021 also used commissive act inaugural address to both the Ghanaian Nationals and international community. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo used it is about 25.6% in giving motivations to Ghanaians. The theory requires that they are performed by the speaker alone who should be a member of the group. Through it, promises, threats, pledges, and refusals can be made (Genova, 1972 and Reyes, 2008, Searle, 1969 and Searle, 1979).

Expressive (12.2%)

Based on the result, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo rarely uses the act. This is because the act is only used to express psychological state, for instance, likes as well as dislikes, pain, sorrow among others (Reyes, 2008 and Genova, 1972, Searle, 1969 and Searle, 1979). So, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo uttered an expressive 12.2% in the inaugural address. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo once said, in one of his speech acts said in one of the speech acts: “*For, I believe in the limitless prospects of Ghana and us, her people*”

Declarative (8.2%)

The President during the inaugural address made use of declarative act when he uttered the words

during his address and it was at that time that he used the words about six times. Based on the theory which requires that a speaker should have a recognized special institutional role, there has to be a specific context and the speaker should perform a declaration in an appropriate manner (Searle, 1969, Searle, 1979, Haverkate, 1990 and Genova, 1972). This, therefore, implies that the speech act uttered by the speaker is capable of changing the world or situation.

Conclusion

From the findings, analysis and the subsequent discussion, the research has established five classifications of speech acts both in the literature review and inaugural speech made by the Ghanaian president directly. The total number of utterances made by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo during his inaugural address on January 7, 2021, is 74 locutionary / Statements. Five classifications have different portions, with assertive acts are the dominant one, taking over 40.5 percent of the total utterances. Commissive acts had 25.6 percent in terms of classification. Other speech included directive, expressive and declarative speech acts that had 13.5 percent, 12.2 percent, and 8.2 percent in the same order.

Funding

This article received no funding from any individual(s) or institution(s).

Conflict of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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