

THESIS
SPEECH ACT IN AL JAZEERA'S COVERAGE OF THE 2023
GAZA WAR: A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS



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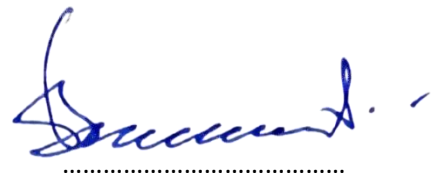
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Thereby, I truly certify this certificate of originality.

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MOTTO

“Every problem has a solution. Allah says, “Indeed, with every difficulty there is ease” (QS. Al-Insyirah: 6).

“And it’s fine to fake it ‘til you make it ‘til you do, ‘til it’s true” (Snow On The Beach—Taylor Swift).

“Behind every achievement is a story of tears, patience, and courage that no one else can see.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Allah SWT for giving me health, patience, and strength to finish this thesis entitled *“Speech Act In Al-Jazeera’s Of The 2023 Gaza War: A Pragmatic Analysis.”*

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the people who have supported me during this journey:

1. Prof. Dr. Ir. Rr. Nugrahini Susantinah Wisnujati, M.Si., as rector of Wijaya Kusuma Surabaya University.
2. Dra. Anik Kirana, M.Pd., as a chairman of the Teacher Training and Education Faculty.
3. Dr. Drs Bana Supeno, M.Hum., M.Pd., as my first Advisor Lecturer, thank you for your time, guidance, patience, and helpful suggestions in writing this thesis.
4. Dr. Amirrudin Hadi Wibowo, M.Pd., as my Second Advisor Lecturer, thank you for your support, clear feedback, and valuable corrections, which helped me improve this thesis.
5. Dra. Siti Azizah, M.Pd., as my Examiner, thank you for your comments, suggestions, corrections, and valuable input during the thesis defense. Your guidance helped me improve my work and gave me more confidence.
6. To all my English department teachers, I truly appreciate your support and the lessons that have helped me grow academically and personally. Thank you for the knowledge, motivation, and support you have given me throughout my years of study.
7. To my father, Eko Wahyudi, and my mother, Nurhasanah Kurniasari, thank you for your unconditional love, endless prayers, and unwavering emotional and financial support. Your sacrifices, patience, and trust have been my greatest strength throughout this journey. I am also deeply grateful to my grandmother, Sri Rochani Utami, and my family for their love, prayers, and constant encouragement.
8. To Nurshabirah Artanti, my younger sister, and also to my best friends, Mohammad Ilham and Rahadian Adi Saputra—thank you for always listening, supporting me, and keeping me company when I felt lonely; for being there for

me when I was sad; for motivating me when I struggled to overcome the problems I faced; and for helping me when I found it difficult to make decisions, especially during the process of writing this thesis.

9. To my beloved Ivon Anggraeni Pratiwi and Rachma Agustin, thank you for your support, kindness, and friendship, which have helped me stay motivated and keep working together on this thesis. I love you both so much.

10. Last but not least, I would like to thank myself, Talitha Tsabitah Vania, for staying strong, believing in myself, and never giving up throughout this journey. This thesis reflects my patience, perseverance, and personal growth, and I am proud of how far I have come. I hope this thesis will be useful for its readers and inspire future students to explore similar topics. May Allah bless and reward everyone who has supported me throughout this journey.

Surabaya, 16th July 2026

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ABSTRACT

Vania, Tsabitah Talitha. 22620007. *Speech Act in Al Jazeera's Coverage of the 2023 Gaza War: A Pragmatic Analysis*. Department of English Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Wijaya Kusuma Surabaya University, 2026.

This research explores the use of speech acts in Al Jazeera's coverage of the 2023 Gaza War, focusing on identifying and classifying both illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. The study is based on John Searle's (1969, 1975, 1979) theory, developed from Austin's (1962) work, which explains that language is not only used to convey meaning but also to perform actions such as reporting, appealing, lamenting, or influencing others. Speech acts help us understand the deeper functions of language, especially in news reporting on armed conflict.

The main purpose of this research is to describe what types of speech acts are used by journalists and quoted sources in the coverage. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method, where data were collected from nine Al Jazeera news articles, transcribed, and analyzed. Each utterance was categorized into types of illocutionary or perlocutionary acts.

The findings show that there are 76 speech acts in total: 64 illocutionary acts (including 35 assertives, 9 directives, 10 expressives, 5 commissives, and 5 declaratives) and 12 perlocutionary acts. The results indicate that Al Jazeera uses language not only to report facts but also to appeal, express emotion, and influence public understanding of the conflict. These findings support Searle's theory and demonstrate how speech acts function in media discourse, especially in conflict reporting that involves humanitarian urgency, responsibility, and framing.

This research is expected to be helpful for students, teachers, and future researchers who are interested in language use in media and pragmatic analysis.

Keywords: *Speech Act Theory, Illocutionary Act, Perlocutionary Act, Al Jazeera News Discourse, 2023 Gaza War Media Coverage*

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