

## Expressive Speech in the Vice Presidential Debate in the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024

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### ABSTRACT

When communicating speech, a person uses various forms of speech, one of which is expressive speech. The unique phenomenon contained in this expressive speech is that the expressions shown by a person contain many things directly or indirectly. This research focuses on the form, function and meaning of expressive speech in the Vice Presidential debate in the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. Data and sources from the three vice presidential candidates who were watched through the broadcast of the vice presidential debate of the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024. The data collection techniques used are listening techniques, note-taking techniques and documentation techniques. Data analysis techniques applied in this study include: identifying, classifying, analyzing, presenting and concluding. The result of the research found that the form of expressive speech consists of four parts, the function is divided into six and the meaning consists of four types. Research on expressive speech is expected to be studied more broadly, so that it does not only focus on the three problem formulations.

## **INTRODUCTION**

When communicating speech, a person uses various forms of speech, one of which is expressive speech. The unique phenomenon contained in this expressive speech is that the expressions shown by a person contain many things directly or indirectly. A speech or dialog is certainly inseparable from a discourse. According to Eriyanto (2013), discourse is a language unit that is larger than a sentence. Furthermore, Eriyanto said that discourse analysis is used to reveal certain intentions and meanings, especially those contained in expressive speech acts that appear in a conversation or dialog. According to Djou et al, (2023) expressive speech is a form of speech that explains the psychological attitude of the speaker or speakers in a situation. The definition is simplified by Rustono who expresses his opinion on expressive speech in the form of actions intended by the speaker to express judgment, emotion, or attitude towards the things discussed in the speech.

Speech does not only occur in the immediate environment, but can be found in various activities, such as debates. Debate is a communication activity between one individual or group who argue with each other to defend their respective opinions. Political debates are often used as a means to convey the vision, mission, and work programs of presidential and vice presidential candidates. Political debates allow presidential and vice presidential candidates to directly communicate with the public and highlight differences of opinion and ideology between them. Through debates, especially question and answer sessions, it is one of the effective ways for voters to evaluate the quality of prospective leaders, both in terms of how they ask and how they answer. Debate activities are a good place to generate ideas expressed through oral speech.

In debates, participants usually strive to present their arguments in an interesting and persuasive way, using strong and effective language to communicate their message to the listener or audience. Such speech refers to the concept of language as a complex communication tool involving various aspects both consciously and unconsciously. In a debate context situation, participants not only use language to convey their ideas and arguments (as speakers), but also respond and interact with the arguments of their debate opponents (as speech partners). In the context of speech, Nasarudin ddk, (2023) states that the speaker is a person who conveys something with a specific purpose or intention, while the speech partner is the person who is the opponent or recipient of the speech in the interaction.

Based on the statements that have been described previously, researchers are interested in conducting research on the speech of the three vice presidential candidates, namely the conversation that took place between candidate number one, Muhaimin Iskandar, candidate number two, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, and candidate number three, Mahfud MD. The reason for choosing the Vice Presidential debate in the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024 as the object of research, because in it there are various expressive speeches from both candidate pairs number one, two and three who are debating, also because the topics discussed are still being discussed by the Indonesian people until now. The Vice Presidential Debate which should be one of the platforms to

express the vision, mission and program to the public gets serious attention from the public.

Therefore, in the first and second episodes of the vice presidential debate there are many expressive utterances, this is marked in candidate pair number two who expresses his answer by criticizing candidate pair number three, the function of criticizing utterances is interpreted with dislike in expressive utterances. The gap between the research conducted by previous researchers and the research being conducted lies in the approach used and the focus of the study under study as well as some research novelty. This study aims to describe the form, function and meaning of expressive speech contained in the Vice Presidential debate event at the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis is a study approach in linguistics that focuses on language used in social contexts, not just formal language structures. The main goal is to understand the meaning contained in the text or utterance by considering the relationship between language, speakers, listeners and the communication situation behind it. According to Tarigan (2021) discourse is one language, the most complete/largest above sentences/clauses, regular, continuous, sense of cohesion, oral/written, real beginning/end. Discourse and speech are two complementary approaches in understanding language use and social context. The diversity of discourse reflects the diversity of speech, because in every communication event there are various forms and purposes of speech that form the whole meaning. Therefore, in studying discourse, speech analysis or speech acts can be utilized as one of the approaches in the study.

### Expressive Speech

Expressive speech according to Searle (1979) is reflecting the speaker's psychological statement towards a certain emotional or psychological state. Expressive speech is one of the categories included in illocution. In relation to the debate, there is communication between the pairs of vice presidential candidates number one, two and three who act as speakers and speech partners in a conversational situation that expresses expressions about the psychological state of the candidates.

### Expressive Speech Forms

Expressive speech forms function to express or show the speaker's psychological attitude towards a situation. According to Searle (2007), one form of speech can serve various functions depending on the speaker's situation. In line with this opinion, Wijana (2018) divides expressive speech forms classified into four, namely direct literal, indirect literal, direct non-literal and indirect non-literal.

### **Function of Expressive Speech**

The function of expressive speech is to express or describe the speaker's psychological attitude towards the situation implied in the illocution, based on this definition, it can be understood that the function in the context of debate refers to the speech of the vice-presidential candidates which expresses and implies a psychological attitude towards the situation or circumstances in the debate. Some of the speech functions mentioned by Searle can be described as saying thank you, apologizing, criticizing, praising, blaming and complaining.

### **Meaning of Expressive Speech**

Meaning is the relationship formed between language elements, especially words. Meaning refers to the intention that the speaker wants to convey, the influence of a language unit in understanding human perception or behavior, and the relationship that reflects the similarity or difference between language and aspects outside the language. The issue of meaning is quite complex because it is always connected with speech, both in the form of words and sentences, Yani (2023). The meanings found in this study consist of four such as, joy, dislike, difficulty and regret..

## **METHODOLOGY**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach to describe in detail the phenomenon of expressive speech that appears in the Vice Presidential debate in the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024. This research reveals the speech uttered by the three vice presidential candidates, Muhaimin Iskandar, Gibran Rakabuming Raka and Mahfud MD in the vice presidential debate. This study obtained data in the form, function and meaning of expressive speech sourced from the broadcast of the Vice Presidential debate on the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024. The data collection technique consists of three namely, listening technique, note-taking technique and documentation technique. The data analysis technique used in this study refers to the analysis proposed by Patton, that data analysis is the process of compiling detailed and systematic data that organizes in a pattern, category and basic description unit. After the data is collected, the next step is to process the data with stages such as, identifying, classifying, analyzing, presenting and concluding.

## **RESEARCH RESULTS**

### **Forms of Expressive Speech**

Based on the results of the data on the forms of expressive speech found in the Vice Presidential debate on the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024 on the Metro TV Youtube channel, it can be categorized into four parts, namely, direct literal, indirect literal, direct non-literal and indirect non-literal.

**Direct literal** speech is speech that is expressed with the same mode of speech and meaning as the intention of its expression, for example: the intention of commanding is conveyed with a command sentence, reporting with a news

sentence, asking something with an interrogative sentence. This means that it conveys a clear and direct meaning according to the meaning of the words.

"We look at the air, our airplanes, it turns out that there is also a lot of corruption in the air. What is the result? The people are poor. Then I remember my island Madura is rich in natural gas but until now it has never been optimized for Madura. So the key is how we eradicate corruption." (Mahfud, 26.09, 22/12/23)

The above discourse fragment shows that the speaker conveys criticism or views related to corruption, there is no use of figures of speech or parables in this statement, the meaning is conveyed clearly. The words used are literal in accordance with their literal meaning. "corruption in the air" refers to corruption that occurs in the aviation industry, and "poor people" means that the impact of corruption is the poverty of the people. The statement about natural gas in Madura refers to the wealth of natural resources that have not been optimized, "eradicating corruption" also literally refers to efforts to eliminate corruption.

**Literal indirect speech** is speech that is expressed with a sentence mode that is not in accordance with the purpose of the utterance, but the meaning of the words that compose it is in accordance with the meaning of the words intended by the speaker. This means that it conveys the true meaning indirectly, but still uses the literal meaning of the words.

"The principle is simple, everything goes back to Mr. Gibran's ethics. Ethics, once again ethics. Perhaps if we guess the definition here I doubt that we are elementary, junior high school level or perhaps our diplomas are all fake here, this is what is surprising" (Muhaimin, 2.00.45, 21/1/24).

The fragment of discourse above shows that the speaker indirectly criticizes the understanding or competence of speech partners related to ethics. The speaker conveys criticism explicitly, using rhetoric that insinuates about the level of education and the authenticity of the diploma, which is an indirect way to express dissatisfaction or doubt about the knowledge or ability of the interlocutor. The sentences that state non-literal are "I doubt we are elementary, junior high school level" and "our diplomas are all fake here" these sentences do not mean literally that the speech partners have fake diplomas or low education, this is an insinuation used to convey the message that knowledge or understanding of ethics is considered very lacking.

**Non-literal direct speech** is speech that is expressed with a sentence mode that is in accordance with the purpose of the speech, but the words that compose it do not have the same meaning as the speaker's intention, for example, the intention of commanding is expressed with a command sentence, and the intention of informing with a news sentence, and so on. This means that the speech is direct in its delivery, but uses expressions or words that are not meant literally.

"Yes, it is true that there is still a game between the development of digital technology and the ability of our MSMEs. Therefore, it must be continued, Mr. Mahfud, in addition to the eradication of online loans, online gambling must also be continued, because it is not comprehensive in handling this so that pinjol is still rampant, online gambling is still rampant, which is more important than that, Mr. Mahfud, that actually the ability to enter the digital world requires assistance from the government to intervene" (Muhaimin, 41.45, 22/12/23).

The above discourse fragment shows that the speaker conveys his opinion and criticism explicitly and directly, without any concealment of meaning. The speaker directly mentions the name of the speech partner or debate opponent, namely Mr. Mahfud by stating "it must be continued, Mr. Mahfud," which leads to a request or hope that actions related to the problem of online loans and online gambling are continued or taken more seriously. In addition, the statement "this online gambling still has to be diselepet again" also uses non-literal language. "diselepet" does not mean literally to teach a lesson or punish, but expresses criticism of the way the problem is handled, which is considered ineffective. The phrase "because it is not comprehensive in handling this" also contains a deeper meaning that shows dissatisfaction with the existing approach, without using fully literal language.

**Indirect non-literal speech** is speech that is expressed with a sentence mode and sentence meaning that is not in accordance with the intention to be expressed. This means that it is not direct in its delivery and uses expressions or words that are not meant literally.

"IKN is not only building government buildings but also as a symbol of equitable development in Indonesia, as a symbol of the transformation of development in Indonesia" (Gibran, 1.00.01. 22/12/23).

The above discourse fragment shows that the speaker discusses IKN directly, the statement has a symbolic meaning that is not meant literally. "as a symbol of equitable development" and "as a symbol of development transformation" do not describe the physical or concrete aspects of IKN, but rather refer to more abstract values or goals, namely equitable development and socio-economic transformation in Indonesia. The speaker does not directly discuss the technical or structural aspects of IKN's construction, but rather highlights the meaning to be conveyed through the construction, which is a symbol of broader change. In other words, this speech conveys a larger idea or concept of equity and transformation, not just a building or infrastructure that is built, making it indirect and non-literal speech.

### **Function of Expressive Speech**

Based on the classification of research data on the function of expressive speech in the Vice Presidential debate on the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024 on the Metro TV Youtube channel, functions such as, saying

thank you, apologizing, criticizing, praising, blaming and complaining were found.

Saying thank you is a speech that has the meaning of gratitude experienced by the speaker. This expression is a form of politeness norms that require the expression of gratitude as a form of appreciation.

The discourse above shows the gratitude uttered by the speaker as a closing statement that shows respect for his debate opponent and the audience in the debate forum.

**Apologizing** is a speech that is interpreted with regret for mistakes or actions that harm, hurt or violate social norms, admit mistakes, avoid conflict, and show politeness towards the actions that the speaker has taken against the opponent.

*"It seems that Prof. Mahfud is a bit cranky, because I have asked difficult questions twice, please apologize in advance sir" (Gibran, 2.07.16, 21/1/24).*

The discourse above shows that the speaker apologizes because the speaker realizes that the questions asked cause uncomfortable feelings. The apology aims to reduce tension and maintain good relations with debate opponents or interlocutors at the vice presidential debate.

**Criticizing** is a speech that has the meaning of dissatisfaction, disagreement, or negative assessment of a situation that occurs in the Vice Presidential debate on the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024 on the Metro TV youtube channel.

The data above shows that the speaker expresses subtle insinuations with the phrase "not a record of the Constitutional Court" this shows an insinuation statement against speech partners who violate the rules of the Constitutional Court regarding the age limit of presidential and vice presidential candidates of at least 40 years. However, vice president number two, Gibran, who is only 36 years old, still passed the Constitutional Court's decision.

**Praising** is a speech that expresses speech or utterances that are admiration or appreciation for other people or other things, which are considered good, pleasant and all things that are positive.

*"Mr. Gibran has succeeded in becoming the Mayor as well as a successful businessman, even various large projects have been successfully built in Solo" (Muhaimin, 1.40.49. 22/12/23).*

The speech data above shows that the speaker appreciates the performance of the number two vice president for his success in building various large projects in Solo. The statement clearly emphasizes Gibran's achievements and successes in carrying out his role as Mayor of Solo.

**Complaining** is a speech that is interpreted as an expression of disappointment and suffering. The vice president uses complaints to highlight weaknesses in government performance policies with the aim of showing the need for change or improvement of events that occur.

“I met a man named Teddy and Johnny in Padang, an employee or two of a trucking company stated that they could never get the oil subsidy provided by the state because it never reached the corruption” (Mahfud, 26.16, 22/12/23).

The data above shows that the speaker is complaining about the injustice that occurs, namely trucking employees who do not get oil subsidies because of corruption that hinders the distribution of state aid. The statement “it never reached the corruption” shows a sense of disappointment with the misuse of aid that should have reached the community.

**Blame** is a speech act that is uttered by expressing the speaker's feeling that another party is responsible for a particular problem or situation, by blaming actions or policies that are considered detrimental.

“Farmers are the helpers of the country, but today we see the state and government neglecting our farmers and fishermen” (Muhaimin, 26.57, 21/1/24).

The data above shows the speaker's disappointment with the government's attitude which is considered not paying attention to farmers and fishermen. This speech directly blames the state and the government as the party responsible for these conditions. “Farmers are the helpers of the country”, meaning that the speaker emphasizes how important the role of farmers is, but instead they do not get the proper attention. This certainly strengthens the impression of blaming the government.

### **Meaning of Expressive Speech**

The classification of the meaning of expressive speech in the Vice Presidential debate on the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024 on the Metro TV Youtube channel is based on four types, namely the meaning of joy, dislike, difficulty and regret. The following is the data presentation:

**The meaning of joy** is based on several aspects, namely expressing a sense of happiness, satisfaction, or optimism about an achievement, policy, or opportunity in the future.

“Alhamdulillah, Gusti Allah gave me the opportunity to be together with Mas Anies who has the same thoughts for the realization of change and improvement, even the two of us are like a bottle with a lid” (Muhaimin, 30.09, 22/12,23).

The utterance in the data above shows that the speaker indirectly shows happiness for the opportunity given. The use of the word "Alhamdulillah" contains positive emotions and shows joyful acceptance. The phrase "having the same thoughts for the realization of change and improvement" shows satisfaction and happiness for finding a common vision and mission with his political partner, Anies Baswedan. In addition, the speaker gives a metaphor for himself and his political partner, namely "like a bottle with a lid" describing perfect harmony and compatibility. This expression strengthens the impression of happiness and comfort in cooperation, because they feel they have an ideal partner in political struggle.

**The meaning of dislike** is based on the form of criticism, dissatisfaction, innuendo against debate opponents or certain issues spoken by the vice presidential candidates. This means that the meaning of expressive speech of dislike is used by speakers to express disagreement with the arguments of the opponent, a sense of disappointment with certain policies, actions or conditions. The following is the data description and explanation,

"Cak Imin, the vice presidential candidate for candidate one, what you said earlier I think is very normative. It should be, it should be, it should be, it should be. In the field sir, investment is difficult sir, the procedures are long-winded" (Mahfud, 50.47, 22/12/23).

The above speech shows the speaker's expression criticizing his debate opponent. The repetition of "should, should, should, should" serves as an insinuation that the debate opponent talks too much about what is ideal without considering reality. This strengthens the tone of criticism and dislike for approaches that are considered unrealistic. In addition, speakers also show a form of dislike for answers that are considered not in accordance with facts in the field through the words "in the field sir, investment is difficult sir, the procedure is long-winded" meaning that this shows a form of dislike.

**The meaning of difficulty** is used by speakers or vice-presidential candidates to highlight issues related to problems faced by the community and the government. In addition, speakers also use the meaning of difficulty as empathy for the condition of the community or describe the struggle to overcome the situation. The following is a description of the data explanation, namely:

"Corruption and it really happens, let's see, based on the results of international transparency CG corruption occurs in the legislature, executive, and judiciary on a large scale" (Mahfud, 25.23, 22/12/23).

The above speech shows an affirmation by the speaker based on frustration with the fact that corruption really occurs and is rampant in various state institutions. This means that this reflects a complaint about the condition of the country, the statement that corruption occurs in "legislative, executive and

judicial institutions on a large scale”, this shows deep concern and the impression that this problem is widespread and difficult to overcome, therefore the speech is included in the expression of difficulty in dealing with the problem.

**The meaning of regret** is based on the vice president's expression that shows an apology for the awareness of the mistakes that have been made. Data on the meaning of regret is the least data that appears, following the description of the results and explanations, as follows:

"Once again Gus apologizes. IKN is not only building government buildings but also as a symbol of equitable development in Indonesia, as a symbol of the transformation of development in Indonesia" (Gibran, 1.00.01, 22/12/23).

The above speech shows an expression of regret by the speaker. An apology is a form of admission of error or disagreement, which reflects guilt or regret for the arguments that have been said during the debate. After apologizing, the speaker provides clarification regarding the Capital City of the Archipelago (IKN). This shows that the speaker feels the need to straighten or clarify his point, which is often accompanied by a sense of regret because the previous statement was misunderstood by the debate opponent. From these utterances, it can be understood that an apology is included in the meaning of regret.

## **DISCUSSION**

Overall from the description of the data above, the form of expressive speech of the vice presidential candidates is dominated by Mahfud MD, namely as candidate number three. This can be seen from the speech uttered by Mahfud MD which is more prominent than other candidates. Judging from the mastery of the material, the communication style and fact-based arguments make the answers given easier to understand by the public. In addition, the number three vice president is an academic and former Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs (Menko Polhukam) so that he shows his understanding of the issues discussed in the debate.

The expressions addressed by the three vice-presidential candidates drew positive and negative responses from the public, especially the second vice-presidential candidate, Gibran, who showed a relaxed, calm and confident communication style. Despite facing two more senior opponents, Gibran's difference with other candidates is in the delivery of arguments that tend to be long in explaining, Gibran is more concise and direct to the core of the discussion. This makes his answers more straightforward and easy to understand, especially for the younger generation.

Vice Presidential candidate number one, Muhaimin Iskandar, showed a lack of assertiveness in presenting his arguments. When responding to important issues such as law, economy, and people's welfare, Muhaimin often gives general answers and lacks depth, and does not provide clear solutions. It seems that Muhaimin is not as strong as Mahfud MD in mastering the material or as practical as Gibran in delivering the program.

Based on the results of the speech of the three pairs of candidates in the Vice Presidential debate in the 2024 Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia, to support this research, researchers use the theory put forward by Wijana (2018) which divides the form into four types, including: direct literal, indirect literal, direct non-literal, and indirect non-literal speech acts. As for the theory on function, it refers to the opinion put forward by Searle who divides the functions of expressive speech into six namely, thanking, apologizing, criticizing, praising, complaining and blaming.

The theory used in analyzing the meaning of expressive speech is using the general theory that meaning is the meaning contained in a word or sentence. According to the definition put forward by Alan in his book "Natural Language Semantics" explains that the meaning contained in human language refers to natural language, namely natural language as interpreted and understood by language users in the communication process (2018).

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results and discussion in the previous section, it can be concluded that: The form of expressive speech in the Vice Presidential debate on the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024 on Metro TV's Youtube channel is classified into four categories: direct literal, indirect literal, direct non-literal, and indirect non-literal. Each category describes the variation in the way of speech delivery used by the three vice presidential candidates in expressing their opinions or attitudes during the debate. Overall, the data on the forms of expressive speech that have been presented in the results section show that the number three vice president, Mahfud MD, dominates in direct literal and indirect literal.

The function of expressive speech in the Vice Presidential debate on the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024 on the Metro TV YouTube channel can be categorized in several aspects such as, thanking, apologizing, criticizing, praising, complaining and blaming. This expressive speech function describes the way the three vice presidential candidates convey emotional reactions to the issues discussed and their debate opponents, both in the form of appreciation, regret, dissatisfaction, and negative judgment. The overall data on the expressive speech function shows that vice president number two, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, is more prominent in the functions of saying thank you, apologizing and criticizing.

The meaning of expressive speech in the Vice Presidential debate on the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024 on Metro TV's YouTube channel includes expressions of joy, dislike, difficulty and regret. Each of these meanings reflects the attitudes and feelings that the three vice presidential candidates want to convey towards the situations they face and towards their debate opponents. The data on the meaning of expressive speech shows that vice president number two, Gibran Bumingraka Rakabuming Raka and vice president number three, Mahfud MD, are more prominent. Vice Presidential candidate number one, Muhaimin Iskandar, shows a less assertive expression in presenting his arguments. When responding to important issues such as law,

economy, and people's welfare, Muhaimin often gives general answers and lacks depth, and does not provide clear solutions. It seems that Muhaimin is not as strong as Mahfud MD in mastering the material or as practical as Gibran in delivering the program.

Research on expressive speech in the Vice Presidential debate on the Presidential Election of the Republic of Indonesia in 2024 on the Metro TV YouTube channel, shows that expressive speech has variations in form, function, and meaning that reflect the candidates' communication strategies to convey emotional expressions and attitudes towards debate opponents, both in the form of approval, disagreement, criticism, and appreciation.

This study recommends Indonesian Language Teachers to develop expressive speech into learning so that it can improve reading, listening and analyzing oral text skills. Teachers can choose debate segments that contain expressive speech, then adapt them into listening and role-playing exercises. Through expressive speech, a comparison can also be made regarding expressive speech in the vice-presidential debate with student discussions in the classroom.

### **FURTHER RESEARCH**

It is hoped that further research can explore several aspects, such as: 1) Examine expressive speech more broadly, not only focusing on the formulation of problems regarding the form, function and meaning of expressive speech in the vice presidential debate. 2) Through this research, it is hoped that further researchers can use discourse analysis theory as a tool to analyze expressive speech. Thus, it is not only limited to pragmatics theory. 3) Debates in the local context, further research can examine expressive speech in local languages or multilingualism. This enriches the understanding of cross-cultural expressivity.

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