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Strategic Use of Illocutionary Force and Power in President Prabowo Subianto's Address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly

Nehemia Anugrah Parasian
nehemiasimorangkir20@gmail.com
Master's Program in Linguistics, Universitas Sumatera Utara, INDONESIA

Namira Az-Zahra
Master's Program in Linguistics, Universitas Sumatera Utara, INDONESIA

Fathul Jannah Harahap
Master's Program in Linguistics, Universitas Sumatera Utara, INDONESIA

Abstract

This study examines illocutionary acts in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly. It aims to identify the types of illocutionary acts employed and to analyze how illocutionary force is used strategically, through ethos, pathos, and logos, to convey political and diplomatic messages and to reflect and negotiate Indonesia's power relations and political position. Using a descriptive qualitative approach with a content analysis design, the study draws on Austin's and Searle's Speech Act Theory and Braet's rhetorical appeals. The address was transcribed manually from the official United Nations YouTube recording, and 119 utterances were coded for illocutionary type and dominant rhetorical orientation. The findings show that all five types of illocutionary acts are present, with assertives dominating (47.90%), followed by directives (34.45%), expressives (9.24%), commissives (5.04%), and declaratives (3.36%). Pathos is the most frequent rhetorical orientation (47.90%), followed by ethos (30.25%) and logos (21.85%). Assertives build Indonesia's credibility through its history and contributions, directives frame action as collective responsibility through the inclusive "we," and commissives and declaratives express commitments and official positions. Emotional appeal is conveyed mainly through assertives and directives rather than expressives. These patterns suggest that illocutionary force is the linguistic means through which political power, understood as credibility, collective agency, and institutional standing, is expressed and negotiated in diplomatic discourse. The study contributes to political pragmatics by integrating speech act and rhetorical analysis.

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Introduction

Language as a form of social action serves to convey information, perform actions, and negotiate power relations in specific socio-political contexts. In this framework, language is an ideological medium that reflects and shapes social structures and power relations (Altun, 2023; Saragih et al., 2024; Sofyan et al., 2023). Therefore, analyzing language practices in various social domains, such as education, media, law, and politics, is important to reveal how meaning is constructed, distributed, and negotiated in society (Dunmire, 2012; Tamim, 2014).

Reid & Ng, (1999) argue that in the realm of politics, particularly in state addresses, language serves as a medium of communication, a strategic instrument to influence public perception, build legitimacy, and assert the speaker's position of power. Political addresses often contain multiple layers of meaning conveyed through speech acts to deliver messages (Nurhalizah et al., 2022; Permana & Mauriyat, 2021; Ybañez et al., 2025). In the era of globalization and multilateral diplomacy, state addresses at international forums such as the United Nations General Assembly have become a strategic arena for conveying a country's vision, policies, and position on the world stage.

Illocutionary is an action performed by the speaker when saying something, which not only conveys literal meaning, but also performs a social or communicative act with a specific intention (Rahayu & Eripuddin, 2023; Ramadhani & Mustikawati, 2023; Sidik et al., 2022). Actions performed by the speaker through speech that have a specific intention or purpose, such as stating, commanding, promising, or expressing feelings. In the realm of political address, illocutionary is used to convey messages that have specific objectives, such as establishing effective communication, soliciting support, or asserting a political position.

President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly is an important example of how illocutionary force is used strategically to convey complex political messages and negotiate Indonesia's position on the global stage. Prabowo Subianto is the eighth President of Indonesia. He took office on 20 October 2024 for the 2024–2029 term, after winning the presidential election held on 14 February 2024 with approximately 58.6% of the vote (McCulloch & Surya, 2024). In the address, President Prabowo conveyed information and performed social acts aimed at strengthening Indonesia's bargaining position, building the national image, and affirming Indonesia's political stance on ongoing global issues.

Previous research was conducted by Minkhatunnakhriyah et al. (2021), who analyzed the types of deixis (person, spatial, temporal) that appeared in Indonesian diplomats' comment speeches at the United Nations General Assembly. The results of the study found 35 deixis, with a predominance of person deixis. Research by Sibtain et al. (2021) focused on rhetorical and persuasive elements in Donald Trump's speech at the United Nations General Assembly; political discourse analysis to examine ideology and how speakers construct images and position “the self” and “the other.” Furthermore, research by Putri et al. (2024) describes the types of illocutionary acts used in Retno Marsudi's speech at the 78th UNGA general session, as well as the frequency of each type. This research has not yet thoroughly examined how illocutionary force is used strategically to build and maintain diplomatic authority in international forums such as the United Nations General Assembly. Illocutionary acts are also used in novels to categorize the dominant speech acts of characters (Jessica et al., 2022; Salih, 2022; Setiawan & Djajanegara, 2020). Typically, in novels, illocutionary acts describe what individuals do when they say something, and they can be found in both everyday life and fiction.

Qadus et al. (2025) analyzed locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts in President Mnangagwa's speech at the United Nations General Assembly using Speech Act Theory and Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis approaches. This research discusses the relationship between speech acts and power, but in the Indonesian context, especially by leaders such as Prabowo

Subianto, it has not been widely researched, especially in the context of a multilateral platform such as the United Nations General Assembly. In addition, research by Alfianyah et al. (2025) discusses critical discourse analysis of Prabowo's political speech in the Turkish parliament by looking at ideology, discourse domination, and political language strategies. Many previous researches have also discussed illocution in political speeches and communication (Batubara, 2020; Hammada et al., 2023; Larasati et al., 2020; Mulyana & Engliana, 2021).

Although many studies have examined political speeches at the United Nations General Assembly, most of them focus on identifying types of illocutionary acts or ideological content through critical discourse analysis. However, there is still a significant gap in understanding how illocutionary force is strategically used to claim power in diplomatic discourse, especially by Indonesian political figures on the global stage. Furthermore, to the best of author's knowledge, limited research has specifically examined President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly, particularly from the perspective of illocutionary force and its relation to power dynamics in Indonesian diplomacy. This leaves a gap in both temporal relevance and the intersections between speech act theory and the power relation in Indonesian diplomacy discourse.

This study aims to identify the types of illocutionary acts used in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly, and to analyze how illocutionary force is strategically utilized, through ethos, pathos, and logos, to convey political and diplomatic messages and to reflect and negotiate Indonesia's power relations and political position in international forums. In line with these objectives, the study addresses the following research questions:

1. What types of illocutionary acts are employed in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the at the 80th United Nations General Assembly?
2. How is illocutionary force strategically utilized through ethos, pathos, and logos to convey political and diplomatic messages, and how does it reflect and negotiate Indonesia's power relations and political position in the international forum?

With this focus, the study is expected to contribute to pragmatic studies, particularly in the realm of international political discourse, while enriching perspectives on how language is used as a means of diplomacy and power negotiation.

The results of this research are expected to provide insight for practitioners of diplomacy, government, and political communication, including speechwriters, foreign ministers, and institutions engaged in international relations, on effective message delivery strategies and the use of words and speech acts that can strengthen a country's position and views in global forums. In addition, this research provides concrete evidence of how Indonesia and President Prabowo Subianto use rhetoric and communication strategies in global forums. This is important because Indonesia's role in the United Nations General Assembly and other international forums is growing, and how developing countries use addresses is becoming increasingly important in public diplomacy.

Methodology

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a pragmatic perspective, specifically Speech Act Theory, to examine language in use in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly. The descriptive approach was chosen because the study interprets the types of illocutionary acts, the rhetorical orientation of their force, and how these reflect Indonesia's power relations, rather than measuring them statistically. Content analysis (Weber, 1990) serves as the research technique for drawing replicable inferences from the transcribed text in relation to its context, whereas the linguistic framework through which the data were coded and interpreted is described under Analytical Framework.

The primary data source is the video recording of the address uploaded to the official United Nations YouTube channel on September 23, 2025. The transcript used in this study was produced manually by the researchers from the recording and verified by repeatedly cross-checking it against the recording to ensure that the wording was accurate and that no segments were omitted. The 80th session carries the theme "Together Better: 80 Years and More for Peace, Development, and Human Rights." President Prabowo Subianto was the third speaker to deliver his address, following Brazil and the United States. Purposive sampling was applied: utterances whose illocutionary force could be identified from linguistic cues and context were retained as data.

This study is grounded in Speech Act Theory, which views utterances as actions performed in context (Austin, 1962; Searle, 1979). It focuses on illocutionary acts, the communicative actions performed through speech classified into assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives following Searle (1979) taxonomy. Perlocutionary effects on the audience are beyond the scope of the study.

Illocutionary force is understood as the communicative force of an utterance, while power refers to the capacity to establish legitimacy and negotiate political position through language (Reid & Ng, 1999). Rather than parallel concepts, illocutionary force functions as the linguistic mechanism through which power is enacted, supported by the speaker's institutional authority.

To examine the strategic use of illocutionary force, the study integrates Aristotle's rhetorical appeals ethos, pathos, and logos (Braet, 1992). Speech Act Theory explains what an utterance does, whereas rhetorical analysis explains how it persuades. Since a single illocutionary act may serve different persuasive purposes, each utterance was coded according to its dominant rhetorical orientation based on the transcribed text rather than audience response.

Because illocutionary force is not always overtly marked, each unit was interpreted using two sources of evidence (Leech, 2016; Mey, 2001). The first is linguistic cues, such as sentence mood, modal and performative verbs, person deixis, and lexical choice. The second is context, considered at three levels: the co-text (the sentences immediately before and after the utterance, which served as the context unit), the situational context (the General Assembly session and its theme, the audience of member states, and the speaker's role as head of state), and the thematic context (the issue being addressed, such as colonial history, climate change, peacekeeping, or Palestine). The "Context of the Address" column in the tables summarizes this interpretation as a short description of the communicative function and topic of each excerpt.

Results and Discussion

This section presents the findings and discusses them in relation to the objectives of the study, which were to identify the types of illocutionary acts in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly and to analyze how illocutionary force is strategically utilized, through ethos, pathos, and logos, to convey political and diplomatic messages and to reflect and negotiate Indonesia's power relations and political position. The final part compares the findings with previous studies and explains their implications. Each excerpt was drawn from the 119 utterances analyzed and is presented with its context of use.

1. Types of Illocutionary Acts

This section presents the main findings from the analysis of the illocutionary classifications that appear in President Prabowo Subianto's Address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly. The analysis focuses on the text of the address that contains illocutionary elements. The presentation of the results is supported by direct excerpts from the text of the address and critical interpretations of the implied meanings. The following are the research results obtained.

Table 1. Types of Illocutionary

No	Illocutionary Acts	Number of Findings	Percentage (%)
1.	Assertive	57	47.90
2.	Directive	41	34.46
3.	Expressive	11	9.24
4.	Commissive	6	5.04
5.	Declarative	4	3.36
	Total	119	100

The data indicates that assertive act are the most frequently used, comprising 47.90% of the 119 speech act. These are typically used to convey the speaker's beliefs or to state facts, reflecting President Prabowo's efforts to assert Indonesia's position on global issues. Syntactically, assertives are typically marked by the declarative mood, that is, a declarative clause in the indicative mood in which the subject precedes the finite verb (Beauvais et al., 1987). In this address, they are usually realized in the present or past tense without the modal verbs of obligation (*must*) or the future markers (*will*) that mark directives and commissives, as in "We differ in race, religion and nationality" and "The United Nations stood with Indonesia and gave us vital assistance" (Table 2).

Directive act follow, accounting for 34.46%, signaling the president's attempts to influence the actions of others, often seen in calls for international cooperation or global reform. Expressive act (9.24%) reflect the speaker's psychological states or attitudes, such as gratitude, concern, or solidarity, while commissive act (5.04%) involve commitments to future action. Declarative act, though rare (3.36%), are significant as they represent official declarations or institutional changes, often carrying legal or political weight.

a. Assertive

This section presents findings on assertive speech act found in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly. The data obtained shows that this type of speech act was found 57 times in the text of the address. Several excerpts representing assertive speech act are presented in table 2, along with the context in which they were delivered.

Table 2. Excerpt of Assertive Speech Act

No	Address Excerpt	Context of the Address
1	"We differ in race, religion and nationality, yet we gather together today as one human family."	Stating facts and emphasizing the unity of humankind.
2.	"We are here first and foremost, as fellow human beings..."	Declaring moral/humanitarian positions as the basis for the meeting.
3.	"It also gave birth to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights..."	Continuing the explanation of cause and effect in informative statements.
4.	"We also continue to face today, grave, dangerous challenges..."	Describing the current state of the world in an informative manner.
5.	"My country knows this, for centuries Indonesians lived under colonial domination..."	Stating the historical facts of the Indonesian nation.
6.	"The Assembly gave Indonesia independence international legitimacy..."	Explanation of the role of institutions in Indonesia's independence.
7.	"The United Nations stood with Indonesia and gave us vital assistance."	Appreciative statements based on historical facts.

Table 2 presents seven excerpts identified as assertive speech acts in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. These

excerpts were selected as representative of a total of 57 instances of assertive speech acts found in the text of the speech. Each excerpt is accompanied by its context to indicate the conditions or section of the speech in which it was delivered. This type of speech act is characterized by the use of statements that convey facts, information, or beliefs, without involving actions such as requests, promises, or declarations.

b. Directive

This section presents the findings on directive speech acts in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly. Directive illocutionary acts are acts in which the speaker attempts to get the hearer to do something (Searle, 1979). Based on the analysis, 41 directive speech acts were found in the speech text. Several excerpts representing the use of directive speech acts are presented in Table 3 below, complete with the context in which they were delivered.

Table 3. Excerpt of Directive Speech Act

No	Address Excerpt	Context of the Address
1	"In the face of these challenges, we must not give up..."	An invitation to persevere and not give up.
2.	"We must draw closer, not drift apart."	A call to strengthen solidarity.
3.	"Together we must strive to achieve our hopes, our dreams."	A persuasive call for unity.
4.	"We must stand for all the strong and the weak."	A call for fairness towards all parties.
5.	"We must never be silent while Palestinians are denied that same justice..."	A call to not remain silent about the situation in Palestine; as a moral appeal.
6.	"It will take us maybe 20 years. But we have no choice. We have to start now."	A strong call to take immediate action.
7.	"We must reject this doctrine."	Normative rejection by directing towards a global attitude.

Table 3 contains seven excerpts identified as part of directive speech acts in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. These excerpts are part of a total of 41 instances of directive speech acts found in the text of the address. Each excerpt is accompanied by an explanation of the context in which it appeared to illustrate the situation in which it was delivered. Directive speech acts are characterized by the use of expressions that aim to encourage, request, or direct the listener to take a certain action.

c. Expressive

This section presents findings related to expressive speech acts found in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly. Expressive speech acts are used to convey the speaker's feelings, emotions, or personal reactions to something (Green, 2009). In this speech, expressive speech acts appeared 11 times. Several excerpts that represent expressive speech acts and their context are presented in table 4 below.

Table 4. Excerpt of Expressive Speech Act

No	Address Excerpt	Context of the Address
1	“His Excellency, Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations. Her Excellency, Madame Annalena Baerbock, President of the United Nations General Assembly.” *(and other officials)*	A form of diplomatic respect and greeting, as well as expressing respect to the audience.

No	Address Excerpt	Context of the Address
2.	"It is indeed a great honor to stand in this august General Assembly Hall, among leaders who represent almost all of humanity."	Expressing respect and personal feelings.
3.	"At this very moment, the innocent are crying for help. Are crying to be saved."	Expressions of empathy and concern.
4.	"We are all hopeful that the leaders of the world will show great statesmanship, great wisdom, restraint, and humility, overcome hate, overcome suspicion."	Expressions of hope and optimism.
5.	"Is this a dream? Maybe, but this is the beautiful dream that we must work together towards."	Expressions of hope and calls for collaboration.
6.	"Thank you."	Expression of gratitude

Table 4 shows a number of excerpts classified as expressive speech acts in President Prabowo Subianto's address. These utterances reflect statements that express personal feelings, such as respect, hope, empathy, and gratitude. This table presents six excerpts along with their context of use to illustrate the forms of expression that appear in the address. Expressive speech acts are identified in various parts of the address that touch on emotional and ethical aspects in a diplomatic and humanitarian context.

d. Commisive

This section presents findings on commissive speech acts in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly. Commissive speech acts are characterized by statements that express the speaker's promise, commitment, or intention to perform an action in the future (Mohammed, 2023). Analysis of the text shows that there are 6 commissive speech acts found. Several excerpts representing these commissive speech acts and their context of use are presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Excerpt of Commisive Speech Act

No	Address Excerpt	Context of the Address
1	"We remain committed to internationalism, multilateralism, and to every effort that strengthens this great institution."	A statement of commitment as a form of political promise.
2.	"We will never forget."	Emotional promises as a form of memory commitment.
3.	"We will continue to serve where peace needs guardians not with just words, but with boots on the ground."	Commitment to continue contributing.
4.	"We need the United Nations, and Indonesia will continue to support the United Nations."	Expressions of hope and optimism.
5.	"We choose to answer these challenges directly at home and to help abroad wherever we can."	Commitment to action and contribution.
6.	"We aim to reforest more than 12 million hectares of degraded land, to reduce forest degradation, and to empower local communities with quality green jobs for the future."	Commitment to empowerment and sustainable development.

Table 5 presents several excerpts classified as commissive speech acts from President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly. These excerpts illustrate the commitments and promises made by the speaker on various issues, both in the political and environmental contexts. Six excerpts were selected to represent the six findings of commissive speech acts in the entire address. Each excerpt is accompanied by context that indicates the purpose and situation in which the statement was made.

e. Declarative

This subsection presents the results of an analysis of declarative speech acts found in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Declarative speech acts are statements that officially change a situation or declare a decision, policy, or formal stance of the speaker or the institution they represent. Four declarative speech acts were found in the speech text. Several examples of excerpts representing these declarative speech acts and their context of use are shown in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Excerpt of Declarative Speech Act

No	Address Excerpt	Context of the Address
1	"We are also willing to contribute financially to support the great mission to achieve peace by the United Nations."	Declare concrete readiness to send peacekeeping forces.
2.	"Indonesia is prepared to deploy 20,000 or even more of our sons and daughters to secure peace in Gaza or elsewhere..."	Declare the country's official commitment to provide financial contributions.
3.	"I propose to this assembly a message of hope and optimism grounded in action and execution."	Submission of an official proposal to the UN General Assembly.
4.	"To close, I would like to reiterate again Indonesia's complete support for the Two-State Solution in Palestine."	Official statement on Indonesia's foreign policy.

Table 6 above presents examples of declarative speech acts found in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. These excerpts contain official statements conveying decisions, determinations, or formal support from Indonesia on international issues. Four excerpts were selected as representative of all declarative speech acts found in the address, each accompanied by the context in which it was used to provide an overview of the situation when the statement was delivered.

2. Strategic Use of Illocutionary Force

This section presents findings related to the strategic use of illocutionary force in the address. The analysis focuses on how illocutionary force is used as a form of power to achieve specific communication goals. The findings are presented based on the use of illocutionary force in the address, which is categorized into three main aspects, namely ethos, pathos, and logos:

Based on table 7 above, there were 119 illocutionary acts in President Prabowo Subianto's address, which were categorized into three types of classical rhetoric: ethos, pathos, and logos. Of the three categories, pathos was the most dominant, with 57 findings or 47.90% of the total data. This shows that the emotional aspect was the main element in the message delivery strategy in the address.

Table 7. Categories of Illocutionary Force

No	Rhetoric Category	Number of Findings	Percentage (%)
1	Ethos	36	30.25
2.	Pathos	57	47.90
3.	Logos	26	21.85
	Total	**119**	**100**

The ethos category appeared 36 times or around 30.25%, which shows the speaker's efforts to build personal and institutional credibility in front of an international audience. Meanwhile, the logos category was recorded 26 times or 21.85%, which reflects the use of logical arguments to reinforce the political and diplomatic messages conveyed.

a. Ethos

The first category found in the use of illocutionary force in President Prabowo Subianto's address is ethos. Ethos is persuasion through the character of the speaker, whereby the speaker comes across as credible. Credibility rests on the audience's perception of the speaker's practical wisdom, virtue, and goodwill, and it is constructed in the speech rather than relying solely on prior reputation (Braet, 1992). This finding indicates the presence of speech acts aimed at building the speaker's credibility, both as an individual and as a representative of the state. The following data are excerpts from the address that were identified as containing elements of ethos, along with the context in which they appeared.

Table 8. Excerpt of Ethos

No	Address Excerpt	Context of the Address
1	"Therefore we choose to confront climate change not by slogans, but by immediate steps."	Commitment and credibility through concrete actions.
2.	"My country knows this pain. For centuries, Indonesians lived under colonial domination, oppression, and slavery."	Emphasizing personal experience as a form of credibility
3.	"Indonesia is today one of the largest contributors to United Nation Peacekeeping Forces."	Building Indonesia's credibility and reputation on the international stage.
4.	"We must stand for multilateral order where peace, prosperity, and progress, are not the privilege of a few but the right of all.	Affirming commitment to shared principles.
5.	"No one country can bully the whole community of the human family."	Affirmation of the principles of justice and solidarity.

Table 8 shows five excerpts from President Prabowo Subianto's address that fall under the category of ethos. These findings reflect the use of illocutionary force aimed at demonstrating the credibility of the speaker and the country he represents. Several excerpts affirm his commitment to global issues such as climate change, Indonesia's historical experience, and active contribution to world peace. The context of each statement shows that ethos is built through the presentation of facts, historical experiences, and the affirmation of shared values.

b. Pathos

The second category of illocutionary force found in President Prabowo Subianto's address is pathos. Pathos is persuasion through the emotions of the audience, achieved by putting the audience in a particular frame of mind, since emotions such as anger, fear, and pity shape how people judge (Braet, 1992). In this category, the statements delivered contain emotional elements that aim to touch the audience's feelings and arouse empathy towards various global issues. The following data presents excerpts from the address that were identified as containing elements of pathos, along with the context in which they appeared.

Table 9. Excerpt of Pathos

No	Address Excerpt	Context of the Address
1	"Two descendants of Abraham must live in reconciliation, peace and harmony."	An emotional and idealistic call for peace.
2.	“The sea level on the north coast of our capital city is increasing by 5 centimeters every year. Can you imagine in ten years? In twenty years?”	Sparking imagination and emotional concerns.
3.	“Let us continue humanity's great journey of ideals the selfless aspirations that created the United Nations.”	Idealistic and inspiring call to action
4.	“Food, energy, and water insecurity haunt many nations.”	Causing a sense of urgency and concern.
5.	"Our world today is driven by conflict, injustice and deepening uncertainty."	Arousing concern and social anxiety.

Table 9 contains five excerpts that fall under the category of pathos. These excerpts demonstrate the use of illocutionary force directed at eliciting an emotional response from the audience. These statements highlight humanitarian issues, environmental crises, and global uncertainty in a way that appeals to the emotions, such as through idealistic appeals, rhetorical questions, or descriptions of the challenging state of the world. The context of each excerpt shows that emotional elements are used to create closeness and empathy from the audience towards the issues raised.

c. Logos

In addition to ethos and pathos, the rhetorical element of logos is also found in President Prabowo Subianto's address. Braet (1992) clarifies that logos is argumentation directly relevant to the issue at hand, whereas ethos and pathos can also be built through argumentation whose conclusion concerns the speaker’s character or the audience’s emotions This category includes statements that convey facts, data, or cause-and-effect relationships as the basis for argumentation. The following table presents a number of excerpts that reflect the use of illocutionary force oriented towards logical aspects, complete with the context in which they appear.

Table 10. Excerpt of Logos

No	Address Excerpt	Context of the Address
1	“The use of violence will beget violence.”	Logical cause-and-effect statements.
2.	"The world's population is growing. Our planet is under strain."	The reality of the world's condition.
3.	“The United Nations was born from the ashes of the Second World War that claimed scores of millions of lives.”	Historical facts as the logical basis for institutions.
4.	“We differ in race, religion, and nationality, yet we gather together as one human family.”	General facts that form the logical basis for unity.
5.	“As the world's largest island state, we testify before you that we are already experiencing the direct consequences of climate change, particularly the threat of rising sea levels.”	Stating concrete facts and empirical evidence.

Table 10 displays five excerpts from President Prabowo Subianto's address categorized as logos. These statements demonstrate the use of illocutionary force that emphasizes logic, facts, and rational reasoning to support the message being conveyed. Some excerpts use cause-and-effect relationships, concrete data, and objective historical references. The context of each excerpt shows that logical elements are used to strengthen arguments and provide a rational basis for the statements in the address.

Taken together, the two layers of analysis show that the address combines statements, calls to action, and expressions of attitude, relying primarily on emotional appeal while reinforcing credibility and reasoned premises. This pattern is discussed in relation to previous studies from political, speaker-related, and linguistic perspectives.

The predominance of assertives is consistent with studies of Indonesian addresses at the UN General Assembly (Febrina et al., 2026; Mahardika & Zuraida, 2025), reflecting the function of general debate speeches in presenting national positions before urging collective action (Reid & Ng, 1999). However, comparisons across sessions show that speech-act distributions vary according to context rather than speaker alone. Differences from Putri et al. (2024) and Febrina et al. (2026) are likely influenced by session themes, geopolitical conditions, and coding decisions, particularly in classifying utterances that may function as either directives or commissives.

The rhetorical findings likewise extend previous research. Ethos is more prominent than in studies of Mahathir Mohamad's speeches, reflecting the need to establish Indonesia's credibility before a global audience through its historical experience and contemporary contributions. Pathos, the dominant rhetorical appeal, aligns with findings on humanitarian speeches (Nik Fauzi & Ting, 2025), suggesting that emotional appeal is central in addressing humanitarian and environmental crises. By contrast, logos appears least frequently, indicating that the address relies more on presenting premises than on developing extended arguments, leaving audiences to infer the conclusions.

Speaker-related factors also contribute, although the evidence is limited. As President Prabowo Subianto's first UN General Assembly address, the speech emphasizes Indonesia's history, contributions, and readiness to act in order to establish national credibility. His background as Minister of Defense may also strengthen the credibility of proposals such as peacekeeping, although this cannot be verified from the speech text alone.

The findings further show a distinction between collective and personal voice: the inclusive "we" is mainly used for directives and expressions of hope, while "I" is reserved for institutional acts such as proposing and reiterating, a pattern also observed by (Kamil et al., 2022). Moreover, the institutional setting shapes the range of speech acts. Finally, although Alfianyah et al. (2025) examined ideology rather than speech acts, their findings similarly highlight national identity and Indonesia's international positioning as recurring themes in Prabowo's speeches to foreign audiences.

Several linguistic observations refine these comparisons. First, coding decisions influence speech-act distributions, particularly for modal constructions such as "We must...", which may be classified as either directives or commissives depending on their illocutionary force. Second, although *pathos* is the dominant rhetorical orientation, it is realized mainly through assertives and directives rather than expressives, reflecting the formal nature of diplomatic discourse.

Third, different speech acts serve distinct rhetorical purposes: ethos is constructed through assertives, commissives, and directives emphasizing Indonesia's history, contributions, and commitments, whereas *logos* is realized primarily through assertives presenting facts and causal relations. This supports treating illocutionary force and rhetorical orientation as complementary analytical layers. Fourth, rhetorical devices such as rhetorical questions, antithesis, triads, and the frequent use of inclusive "we" strengthen persuasion by fostering urgency, solidarity, and shared identity.

Overall, the findings suggest that illocutionary patterns in diplomatic speeches are jointly shaped by political context, the speaker and institutional setting, and coding decisions. They also demonstrate the value of combining speech-act and rhetorical analyses to better explain persuasive strategies in diplomatic discourse.

Conclusion

This study examined the illocutionary acts in President Prabowo Subianto's address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly and their rhetorical orientation (ethos, pathos, and logos) in conveying Indonesia's political and diplomatic messages. Using qualitative content analysis, 119 utterances were coded according to Searle's (1979) speech-act classification and Aristotelian rhetorical appeals.

The findings show that all five illocutionary acts are present, with assertives dominating (47.90%), followed by directives (34.46%), expressives (9.24%), commissives (5.04%), and declaratives (3.36%). Rhetorically, pathos is the dominant orientation (47.90%), followed by ethos (30.25%) and logos (21.85%). Assertives establish Indonesia's credibility through historical and contemporary contributions, directives frame action as collective responsibility through the inclusive *"we,"* while commissives and declaratives express institutional commitment and official positions. Emotional appeal is conveyed mainly through assertives and directives rather than expressives, reflecting the formal nature of diplomatic discourse. These patterns are shaped by political context, institutional setting, and coding decisions.

Overall, the study demonstrates that integrating speech-act and rhetorical analysis provides a useful framework for explaining persuasion and the negotiation of political position in diplomatic discourse. While limited to a single transcribed speech, the findings offer practical insights for diplomatic communication and suggest that future research should compare speeches across leaders and sessions using shared coding criteria and multimodal approaches.

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