A Pragma-Dialectical Study of Speech Acts in Chomsky's Interview "Trump Has Adopted a 'Viva Death' Approach to Presidency"

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Abstract:

This study analyses the speech acts used in Noam Chomsky's interview, "Trump has adopted a 'viva death' approach to presidency", about Corona pandemic in terms of van Eemeren's Pragma-Dialectical Approach. The aim of the study is to identify the various stages of argumentation and classify the speech acts into different stages of argumentation. The study provides insight into the importance of speech acts in argumentation and how they vary depending on the context of the argumentation, structure of the argumentation, and the intention of the writer. The analysis of the interview reveals the various speech acts used in different stages of the argumentation and how they contribute to building a coherent argument.

Keywords: Speech acts, Argumentation, Chomsky, Pragma-dialectical Approach

1. Introduction

This interview between Noam Chomsky and George Yancy, conducted on June 5, 2020 and published on TruthOut, is a discussion of President Trump's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chomsky argues that Trump's approach to the pandemic is a manifestation of his broader political ideology, which prioritizes individualism and greed mentality. Chomsky suggests that this approach is antithetical to the values of democracy, which prioritize the well-being of all citizens.

Throughout the interview, Chomsky provides evidence to support his argument and responds to anticipated counterarguments. Chomsky notes that Trump's response to the pandemic has been marked by a refusal to take a decisive action, an unwillingness to listen to public health experts, and a focus on maintaining the appearance of strength and power rather than addressing the needs of the American people. Chomsky suggests that this approach is consistent with Trump's broader political ideology, which prioritizes individualism and self-interest over the well-being of society as a whole.

Chomsky's overall argument is that Trump's approach to the pandemic is a threat to democracy, and that it is antithetical to the values of democracy. Chomsky suggests that the American people must reject this approach and work to rebuild a society that values the well-being of all citizens, rather than the pursuit of personal gain.

In summary, the interview provides a thoughtful and critical analysis of President Trump's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, and raises important questions about the role of government and the values that underpin democracy. The interview highlights the importance of engaging in critical discussions about issues of public importance, and of challenging political leaders who prioritize personal gain over the well-being of the people they serve.

2. Pragma-Dialectical Approach

In the 1970s, Frans van Eemeren and Rob Grootendorst (1944–2000) proposed the Pragma-Dialectical Theory (PDA) of argumentation when they were colleagues at the University of Amsterdam. However, the theory has significantly developed in the next four decades (Garssen, 2015, p.1). van Eemeren (2015, p.226) asserts that the term "Pragma" refers to the pragmatic part of the theory whereas the term ''Dialectics'' refers to the dialectical part which highlights the rules of the rational discussion. The dialectical aspect of the theory relates to the normative perspectives borrowed from critical rationalism and formal dialectics, while the pragmatic aspect relates to the descriptive perspectives borrowed from Speech Act Theory, Gricean philosophy of language, and discourse analysis (Eemeren et al. 2014, p. 518).

The PDA aims at "resolving a difference of opinion in accordance with the critical norms of reasonableness" (van Eemeren and Grootendorst, 2004, p.53). For Bonevac (2003, p.451), PDA is "dynamic, context-sensitive, and multi-agent; it promises theories of fallacy and argumentative structure". It is dynamic in that it tackles the pragmatic part and the sensible rules of discussion and it is context-sensitive as it considers the context as one of the most important aspects of the discussion. It is also multi-agent due to the fact that there must be at least two participants in the rational discussion.

Furthermore, Van Rees (2000, p. 119) views PDA as both "embedded in existing controversy" and involved with the "resolution of a difference of opinion". Likewise, Johnson (2000, p. 256) holds that "informal logic is pragmatic, meaning that it is concerned with the uses of argument". While informal logicians may deny the existence of any precise, established criteria for evaluating arguments, they advocate a technique that evaluates the effect of arguments based on their success in resolving disagreements. Thus, at least in principle, the PDA offers critics with a technique for evaluating how effectively certain arguments achieve their rhetorical aims and whether or not they adhere to the standards for fair dialectical processes (Gerber 2011, p.21). The PDA allows the analyst of argumentative discourse to create a theoretically motivated reconstruction of the discourse that results in an analytical overview of all elements that are for critical evaluation (Eemeren and Houtlosser, 2009, p.1).

3. Speech Act in Pragma-Dialectical Approach

The PDA has two main aspects, namely: Pragmatic and Dialectical aspect, Speech Act theory is considered as the core of the pragmatic aspect of PDA. The integration of speech act theory in the PDA of argumentation refers to the incorporation of concepts from speech act theory into the PDA for analyzing and evaluating arguments. Speech act theory, developed by philosophers such as J.L. Austin and John Searle, is a framework for understanding how language is used to perform various types of actions, such as making statements, giving orders, or making promises. In the PDA, speech act theory is used to analyze the types of speech acts used in arguments, such as making claims, giving reasons, and making counterarguments.

Eemeren and Grootendorst (1984, p. 3) adopt speech act theory as they believe that it is the ideal analytical tool available in descriptive pragmatics for their theoretical and practical consideration of the language employed in argumentative discourses. However, the pragmatic dimension, which is concerned with speech act theory in relation to stages of critical discussion, differs from Searle's description of the theory (Kauffeld, 2006, p. 151).

In Searle's (1975) classification of speech acts, five different types are to be distinguished: assertives, declaratives, commissives, expressives, and directives. However, in PDA, only those types that contribute to the resolution of a difference in opinion on merits at the different stages in a critical discussion are relevant (Drid, 2016, p.28). Moreover, Van Eemeren and Grootendorst state that "the typology developed by Searle (1979) distinguishes between five types of speech acts, some of which are directly relevant to a critical discussion, while others are not" (van Eemeren and Grootendorst, 2004, p.62).

As stated by van Eemeren and Grootendorst (1984) the types of speech act used by the participants in a discussion are limited to assertives, commissives, and directives, while declarative and expressive are discarded in relation to what each participant should "do" in each stage and the contribution he makes to the resolution of the dispute. Consequently, negation and repetition are the only permissible operations in the discussion (Drid, 2016, p.28).

The key contributions of speech act theory to the PDA is the concept of illocutionary force. Illocutionary force refers to the intended effect of a speech act, such as informing, persuading, or committing. In PDA, illocutionary force is used to evaluate the strength of arguments by examining how well the argument achieves its intended effect. Eemeren and Grootendorst (1989, p. 369) affirm that "acceptance can be part of controllable and ruled behaviour, which is not the case with being convinced in the internal sense" (in Ghailan, 2019, p.62). They consider acceptance of the argumentation "as the perlocutionary effect that is by convention associated with argumentation" (HenKemans, 2014, pp.44-45). According to Eemeren and Grootendorst (1991, p.155), "this effect is intended by the speaker, requires an understanding of the speech act of argumentation, and depends on rational considerations of the listener" (in Henkemans, 2014, p.45). According to Eemeren et al. (2007), there are five forms of speech acts:

1. Assertives - these speech acts are used to express beliefs or judgments about the world, such as stating facts or making claims.
2. Directives - these speech acts are used to influence the actions of others, such as making requests, giving orders, or offering advice.
3. Commissives - these speech acts commit the speaker to a certain course of action, such as making promises, pledges, or threats.
4. Expressives - these speech acts express the speaker's feelings or attitudes, such as expressing thanks, apologies, or congratulations.
5. Declarations - these speech acts bring about changes in the world by the very act of uttering them, such as declaring war, pronouncing someone guilty, or declaring a marriage.

These five forms of speech acts are important in understanding how language is used in different contexts and situations, and can help us to analyze and interpret the intentions and effects of communication. The distribution of speech acts in a critical discussion plays a crucial role in the effective exchange of ideas and arguments between participants. According to Eemeren et al. (2007), a critical discussion typically consists of four stages: confrontation, opening, argumentation, and concluding. The distribution of speech acts in these stages can vary depending on the argumentative situation, but generally includes a range of acts such as confrontation, refutation, presentation, and conclusion.

In this table, an overview of the distribution of speech acts in the four stages of a critical discussion is presented, as outlined by van Eemeren et al. (2007).

Table (1) Distribution of Speech Acts in the Four Stages of a Critical Discussion

I Confrontation Stage	
Assertive	Expressing a standpoint
Commissive	Acceptance or non- acceptance of a standpoint, Upholding non- acceptance of a standpoint
	Requesting a usage declarative
Directive	Definition, specification, amplification, etc.
Usage Declarative	
II Opening Stage	
Directive	Challenging and defend a standpoint Acceptance of the challenge to defend a standpoint, Agreement on premises and discussion rules
Commissive	
	Requesting a usage declaratives, Decision to start a discussion.
Directive	Definition, specification, amplification, etc.
Usage declaratives	
III Argumentation Stage	

Directive	Requesting argumentation
Assertive	Advancing argumentation
Commissive	Acceptance or non- acceptance of argumentation
	Requesting a usage declaratives Definition, specification, amplification, etc.
Directive	
Usage declarative	
IV Concluding Stage	
Commissive	Acceptance or non- acceptance of a standpoint
	Upholding or retracting a standpoint, Establishing the result of the discussion
Assertive	Requesting a usage declarative Definition, specification, amplification, etc.
Directive	
Usage declaratives	

[After Eemeren and Grootendorst, (2004:68), Eemeren, et al. (2007:16)]

4. Data analysis and Discussion

In the PDA of critical discussion, the process of argumentation passes through four main phases or stages as to resolve the difference of opinion on merits. These four stages are the confrontation stage, the opening stage, argumentation stage, and the concluding stage. In this interview the four stages are demonstrated as follows:
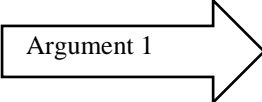
In the Confrontation stage, Chomsky frames the issue at hand as a failure of leadership and responsibility in the US government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically under the Trump administration. He argues that the government's failure to act effectively has resulted in a catastrophic public health crisis.

In the opening stage, Chomsky maintains his opposition to Trump and his administration. Chomsky criticizes Trump's approach to the pandemic building on his analysis of Trump's public statements and policy decisions. Chomsky argues that Trump has downplayed the severity of the pandemic, ignored scientific data and advice, and prioritized economic interests over public health. Chomsky's opposition to Trump's approach to the pandemic is based on his commitment to social justice, democracy, and the pursuit of knowledge, which he believes have been undermined by Trump's actions.

In the argumentation stage, Chomsky supports his position through a series of arguments and responds to anticipated counterarguments. Chomsky supports his claims by including data on the spread of COVID-19 in the US, the government's delayed response to the pandemic, and its efforts to undermine public health measures. He also critiques the for-profit orientation of the US healthcare system and argues that the pandemic has exposed deep-seated social and economic inequalities in the country.

In the conclusion stage, Chomsky concludes by reiterating his main points and highlighting the urgent need for systemic change. He argues that the failures of the US government's response to the pandemic are not isolated incidents, but rather symptoms of a larger problem of corporate influence and government inaction. He calls for a fundamental transformation of US society and politics to address these systemic issues and build a more just and equitable society.

In this interview, Chomsky presents eight arguments that highlight the authoritarian tendencies of Trump administration and its disregard for democratic norms and values. Each argument will be analyzed to reveal the different stage of critical discussion and speech acts used.

Argument 1

==Confrontation stage:==

1- "Horrible murder is right". (Assertive)

2- "But let us be clear about the murders of Black Americans going on right now". (Directive)
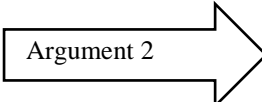
Opening stage:

1- "The brutality of a few racist policemen in Minneapolis constitutes a small part of the crime". (Usage Declarative)

==Argumentation stage:==

1- "It has been widely noted that death rates from the pandemic are far higher among Black people". (Assertive)

2- "A current study found that "Americans living in counties with above-average black populations are three times as likely to die of the coronavirus as those in above-average white counties". (Usage declarative)

3-"This slaughter of Black people is partly a result of how resources were devoted to dealing with the crisis, mostly "in areas that happened to be whiter and more affluent". (Assertive)

4- "But it is rooted more deeply in a hideous record of 400 years of malevolent racism". (Usage declarative)

5- "The plague has been taking different forms since the establishment of the most vicious system of slavery in human history — a prime foundation of the country's industry, finance, commerce and general prosperity — but has at most been mitigated, never brought close to a cure". (Assertive)

==Concluding stage:==

1- "American slavery was unique not only in terms of its viciousness, but also in that it was linked to skin color". (Usage declarative)

2- "Within this system, every Black face was marked with the emblem, "Your nature is to be a slave". (Assertive)

Argument 2

==Confrontation stage:==

1- "The slaughter of Black Americans proceeds under the radar". (Assertive)

==Opening stage:==

1- "The president, whose malice knows no bound, has been exploiting the focus on the pandemic to pursue his service to his prime constituency, great wealth and corporate power". (Usage Declarative)

==Argumentation stage:==

1- "One method is eliminating regulations that protect the public but harm profits". (Assertive)

2- "In the midst of an unprecedented respiratory pandemic, Trump has moved to increase air pollution, which makes COVID-19 far more deadly, so much so that tens of thousands of Americans may die as a result, the business press reports". (Usage declarative)

==Concluding stage:==

1- "As usual, deaths are not randomly distributed: "Hardest hit are low-income communities and people of color," who are forced to live in the most dangerous areas". (Assertive)

Argument 3

Confrontation stage:

1- "Trump has one overriding concern, his own welfare: How can I use this tragedy to enhance my electoral prospects by firing up the most racist and violent components of my voting base" (Assertive)

Opening stage:

1- "His natural instincts call for violence: "the most vicious dogs, and most ominous weapons, I have ever seen". (Assertive)

2- "And send in the military to teach the 'scum' a lesson they'll never forget". (Usage Declarative)

Argumentation stage:

1- "Trump's plan to 'dominate' the errant population by violence elicited widespread anger, including bitter condemnation by former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff along with expressions of sympathy for the protestors". (Assertive)

2- "Former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Admiral Mike Mullen wrote: 'As a white man, I cannot claim perfect understanding of the fear and anger that African Americans feel today…. But as someone who has been around for a while, I know enough — and I've seen enough — to understand that those feelings are real and that they are all too painfully founded". (Assertive)

Concluding stage:

1- "The changes in the past two decades are perhaps a sign that large parts of the population are coming to recognize long-concealed truths about our society, a ray of light in dark times". (Assertive)

Argument 4

Confrontation stage:

1- "After the 2003 SARS epidemic was contained, scientists were well aware that a pandemic was likely and that it might be caused by another coronavirus". (Assertive)

2-"They also knew how to take measures to prepare". (Assertive)

Opening stage:

3- "But knowledge is not enough, someone must use it". (Assertive)

Argumentation stage:

1-"The obvious candidate is the drug companies, which have all the resources needed and huge profits, thanks in no small measure to the exorbitant patents granted them in the mislabeled 'free trade' agreements". (Commissive)

2- "But they were blocked by capitalist logic". (Assertive)

3- "There's no profit in preparing for a possible catastrophe down the road — and as economist Milton Friedman intoned at the dawn of the neoliberal age 40 years ago, the sole responsibility of the corporation is to maximize shareholder value (and management wealth)". (Assertive)

Concluding stage:

1- "As recently as 2017, the major drug companies rejected a European Union proposal to fast-track research on pathogens, including coronavirus". (Assertive)

Argument 5

==Confrontation stage==:

"The other candidate is the government, which also has the necessary resources and has played a significant role in developing most vaccines and drugs". (Assertive)

==Opening stage:==

1- "But that path is blocked by the neoliberal doctrine that has prevailed since Reagan, who informed us that government is the problem". (Usage Declarative)

==Argumentation stage:==

1- "meaning that decisions must be removed from the government, which is to some extent influenced by citizens, to the unaccountable private tyrannies that were the primary agents (and beneficiaries) of the neoliberal triumph". (Assertive)

==Concluding stage:==

1- "So, government is barred as well". (Assertive)

Argument 6

==Confrontation stage==:

1- "To drive further nails into the coffin, Trump disbanded programs in which scientists worked with Chinese colleagues to investigate coronaviruses". (Assertive)

==Opening stage==

1- "Each year, he defunded the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)". (Commissive)

2- "That continued with his budget proposal of February 2020 while the pandemic was raging, calling for further CDC cuts (while raising subsidies to fossil fuel industries)". (Commissive)

==Argumentation stage==

1- "Scientists were systematically replaced by industry officials who would ensure that private profit is maximized whatever the impact on the irrelevant public" (Assertive)

2- "Trump's decisions accord with the judgment of his favorite pundit, Rush Limbaugh, to whom he awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom". (Assertive)

3- "He instructs us that science is one of the 'four corners of deceit' along with academia, media and government, all of which exist by virtue of deceit". (Usage declarative)

==Concluding stage:==

1- "The guiding maxim of the administration was articulated more eloquently by Franco's leading general in 1936: 'Down with intelligence! Viva death!'" (Assertive)

2- "As a result, the U.S. was 'systematically unprepared' when the pandemic hit". (Assertive)

Argument 7

==Confrontation stage:==

1- "Tens of thousands of Americans died as a result of Trump's dedicated service to his primary constituency: extreme wealth and corporate power". (Assertive)

2- "His malevolence persisted after the disease struck". (Usage declarative)

==Opening stage:==

1- "A few weeks after discovery of the first symptoms last December, Chinese scientists identified the virus, sequenced the genome, and provided the information to the WHO and the world". (Commissive)

2- "Countries in Asia and Oceania reacted at once, and have the situation largely under control". (Usage declarative)

3- "Others varied". (Usage declarative)

4- "Trump brought up the rear". (Commissive)

<mark>Argumentation stage:</mark>

1- "For two crucial months, U.S. intelligence and health officials tried to capture the attention of the White House, in vain". (Assertive)

2- "Finally, Trump noticed — possibly when the stock market crashed, it has been reported. Since then it has been chaos". (Assertive)

3- "Not surprisingly, Trump and his minions have been thrashing around desperately to find some scapegoat to blame for his crimes against Americans, oblivious to how many more people he slaughters". (Assertive)

4- "Defunding and then pulling out of the WHO [World Health Organization] is a sadistic blow against Africans, Yemenis, and many other poor and desperate people who had been protected from rampant diseases by WHO medical aid even before the coronavirus struck, and are now facing new catastrophes in addition". (Assertive)

5- "They are dispensable if it will improve his electoral prospects". (Assertive)

<mark>Concluding stage:</mark>

1- "Trump's charge against the WHO, which is too ludicrous to discuss, is that it was being controlled by China". (Assertive)

2- "By pulling out, he increases Chinese influence". (Assertive)

3- "But it is unfair to criticize him for foolishness". (Assertive)

4-"The outcome only underscores the fact that he never cared about this in the first place". (Assertive)

Argument 8

<mark>Confrontation stage:</mark>

1- "I don't feel that 'incompetence' is quite the right word". (Assertive)

2- "He's quite competent in pursuing his primary goals: enriching the very wealthy, enhancing corporate power and profit, keeping his base in line while he stabs them in the back, and concentrating power in his hands by dismantling the executive branch, and so intimidating congressional Republicans that they timidly accept almost anything". (Assertive)

<mark>Opening stage:</mark>

1- "I didn't hear a peep from them when Trump fired the scientist in charge of vaccine development for daring to question one of the quack cures he is promoting". (Commissive)
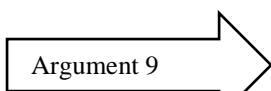
<mark>Argumentation stage:</mark>

1- "There is dead silence from these ranks as he carries out his purge of inspector generals, who impose some controls on the swamp he has created in Washington" (Assertive)

2- "Also insulting one of the most respected Republican senators, 86-year-old Chuck Grassley, who devoted his long career to establishing this system". (Usage declarative)

<mark>Concluding stage:</mark>

1- "It is an impressive achievement". (Assertive)

Argument 9

==Confrontation stage:==

1- "Trump and associates are already pushing that scam energetically, not for the first time". (Assertive)

2- "They know that they head a minority party and must resort to deceit and fraud to maintain political power". (Assertive)

==Opening stage:==

1- "And for them, a lot is at stake". (Commissive)

2- "Another four years would enable them to guarantee that their far-right policies will prevail for a generation no matter what the population wants". (Commissive)

==Argumentation stage:==

1- "That's been the goal of the McConnell strategy of placing the judiciary, top to bottom, in the hands of young far-right jurists who can block programs that are in the public interest". (Assertive)

2- "Loss of the current opportunity might doom their project". (Assertive)

3-"For Trump personally, the prospects of loss may be severe, even if he is psychologically capable of accepting it like a normal human being". (Assertive)

4- "He may be vulnerable to serious legal charges if his immunity is lost". (Usage declarative)

==Concluding stage:==

1- "And with the Republican Party having surrendered to his authority, North Korean-style, he faces few impediments". (Assertive)

2- "We can leave the rest to the imagination". (Assertive)

In table (2) below the distribution of speech acts into each stage of critical discussion is presented as follows:

Table (2) speech acts in Chomsky's interview "Trump Has Adopted a 'Viva Death' Approach to Presidency"

Argument 1	Argument2	Argument 3	Argument 4
Confrontation stage	**Confrontation stage**	**Confrontation stage**	**Confrontation stage**
Assertive Directive	Assertive	Assertive	Assertive Assertive
Opening stage	**Opening stage**	**Opening stage**	**Opening stage**
Usage Declarative	Usage Declarative	Assertive Usage Declarative	Assertive
Argumentation stage	**Argumentation stage**	**Argumentation stage**	**Argumentation stage**

Assertive Usage Declarative Assertive Usage Declarative	Assertive Usage Declarative	Assertive Assertive	Commissive Assertive Assertive
Concluding stage	**Concluding stage**	**Concluding stage**	**Concluding stage**
Usage Declarative Assertive	Assertive	Assertive	Assertive

	Argument 5	**Argument6**	**Argument 7**	**Argument 8**	**Argument 9**
Confrontation stage	**Confrontation stage**	**Confrontation stage**	**Confrontation stage**	**Confrontation stage**	
Assertive	Assertive	Assertive Usage- Declarative	Assertive Assertive	Assertive Assertive	
Opening stage	**Opening stage**	**Opening stage**	**Opening stage**	**Opening stage**	
Usage -Declarative	Commissive Commissive	Commissive Usage- Declarative Commissive Usage- declarative	Commissive	Commissive Commissive	
Argumentation stage	**Argumentation stage**	**Argumentation stage**	**Argumentation stage**	**Argumentation stage**	
Assertive	Assertive Assertive Usage- Declarative	Assertive Assertive Assertive Assertive Assertive	Assertive Usage- Declarative	Assertive Assertive Assertive Usage- Declarative	
Concluding stage	**Concluding stage**	**Concluding stage**	**Concluding stage**	**Concluding stage**	
Assertive	Assertive Assertive	Assertive Assertive Assertive	Assertive	Assertive Assertive	

		Assertive		

Table (2): (Continued)

Table (3): The frequency of speech acts in Chomsky's interview "Trump Has Adopted a 'Viva Death' Approach to Presidency"

Argument No.	Speech acts					
	Assertive	Usage-Declarative	Commissive	Expressive	Directive	Total
Argument 1	5	4	zero	zero	1	10
Argument2	3	2	zero	zero	zero	5
Argument3	5	1	zero	zero	zero	6
Argument4	6	Zero	1	zero	zero	7
Argument5	3	1	zero	zero	Zero	4
Argument6	5	1	2	zero	zero	8
Argument7	10	3	2	zero	zero	15
Argument8	4	1	1	zero	zero	6
Argument9	7	1	2	zero	zero	10
Total	48	14	8	zero	1	71
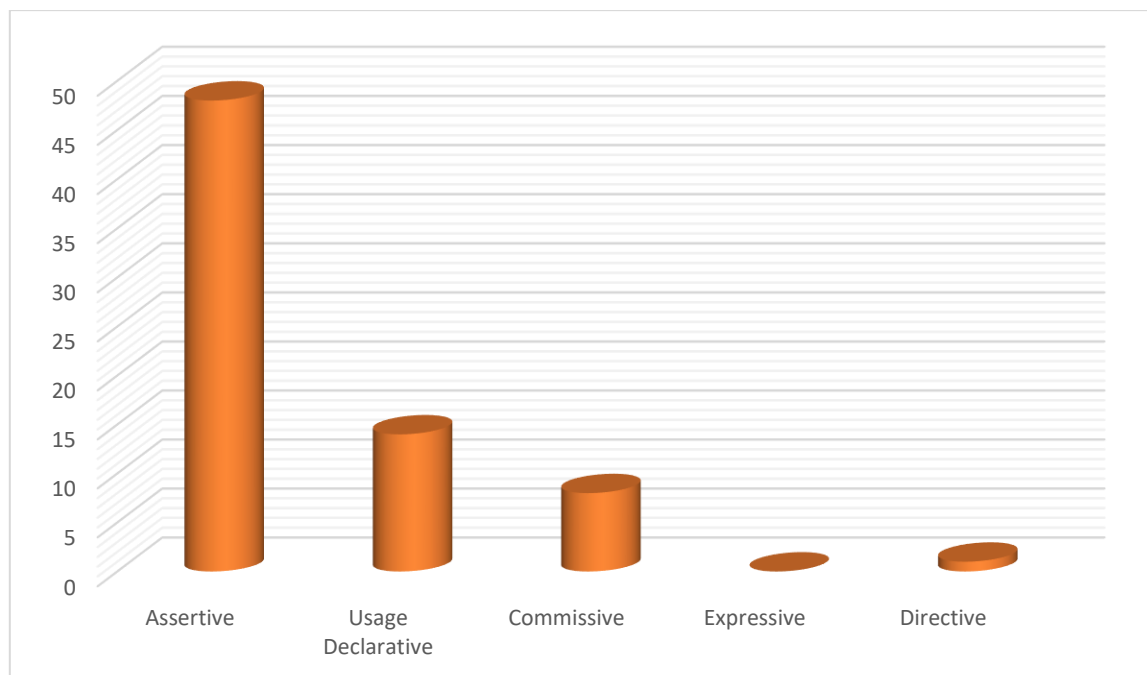
Chart (1): Speech Acts Frequency in Chomsky's Interview "Trump Has Adopted a 'Viva Death' Approach to Presidency"

From the table and the chart above, it is clear that Chomsky's argumentation is predominantly composed of assertive speech acts, with 48 instances of this type of speech act identified. Assertive speech acts are statements that aim to convey information or make claims about reality. In this context, Chomsky uses assertive speech acts to provide evidence and reasoning to support his argument.

Moreover, Chomsky employs 14 usage declarative speech acts, which are statements that establish the meaning or use of a term. These speech acts help clarify his definitions and terminology, making his argument more precise and coherent. It shows that Chomsky is well aware of the importance of using clear language when presenting an argument.

Additionally, Chomsky uses commissives speech acts eight times, which are statements that commit the speaker to a future course of action. These speech acts aim to persuade the audience that he is committed to his argument and will act on it. It helps establish Chomsky as a credible and trustworthy speaker, who is serious about the issue at hand.

Surprisingly, Chomsky uses only one directive speech act, which is a statement that aims to get the audience to do something. It is noteworthy that Chomsky does not resort to using this type of speech act frequently. However, it suggests that Chomsky is not interested in directly telling his audience what to do, but rather in presenting his argument and letting them decide for themselves.

Furthermore, it is notable that Chomsky did not use any expressive speech acts. Expressive speech acts convey the speaker's emotions or feelings about a situation. The absence of expressive speech acts suggests that Chomsky is focused on presenting a rational argument and appealing to his audience's reason rather than their emotions.

In summary, Chomsky's use of different speech acts helps to make his arguments more compelling. By employing assertive speech acts, he provides evidence and reasoning to support his argument, while using usage declarative speech acts to clarify definitions and terminology. Additionally, commissives speech acts establish him as a credible and trustworthy speaker. The limited use of directive speech acts indicates that Chomsky aims to persuade his audience by presenting his argument, rather than telling them what to do. Lastly, the absence of expressive speech acts indicates that he is focused on presenting a rational argument, rather than appealing to his audience's emotions.

5. Conclusions

The study of speech acts in Chomsky's arguments about the Corona pandemic provides valuable insights into Chomsky's use of language to persuade his audience. It reveals that his use of different types of speech acts contributes to making his arguments more compelling. The study shows that Chomsky primarily uses assertive speech acts to convey information and make claims about reality. He also uses usage declarative speech acts to clarify definitions and terminology, commissives speech acts to establish his credibility and trustworthiness, and directive speech acts to persuade his audience to take a particular course of action.

Chomsky's extensive use of assertive speech acts is not surprising, given that he is known for his analytical and logical approach to argumentation. His arguments are heavily reliant on evidence and reasoning, and assertive speech acts allow him to present this evidence and reasoning in a clear and concise manner. Moreover, Chomsky's use of usage declarative speech acts highlights his attention to detail and precision in language use. It suggests that he is aware of the importance of using clear language to avoid confusion and ensure that his argument is well understood.

The use of commissives speech acts by Chomsky establishes him as a credible and trustworthy speaker. By committing himself to a future course of action, he reassures the audience that he is serious about the issue at hand. This, in turn, increases the persuasiveness of his argument.

Chomsky's limited use of directive speech acts indicates that he aims to persuade his audience by presenting his argument, rather than telling them what to do. This approach increases the audience's receptiveness to his argument as it does not come across as authoritarian or dictatorial. Finally, the absence of expressive speech acts in Chomsky's argumentation indicates that he is focused on presenting a rational argument, rather than appealing to his audience's emotions. By avoiding the use of expressive speech acts, Chomsky ensures that his argument is based on reason rather than emotion.

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