

Uniting for Peace: A Speech Act Analysis of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 377 A (V)

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Abstract

This study examines the use of speech acts in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution number 377 A (V). Using Bach's (2003) speech acts categorizations, the study aims to identify the illocutionary and perlocutionary acts used in the resolution as it aims to examine how the resolution is constructed and interpreted. The study reveals that the resolution incorporates instances of directive, constative and commissive illocutionary acts. The perlocutionary effects of the directive illocutionary acts comprise instructing, advising, urging, requesting and recommending; the perlocutionary effects of the constative illocutionary acts include reaffirming, recognizing, and stating; and the perlocutionary effects of the commissive illocutionary acts encompass assuring and inviting. It is also found that the resolution is constructed using two structural patterns: the constative-directive pattern to recognize accountability then provide regulative directives (herewith, it shall be that) and the commissive-constative-directive pattern to renew commitment, recognize responsibilities and provide regulative directives. The study furthermore reveals that the resolution encompasses high degree of imposition in the regulatory directive illocutionary acts, but the level of imposition varied when addressing entities. The resolution comprises high degree of imposition in addressing the General Assembly, the Secretary General and committees but low (weakened) degree of imposition in addressing the Security Council, which reflects different power relations in discourse.

Keywords: speech acts, Illocutionary acts, perlocutionary acts, power distance, general assembly

1. Introduction

'Uniting for Peace' is the given title for the General Assembly's 377 A (V) resolution¹, which was adopted on 3 November 1950. It intends to balance power in the United Nations if there is no unanimity between the Security Council nations or there is dissatisfaction with the policies of the veto members (The US, Russia, Britain, France, and China). However, any application to convene a session in reference to the 377 A (V) resolution requires the agreement of at least one permanent member and it has a number of steps that need to be followed. For example, if the Assembly is not in session, the Assembly may conduct an emergency special session. In addition, the session shall come up with recommendations that may include the use of force. As such, the activation of the General Assembly's 377 A (V) resolution does not replace the Security Council.

Up to date, eleven emergency special sessions have been conveyed to discuss ending conflicts in Europe, Africa and Asia. The first session was convened from the 1st to the 10th of November 1956 to discuss the war between Israel and Egypt and the British-French attack on the Suez Canal zone. The second session was convened between the 4th and the 10th of November 1956 to discuss the Soviet invasion of Hungary. The third emergency session was convened between the 8th and the 21st of August 1958, to discuss Lebanon Crisis. The fourth session was held between the 17th and the 19th of September 1960 to discuss the Congo Crisis. The fifth session was held between the 17th of June and the 18th of September 1967 to discuss the Six Days War in the Middle East. The sixth session was held between the 10th and the 14th of January 1980 to discuss the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The seventh session was convened in different sessions between the 22nd of July 1980 to the 24th of September 1982 to discuss the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The eighth session was held between the 3rd and the 14th of September 1981 to discuss the South African occupation of Namibia. The ninth session was held between the 29th of January to the 5th of February to discuss the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights. The tenth session was held between the 24th of April 1997 to the 13th of June 2018 (in different sessions) to discuss the Palestinian-Israeli-conflict. The 11th session was held between the 28th of

February to the 7th of April (different sessions) to discuss the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Obviously, the emergency sessions were held by the intention of ending wars, conflicts, or invasions and that was the reason for calling the resolution as 'Uniting for Peace'.

This paper carries out a speech act analysis on the text of the 'Uniting for Peace' UN resolution to examine the social actions, illocutionary acts and perlocutionary effects. Social acts theory was firstly presented by Austin (1962) to examine language as a social action. Later on, Searle (1969) provided new input and categorizations to fine tune some concepts. Just like politeness theory (Brown and Levinson, 1987), stylistics (Halliday, 1978), register (AlAfnan, 2015; Halliday and Hasan, 1976) and implicature (Grice, 1975), it is rooted in pragmatics. It examines text in context to find out more about the force (AlAfnan, 2021a, 2021b). Speech acts, according to Yule (1996), are the smallest linguistic unit of communication. They, the speech acts, can be either descriptive or action based. The descriptive utterances were called constative utterances by Austin (1962). They intend to present a fact or describe an input as either true or false. They, according to Austin (1962), do not have a force or illocutionary act. Performative utterances, however, have an illocutionary force. Bach (2003) disagreed with Austin and stated that constative utterances, just as performative utterances, have an illocutionary force and an intended effect. He also came up with a categorization of these constative utterances. In this study, we will make use of a multidimensional theoretical framework to look into and analysis the speech acts that are used in the UN's 377 A (V) resolution (Uniting for Peace). This research paper is guided by three main research questions:

1. What are the illocutionary acts used in resolution number 377 A (V)?
2. What perlocutionary effects do the used illocutionary acts have?
3. How is resolution 377 A (V) constructed and interpreted?

It is expected that the outcome of this study will provide in-depth insights into the 'Uniting for Peace' resolution and it is possible effects on the member states and the public.

2. Literature Review

Speech acts can be defined, according to Yule (1996), as actions that are carried out by language. These actions can be carried out explicitly or implicitly. Explicit actions can be identified based on the meaning of words. Implicit meaning, however, come to existence based on an in-depth analysis that bring into attention the utterance and its explicit intents based on the context, participants, intended audience and the surroundings. To assist in interpreting language as a social force, Austin (1962) stated that speakers carry three speech acts simultaneously that are locutionary act, the illocutionary act and perlocutionary act. Locutionary act is the act of uttering a sentence. Sentences can be declarative, imperative or interrogative. The illocutionary act is an utterance, which has a certain force. As such, it is the act, which is carried out by saying something. It is the intention or the function intended by saying something. The perlocutionary act is the achievement of effects by uttering a sentence on receivers or hearers. Leech (1983) puts the formulation of perlocutionary act as by saying X convinces h that P.

Searle (1996) theorized that when people speak, they perform three acts that are utterance act, propositional act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary act. The utterance act, just as Austin's (1962) locutionary act, is the act of uttering an utterance. The propositional act and illocutionary acts are about the uttering of an utterance in a context under certain conditions with certain intentions. The perlocutionary act is the correlation between the illocutionary act and its intentions on the receiver. Searle (1969) provided five categorizations of illocutionary acts. Assertive illocutionary acts are the words that fit the world. In other words, assertive illocutionary acts are the acts that commit the producer to the case or the truth of what is produced or not. Directive illocutionary act are the illocutionary that commit the hearer to do something. They express what the speaker want the hearer to do. On the contrary of assertive illocutionary acts, they make the world fit the word via the hearer and this can be carried out through ordering, requesting, advising, or recommending (Yule, 1996). Commissive illocutionary acts commit the speaker to a future action. They make the world fit the word via the speaker and this can be carried out through promising, pledging, offering, or refusing. Expressive illocutionary acts are the acts that are used to express the psychological state of the speaker. This can reflect happiness and/or anger and it can be carried out in the form of welcoming, thanking, congratulating or apologizing. Declaration illocutionary acts are the acts that make immediate change to the state of affairs. They change the world via utterances but the speaker must have the institutional authority to properly perform this illocutionary act.

Bach (2003), after commenting on Austin's (1962) remarks on constative and performative utterances and Searle's (1969) categorizations of illocutionary acts, stated that constative utterances have illocutionary acts just as performative utterances. He also provided perlocutionary effects for the constative utterances. For Bach (2003),

constative and performative utterances can be carried out implicitly as they can be carried out explicitly. For him, you do not need to say, 'I suggest' to make a suggestion, as you do not need to say 'I promise' to make a promise. These performative actions can be carried out implicitly. Bach (2003) stated that "Austin let the distinction between constative and performative utterances be superseded by one between locutionary and illocutionary acts" (p. 148). Bach (2003) came up with five categorizations for illocutionary acts that are constatives, which includes affirming, alleging, announcing, answering, attributing; directives, which include advising, admonishing, asking, begging, dismissing, excusing, and forbidding; commissives, which include agreeing, betting, guaranteeing, inviting, offering, promising, swearing and volunteering; acknowledgments, which include apologizing, condoling, congratulating, greeting, thanking, and accepting. He borrowed the terms 'constative' and 'commissive' from Austin and borrowed the term 'directive' from Searle. He adopted the term 'acknowledgment' rather than Austin's 'behabitive' or Searle's 'expressive' for greetings, congratulating and thanking. Below are examples of Bach's (2003, p. 150) categorizations of illocutionary acts.

Constatives: affirming, alleging, announcing, answering, attributing, claiming, classifying, concurring, confirming, conjecturing, denying, disagreeing,

disclosing, disputing, identifying, informing, insisting, predicting, ranking,
reporting, stating, stipulating

Directives: advising, admonishing, asking, begging, dismissing, excusing, forbidding, instructing, ordering, permitting, requesting, requiring, suggesting,

urging, warning

Commissives: agreeing, betting, guaranteeing, inviting, offering, promising,

swearing, volunteering

Acknowledgments: apologizing, condoling, congratulating, greeting, thanking, accepting (acknowledging an acknowledgment)

As mentioned above, the examination of speech acts must include the context. This is the case as the intentions and the social actions are communicated through the context of situation that include the communicators. Words communicate more than their meanings based on the context. According to Cruse (2006), the examination of context is central to the analysis in the field of pragmatics, not just speech acts. Nunan (1997) differentiates between two different types of context that are the linguistic context and the non-linguistic context. The linguistic context is the language (i.e., words, sentences, utterances) surrounding the analyzed text or discourse. The non-linguistic context or the experiential context is what surrounds the text and it includes, according to Holmes (1993), participants, setting, topic and function. The examination of the participants shall include the speaker/producer and whom they are talking to. The setting examines where the participants communicate. The topic examines what they communicate about. The function examines why the communicators in the given setting who communicate about the given topic communicate.

In this study, the work of Austin (1962), Searle (1969), Bach (2003) and Holmes (1993) are relevant. The examination of speech acts in the UN's resolution will be carried out based on the categorizations of the above-mentioned scholars in the given context to provide in-depth understanding of the illocutionary acts and their intended effects.

3. Methodology

This study examines the use of speech acts in the UN's 377 A (V) resolution (uniting for peace resolution). The study intends to answer three research questions that are: What illocutionary acts are used in resolution number 377 A (V)? What perlocutionary effects do the used illocutionary acts have on the readers and the world? How is resolution 377 A (V) constructed and how it is interpreted?

The study is based on content analysis and discourse analysis. A qualitative study intends to examine the text in context (Zhang & Wildemuth, 2009). Content analysis is defined as "a research method for the subjective interpretation of the content of data through the systematic classification process of coding and identifying themes or

patterns". Hsieh and Shannon, 2005, p.1281). Discourse analysis, on the other hand, is defined as speech, text or some other talk is practiced and regulated as social phenomena (Gee, 2005). Even though the discussion may sound subjective, but its objectivity can be reflected in relation to the frequencies of occurrences. The addition of the frequency of occurrence to the content analysis and discourse analysis provide statistical evidence and frequency depth that would add credibility to the findings.

The theoretical framework of the study is based on Austin's (1962) types of utterances (constative and performative) Searle's (1969) and Bach's (2003) categorizations of illocutionary acts and Holmes' (1994) non-linguistic context components. As mentioned above, Bach (2003) borrowed the terms 'constative' and 'commissive' from Austin and borrowed the term 'directive' from Searle. He adopted the term 'acknowledgment' rather than Austin's 'behabitive' or Searle's 'expressive' for greetings, congratulating and thanking. These categorizations are used for the purposes of speech act analysis in this study. The analysis of the context of situation is carried out based on Holmes (1993) non-linguistic context components (participants, setting, topic and function). The examination of the direct linguistic context is also examined to make connections and provide comprehensive understanding of intertextual references. This will allow us examine the text in context and provide comprehensive analysis of the possible effects (see figure 1).

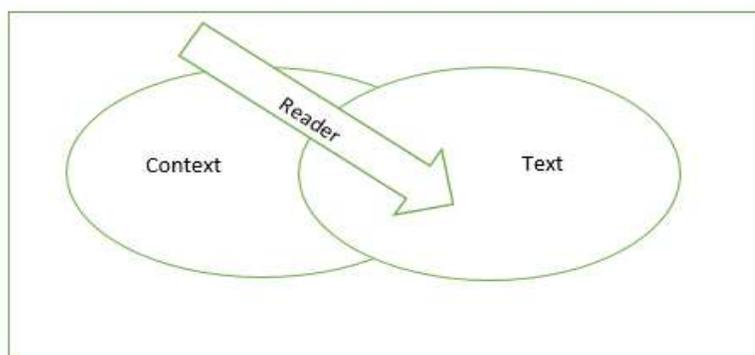


Figure 1. The text, context and reader interaction

The analysis will be carried out using the mix research method approach. The instances of occurrence will be quantitatively counted to provide a statistical evidence and percentile value. The functional use of these instances and occurrences will be qualitatively examined. Even though quantitative methods provide richness to studies, but the descriptive extensiveness in its qualitative and mixed research method forms is equally important to provide descriptive insights and comprehensive understanding of the topic in question.

4. Analysis

The analysis will delves into the context of the situation then moves to the text of the resolution and finally analyze the interpretations or the perlocutionary effects. As such, the context of situation will be provided as happening events that led into coming up with the Uniting for Peace Resolution (Resolution 377 A (V)). After that, the text of the resolution will be examined to identify the illocutionary acts used and their perlocutionary effects on readers.

4.1 Resolution 377 A (V): Origins

The United Nations was established in 1945 with the aim of maintaining international peace and security in the world. The winners of the WWII (the big three-the US, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union) in addition to France and China have a special power to veto (block/stop) an action or a legislation. Initially, the Taiwanese government was holding the Chinese seat in the UN instead of the Chinese government in Peking, which made the Soviet Union boycott the settings for a period. As the Korean War started on 25 June 1950 between the newly recognized the Republic of Korea and North Korea, the Security Council passed resolution that North Korea's attack represented a breach of the peace and opening the door to measures under articles 41 and 42. On 27 June 1950, the Security Council passed another resolution that recommended members of the United Nations to assist the Republic of Korea to repel the armed attack and restore international peace and security. This made the Soviet Union stop boycotting the meetings of the Security Council to veto decisions made against North Korea, which made it difficult for the Council to take resolutions to protect the Republic of Korea.

To overturn this situation, the Foreign Secretary of the US managed to convince the General Assembly to take some

“subsidiary responsivity” in addressing issues related to international peace and security, especially if the Security Council does manage to reach an agreement (unanimity). Even though the Soviet Union objected the resolution, the General Assembly adopted resolution 377 A (V) by 5 votes for and 5 votes against on the 3rd of November 1950. The resolution was named as *Uniting for Peace*. Since then, the resolution has been employed 11 times. It was last employed on 28 February 2022 to discuss the situation in Ukraine.

4.2 Resolution 377 A (V)- *Speech Acts Analysis*

The General Assembly resolution 377 A (V) and its ANNEX included instances of constative and performative utterances that belonged to a number of illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. The overwhelming majority of the utterances belonged to the constative, directive, commissive and assertive illocutionary acts (see table 1).

As table 1 shows, resolution 377 A (v) included three out of the four communicative illocutionary acts provided by Bach (2003). The most popular illocutionary act in the resolution is directives. Directives were used 36 times, which is equivalent to 50% of speech acts occurrences, in the text of the resolution and its ANNEX to recommend, urge, advise, invite, request and invite. The directive speech acts were used to regulate and formalize the use of the resolution. The second most popular illocutionary act used in the text of the resolution is the constative speech act, which was used 25 times (34%). The constative illocutionary act was mainly used to affirm/reaffirm, state and identify/recognize. The functional use of constative illocutionary acts mainly intended to provide context or intertextual reference for the directive and commissive illocutionary acts. Commissive illocutionary acts were used eleven times, which is equivalent to 15.3% of illocutionary acts in the resolution. The commissive illocutionary acts were mainly used to guarantee and assure/reassure previous commitments and obligations. The text of the resolution did not include any acknowledgment communicative illocutionary act.

Table 1. Types of illocutionary acts

Illocutionary act	Number of occurrences	Percentage of occurrence
Constatives	25	34.7%
Directives	36	50%
Commissives	11	15.3%
Acknowledgments	0	0
Total	72	100%

It is noticed that the resolution has been constructed/drafted using two different patterns. The first pattern was used in the first part of the resolution and it followed the commissive-commissive-constative-constative-directive pattern. This pattern is named **commissive-constatives-directive pattern**. In this pattern, the drafting initially brought to attention the commitments of the General Assembly in a number of illocutionary acts, and then reaffirmed chapters and resolutions in the Charter, and after that directed the General Assembly to take an obligation. The second pattern follows the constative-constative-constative-directive pattern. This pattern is named the **constative-directive pattern**. This pattern was used in the middle and towards the end of the resolution to reaffirm a number of points, and then recognize a number of points, and after that provide the directive illocutionary act that provided the regulative act or the imposition on the Secretary General, the General Assembly or the Secretary General.

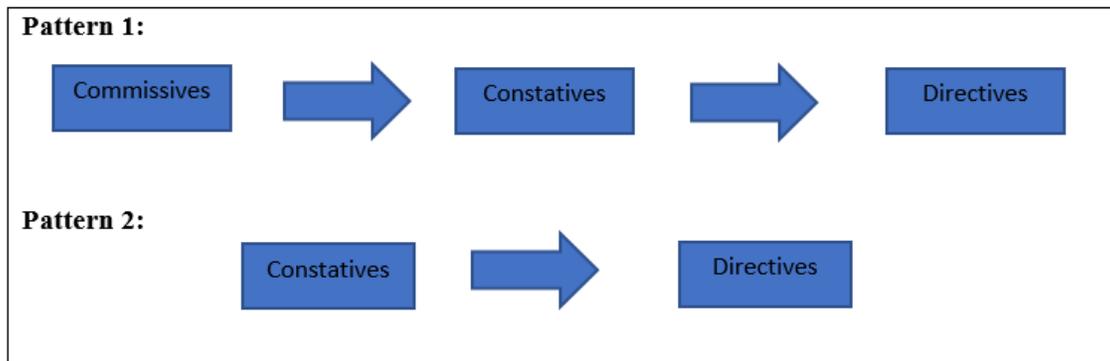


Figure 2. Illocutionary acts patterns in resolution 377 A (V)

Commissive illocutionary acts were among the popular speech acts that are used in the text of the resolution. The commissive illocutionary acts are mainly used to guarantee and promise. The sentence example 1 provides a number of commissive illocutionary acts that intend to have perlocutionary effects of assurance, guarantee and promise. The

text provides guarantees that the UN will (1) maintain peace and security, promises member states that it will (2) take effective measures for the prevention and removal of threat, and promises to bring about by peaceful means situations that lead to a breach of peace. Example 1, in fact, includes 6 commissive illocutionary acts.

EX. 1: To maintain international peace and security and to that end to take effective measure for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustments or settlements of international disputes or situations which might lead to breach of the peace..

The text of the resolutions also included a big number of constative illocutionary acts. The constative illocutionary acts in the text of the resolution are mainly used to affirm/reaffirm, state and identify/recognize. In example 2, the text of the resolution consists of a constative illocutionary act with the intention of reaffirming the importance of the Security Council and its responsibilities and duties towards the world. The last sentence of the extract in example 2 includes a request from the permanent members of the Security Council to restraint the use of veto. The request in this sentence is used implicitly or indirectly without the use of explicit utterances such as ‘we want’ or ‘we request’. Requests, which are perlocutionary effects of directive illocutionary acts, can be, according to Bach (2003), carried out implicitly.

EX. 2: Reaffirming the importance of the exercise by the Security Council of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and duty of the permanent members to seek unanimity and to exercise restraint in the use of the veto.

Example 2 also includes another example of an implicit directive illocutionary acts as the text reads “duty of the permanent members to seek unanimity”. Even though the explicit intention of the article is affirming the importance of the Security Council and its duty, the implicit or the indirect speech act here (in this highlighted part of the article) is directive illocutionary act with the intention of reminding of duties or urging. As provided in the section on the origins of the resolution, the main reason for coming up with resolution 377 A (v) is the attempts of the Soviet Union to block any resolution or attempt to condemn North Korea or pass a resolution against it. Therefore, the article here carries an implicit directive illocutionary act with the perlocutionary act of urging permanent members to carry their responsibilities.

EX. 3: Recommends to the permanent members of the Security Council that: They meet and discuss, collectively or otherwise, and if necessary with other States concerned, all problems which are likely to threaten international peace and hamper the activities of the United Nations, with a view to their resolving fundamental differences and reaching agreement in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Charter.

Directive illocutionary acts are the most popular illocutionary acts in the resolution. The resolution consists of directive illocutionary acts that target to request, invite, recommend advice, warn, and urge. As example 3 shows, the text of the resolution provides a recommendation, which is close to an obligation or an instruction. The directive illocutionary acts outlines the ultimate reason of the establishment of the United Nation and the Security Council, that is maintain international peace and insuring security. The article made an external reference to the United Nations Charter, which is an intertextual reference. It is also noticed in this article that there is no reference to an obligatory presence of all Security Council members. This can bring to the attention that situation of the USSR boycotting the meetings of the Security Council because of appointment the Taiwanese government as the representative of China at that time. This led into a number of organizational issues and procedural issues in the Security Council and the UN. By stating that the members of the Security Council shall meet “collectively or otherwise”, the Security Council can still conduct a meeting even of a permanent member state decides to boycott a meeting. This will not legally affect the progress of work.

EX 4: Recalling General Assembly resolution 190 (III) entitled “Appeal to Great Powers to renew their efforts to compose their differences and establish lasting peace”,

It is noticed that resolution 377 A (V) included a number of indirect speech acts as mentioned in discussing example 2. In example 3, the reference to resolution 190 (III) may seem as a normal intertextual reference to the mentioned resolution. By examining the context, it becomes apparent that this intertextual reference has been foregrounded as a directive illocutionary appeal to the permanent members, in general, and the Soviet Union in particular to renew its commitment to international peace and stability. As mentioned earlier, the proposal of this resolution has come because of the lack of cooperation of the Soviet Union in regards to the war between the republic of Korea and North Korea.

EX. 5: Resolves that if the Security Council, because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members, fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in any case where there appear to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately with the view of making appropriate recommendations to Members for collective measure including in the case of breach of the peace or act of aggression the use of armed forces when necessary to maintain and restore international peace and security.

The text in example 5 provides the required condition to activate or employ resolution 377 A (V). The illocutionary act is directive with the perlocutionary effect of instructing provided the condition is met. As such, the General Assembly cannot employ resolution 377 A (V) if there is an agreement among the Security Council members regarding any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression. The perlocutionary effect of this directive illocutionary act is instructing to provide recommendations to the members of the General Assembly. Recommendations, in general, do not have obligatory nature. That is, they can be adopted or not. Even if the recommendations are adopted, United Nations' resolutions, in general, do not have binding nature as they express the opinion of the member states.

EX. 6: In case of an emergency special session convened pursuant to rule 8 (b), the Secretary General **shall notify** the members of the United Nations at least twelve hours...

EX. 7: The General Assembly recommends to the Security Council that it **should take** the necessary steps to ensure that the action provided for under the Charter is taken with respect to threats...

Ex. 8: The General Assembly **shall consider** the matter immediately with the view of making appropriate recommendations to Members for collective measure including...

The directive regulative illocutionary acts were carried out on different levels of imposition (Levinson, 1983). The resolution included instances of using the modals 'shall' and 'should'. The modal 'shall', according to Trosborg (1995), is used to impose a high level of obligation. The modal 'should', the weakened form of 'shall', is used to weaken the directness and the imposition. As example 6 shows, the use of the modal 'shall' intends to provide a high level of obligation on the Secretary General. In example 7, the imposition, even though it exists, is weakened. In example 8, we have a high level of imposition on the members of the General Assembly. It is noticed the uses of 'shall' and 'should' in directive illocutionary acts is systematic in the text of the resolution. If the directive illocutionary act is directed to the permanent members/Security Council, the level of imposition is weakened. However, if the directive illocutionary act is directed to the General Assembly or the Secretary General, the imposition/obligation is high. If the directive illocutionary act has a regulative function, the level of imposition is high. The level of imposition in the resolution is weighted based on power distance between the Security General, the General Assembly and the Secretary General on the one hand, and the regulating function of the resolution, on the other hand.

5. Discussion

The study examines the use of speech acts in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 377 A (V). It strives to answer three research questions on the types of illocutionary acts, the perlocutionary effects of these illocutionary acts and the method of constructing and interpreting the resolution.

The resolution in question was adopted on 3 November 1950 to provide the General Assembly more power to make decisions if the Security Council did not manage to reach an agreement regarding a situation that provides threat to international peace and security. Some observers seen the resolution as an act balance the power between the Security Council and the General Assembly, but the resolution does not have binding power as member states can use the resolution to provide recommendations to the member states. After Alafnan and Oshchepkova's (2022a) study that examined the speech acts of the UN Secretary General remarks on Ukraine and found that the Secretary General used a mix of constative, assertive, commissive, and directive illocutionary acts to report on the situation in Ukraine and provide suggestions, this study came to provide a comparative insight.

The language of resolution 377 A (V) can be categorized as a legislative legal language. Legal language, according to Crystal and Davy (1969), consists of complex conditionals and, according to Trosborg (1995), provides formal regulations. The resolution included 72 illocutionary acts to provide the content. The illocutionary acts were mainly directive to reflect the regulative function of the resolution. These directive illocutionary acts count for 50% of the illocutionary acts used in the text. This reflects the heavy legislative nature of the text, on the one hand, and the impositive act (Haverkate 1984), on the other hand. That is, the text of the resolution mainly targets the directing the readers to act in a certain manner based on the articles of resolution. The resolution used the directive illocutionary

acts to achieve a number of perlocutionary effects that include ordering, instructing, urging, requesting, inviting, and recommending.

The degree of impositions (AlAfnan, 2022b) in the directive illocutionary acts varied based a couple of factors that are the addressee, on the one hand, and the function of the illocutionary act on the other hand. The directive illocutionary acts that addressed the Secretary General and the General Assembly included high directive imposition mainly using the modal 'shall'. The directive illocutionary acts that addressed the Security Council mainly included the weakened 'should'. The directive illocutionary acts that intended or functioned as regulative acts mainly included the high directive imposition 'shall' as well. This reflects power imbalance or power distance in the United Nations, on the one hand, and the nature of legislative language, on the other hand. The United Nations provides the Security Council the power to decide without consulting with the General assembly, but the General Assembly can only provide recommendations to the Security Council. This power distance is reflected in the use of the directive illocutionary acts that address the involved parties. In relation to legislative language, regulative directive language intends to direct the addressee to act in a certain manner, which requires the use of the most direct on record strategy.

The use of the commissive illocutionary acts was not very popular in the resolution. These commissive illocutionary acts mainly came as part of intertextual references to guarantee and assure the members of the General Assembly. The commissive illocutionary act, which were adopted from the Charter of the United Nations that include the purposes of the United Nations, intended to put the resolution in its wider context in relation to the first two United Nations purposes, vows and assurances to the international community especially in relation to maintain international peace and security. As the international peace and security are being under threat because of the Korean War and as the Security Council cannot reach a decision because of the Soviet veto, the General Assembly came forward to act and provide another mean to reach agreements. The commissive illocutionary acts were mainly used as a lead to the directive illocutionary acts in the resolution.

The use of the constative illocutionary acts in the resolution was relatively popular with the intended perlocutionary effects of to affirm/reaffirm state and identify/recognize. Constative illocutionary acts were mainly used to state or bring to attention certain chapters, resolutions or articles into the context of the resolution. The affirming/reaffirming and recognizing acts were mainly used as a lead to the directive illocutionary acts in the resolution. The use of the constative illocutionary acts and the directive illocutionary act in the resolution created a correlation of thought that can be summarized as 'with that, it shall be that'. This correlation was used throughout the resolution to put the directives used and the regulative illocutionary act into a context.

The correlation of ideas that is mentioned above created two patterns in the resolution. The first formed pattern was a direct pattern that included constative and directive illocutionary acts only (constative-directive). This pattern was created by providing a number of constative illocutionary acts that intend to affirm, recognize, or state and after that providing directive illocutionary acts to order, instruct, urge or request. The second pattern in addition to constative and directive illocutionary acts, it also included commissive illocutionary act (commissive-constative-directive). This pattern was used at the beginning of the resolution to: Firstly put the resolution in context in relation to the UN's obligations (using intertextual references). Secondly, reaffirming a number of articles and resolutions. Thirdly, provide the regulative directive illocutionary act in context.

6. Conclusion

This study examined the text and context of resolution 377 A (V). The context was examined in relation to origins of the resolution and the text was examined as a social action using the speech act theory. The analysis revealed that the resolution included directive, constative and commissive illocutionary acts. Acknowledgment illocutionary acts were not used in the resolution. The use of these three illocutionary acts in the text formed two patterns. The constative-directive pattern was used to recognize responsibility and providing regulative directive illocutionary acts accordingly. The commissive-constative-directive pattern was used to renew commitment, recognize responsibilities and provide regulative directives illocutionary acts accordingly. This study also revealed that the directive illocutionary acts were presented in high obligation and low obligation forms. The high obligation forms were used to provide directive illocutionary acts to the General Assembly and the Secretary General, on the one hand and to provide the regulative measures on the other hand. The low obligation forms were mainly used if the addressee was the Security Council. This reflects power distance and power imbalance between the United Nations state members.

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ⁱ [https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/otherdocs/GAres377A\(v\).pdf](https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/otherdocs/GAres377A(v).pdf)

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