AN ANALYSIS OF COMMISSIVE AND ASSERTIVE SPEECH ACTS IN
DONALD TRUMP’S FIRST STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS ON
JANUARY 30, 2018
An Undergraduate Thesis
Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty
In Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Strata One

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JAKARTA
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ABSTRACT


The aims of this study are to analyze the function and explain how the commissive and assertive speech acts uttered in Donald Trump’s first state of the union address script using John R. Searle and Vanderveken’ theory. The writer uses qualitative analysis method in conducting the research. The results of the study show that the function of commissive and assertive are classified into commit, promise, pledge, offer, assert, state, remind, and report in which they uttered both directly and indirectly.

Keywords: speech act, illocutionary, type of illocutionary acts, commissive, assertive, directly, indirectly
APPROVAL SHEET

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JAKARTA
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The thesis entitled above has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on September 25th, 2018. The thesis has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, September 25th, 2018

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher education, except where due acknowledgment has been made in the thesis.

Jakarta, July 26th 2018

Ray Sita
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Ray Sita
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Communication through verbal language in the form of speech acts allow human beings to interact within the society. The success in communication will meet if the speaker and the hearer understand what they are talking. One of which methods use in communicating the information from one to another is language. Keraf (1) stated that language is a means of communication between two parties in the form of symbol of the sound spoken directly by human beings. In the study of language, there is meaning attached to its context, and there is meaning not attached to its context. The study of language observing the meaning attached to its context is called pragmatics.

Pragmatics is defined as the study of language use in context (Birner, 2). According to Yule (3) pragmatics is the study concerning in the meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a hearer (or reader). The study of pragmatics automatically involves the interpretation of what people mean in certain context and how the context influence what is said (Yule, 3). In the study of pragmatics, there is a basic form which must be understood by the scholars namely speech acts. In this case, the speaker is Donald Trump and the hearer is the writer herself.

Birner (175) stated that the act of speaking is, first and foremost, an act. Speech acts is firstly proposed by John L. Austin. Austin then distinguished three main kinds of speech acts in the use of language called
locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts (Kubo and Vanderveken, 3). In 1969, American philosopher, John R. Searle, proposed his theory related to speech acts titled “Speech Act – An Essay in the Philosophy of Language”. Searle then classified Austin’s illocutionary acts into five terms widely known to these days such as expressive, directive, assertive, commissive, and declarative illocutionary acts.

Yule (54) stated that commissives are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to commit themselves to some future action such as promise, threaten, and refuse. Meanwhile, assertive is the type of speech acts that states what the speaker believes to be the case or not (Yule, 53). Related to the study of speech acts, it cannot only be found in a dialogue (conversation), but it also can be found in a monologue (speech). In this case, Donald Trump’s first official State of The Union address on the 30\textsuperscript{th} of January 2018 is one of which monologue consisting many speech acts. State of The Union address is an annual message delivered by the president of the United States of America to the U.S. Congress. Donald Trump was chosen to be the object of this study since he is one of the most powerful people these days. Hence, the decision he makes will not only affect his own country, but also other countries. However, commissive and assertive speech acts are the types of speech acts mostly found in Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address.

Several related investigations related to the study of speech acts have been conducted before, the first research related to the topics entitled
Temporal and Aspectual Forms of Verbs in Proposition of Commissive Speech Acts: the case of promise, swear, and bet was conducted by Konstantin Khomutskii in 2016. Secondly, An Analysis of Barack Obama’s Speech Act Over Conflict in Syria and Looming Federal Government Shutdown was conducted by Agus Wardhono and Mukhlis Purnama Hadi in 2015. Thirdly, A Speech Act Analysis of the Acceptance Nomination Speeches of Chief Obafemi Awolow and Chief M.K.O. Abiola was conducted by Samuel Alaba Akinwotu in 2013. Fourthly, Local Grammars of Speech Acts: An Explanatory Study was conducted by Hang Su in 2017. Lastly, Speech Acts in Political Speeches was conducted by Suhair Safwat Mohammed Hashim in 2015. The difference between this research to the previous researches is that this research focuses on the illocutionary acts of commissive and assertive based on Searle and Vanderveken’s view.

Speech acts is interested to be discussed since the interpretation of one’s action can be interpreted through the speech acts being uttered by the speaker. Donald Trump’s first official State of The Union address claims that he has already accomplished many remarkable achievements throughout a year in leading the States. A few other parts of his speech are talking about what he would like to do in the future. Therefore, the researcher is interested in discussing the function of commissive and assertive speech acts and how they are conveyed in Donald Trump’s first State of The Union.
B. Focus of The Study

This research focuses on the function of commissive and assertive speech acts and how they are conveyed in Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address on January 30, 2018. The writer is using Searle’s illocutionary acts theory to analyze the function of the speech acts and how they are uttered in Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address on January 30, 2018.

C. Research Question

Based on the background of study that have been explained above, the writer will answer the following question:

1. What are the functions of commissive and assertive speech acts in Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address on January 30, 2018?
2. How does the commissive and assertive speech acts conveyed in Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address on January 30, 2018?

D. Significance of The Study

This research is expected to benefit both theoretical and practical. The theoretical benefits expected from this research is that this research would be useful to discover more implementation related to speech acts, and this research is expected to contribute in the development of knowledge in the field of linguistics specifically in the study of speech acts.

The practical benefit expected from this research is to be obtained a deeper understanding in the function of commissive and assertive speech acts.
acts. This research can also be used as a reference for further research related to commissive and assertive speech acts.

E. Research Methodology

1. The Objective of the Research
   This study is directed to analyze the function and explain how the commissive and assertive speech acts uttered in Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address on January 30, 2018.

2. Method of the Research
   The method used in this research is descriptive and qualitative which focuses on the utterances in the monologue of Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address on January 30, 2018. Descriptive and qualitative are used as the method of the research since the data being analyzed are verbal and not numeric (Farkhan, 53).

3. Research Instrument
   The main instrument of this research is the writer herself (human instrument) by reading the full script of Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address on January 30, 2018. The writer, then, will focus to classify the utterances into commissive and assertive speech acts, before finally analyzing the data using relevant theories.

4. Unit of Data Analysis
   The unit of data analysis of this research is selected utterances from Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address on January 30, 2018. State of the union address is an annual message delivered by the president of the United States of America to the U.S. Congress. The script was published on the official white house’s website that consists
of 5159 words and the video of Donald Trump delivering the video was published in Youtube for 1 hour and 23 minutes long. The data were taken from the utterances consisted in Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address on January 30, 2018.

5. **Technique of Data Collecting & Data Analysis**

   The data collection is the stage of the research focusing on the various ways to collect the data needed in the research (Farkhan, 53). The data in this research are collected by bibliography technique in which the data were collected by conducting a review of the study of books, literatures, records, and reports related to the problems having been solved (Nazir, 112). The steps of collecting the data as follows:

   a. Watching the full speech of Donald Trump’s First State of The Union Address on January 30, 2018 on Youtube.

   b. Reading the full script of Donald Trump’s First State of The Union Address on January 30, 2018 from White House’s official websites written by The White House.

   c. Identifying the whole script of the first state of the union address.

   d. Marking and compiling the utterance on the script containing commissive and assertive speech acts.

   After the data have been collected, the data were processed and analyzed by using descriptive methods to explain the function of commissive and assertive speech acts and how they are uttered in
Donald Trump’s first State of The Union Address on January 30, 2018. The steps of technique of data analysis are as follows:

a. Classifying the functions of commissive and assertive in Donald Trump’s first state of the union address using Searle and Vanderveken theory.

b. Analyzing how the commissive and assertive speech acts conveyed in Donald Trump’s first state of the union address.

c. Explaining the data having been analyzed.

d. Concluding the result of the data having been analyzed.
CHAPTER II
THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Previous Research

Several related investigations have been conducted before, the first research related to the topics entitled titled *Temporal and Aspectual Forms of Verbs in Proposition of Commissive Speech Acts: the case of promise, swear, and bet* was conducted by Konstantin Khomutskii in 2016. The paper focuses on the study of temporal-aspectual perspective of commissive speech acts in the English language. Specifically, the paper examines temporal-aspectual forms in propositions of performative verbs of promise, swear and bet. The methodology used to investigate this study features of verbs in proposition includes literature review and a continuous sampling method with the approximately 1800 performative utterances containing commissive performative verbs have been examined by the researcher. The results of the research demonstrate that the set of temporal-aspectual forms as well as their frequency differ from one commissive under the study to another, while the syntactic structure of propositions is homogenous.

The second research related to the topics entitled *An Analysis of Barack Obama’s Speech Act Over Conflict in Syria and Looming Federal Government Shutdown* was conducted by Agus Wardhono and Mukhlis Purnama Hadi in 2015. The objectives of this research are to investigate and describe speech acts phenomenon used by Barrack Obama at the White House on September 27, 2013 related to the conflicts in Syria and the looming federal government shutdown. The data obtained from the transcript of
Obama’s utterances in the conflict of Syria and looming federal government shutdown at the White House on September 27, 2013. The results of the study conclude that there is no declarative speech acts found in Barrack Obama’s speech regarding the conflicts in Syria and the looming federal government shutdown. Representative, commissive, expressive, and directive speech acts dominated the speech uttered by Barrack Obama and the function of utterances in Barrack Obama’s speech categorized as collaborative.

The third research related to the topics entitled A Speech Act Analysis of the Acceptance Nomination Speeches of Chief Obafemi Awolow and Chief M.K.O. Abiola was conducted by Samuel Alaba Akinwotu in 2013. The objective of this research is to investigate the role of language in communication and the interpretation of one’s intention by analyzing some chosen political speeches. The result of the study concludes that there are some significant illocutionary acts used by Nigeria’s presidential candidates to deliver their intention to the hearers.

The fourth research related to the topics entitled Local Grammars of Speech Acts: An Explanatory Study was conducted by Hang Su in 2017. This study explores the possibility and the feasibility of developing a set of local grammars to account adequately for speech acts, exemplifying the exploration with a local grammar of request. The objectives of this study are to further the speech acts studies and ultimately contribute to the on-going development of corpus pragmatics. The study shows that it is promising, to develop local grammars of speech acts.
The fifth research related to the topics entitled *Speech Acts in Political Speeches* was conducted by Suhair Safwat Mohammed Hashim in 2015. The research discusses the role of language in the communication and interpretation of intentions by analyzing selected political speeches of John Kerry in Presidential Campaign in 2004 and George Bush-Inaugural address in 2001. The research focused on the pragmatics function of locution, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts of the speeches. The data are categorized by a preponderance of commissive, assertive and directive acts that are mostly used as mobilization strategies.

The difference between this research to the previous researches is that this research focuses on the illocutionary acts of commissive and assertive based on Searle and Vanderveken’s view.

**B. Speech Acts**

Speech acts theory was firstly proposed by John Langshaw Austin (1911-1960). Austin believes that when a speaker in certain condition will utter some utterances containing referring expression, one brings a certain action, the action of referring (Hufford et al 260). Austin then found out the illocutionary acts by observing that successful literal utterances like “I request you to help me”, “You are invited to come”, and “I open this session” are performative, in the sense that they constitute the performances by the speaker of the illocutionary act named by their main verb (Kubo and Vanderveken 3). Austin named the previous sentences as performative sentence, and called its main verb as performative verbs (Kubo and Vanderveken 3). Austin then distinguished the three main types of speech acts on its use in language (Kubo
and Vanderveken 3), the followings are three main types of speech acts proposed by Austin:

1. **Locutionary Act**

   Locutionary acts is identified by uttering the sentences, when the speaker utter a sentence, the speaker has already performed a locutionary acts: uttering words with a certain sense and reference (Kubo and Vanderveken 3).

2. **Illocutionary Act**

   According to Yule (49) the utterance that is formed in mind with some kind of function is called illocutionary acts. The illocutionary act is performed via the communicative force of an utterance.

3. **Perlocutionary Act**

   Perlocutionary acts is the act in which it results the hearer or the audience to do something by uttering some sentences (Levinson 236). In another word, perlocutionary act is an act that is resulted by the illocutionary acts performed in the utterance of a speaker.

C. **Classification of Speech Acts**

   Austin classified the speech acts into five categories (Wardhaugh, 286), they are: **verdictive, exercitives, commissives, behabitives, and expositives**. Searle then extended Austin’s category of speech acts into five categories, namely **representative (or assertive), directive, commissive, expressive and declaration illocutionary act** (Kubo and Vanderveken, 5).
1. **Assertive**

Assertive is a type of illocutionary point stated what one’s belief to be the case or not. Speakers achieve the assertive point when they represent how things are in the world (Kubo and Vanderveken, 5). For example:

- The United States of America is not the only country on Earth with violent or dangerous people.

2. **Directive**

The directive point is achieved when one make an attempt to get hearers to do something (Kubo and Vanderveken, 5). Directives are those kinds of speech acts in which it urges the hearer to do something (Yule 54). For example:

- He should take it.

3. **Commissive**

The commissive point when they commit themselves to doing something (Kubo and Vanderveken, 5). Commissives are those kinds of speech acts that commit the speaker to do some future course of action (Searle 14). For example:

- We accept that you have to go through metal detectors before being allowed to board a plane.

4. **Expressive**

The expressive point when they express their attitudes about objects and facts of the world (Kubo and Vanderveken, 5). Yule (53)
stated that expressive are those kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker feels. For example:

- Thanks to a great medical team and the love of her husband.

5. Declaration

According to Yule (53) declarations are those kinds of speech acts that change the world through their utterance. Kubo and Vanderveken (5) stated that the declaratory point when they do things in the world at the moment of the utterance solely by virtue of saying that they do. For example:

- I now pronounce you husband and wife.

D. Commissive Speech Acts

Commissives are those kinds of speech acts that commit the speaker to do some future course of action (Searle 14). According to Searle and Vanderveken (192) there are a few words showing that the sentences or utterances is included in commissive speech acts like, commit, promise, threaten, vow, pledge, swear, accept, consent, refuse, offer, bid, assure, guarantee, warrant, contract, covenant, and bet.
1. **Commit**

According to Searle and Vanderveken (192) the primitive English commissive is “commit” which names the primitive commissive illocutionary force. For example:

- He commits himself to fight the drug epidemic.

2. **Promise**

The special features of “promise” that distinguish it from other commissive verbs are, first, a promise is always made to the hearer to do something for his benefit, secondly, promises involve a rather special kind of commitment, namely an obligation (Searle and Vanderveken, 192). For example:

- For seven years every Republican running for office promised to repeal and replace in disastrous law.

3. **Threaten**

Searle and Vanderveken (193) stated that speech acts of threatening differ from promising, first, in that the undertaking is not to do something for the benefit of the hearer but rather to his detriment and, secondly, in that no obligation is involved in threatening. For example:

- If you cross the line, I’ll punish you.

4. **Pledge**

According to Searle and Vanderveken (193) pledging is much like vowing, only it does not necessarily have the solemnity of vowing. The pledges proposed by Searle and Vanderveken are
undertakings but they need not be undertakings for or against the hearer. For example:

- I pledged allegiance to the flag (Searle and Vanderveken, 194).

5. Accept

When one accepts a commissive in the content of the acceptance is simply that the acceptor lets the original speaker do what he commits himself to doing (Searle and Vanderveken 194). For example:

- She accepted his offering.

6. Vow

Vows, unlike promises and threats, need not be directed at a hearer. In vowing to do something, one undertakes to do it. But one need not undertake to do it either for or against one’s hearers. Vowings furthermore has an additional element of solemnity which is not necessarily present in promising and threatening (Searle and Vanderveken 193). For example:

- The president has vowed to help those in needs getting treatment they deserve.

7. Consent

According to Searle and Vanderveken (194) to consent to do something is to accept a directive to do it with the additional preparatory condition that one has reasons for not doing it and
therefore one would probably not do it if one had not been requested. For example:

- Her mother would not consent to the treatment.

8. **Refuse**

Searle and Vanderveken (194) stated that refusal is the negative counterparts to acceptances and consenting, just as one can accept offers, applications and invitations, so each of these can be refused or rejected. A refusal is the illocutionary denegation of an acceptance (Searle and Vanderveken 194). For example:

- I reject that thinking.

9. **Offer**

Offer is a promise that is conditional based on the hearer’s acceptance. An offer becomes binding only on acceptance. This type of speech act commits one to perform a certain course of future action if it is accepted by the hearer (Searle and Vanderveken 196). For example:

- The local police department is offering a reward to anyone with information about the crime.

E. **Assertive Speech Acts**

Assertives are those kinds of speech acts in which the purpose of the action is to commit the speaker to something’s being the case to the truth of the expressed proposition (Searle 12). According to Searle and Vanderveken (182) there are a few words showing that the sentences or utterances is included in assertive (representative) speech acts like: `assert`,
claim, affirm, state, admit, deny, assure, argue, rebut, inform, notify, and others.

1. Assert

To assert is to commit one (the speaker) to something’s being the case, to the conviction and truth of the expressed propositions (Searle 12). For example:

- She has continued to assert her innocence.

2. Claim, Affirm, State

Searle and Vanderveken (183) stated that these three assertive have the same illocutionary point, model achievement, degrees of strength, propositional content conditions, preparatory conditions, and sincerity conditions as “assert”. For example:

- The United States of America is a compassionate nation.

3. Admit

According to Searle and Vanderveken (189) to admit is to assert with the additional preparatory conditions that the state of affairs represented by the proportional content is bad (e.g. admit an error). For example:

- They admit of stealing the old woman’s purse.

4. Report

To report is to assert the outcome of an action based on the propositional content condition that the propositional content is about the past with respect to the time of the utterance, or, at
some point, it can be about the present (Searle and Vanderveken 187). For example:

- Unemployment claims have hit a 45-year low.

5. **Inform, Notify**

According to Searle and Vanderveken (185) to inform is to assert to a hearer with the additional preparatory condition that the hearer does not already know what he is being informed of. To notify is to assert to a hearer with the additional mode of achievement that the hearer be put on notice (Searle and Vanderveken 185). For example:

- You are hereby informed (Searle and Vanderveken 185).

6. **Remind**

To remind is to assert to a hearer with the additional preparatory condition that the hearer once knew and might have forgotten the propositional content (Searle and Vanderveken 185). For example:

- I remind you that you need to buy some vegetables on the way home.

7. **Predict**

Searle and Vanderveken (186) stated that to predict is to assert with the propositional content condition that the propositional content is future with respect to the time of the utterance and the additional preparatory condition that the
speaker has evidence in support of the propositions. For example:

- I predicted that today is going to rain.

8. Suggest

Suggest has a directive and an assertive use. One can suggest that the hearer to do something and that something is the case (Searle and Vanderveken 187). Searle and Vanderveken (187) stated that the directive use of suggest is historically primary, but the assertive use is a genuine use in a contemporary English. For example:

- They should not run from their problems.

F. Direct Speech Act

An utterance considered as a direct speech act when there is a direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance (Yule 55). Direct speech acts explicitly illustrates the intended meaning behind the intention of one’s utterance. The following examples show that the form correspondences with the function:

a) A declarative is used to make a statement, “You wear a seat belt,”

b) An interrogative is used to make a question, “Do you wear a seat belt?”

c) An imperative is used to make a command or request, “Wear a seat belt?” (Yule 54).
G. Indirect Speech Act

An utterance considered as an indirect speech act when there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance (Yule 55). According to Yule (55) a declarative used to make a request is an indirect speech acts. One does not explicitly state the intended meaning behind the intention of one’s utterance. It is the hearer’s task to analyze the utterance to understand its meaning.
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Data Description

This chapter will analyze and discuss the utterances of Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address on January 30, 2018. The selected data found in the utterances of Donald Trump’s first State of The Union address will be analyzed based on the theories having been described from the previous chapter. The script of the speech is compiled and classified into the kinds of assertive and commissive illocutionary acts and how it is conveyed, directly or indirectly. To obtain the data that will be analyzed, the writer uses random sampling method. Margono (126) stated that random sampling is a technique for obtaining a sample that is directly performed on the sampling unit. After the data has been collected, the next steps are processing and analyzing the data. To focus on the study, the writer analyzed 20 data which are 7 data of commissive and 13 data of assertive in which the writer found 8 data there are conveyed directly and 12 data that are conveyed indirectly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Function of Commissive and Assertive</th>
<th>Directly or Indirectly</th>
<th>Line Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>My Administration is <strong>committed</strong> to fighting the drug epidemic and</td>
<td>Commit</td>
<td>Directly</td>
<td>285-286</td>
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2. *Since the election, we have created 2.4 million new jobs, including 200,000 new jobs in manufacturing alone. After years of wage stagnation, we are finally seeing rising wages.*

3. Last year, I also pledged that we would work with our allies to extinguish ISIS from the face of the Earth.

4. *In 2016, we lost 64,000 Americans to drug overdose: 174 deaths per day. Seven per hour.*

5. *We will continue our fight until ISIS is defeated.*

6. I am proud to report
that the coalition to defeat ISIS has liberated almost 100 percent of the territory once held by these killers in Iraq and Syria.

| 7. | Over the last year, the world has seen what we always knew: that no people on Earth are so fearless, or daring, or determined as Americans. | Assert | Indirectly | 42-43 |
| 8. | Unemployment claims have hit a 45-year low. | Report | Indirectly | 52 |
| 9. | African-American unemployment stands at the lowest rate ever recorded, and Hispanic American unemployment has also reached the lowest level in history. | Claim | Indirectly | 53-54 |
| 10. | This April will be the | Promise | Indirectly | 67-68 |
last time you ever file under the old broken system – and millions of Americans will have more take-home pay starting next month.

11. We eliminated an especially cruel tax that fell mostly on Americans making less than $50,000 a year — forcing them to pay tremendous penalties simply because they could not afford government-ordered health plans.

12. People who are terminally ill should not have to go from country to country to seek a cure — I want to give them a chance right here at home.

13. We will build gleaming
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<td>new roads, bridges, highways, railways, and waterways across our land.</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>The United States is a compassionate nation.</td>
<td>Stating</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>The first pillar of our framework generously offers a path to citizenship for 1.8 million illegal immigrants who were brought here by their parents at a young age — that covers almost three times more people than the previous administration.</td>
<td>Offer</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Preston’s reverence for those who have served our Nation reminds us why we salute our flag, why we put our hands on our hearts for the</td>
<td>Remind</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>pledge of allegiance, and why we proudly stand for the national anthem</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>To speed access to breakthrough cures and affordable generic drugs, last year the FDA approved more new and generic drugs and medical devices than ever before in our history.</td>
<td>Report</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>And we will protect American workers and American intellectual property, through strong enforcement of our trade rules.</td>
<td>Promise</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>For decades, open borders have allowed drugs and gangs to pour into our most vulnerable communities.</td>
<td>Report</td>
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20. In recent weeks, two terrorist attacks in New York were made possible by the visa lottery and chain migration. In the age of terrorism, these programs present risks we can no longer afford.

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<th>Report</th>
<th>Indirectly</th>
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B. Data Analysis

This section will deeply and elaboratively conduct analysis regarding the functions and the ways the utterances being uttered discovered in corpus data. The writer uses Searle and Vanderveken theory specifically commissive and assertive speech acts.

Datum 1

“My Administration is committed to fighting the drug epidemic and helping get treatment for those in need…”

The context of this speech shows that Donald Trump’s presidency will undertake to fight the drug epidemic and the treatment for those in need even though the struggle to realize the plan will be long and difficult. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as a commissive illocutionary acts as it is classified into commit and it was
shown by the English performative verbs ‘commit’. In this case, Donald Trump commits himself to fight the drug epidemic and to help those in needs getting a treatment along his presidency.

The commissive utterance on datum 1 is categorized as direct speech since there is a direct relationship between the structure and the communication function of the utterance as shown by the English performative verbs ‘commit’. Therefore, the utterance on datum 1 is considered as a direct speech for the speaker delivers his intention directly to the hearer.

Datum 2

“Since the election, we have created 2.4 million new jobs, including 200,000 new jobs in manufacturing alone. After years of wage stagnation, we are finally seeing rising wages.”

The context of this speech shows that Donald Trump had achieved some remarkable achievements for a year leading the country such as creating 2.4 million new jobs and rising wages. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as an assertive or representative illocutionary acts as it is classified into report for the facts and conviction he believes. In this case, Donald Trump is trying to report what he had been done to the United State over a year of his presidency. The assertive utterance brings the truth value of belief which brings the utterance matches the situation in the world.
The assertive utterance on datum 2 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 2 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.

Datum 3

“Last year, I also pledged that we would work with our allies to extinguish ISIS from the face of the Earth.”

The context of this speech shows that Donald Trump is trying to remind the audience of the commitment he made during the election in which he stated that he would work to extinguish ISIS from the face of the Earth. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as a commissive illocutionary acts as it is classified into pledge in which it was shown by the English performative verbs ‘pledge’. In this case, Donald Trump pledged that he would try his best to extinguish ISIS with the allies of the United States.

The commissive utterance on datum 3 is categorized as direct speech since there is a direct relationship between the structure and the communication function of the utterance as shown by the English performative verbs ‘pledge’. Therefore, the utterance on datum 3 is considered as a direct speech for the speaker delivers his intention directly to the hearer.
Datum 4

“In 2016, we lost 64,000 Americans to drug overdoses: 174 deaths per day. Seven per hour.”

The context of this speech shows that in the year of 2016 the United States had lost 64,000 Americans to drug overdoses. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as an assertive or representative illocutionary acts as it is classified into report for the outcome of an action based on the propositional content condition that the propositional content is about the past with respect to the time of the utterance, or, at some point, it can be about the present. In this case, Donald Trump reported that more than 60 thousands Americans dead to drug overdoses in 2016. The assertive utterance brings the truth value of belief which brings the utterance matches the situation in the world.

The assertive utterance on datum 4 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 4 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.

Datum 5

“But there is much more work to be done. We will continue our fight until ISIS is defeated.”
The context of this speech shows that Donald Trump is committed to continue fighting ISIS until it is defeated and gone from the face of the Earth. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as a commissive illocutionary acts as it is classified into commit for he commits himself to do some future course of action. In this case, Donald Trump commits himself to keep on fighting ISIS until it is defeated.

The commissive utterance on datum 5 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 5 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver further action one will do in the future directly.

Datum 6

“I am proud to report that the coalition to defeat ISIS has liberated almost 100 percent of the territory once held by these killers in Iraq and Syria.”

The context of this speech shows that Donald Trump stated a report regarding the coalition he made with his allies in defeating ISIS and have liberated almost 100 percent territory that was once belong to ISIS in Iraq and Syria. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as an assertive or representative illocutionary acts as it is classified into report in which it was shown by the English performative
verbs ‘report’. In this case, Donald Trump reported that he and his allies had made such a remarkable achievement in defeating ISIS by liberating almost 100 percent territory that was once belong to ISIS in Iraq and Syria. The assertive utterance brings the truth value of belief which brings the utterance matches the situation in the world.

The assertive utterance on datum 6 is categorized as a direct speech since there is a direct relationship between the structure and the communication function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump as it was shown by the English performative verb ‘report’. Therefore, the utterance on datum 6 is considered as a direct speech for the speaker delivers the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.

Datum 7

“Over the last year, the world has seen what we always knew: that no people on Earth are so fearless, or daring, or determined as Americans.”

The context of this speech shows Donald Trump’s is trying to assert that no people on Earth as tough as Americans themselves. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as an assertive or representative illocutionary acts based on the facts and conviction he believes. In this case, Donald Trump is trying to assert that Americans are the toughest people living on Earth.

The assertive utterance on datum 7 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the
communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 7 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.

**Datum 8**

“Unemployment claims have hit a 45-year low.”

The context of this speech shows that unemployment numbers in the United States of America continue to decrease and it shows the lowest number in 45 years. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as an assertive illocutionary acts as it is classified into report for the outcome of an action based on the propositional content condition that the propositional content is about the past with respect to the time of the utterance, or, at some point, it can be about the present. In this case, Donald Trump reported that unemployment claims have hit the lowest in 45 years. The assertive utterance brings the truth value of belief which brings the utterance matches the situation in the world.

The assertive utterance on datum 8 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 8 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.
Datum 9

“… African-American unemployment stands at the lowest rate ever recorded, and Hispanic American unemployment has also reached the lowest levels in history.”

The context of this utterance shows that African-American reach a new low this year under Donald Trump’s presidency. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as an assertive illocutionary acts as it is classified into claim based on the facts and conviction he believes. In this case, Donald Trump claims to have recorded a remarkable achievement on the lowest rate of African-American unemployment.

The assertive utterance on datum 9 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 9 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.

Datum 10

“This April will be the last time you ever file under the old broken system — and millions of Americans will have more take-home pay starting next month.”

The context of this speech shows that the old systems in which the taxes cost Americans a lot will be replaced with the new one by deducing some taxes due to April this year. From the utterance can be concluded
that this utterance functions as a commissive illocutionary acts as it is classified into promise for he wants to make the hearer to do something for his benefit and an obligation he may do in the future. In this case, Donald Trump promises the citizens of America and the Congress that the old broken system will be replaced on April this year.

The commissive utterance on datum 10 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 10 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver further action one will do in the future directly.

Datum 11

“We eliminated an especially cruel tax that fell mostly on Americans making less than $50,000 a year — forcing them to pay tremendous penalties simply because they could not afford government-ordered health plans.”

The context of this speech shows that Donald Trump’s administration have terminated the cruel tax that fell mostly on Americans due to the tremendous penalties given to those who could not afford government-ordered health plans by repealing the Obamacare. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as an assertive illocutionary acts as it is classified into report for the outcome of an action based on the propositional content condition that the propositional content
is about the past with respect to the time of the utterance, or, at some point, it can be about the present. In this case, Donald Trump reported that his administrations have eliminated the cruel tax caused by Obamacare. The assertive utterance brings the truth value of belief which brings the utterance matches the situation in the world.

The assertive utterance on datum 11 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 11 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.

**Datum 12**

“People who are terminally ill should not have to go from country to country to seek a cure — I want to give them a chance right here at home.”

The context of this speech shows that people who severely suffer from an illness should not have to seek a cure from country to country. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as an assertive illocutionary acts in the form of suggestion in which it was shown by the modal ‘should’. In this case, Donald Trump suggested that people who are terminally ill does not have to seek a cure from country to country.
The assertive utterance on datum 12 is categorized as a direct speech since there is a direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 12 is considered as a direct speech for the speaker delivers the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.

Datum 13

“… we will build gleaming new roads, bridges, highways, railways, and waterways across our land …”

The context of this speech shows that Donald Trump will build new roads, bridges, highways, and many other infrastructures along his presidency. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as a commissive illocutionary acts as it is classified into promise for he will take some further action in the future. In this case, Donald Trump promises that he will build new roads, bridges, highways, and many more infrastructures along his presidency.

The commissive utterance on datum 13 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 13 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver further action one will do in the future directly.
Datum 14

“The United States is a compassionate nation.”

The context of this speech shows that The United States is a kind of nation in which its people tend to sympathize and concern for others. From the utterance can be concluded that this utterance functions as an assertive or representative illocutionary acts in the form of stating. In this case, Donald Trump stated that America is a country in which its people care for others.

The assertive utterance on datum 14 is categorized as a direct speech since there is a direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 14 is considered as a direct speech for the speaker delivers the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.

Datum 15

“The first pillar of our framework generously offers a path to citizenship for 1.8 million illegal immigrants who were brought here by their parents at a young age — that covers almost three times more people than the previous administration.”

The context of the speech shows that the first pillar of the plan arranged by Donald Trump’s administrations offers a citizenship for over 1.8 million immigrants who were brought by their parent at such a young age. From the utterance above can be concluded that the utterance
functions as a commissive illocutionary acts as it is classified into offer in which it was shown directly by the performative verb ‘offer’. In this case, Donald Trump’s administration offers immigrants who were brought by their parents a citizenship.

The commissive utterance on datum 15 is categorized as direct speech since there is a direct relationship between the structure and the communication function of the utterance as shown by the English performative verbs ‘offer’. Therefore, the utterance on datum 15 is considered as a direct speech for the speaker delivers his intention directly to the hearer.

Datum 16

“Preston’s reverence for those who have served our Nation reminds us why we salute our flag, why we put our hands on our hearts for the pledge of allegiance, and why we proudly stand for the national anthem.”

The context of this utterance show that a reverence toward those who have served the United States being shown by a young boy named Preston reminds Americans why they salute their flag and proudly stand for the national anthem. From the utterance above, can be concluded that the utterance functions as an assertive illocutionary acts in the form of remind and it was shown by the performative verb ‘remind’. In this case, Donald Trump believes the actions being done by Preston reminds him
and the rest of Americans why they proudly sing their national anthem and salute their flag.

The assertive utterance on datum 16 is categorized as a direct speech since there is a direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump as it was shown by the performative verb ‘remind’. Therefore, the utterance on datum 16 is considered as a direct speech for the speaker delivers the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.

Datum 17

“To speed access to breakthrough cures and affordable generic drugs, last year the FDA approved more new and generic drugs and medical devices than ever before in our history.”

The context of this speech shows that Donald Trump’s administration has already made some efforts on the medical access and affordable generic drugs proved by the approval of more new generic drugs and medical devices by FDA. From the utterance can be concluded that the speech functions as an assertive or representative acts as it is classified into report for the outcome action based on the propositional content. In this case, Donald Trump reported that more new generic drugs and new medical devices have been approved by the FDA than ever before in the history of America.

The assertive utterance on datum 17 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the
communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 17 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.

Datum 18

“And we will protect American workers and American intellectual property, through strong enforcement of our trade rules.”

The context of this speech shows that Donald Trump’s administrations will protect American workers and American intellectual property by establishing strong implementation of America’s trade rules. From the speech above can be concluded that the speech functions as a commissive illocutionary acts as it is classified into promise for his administrations will take some further action in the future. In this case, Donald Trump promises that his administrations will take care of American workers and intellectual property through strong implementation of the trade rules.

The commissive utterance on datum 18 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 18 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver further action one will do in the future directly.
Datum 19

“For decades, open borders have allowed drugs and gangs to pour into our most vulnerable communities.”

The context of this speech shows that the open borders have always been the main problem to Americans for decades as it is allowed drugs and gangs. From the utterance above can be concluded that the utterance functions as an assertive illocutionary acts based in the form of reporting for the outcome of propositional content. In this case, Donald Trump reported that the open border have allowed drugs and gangs into America for decades.

The assertive utterance on datum 19 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 19 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.

Datum 20

“In recent weeks, two terrorist attacks in New York were made possible by the visa lottery and chain migration. In the age of terrorism, these programs present risks we can no longer afford.”

The context of this speech shows that the visa lottery system and chain migration have allowed terrorists to attack America. From the utterance can be concluded that the utterance functions as an assertive
Illocutionary acts in the form of reporting for the outcome of an action based on the propositional content condition. In this case, Donald Trump reported that two terrorist attacks in New York were caused by the visa lottery system and the chain migration.

The assertive utterance on datum 20 is categorized as an indirect speech since there is no direct relationship between the structure and the communicative function of the utterance being uttered by Donald Trump. Therefore, the utterance on datum 20 is considered as an indirect speech for the speaker does not deliver the fact based on his belief to be the case in this world directly.
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the utterances delivered by Donald Trump on his first State of the Union address on January 30, 2018, the writer make conclusions clearly based on the findings as follows:

First, from the data analysis can be concluded that Donald Trump’s speech use assertive and commissive illocutionary acts in which it is classified into asserting, state, remind, report, suggest, commit, promise, pledge, and offer. In his utterance Donald Trump presents more assertive illocutionary acts than the commissive one. In this research, the writer classified the assertive and commissive illocutionary acts based on John R. Searle and Vanderveken theory. Donald Trump performed more assertive illocutionary acts in his first state of the union address to impress the U.S. Congress for what he had achieved throughout a year in leading the States.

Second, the writer found 8 data that are conveyed directly and 12 data that are conveyed indirectly. The reference for determining the assertive and commissive illocutionary acts and its conveys, directly or indirectly, in Donald Trump’s State of the Union address based on the relationship between the structure and communicative function of the utterance being uttered.
B. Suggestion

The writer suggests the next researchers interested in the field of pragmatics specifically speech acts to explore more deeply about speech act theory, especially the illocutionary acts. Besides, the writer focused more on assertive and commissive illocutionary acts such as assert, state, remind, report, promise, commit, pledge, and offer. It would be better for the scholars who are interested in conducting the similar research to analyze other types of illocutionary acts.
WORKS CITED

Books:


Journals:


Websites:


APPENDICES

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:
Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, the First Lady of the United States, and my fellow Americans:

Less than 1 year has passed since I first stood at this podium, in this majestic chamber, to speak on behalf of the American People — and to address their concerns, their hopes, and their dreams. That night, our new Administration had already taken swift action. A new tide of optimism was already sweeping across our land.

Each day since, we have gone forward with a clear vision and a righteous mission — to make America great again for all Americans.

Over the last year, we have made incredible progress and achieved extraordinary success. We have faced challenges we expected, and others we could never have imagined. We have shared in the heights of victory and the pains of hardship. We endured floods and fires and storms. But through it all, we have seen the beauty of America’s soul, and the steel in America’s spine.

Each test has forged new American heroes to remind us who we are, and show us what we can be.

We saw the volunteers of the “Cajun Navy,” racing to the rescue with their fishing boats to save people in the aftermath of a devastating hurricane.

We saw strangers shielding strangers from a hail of gunfire on the Las Vegas strip.

We heard tales of Americans like Coast Guard Petty Officer Ashlee Leppert, who is here tonight in the gallery with Melania. Ashlee was aboard one of the first helicopters on the scene in Houston during Hurricane Harvey. Through 18 hours of wind and rain, Ashlee braved live power lines and deep water, to help save more than 40 lives. Thank you, Ashlee.

We heard about Americans like firefighter David Dahlberg. He is here with us too. David faced down walls of flame to rescue almost 60 children trapped at a California summer camp threatened by wildfires.
To everyone still recovering in Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, California, and everywhere else — we are with you, we love you, and we will pull through together.

Some trials over the past year touched this chamber very personally. With us tonight is one of the toughest people ever to serve in this House — a guy who took a bullet, almost died, and was back to work three and a half months later: the legend from Louisiana, Congressman Steve Scalise.

We are incredibly grateful for the heroic efforts of the Capitol Police Officers, the Alexandria Police, and the doctors, nurses, and paramedics who saved his life, and the lives of many others in this room.

In the aftermath of that terrible shooting, we came together, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as representatives of the people. But it is not enough to come together only in times of tragedy. Tonight, I call upon all of us to set aside our differences, to seek out common ground, and to summon the unity we need to deliver for the people we were elected to serve.

Over the last year, the world has seen what we always knew: that no people on Earth are so fearless, or daring, or determined as Americans. If there is a mountain, we climb it. If there is a frontier, we cross it. If there is a challenge, we tame it. If there is an opportunity, we seize it.

So let us begin tonight by recognizing that the state of our Union is strong because our people are strong.

And together, we are building a safe, strong, and proud America.

Since the election, we have created 2.4 million new jobs, including 200,000 new jobs in manufacturing alone. After years of wage stagnation, we are finally seeing rising wages.

Unemployment claims have hit a 45-year low.

African-American unemployment stands at the lowest rate ever recorded, and Hispanic American unemployment has also reached the lowest levels in history.

Small business confidence is at an all-time high. The stock market has smashed one record after another, gaining $8 trillion in value. That is great news for Americans’ 401k, retirement, pension, and college savings accounts.
And just as I promised the American people from this podium 11 months ago, we enacted the biggest tax cuts and reforms in American history. Our massive tax cuts provide tremendous relief for the middle class and small businesses.

To lower tax rates for hardworking Americans, we nearly doubled the standard deduction for everyone. Now, the first $24,000 earned by a married couple is completely tax-free. We also doubled the child tax credit. A typical family of four making $75,000 will see their tax bill reduced by $2,000 — slashing their tax bill in half.

This April will be the last time you ever file under the old broken system — and millions of Americans will have more take-home pay starting next month. We eliminated an especially cruel tax that fell mostly on Americans making less than $50,000 a year — forcing them to pay tremendous penalties simply because they could not afford government-ordered health plans. We repealed the core of disastrous Obamacare — the individual mandate is now gone.

We slashed the business tax rate from 35 percent all the way down to 21 percent, so American companies can compete and win against anyone in the world. These changes alone are estimated to increase average family income by more than $4,000.

Small businesses have also received a massive tax cut, and can now deduct 20 percent of their business income.

Here tonight are Steve Staub and Sandy Keplinger of Staub Manufacturing — a small business in Ohio. They have just finished the best year in their 20-year history. Because of tax reform, they are handing out raises, hiring an additional 14 people, and expanding into the building next door.

One of Staub’s employees, Corey Adams, is also with us tonight. Corey is an all-American worker. He supported himself through high school, lost his job during the 2008 recession, and was later hired by Staub, where he trained to become a welder. Like many hardworking Americans, Corey plans to invest his tax-cut raise into his new home and his two daughters’ education. Please join me in congratulating Corey.
Since we passed tax cuts, roughly 3 million workers have already gotten tax cut bonuses — many of them thousands of dollars per worker. Apple has just announced it plans to invest a total of $350 billion in America, and hire another 20,000 workers.

This is our new American moment. There has never been a better time to start living the American Dream.

So to every citizen watching at home tonight — no matter where you have been, or where you come from, this is your time. If you work hard, if you believe in yourself, if you believe in America, then you can dream anything, you can be anything, and together, we can achieve anything.

Tonight, I want to talk about what kind of future we are going to have, and what kind of Nation we are going to be. All of us, together, as one team, one people, and one American family.

We all share the same home, the same heart, the same destiny, and the same great American flag.

Together, we are rediscovering the American way.

In America, we know that faith and family, not government and bureaucracy, are the center of the American life. Our motto is “in God we trust.”

And we celebrate our police, our military, and our amazing veterans as heroes who deserve our total and unwavering support.

Here tonight is Preston Sharp, a 12-year-old boy from Redding, California, who noticed that veterans’ graves were not marked with flags on Veterans Day. He decided to change that, and started a movement that has now placed 40,000 flags at the graves of our great heroes. Preston: a job well done.

Young patriots like Preston teach all of us about our civic duty as Americans. Preston’s reverence for those who have served our Nation reminds us why we salute our flag, why we put our hands on our hearts for the pledge of allegiance, and why we proudly stand for the national anthem.

Americans love their country. And they deserve a Government that shows them the same love and loyalty in return.
For the last year we have sought to restore the bonds of trust between our citizens and their Government.

Working with the Senate, we are appointing judges who will interpret the Constitution as written, including a great new Supreme Court Justice, and more circuit court judges than any new administration in the history of our country.

We are defending our Second Amendment, and have taken historic actions to protect religious liberty.

And we are serving our brave veterans, including giving our veterans choice in their healthcare decisions. Last year, the Congress passed, and I signed, the landmark VA Accountability Act. Since its passage, my Administration has already removed more than 1,500 VA employees who failed to give our veterans the care they deserve — and we are hiring talented people who love our vets as much as we do.

I will not stop until our veterans are properly taken care of, which has been my promise to them from the very beginning of this great journey.

All Americans deserve accountability and respect — and that is what we are giving them. So tonight, I call on the Congress to empower every Cabinet Secretary with the authority to reward good workers — and to remove Federal employees who undermine the public trust or fail the American people.

In our drive to make Washington accountable, we have eliminated more regulations in our first year than any administration in history.

We have ended the war on American Energy — and we have ended the war on clean coal. We are now an exporter of energy to the world.

In Detroit, I halted Government mandates that crippled America’s autoworkers — so we can get the Motor City revving its engines once again.

Many car companies are now building and expanding plants in the United States — something we have not seen for decades. Chrysler is moving a major plant from Mexico to Michigan; Toyota and Mazda are opening up a plant in Alabama. Soon, plants will be opening up all over the country. This is all news Americans are unaccustomed to hearing — for many years, companies and jobs were only leaving us. But now they are coming back.
Exciting progress is happening every day.
To speed access to breakthrough cures and affordable generic drugs, last year the FDA approved more new and generic drugs and medical devices than ever before in our history.
We also believe that patients with terminal conditions should have access to experimental treatments that could potentially save their lives.
People who are terminally ill should not have to go from country to country to seek a cure — I want to give them a chance right here at home. It is time for the Congress to give these wonderful Americans the “right to try.”
One of my greatest priorities is to reduce the price of prescription drugs. In many other countries, these drugs cost far less than what we pay in the United States. That is why I have directed my Administration to make fixing the injustice of high drug prices one of our top priorities. Prices will come down.
America has also finally turned the page on decades of unfair trade deals that sacrificed our prosperity and shipped away our companies, our jobs, and our Nation’s wealth.
The era of economic surrender is over.
From now on, we expect trading relationships to be fair and to be reciprocal.
We will work to fix bad trade deals and negotiate new ones.
And we will protect American workers and American intellectual property, through strong enforcement of our trade rules.
As we rebuild our industries, it is also time to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure.
America is a nation of builders. We built the Empire State Building in just 1 year — is it not a disgrace that it can now take 10 years just to get a permit approved for a simple road?
I am asking both parties to come together to give us the safe, fast, reliable, and modern infrastructure our economy needs and our people deserve.
Tonight, I am calling on the Congress to produce a bill that generates at least $1.5 trillion for the new infrastructure investment we need.
Every Federal dollar should be leveraged by partnering with State and local governments and, where appropriate, tapping into private sector investment — to permanently fix the infrastructure deficit.

Any bill must also streamline the permitting and approval process — getting it down to no more than two years, and perhaps even one.

Together, we can reclaim our building heritage. We will build gleaming new roads, bridges, highways, railways, and waterways across our land. And we will do it with American heart, American hands, and American grit.

We want every American to know the dignity of a hard day’s work. We want every child to be safe in their home at night. And we want every citizen to be proud of this land that we love.

We can lift our citizens from welfare to work, from dependence to independence, and from poverty to prosperity.

As tax cuts create new jobs, let us invest in workforce development and job training. Let us open great vocational schools so our future workers can learn a craft and realize their full potential. And let us support working families by supporting paid family leave.

As America regains its strength, this opportunity must be extended to all citizens. That is why this year we will embark on reforming our prisons to help former inmates who have served their time get a second chance.

Struggling communities, especially immigrant communities, will also be helped by immigration policies that focus on the best interests of American workers and American families.

For decades, open borders have allowed drugs and gangs to pour into our most vulnerable communities. They have allowed millions of low-wage workers to compete for jobs and wages against the poorest Americans. Most tragically, they have caused the loss of many innocent lives.

Here tonight are two fathers and two mothers: Evelyn Rodriguez, Freddy Cuevas, Elizabeth Alvarado, and Robert Mickens. Their two teenage daughters — Kayla Cuevas and Nisa Mickens — were close friends on Long Island. But in September 2016, on the eve of Nisa’s 16th Birthday, neither of them came home.
These two precious girls were brutally murdered while walking together in their hometown. Six members of the savage gang MS-13 have been charged with Kayla and Nisa’s murders. Many of these gang members took advantage of glaring loopholes in our laws to enter the country as unaccompanied alien minors -- and wound up in Kayla and Nisa’s high school.

Evelyn, Elizabeth, Freddy, and Robert: Tonight, everyone in this chamber is praying for you. Everyone in America is grieving for you. And 320 million hearts are breaking for you. We cannot imagine the depth of your sorrow, but we can make sure that other families never have to endure this pain.

Tonight, I am calling on the Congress to finally close the deadly loopholes that have allowed MS-13, and other criminals, to break into our country. We have proposed new legislation that will fix our immigration laws, and support our ICE and Border Patrol Agents, so that this cannot ever happen again.

The United States is a compassionate nation. We are proud that we do more than any other country to help the needy, the struggling, and the underprivileged all over the world. But as President of the United States, my highest loyalty, my greatest compassion, and my constant concern is for America’s children, America’s struggling workers, and America’s forgotten communities. I want our youth to grow up to achieve great things. I want our poor to have their chance to rise.

So tonight, I am extending an open hand to work with members of both parties — Democrats and Republicans — to protect our citizens of every background, color, religion, and creed. My duty, and the sacred duty of every elected official in this chamber, is to defend Americans — to protect their safety, their families, their communities, and their right to the American Dream. Because Americans are dreamers too.

Here tonight is one leader in the effort to defend our country: Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Celestino Martinez — he goes by CJ. CJ served 15 years in the Air Force before becoming an ICE agent and spending the last 15 years fighting gang violence and getting dangerous criminals off our streets. At one point, MS-13 leaders ordered CJ’s murder. But he did not cave to threats
or fear. Last May, he commanded an operation to track down gang members on Long Island. His team has arrested nearly 400, including more than 220 from MS-13.

CJ: Great work. Now let us get the Congress to send you some reinforcements.

Over the next few weeks, the House and Senate will be voting on an immigration reform package.

In recent months, my Administration has met extensively with both Democrats and Republicans to craft a bipartisan approach to immigration reform. Based on these discussions, we presented the Congress with a detailed proposal that should be supported by both parties as a fair compromise — one where nobody gets everything they want, but where our country gets the critical reforms it needs.

Here are the four pillars of our plan:

The first pillar of our framework generously offers a path to citizenship for 1.8 million illegal immigrants who were brought here by their parents at a young age — that covers almost three times more people than the previous administration. Under our plan, those who meet education and work requirements, and show good moral character, will be able to become full citizens of the United States.

The second pillar fully secures the border. That means building a wall on the Southern border, and it means hiring more heroes like CJ to keep our communities safe. Crucially, our plan closes the terrible loopholes exploited by criminals and terrorists to enter our country — and it finally ends the dangerous practice of “catch and release.”

The third pillar ends the visa lottery — a program that randomly hands out green cards without any regard for skill, merit, or the safety of our people. It is time to begin moving towards a merit-based immigration system — one that admits people who are skilled, who want to work, who will contribute to our society, and who will love and respect our country.

The fourth and final pillar protects the nuclear family by ending chain migration. Under the current broken system, a single immigrant can bring in virtually unlimited numbers of distant relatives. Under our plan, we focus on the immediate family by limiting sponsorships to spouses and minor children. This
vital reform is necessary, not just for our economy, but for our security, and our future.

In recent weeks, two terrorist attacks in New York were made possible by the visa lottery and chain migration. In the age of terrorism, these programs present risks we can no longer afford.

It is time to reform these outdated immigration rules, and finally bring our immigration system into the 21st century.

These four pillars represent a down-the-middle compromise, and one that will create a safe, modern, and lawful immigration system.

For over 30 years, Washington has tried and failed to solve this problem. This Congress can be the one that finally makes it happen.

Most importantly, these four pillars will produce legislation that fulfills my ironclad pledge to only sign a bill that puts America first. So let us come together, set politics aside, and finally get the job done.

These reforms will also support our response to the terrible crisis of opioid and drug addiction.

In 2016, we lost 64,000 Americans to drug overdoses: 174 deaths per day. Seven per hour. We must get much tougher on drug dealers and pushers if we are going to succeed in stopping this scourge.

My Administration is committed to fighting the drug epidemic and helping get treatment for those in need. The struggle will be long and difficult — but, as Americans always do, we will prevail.

As we have seen tonight, the most difficult challenges bring out the best in America.

We see a vivid expression of this truth in the story of the Holets family of New Mexico. Ryan Holets is 27 years old, and an officer with the Albuquerque Police Department. He is here tonight with his wife Rebecca. Last year, Ryan was on duty when he saw a pregnant, homeless woman preparing to inject heroin. When Ryan told her she was going to harm her unborn child, she began to weep. She told him she did not know where to turn, but badly wanted a safe home for her baby.
In that moment, Ryan said he felt God speak to him: “You will do it — because you can.” He took out a picture of his wife and their four kids. Then, he went home to tell his wife Rebecca. In an instant, she agreed to adopt. The Holets named their new daughter Hope.

Ryan and Rebecca: You embody the goodness of our Nation. Thank you, and congratulations.

As we rebuild America’s strength and confidence at home, we are also restoring our strength and standing abroad.

Around the world, we face rogue regimes, terrorist groups, and rivals like China and Russia that challenge our interests, our economy, and our values. In confronting these dangers, we know that weakness is the surest path to conflict, and unmatched power is the surest means of our defense.

For this reason, I am asking the Congress to end the dangerous defense sequester and fully fund our great military.

As part of our defense, we must modernize and rebuild our nuclear arsenal, hopefully never having to use it, but making it so strong and powerful that it will deter any acts of aggression. Perhaps someday in the future there will be a magical moment when the countries of the world will get together to eliminate their nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, we are not there yet.

Last year, I also pledged that we would work with our allies to extinguish ISIS from the face of the Earth. One year later, I am proud to report that the coalition to defeat ISIS has liberated almost 100 percent of the territory once held by these killers in Iraq and Syria. But there is much more work to be done. We will continue our fight until ISIS is defeated.

Army Staff Sergeant Justin Peck is here tonight. Near Raqqa last November, Justin and his comrade, Chief Petty Officer Kenton Stacy, were on a mission to clear buildings that ISIS had rigged with explosives so that civilians could return to the city.

Clearing the second floor of a vital hospital, Kenton Stacy was severely wounded by an explosion. Immediately, Justin bounded into the booby-trapped building and found Kenton in bad shape. He applied pressure to the wound and inserted a
tube to reopen an airway. He then performed CPR for 20 straight minutes during the ground transport and maintained artificial respiration through 2 hours of emergency surgery.

Kenton Stacy would have died if not for Justin’s selfless love for a fellow warrior. Tonight, Kenton is recovering in Texas. Raqqa is liberated. And Justin is wearing his new Bronze Star, with a “V” for “Valor.” Staff Sergeant Peck: All of America salutes you.

Terrorists who do things like place bombs in civilian hospitals are evil. When possible, we annihilate them. When necessary, we must be able to detain and question them. But we must be clear: Terrorists are not merely criminals. They are unlawful enemy combatants. And when captured overseas, they should be treated like the terrorists they are.

In the past, we have foolishly released hundreds of dangerous terrorists, only to meet them again on the battlefield — including the ISIS leader, al-Baghdadi. So today, I am keeping another promise. I just signed an order directing Secretary Mattis to reexamine our military detention policy and to keep open the detention facilities at Guantánamo Bay.

I am also asking the Congress to ensure that, in the fight against ISIS and al-Qa’ida, we continue to have all necessary power to detain terrorists — wherever we chase them down.

Our warriors in Afghanistan also have new rules of engagement. Along with their heroic Afghan partners, our military is no longer undermined by artificial timelines, and we no longer tell our enemies our plans.

Last month, I also took an action endorsed unanimously by the Senate just months before: I recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Shortly afterwards, dozens of countries voted in the United Nations General Assembly against America’s sovereign right to make this recognition. American taxpayers generously send those same countries billions of dollars in aid every year.
That is why, tonight, I am asking the Congress to pass legislation to help ensure American foreign-assistance dollars always serve American interests, and only go to America’s friends.

As we strengthen friendships around the world, we are also restoring clarity about our adversaries.

When the people of Iran rose up against the crimes of their corrupt dictatorship, I did not stay silent. America stands with the people of Iran in their courageous struggle for freedom.

I am asking the Congress to address the fundamental flaws in the terrible Iran nuclear deal.

My Administration has also imposed tough sanctions on the communist and socialist dictatorships in Cuba and Venezuela.

But no regime has oppressed its own citizens more totally or brutally than the cruel dictatorship in North Korea.

North Korea’s reckless pursuit of nuclear missiles could very soon threaten our homeland.

We are waging a campaign of maximum pressure to prevent that from happening. Past experience has taught us that complacency and concessions only invite aggression and provocation. I will not repeat the mistakes of past administrations that got us into this dangerous position.

We need only look at the depraved character of the North Korean regime to understand the nature of the nuclear threat it could pose to America and our allies.

Otto Warmbier was a hardworking student at the University of Virginia. On his way to study abroad in Asia, Otto joined a tour to North Korea. At its conclusion, this wonderful young man was arrested and charged with crimes against the state.

After a shameful trial, the dictatorship sentenced Otto to 15 years of hard labor, before returning him to America last June — horribly injured and on the verge of death. He passed away just days after his return.

Otto’s Parents, Fred and Cindy Warmbier, are with us tonight — along with Otto’s brother and sister, Austin and Greta. You are powerful witnesses to a
menace that threatens our world, and your strength inspires us all. Tonight, we pledge to honor Otto’s memory with American resolve.

Finally, we are joined by one more witness to the ominous nature of this regime. His name is Mr. Ji Seong-ho.

In 1996, Seong-ho was a starving boy in North Korea. One day, he tried to steal coal from a railroad car to barter for a few scraps of food. In the process, he passed out on the train tracks, exhausted from hunger. He woke up as a train ran over his limbs. He then endured multiple amputations without anything to dull the pain. His brother and sister gave what little food they had to help him recover and ate dirt themselves — permanently stunting their own growth. Later, he was tortured by North Korean authorities after returning from a brief visit to China. His tormentors wanted to know if he had met any Christians. He had — and he resolved to be free.

Seong-ho traveled thousands of miles on crutches across China and Southeast Asia to freedom. Most of his family followed. His father was caught trying to escape, and was tortured to death.

Today he lives in Seoul, where he rescues other defectors, and broadcasts into North Korea what the regime fears the most — the truth.

Today he has a new leg, but Seong-ho, I understand you still keep those crutches as a reminder of how far you have come. Your great sacrifice is an inspiration to us all.

Seong-ho’s story is a testament to the yearning of every human soul to live in freedom.

It was that same yearning for freedom that nearly 250 years ago gave birth to a special place called America. It was a small cluster of colonies caught between a great ocean and a vast wilderness. But it was home to an incredible people with a revolutionary idea: that they could rule themselves. That they could chart their own destiny. And that, together, they could light up the world.

That is what our country has always been about. That is what Americans have always stood for, always strived for, and always done.
Atop the dome of this Capitol stands the Statue of Freedom. She stands tall and dignified among the monuments to our ancestors who fought and lived and died to protect her.

Monuments to Washington and Jefferson — to Lincoln and King.

Memorials to the heroes of Yorktown and Saratoga — to young Americans who shed their blood on the shores of Normandy, and the fields beyond. And others, who went down in the waters of the Pacific and the skies over Asia.

And freedom stands tall over one more monument: this one. This Capitol. This living monument to the American people.

A people whose heroes live not only in the past, but all around us — defending hope, pride, and the American way.

They work in every trade. They sacrifice to raise a family. They care for our children at home. They defend our flag abroad. They are strong moms and brave kids. They are firefighters, police officers, border agents, medics, and Marines.

But above all else, they are Americans. And this Capitol, this city, and this Nation, belong to them.

Our task is to respect them, to listen to them, to serve them, to protect them, and to always be worthy of them.

Americans fill the world with art and music. They push the bounds of science and discovery. And they forever remind us of what we should never forget: The people dreamed this country. The people built this country. And it is the people who are making America great again.

As long as we are proud of who we are, and what we are fighting for, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

As long as we have confidence in our values, faith in our citizens, and trust in our God, we will not fail.

Our families will thrive.

Our people will prosper.

And our Nation will forever be safe and strong and proud and mighty and free.

Thank you, and God bless America.