

ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN A LETTER TO EUROPE FROM A PALESTINIAN

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Abstract

Open letter is a letter directed for a person which generally can be read by many people. One of the example of open letter is A Letter to Europe from a Palestinian which is written by Majed Abusalama and this letter was published on 18 October 2023 by Al Jazeera. The open letter contained sentences that came from Abusalama views and experiences that are related to Palestine. Therefore, the resercher decided to used A Letter to European from a Palestinian as an object research to find out the illocutionary acts in the open letter. The method used in this research is qualitative descriptive in order to explore and explain the research data descriptively. The result showed that the open letter had four types of illocutionary acts which include 7 representatives, 7 directives, 9 expressives and 1 commissives. First, the function of representative is for stating. Second, directive had variety of functions such as requesting, advising and inviting. Third, expressive represented the meaning of disappointment, grieving and deploring. Fourth, commissive had a function of promising.

Keywords: Open Letter, A Letter to Europe from a Palestinian, Illocutionary Acts

Abstrak

Surat terbuka adalah surat yang ditujukan kepada seseorang yang pada umumnya dapat dibaca oleh banyak orang. Salah satu contoh surat terbuka adalah A Letter to European from A Palestinian yang ditulis oleh Majed Abusalama dan surat ini diterbitkan pada 18 Oktober 2023 oleh Al Jazeera. Surat terbuka ini berisi kalimat-kalimat yang berasal dari pandangan dan pengalaman Abusalama yang berkaitan dengan Palestina. Oleh karena itu, peneliti memutuskan untuk menggunakan A Letter to European from a Palestinian sebagai objek penelitian untuk mengetahui tindak ilokusi yang ada dalam surat tersebut. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah kualitatif deskriptif yang bertujuan untuk menggali dan menjelaskan data penelitian secara deskriptif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa surat terbuka A Letter to European from a Palestinian mempunyai empat jenis tindak tutur ilokusi yang meliputi: 7 representatif, 7 direktif, 9 ekspresif, dan 1 komisif. Yang pertama, fungsi representatif adalah untuk menyatakan. Yang kedua, direktif mempunyai berbagai fungsi seperti meminta, menasihati, dan mengundang. Yang ketiga, ekspresif merepresentasikan kekecewaan, kesedihan dan penyesalan. Yang keempat, komisif memiliki fungsi untuk menjajikan.

Kata Kunci: Surat Terbuka, A Letter to Europe from a Palestinian, Tindak Ilokusi



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INTRODUCTION

Open letter is a letter directed for a person which generally can be read by many people. In other word, open letter is specifically made for a person or group of people such as politician which published in newspaper or magazines or social media. The function of open letter is to deliver an opinion or to protest on a particular subject.¹

A letter to Europe from a Palestinian is an open letter which is written by Majed Abusalama. He is a Palestinian who is currently pursuing his life in Germany and he is actively voicing about Palestine through his works on Palestine Speaks and Sumud – The Finnish Palestine Network. The open letter is released on Al Jazeera's news website on the date of 18th October 2023. It is eleven days after Hamas fighters doing its missions against the occupation of Israel by conducting infiltration and firing thousands of rockets to several parts of Israel's area. Unfortunately, there is some people who are might be unaware of what is really happening in Palestine or those who are already aware about it but they do not care for Palestine. These people can be refered to the letter's receiver that is Europeans.

The Europeans are assumed to regard the Palestinians matter simply as a conflict between Palestine and Israel. This remark can be seen inside the author's letter exactly below the image that captures the messy situation and condition of the victims such as the sadness, pain, their disheveled clothes and a crying mother whilst holding her child within her arms in the middle of the other victims. Also, the author has a way to delivered his state of mind and feelings which is all pour into written text have raised up the researcher curiosity in analyzing the author's speech. For example, the author said in his letter: "I, like millions of Palestinians, am living through the worst nightmare". This sentence contains the author's psychological state towards some events in his life. Therefore, it is crucial for the researcher to explore more of the illocutionary act used in Abusalama's letter.

Speech acts is a theory inside the pragmatics field which focuses on utterance that consists of the variety of acts. In addition, Cho had stated that the speech act is a method to analyze the actions and effects of the language in a speech.² Austin explains the speech act theory in one of his works known as *How to Do Things with Words* and stated that "to say something is to do something, or in saying something we do something and even by saying something we do something." (p. 94).³ From the statement above, it can be concluded that a speech act is not only about uttering but it is also including an act of doing something. In other word, when somebody is speaking a language, it

¹ Kariithi Francis, "Politeness Strategies: Open Letter to President Uhuru Kenyatta Prior to Sagana 3 Mt Kenya Consultative Meeting," *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Studies (JHSSS)* 3, no. 3 (March 5, 2021).

² Anna Cho, "The Linguistic Characteristics of The Language of Human Rights and Its Use in Reality as The Kingdom of God in the Light of Speech Act Theory," *HTS Teologies Studies* 75, no. 4 (July 30, 2019), <https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v75i4.5377>.

³ John L. Austin, *How to Do Things with Words* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1962).

is not just producing sentences but it is also performing an action.⁴ Austin mentioned that there are three types of speech act such as locutionary act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary act.⁵

For instance, the sentence of “I want you remember their names.” has the same meaning as what the speaker said. This is called locutionary act, an act of what the speaker is saying. On the other hand, illocutionary act can be represented with the same utterance because the speaker is not just uttering “I want you to remember their names” but it is also included, the act of requesting to the hearer that is the speaker wants the hearer to remember those names. Basically, illocutionary act is an utterance in which the speaker is doing an action such as informing, warning, ordering, requesting. In addition to that, if the hearer is able to grasp with the speaker’s intention or the hearer is convinced by the speaker’s utterance and resulting the hearer to do what the speaker wants, then the act is considered as perlocutionary. The understanding of perlocutionary act is what the speaker can achieve from its own statement or a statement that brings effect to the hearer. Perlocutionary act can be find in statements with certain motives such as persuading, convincing, misleading or surprising, deterring, etc.

Searle modified some of Austin’s findings on illocutionary acts and divided them into six different categories. The first one is assertive, assertive means the speaker commits to the truth of its expressed proposition. Second, directive it involves the speaker’s attempt to make the hearer to do something. Third, commissive is several performances that the speaker will commit in the future. Fourth, expressive is the speaker’s psychological state which expresses in a speech. The fifth is declarative is when the performance is successful then the propositional content will correspond to the world.⁶

Speech act theory has been used by researchers to investigate certain subjects and some of the past researches are relevant to this study. Yusanti et al.⁷ and Rohbiah et al.⁸ found declarative as the most common form in the locutionary act and they have also found the dominant of the illocutionary acts. Furthermore, Wardianto et al. carried out research specifically on expressive speech act of the demonstrators in rejecting the Omnibus Law Bill.⁹ The result shows that the demonstrators expressed their concern and opposition in constructive and destructive speech with

⁴ Gita Yusanti et al., “Speech Act Analysis on Joe Biden’s Speech about Covid-19,” *Jurnal Arbitrer* 9, no. 1 (May 10, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.25077/ar.9.1.57-70.2022>.

⁵ Austin, *How to Do Things with Words*.

⁶ John R. Searle, *Speech Acts: An Essay in The Philosophy of Language* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1969).

⁷ Yusanti et al., “Speech Act Analysis on Joe Biden’s Speech about Covid-19.”

⁸ Tatu Siti Rohbiah, Anggun Al-Fariatunnisa, and Siti Sa’diah, “Speech Acts in Newspapers of Cable News Network,” *Humanus: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu-Ilmu Humaniora* 21, no. 2 (September 11, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.24036/humanus.v21i2.117748>.

⁹ Bayu Suta Wardianto, Abdul Wahid Bambang Suharto, and Kim Young Soo, “Expressive Speech Act on Pamphlet Demonstration Rejecting the Omnibus Law Bill,” *Lensa: Kajian Kebahasaan, Kesustraaan dan Budaya* 13, no. 2 (December 31, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.26714/lensa.13.2.2023.276-288>.

certain distinct functions such as apologizing, greeting, praising, mocking, blaming and giving condolence. The research object of Francis is an open letter for President Uhuru Kenyatta.¹⁰ The purpose of the researcher is to find out the politeness strategies in the selected open letter. The result shows that the highest frequency used in the politeness strategy is bald on record with 22 data in total. Other researchers such as Fadhilasari and Ningtyas¹¹ the aim of their research is to reveal the euphemisms and dysfemisms in Surat Terbuka kepada DPR-RI whereas Khalisa and Widyastuti¹² had a research objective to describe the presuppositions in Marcus Rashford's open letter.

Based on the previous research, the selected objects (open letters) have been analyzed with different linguistics approach such as semantics and pragmatics particularly in presuppositions. The researcher realized that open letter has not been analyzed yet with speech act theory, therefore in this study the researcher used the speech act theory for analyzing or evaluating the illocutionary act of the author.

RESEARCH METHODS

According to the study objective, the most suitable method for this study is qualitative and descriptive. The author used this method to explore and describing the data research in detail. For this study, the main source of data is an open letter known as *A Letter to Europe from a Palestinian* which is created by Majed Abusalama. The total sentences in the open letter are 54 and this letter is obtained from Al Jazeera website (www.aljazeera.com). For the secondary data, the researcher used journals, articles, e-books and internet as additional references for supporting researcher in evaluating the research data.

Collecting the data research is done by observation technique which is proposed by Sudaryanto. This requires the researcher to read and note-taking as well as understanding the content of the open letter. As for the data analysis, the researcher used content analysis technique which is started from: 1) reading all of the text in the open letter, 2) interpreting the words and sentences of the open letter thoroughly, 3) identifying and classifying the sentences in accordance with Austin and Searle speech act theory, 4) analyzing the categories of illocutionary act of the author's speech, 5) drawing the conclusion from the final result.¹³

¹⁰ Francis, "Politeness Strategies: Open Letter to President Uhuru Kenyatta Prior to Sagana 3 Mt Kenya Consultative Meeting."

¹¹ Icha Fadhilasari and Gita Rosarum Ningtyas, "Eufemisme dan Disfemisme dalam 'Surat Terbuka kepada DPR-RI' Narasi TV: Tinjauan Semantik," *Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra* 9, no. 3 (June 7, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.24036/jbs.v9i3.111833>.

¹² Alya Khalisa and Widyastuti, "Presuppositions of Social Activism in Marcus Rashford's Open Letter," *J-Lalite: Journal of English Studies* 3, no. 2 (December 31, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.24084/1.jes.2022.3.2.7458>.

¹³ Sudaryanto, *Metode dan Teknik Analisis Bahasa* (Yogyakarta: Duta Wacana University, 2015).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Representative

Representative is a type of illocutionary act that focuses on speech in stating what the speaker believes to be the case.¹⁴ Assertive act can be found in the statement of facts, descriptions, assertions and conclusions.¹⁵ The analyses are as below:

Data 1

I am writing this letter as news continues to reach me of relatives, neighbours, and friends being killed in Gaza by Israel's indiscriminate bombardment.

The author, Abusalama has written this sentence under the letter's title. He writes this sentence as an opening of the letter. This sentence contains an illocutionary act of assertive because the author is using sentence such as "I am writing this letter..." to show that he is not just uttering some words but he is also performing an act of stating. He is clearly telling the readers that as he writes the letter, he is continuously received the bad news of his cherished people who had been killed in Gaza due to the brutal bombings by the Israeli military. In addition, the author believes that the death of his relatives, neighbours and friends are true and the author wants the readers to believe it.

Data 2

... mass death and destruction unleashed on our people – something you would often simply call "an escalation" of the "Palestinian-Israeli conflict".

The statement above is taken from half of the first paragraph in the letter. In that statement, the author shares his view about some parties (refer as "you") who think that the mass death and destruction of the Palestinians are merely an escalation of conflict between the Palestinian and Israeli. These parties are none other than the Europeans. By observing the sentence, it can lead the reader to realize that the Europeans seem to disregard the death and destruction of the Palestinians. Therefore, as the sentence starts with "something you would..." it shows a sign of being assertive speech act in which the function is claiming. The author creates that sentence to speak out his claim about what the Europeans think of the mass death and destruction towards the Palestinians. In other word, the author believes that the death of thousands Palestinians are not because of escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the author wants the readers to believe him.

¹⁴ Joan Cutting, *Pragmatics and Discourse: A Resource Book for Students* (London: Routledge, 2002).

¹⁵ George Yule, *Pragmatics* (Oxford: University Press, 1996).

Data 3

As I write these lines, al-Ahli Hospital was bombed, killing hundreds of children, men and women, who had sought safety on the premises of the hospital.

In this utterance, the author admits that as he writes the lines of his letter, the people from all ages who seeks safety in al-Ahli Hospital are all died because of bombings. This utterance contains facts and informations of what has happened to the Palestinians inside the hospital. Thus, it can be concluded that the utterance is part of illocutionary act which categorizes as assertive. The function of the assertive is to state what the author believes by exposing the truth of what is really happening to the Palestinians. In other word, the author believes about the bombings attack to al-Ahli hospital and he wants the readers to believe in his statement.

Data 4

Hours earlier, the news of the death of my friend Mohammed Mokhiemar, his wife Safaa, and their three-month-old baby Elyana reached me. They were killed after evacuating with other families to the southern part of Gaza, following Israeli orders. They and 70 other Palestinians were killed by Israeli air strikes.

The sentence above holds the facts and informations of the reason why the author's friend, Mohammed and his family, and the other Palestinians have been killed. This kind of sentence can be refer as assertive type which is belong to illocutionary act. It is assertive because the sentences are fill with facts that starts with phrase "hours earlier" in which the author is trying to state and explaining the cause of the death of his friend and other Palestinians families while they were moving away to the South Gaza. The author says in those sentence that the cause of their death is getting hit by the Israel's air strike. Therefore, the illocutionary function of this particular sentence is stating. Also, the sentence holds the author' wants from the readers. It can be seen that the author believes of what had happened to his friend and other Palestinians and the author wants the readers to believe in his words.

Data 5

It is a feeling I was born with to a family of refugees in the Gaza Strip. My grandparents hailed from the village of Isdud (now Ashdod) and the village of Bayt Jirja, but were forced to settle in Jabalia refugee camp, just about 20km (12.4 miles) away from their homes.

In that utterance, the author states the starting point of having qahr (see in data) for the first time. He also states on where his family moving into after what is happening in the past 75 years. This type of utterance covers what the author believes to be the case which means that this utterance is assertive act. The author tries to tell the reader from where he gets the *qahr* in the first place and

why his family is forced to moved miles away from their homes. It is clear that what the author says in that sentence has a function of stating. From that utterance, the author believes in what he is writing in those lines and he also wants the readers to believe him.

Data 6

Qahr was probably the first emotion I read on my mother's face as a baby – a young mother worried about her infants surviving the Israeli onslaught on Gaza amid the first Intifada.

The author writes about the assumption of emotion that he sees on his mother's face as a baby. The author assumptions which mark with the word of "probably" is arranged in the sentence that states what the author believes to be the case or fact. Thus, these words are belonged to illocutionary act which categorizes as assertive. Moreover, the words have a function of claiming because the author is not only stating some facts to the reader but he is also performing an act of claiming by writing about the first emotion he sees as a baby. Those words also carry the writer's want from the readers; the author wants the readers to understand on what he is trying to say in the sentence above.

Data 7

On October 11, when more than 1,000 Palestinians had already been killed by indiscriminate Israeli bombardment of Gaza, Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, offered unconditional support to Israel.

The senece above shows the description of the Palestinians total death and the European Commission support for Israel. From that sentence, the author wants to inform the readers that the fact is the Europe is standing with Israel even though it is already taken up 1,000 Palestinians live. Also, the author is expecting the readers to understand or respond from the given information.

2. Directive

Directive is a type of illocutionary act in which the speech is aiming the hearer to do something.¹⁶ The speech expresses what the speaker wants, such as commands, orders, requests, suggestions.¹⁷

Data 8

It should not be that difficult to look critically at the brutality Palestinians have been subjected to, and ask yourselves if it is right.

¹⁶ Cutting, *Pragmatics and Discourse: A Resource Book for Students*.

¹⁷ Yule, *Pragmatics*.

The author uses some words that implicitly contains directive act such as “It should not be that difficult to look critically and ask yourselves” with intention to make the readers to think critically about the brutality subjected to the Palestinians. The author wants them to think and search for the answer whether this brutality such as killings civilians, air strikes, bombings is acceptable or not. The sentence above contains the author suggestion to the readers by telling them to look critically about the brutality subjected to the Palestinians. Thus, the sentence above has a directive function for suggesting.

Data 9

It should not be that difficult to open a history book and read and learn about what has happened in Palestine and understand our struggle for self-determination and return.

Here, the author uses the same words arrangement as in the first part of the previous sentence. However, in this sentence the author intends to make a suggestion to the readers that they need to open and read the history book so they can learn about what has happened in Palestine and understand the Palestinians willingness or struggle to return to their home. In addition, the sentence above contains directive act because the author is suggesting the readers to study the history of Palestine.

Data 10

It should not be that difficult to read the myriad of United Nations resolutions reaffirming our rights – to resist, to be free of occupation, to return to our homeland.

This statement has the same pattern as the two previous statements above. What the author wants from the readers are reading the myriad of United Nations resolutions. The author implicitly suggests them to read the United Nations resolutions so they can understand and accept the Palestinians to resist, free from occupation and return to their lands. Therefore, this sentence contains a directive act which has a function to give suggestion to the readers.

Data 11

I want you to remember their names.

In the sentence above, the author is using phrases “I want you to remember” which implicitly leads to directive speech, a type of illocutionary act. This sentence has a function of commanding or requesting that is the author requests the readers including the Europeans to remember the names of his family. As the speaker, the author also wants the readers and the Europeans to do something for him after he requests them to remember his family names.

Data 12

You will be asked, while Israeli occupation and apartheid were crushing Palestinians, what were you doing? What will you have to say for your inaction then?

In that sentence, the author is asking the Europeans and the readers about what they were doing and what will they say if somebody starts asking their actions on Israeli occupation and apartheid. Hence, the author here shows his want from the Europeans. He wants the Europeans and the readers to do something for him by suggesting them to think or questioning themselves about what were they doing and what they will say to their inaction while the Israeli occupation and apartheid were crushing the Palestinians. In addition, the sentence is implicitly containing a directive act in which the function is suggesting.

Data 13

There is still time for you to spare yourself the shame of being on the wrong side of history.

In those lines, the author intends to make the readers to do something which means that the lines are part of directive act. Because the author intends to give an advice to the readers and the Europeans that they still have chance or time to be on the right side of history. The words of “there is still time for you” shows a directive act, a type of illocutionary where the author is inviting them to be better and urging them to make the right decision, action and support Palestine.

Data 14

As bell hooks said, “Solidarity is a verb”. Are you acting now to stop the genocide in Gaza?

In the statement above, the author is asking both the readers and the Europeans to do something for the author. This kind of statement is implicitly leading to directive act, a category of illocutionary act. Because the author has a purpose of inviting both the readers and the Europeans to take action in stopping the genocide in Gaza. Therefore, the function of this directive act is inviting.

3. Expressive

Expressive is a type of illocutionary act that focuses on speech in stating what the speaker feels.¹⁸ Expressive act can be found in statements of joy, sorrow, pleasure, likes and dislikes.¹⁹ The data below count as expressive acts, such as:

Data 16

I, like millions of Palestinians, am living through the worst nightmare of yet another round ...

¹⁸ Cutting, *Pragmatics and Discourse: A Resource Book for Students*.

¹⁹ Yule, *Pragmatics*.

In the first paragraph of the letter, the author refers himself as one of the millions of Palestinians who have lived with the same painful and unforgotten experiences in their life. He and the other Palestinians have also faced the horror of losing their beloved ones. This explanation can be seen from the author's language preference by pairing the words of "worst" and "nightmare". These two words contain meanings such as the most difficult or unpleasant, a very upsetting or frightening dream. Those words hold the force in representing the feelings of the author and thus, the sentence above is one of the expressive acts which has a function of grieving. To be precise, when the author states those sentence it means that the author is also doing an act of expressing his grief. The sentence also holds the author's want from the readers. The author wants a respond from the readers by telling them about his and the Palestinians worst nightmare (that is many people got killed or injured due to the destruction made by Israel) and this worst nightmare is been haunting or tormenting them.

Data 17

The only word I can think of that comes close to what I feel right now is "qahr" in Arabic; it is not just pain, anguish and anger.

Here, the author is making a statement of what he currently feels after hearing all the sad news coming from his homeland, Gaza. He admits that he feels *qahr*, an arabic word which describes the mixture feeling of angry, anguish and pain. In the statement, the author's feelings which is marked by the word "*qahr*" is related to expressive act, a category of illocutionary. The author here is not just writing about his feelings to the readers but he is also performing an act of presenting his burden of carrying qahr which has been passed on through generations and ingrained in the hearts of his and other Palestinians. Those statement contains the author's want from the readers. The author wants a respond from the readers by talking about his qahr that has been passed on many generations after all these horrible events happening for the past 75 years.

Data 18

Today, as I watch what is unfolding in my homeland, I feel qahr, but also deep indignation and frustration.

In the statement above, the author is describing his mix emotions which includes qahr, deep indignation and frustration. Abusalama is expressing what he feels after he watches what is happening to his homeland. That statement is categorized as expressive speech because the there is an expressive word that is "*qahr*, indignation and frustration". In additon, the author is not just stating something but he is also showing his frustration through his statement. Also, the statement above is carrying the author's want from the readers. The author wants the reader to respond to his

statement because the author has shared what he feels from hearing or watching the news on Palestine.

Data 19

The reactions of your leaders, dear Europeans, to what is going on have yet again revealed selective solidarity, moral failure and a dark double standard.

These lines show the disappointment of the author towards the European leaders. Therefore, these lines are categorized as expressive act, an act that contains the author psychological state. The author aims to express his disappointment about the European leader's selective solidarity, moral failure and double standard to the readers. Thus, the author wants the readers to understand his feelings.

Data 20

Of course, there was no official European reaction to Israeli officials calling Palestinians "animals" and "sub-human" and the genocidal implications that such language carries; hardly surprising, given that Israeli settlers' marches in which they shout "kill the Arabs" were never condemned either.

This statement contains an expressive act, a type of illocutionary act which is marked by the words of "of course and hardly surprising". The author expresses his disappointment towards the official European who is showing no reaction and no condemned to the taunts and death threats made by the Israeli official and Israeli settlers. In other word, the author aims to express his disappointment to the readers by telling them that the official European is not showing any reaction nor condemnation after knowing the Israeli governments and Israeli settlers have said mockery and dead threats to the Palestinians. The author wishes the readers to understand his emotion.

Data 21

That European leaders and politicians are taking the moral high ground right now and labelling us, Palestinians, "brutal terrorists" is quite rich, especially considering the pre-history of what is going on.

The author expresses his disappointment towards the European leaders because they are naming him and the other Palestinians as brutal terrorists. The author expresses that the naming (brutal terrorists) by the European is exaggerating. The word of "quite rich" is a form of expressive, therefore the sentence above is expressive act. The author aims to express his disappointment towards the readers and the readers are expected to understand his feelings.

Data 22

It is a disgrace to talk about human rights, equality and democracy and then fail to question the brutal policies of a country that engages in settler colonisation and apartheid.

Here, the author is expressing his hate towards some people who knows a lot about human right, equality and democracy but they choose silent or fail to question on the colonisation and apartheid in Palestine. The sentence above contains some words such as “disgrace and fail” which forms an expressive. These expressive words are used by the author to aim the readers by expressing his hate or deplore to the people who are failing to recognize or realize the policies of a country that engages in apartheid and colonisation. Therefore, the author has aim to deplore about the people who disgrace human rights, equality and democracy to the readers and the author hopes that the readers know what the utterance means.

Data 23

As I write these lines, I fear at any moment receiving a message about the death of my family: Ismail my father, Halima my mother, Mohammed my brother, Asmaa my sister-in-law, and my most beautiful nieces Elya (6 years old) and Naya (2 months).

The sentence contains expressive act which is a category of illocutionary act that shows with phrases “I fear at the moment”. The author expresses his fear on receiving a message about the death of his family. He writes to the readers that he can not imagine if he does receive the message about the death of his family. The author wants the reader to understand his feelings of fear on losing somebody precious.

Data 24

I would not be fearing for their lives today, dear Europeans, if it were not for your support, silence and complicity in Israeli crimes and the economic and political backing Israel receives from the European governments that you elected.

The author in the lines above says that he would not be afraid of losing his family lives if the Europeans are not supporting and backing Israel. The expressive words are shown in the first coma of the lines which are “I would not be fearing for their lives”. These expressive words are part of expressive act, a type of illocutinary act. The author uses those expressive words for aiming the readers or the Europeans that he wont be scared if they are not on the Israeli side. This is what the author wants from the readers that they have to understand his feelings.

4. Commissive

Commissive is a type of illocutionary act in which the speech states what the speaker commits to future action.²⁰ Commissive contains the intend of the speaker.²¹

Data 25

I would not let them become mere numbers if they get killed.

Here, the author says that he would not let his family death (due to Israeli air strike or bombardment) just to end up being numbers or nameless. When the author starts with the saying “I would not let them” these words are representing commissive, a category of illocutionary act. The author states his promise to the readers that he wont let his family to become mere numbers if they get killed.

CONCLUSION

The analysis result of *A Letter to Europe from a Palestinians* showed that there were found different categories of illocutionary act such as representative or assertive with total 7 data, directive with total 7 data, expressive with total 9 data and commissive with total 1 data. Representative act is representing the meanings of stating. Directive act contains meaning of requesting, advising and inviting. Expressive act has meaning of grieving, deploring and disappointment whereas commissive contained the meaning of promising. The most dominant illocutionary act is assertive because the author was trying to deliver his opinions and sharing his knowledge about Palestine to the readers.

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²⁰ Cutting, *Pragmatics and Discourse: A Resource Book for Students*.

²¹ Yule, *Pragmatics*.

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