



Declarative Speech Acts in the *Friends of Merry Riana* Podcast Episode Rejecting Corporate Slavery Gen Z Choices Amid an Ethical Crisis

Shelly Anggraini Hippy^{1*}, Muslimin², & Sitti Rachmi Masie³

¹²³Prodi Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo, Gorontalo, Indonesia

*E-mail: Shellyanggrainihippy@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the various types of declarative utterances and the meanings contained in them in the *Friends of Merry Riana* podcast episode entitled *Rejecting Corporate Slavery: Generation Z's Choice Amid the Ethical Crisis*. This study employs a pragmatic approach based on the speech act theory proposed by John L. Austin and John Searle. The theory explains that every utterance can be analyzed through three aspects, namely locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative, as it seeks to understand and describe linguistic phenomena in depth based on their contexts of use. Data were collected through documentation, observation, and note-taking techniques on the utterances found in the podcast. Furthermore, the data were analyzed through several stages, including data transcription, identification of declarative utterances, classification based on their types, interpretation of meanings, description of findings, and conclusion drawing. The results of the study reveal six dominant types of declarative utterances, namely permitting, restricting, dismissing, sentencing, surrendering, and classifying. Each type of utterance carries different illocutionary meanings depending on its purpose and context of use. Overall, declarative utterances in the podcast function as instruments of authority that affirm decisions, establish limitations, alter certain social statuses, and construct professional as well as personal realities, particularly in portraying the experiences and perspectives of Generation Z amid the ongoing ethical crisis.

Keywords: declarative speech acts, episode, Podcast media

Tuturan Deklaratif dalam Media Podcast *Friends of Merry Riana* Episode Menolak Budak Korporat Pilihan Gen Z di Tengah Krisis Etika

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan berbagai jenis tuturan deklaratif beserta makna yang terkandung di dalamnya dalam podcast *Friends of Merry Riana* episode *Menolak Budak Korporat: Pilihan Gen Z di Tengah Krisis Etika*. Kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan pragmatik dengan mengacu pada teori tindak tutur yang dikemukakan oleh John L. Austin dan John Searle. Teori tersebut menjelaskan bahwa setiap tuturan dapat dianalisis melalui tiga aspek, yaitu tindak tutur lokusi, ilokusi, dan perlokusi. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif karena bertujuan untuk memahami dan menggambarkan fenomena kebahasaan secara mendalam berdasarkan konteks penggunaannya. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui teknik dokumentasi, simak, dan catat terhadap tuturan yang terdapat dalam podcast. Selanjutnya, data dianalisis melalui beberapa tahapan, yaitu transkripsi data, identifikasi tuturan deklaratif, klasifikasi berdasarkan jenisnya, interpretasi makna, deskripsi hasil temuan, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan adanya enam jenis tuturan deklaratif yang dominan, yaitu tuturan mengizinkan, membatasi, memecat, menjatuhkan hukuman, pasrah, dan menggolongkan. Setiap jenis tuturan memiliki makna ilokusi yang berbeda sesuai dengan tujuan dan konteks penuturannya. Secara keseluruhan, tuturan deklaratif dalam podcast tersebut berfungsi sebagai sarana otoritas yang dapat menegaskan keputusan, menetapkan batasan, mengubah status sosial tertentu, serta membentuk realitas profesional dan pribadi, khususnya dalam menggambarkan pengalaman dan pandangan generasi Z di tengah krisis etika yang berkembang saat ini.

Kata kunci: tuturan deklaratif, media Podcast, episode

Submitted
18/05/2026

Accepted
28/06/2026

Published
24/07/2026

Citation	Hippy, S. A., & Muslimin, M., & Masie, S. R. (2026). Declarative Speech Acts in the <i>Friends of Merry Riana</i> Podcast Episode <i>Rejecting Corporate Slavery Gen Z Choices Amid an Ethical Crisis</i> . <i>Jurnal Pembelajaran Bahasa dan Sastra</i> , Volume 5, Nomor 4, Juli 2026, 3209-3218. DOI: https://doi.org/10.55909/jpbs.v5i4.1502
----------	--

Publisher
Raja Zulkarnain Education Foundation

INTRODUCTION

In today's digital age, language plays a crucial role in social media and podcast platforms. Language serves as a benchmark for conveying information and opinions. Podcasts, as a rapidly growing format, offer a space for more in-depth and interactive discussions on various issues, including social, economic, and ethical ones. One podcast that has garnered attention is Friends of Merry Riana, which addresses various themes relevant to the lives of the younger generation, particularly Gen Z.

In the episode "Refusing Corporate Slaves, Gen Z's Choice Amidst an Ethical Crisis" on the Merry Rianna Podcast, language is used to reveal a critical perspective on the phenomenon of workers in the modern era. Many individuals feel trapped in an exploitative work system. In this context, language, particularly declarative speech, is a crucial element that requires analysis, as the statements made by Merry Riana, the host, and Wanda Ponika, the resource person, can reflect the linguistic attitudes, values, and perspectives held by Generation Z in facing ethical challenges in the workplace.

Based on the researcher's initial analysis, the dialogue within the podcast can be studied using pragmatics because the conversation contains illocutionary speech acts, specifically declarative speech. According to Yule (in Tarigan, 2023:736), pragmatics is a discipline of language that aims to examine how the meaning of utterances is interpreted based on the context in which they are used by the speaker, with the listener bearing the responsibility for understanding that meaning. It is impossible to analyze the meaning of an utterance without considering the accompanying context, as understanding the utterance's intent is highly dependent on its context. As an important background in communication, this context can include the knowledge, physical condition, and social environment of the speaker and interlocutor.

The research questions are as follows:

1. What are the types of declarative speech acts in the Friends of Merry Riana podcast, "Rejecting Corporate Slaves: Gen Z's Choice Amidst an Ethical Crisis?"
2. What is the meaning of declarative speech acts in the Friends of Merry Riana podcast, "Rejecting Corporate Slaves: Gen Z's Choice Amidst an Ethical Crisis?"

The purpose of this study is to describe the types and meanings of declarative utterances in the Friends of Merry Riana podcast episode, "Rejecting Corporate Slavery: Gen Z's Choice in the Midst of an Ethical Crisis." This research is expected to broaden insights, contribute to readers, and serve as a reference for further research.

Theoretically, pragmatics is a field of linguistics that examines how the meaning of an utterance is influenced by context in the communication process. According to Safitria et al. (2021:59), pragmatics essentially emphasizes how speakers and listeners understand the implied meaning of an utterance. Munandar & Nanai (2021:26) explain that John L. Austin, one of the experts who developed speech act theory, and John Searle expanded on it, divided speech acts into three categories: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. In Tarigan (2009:44), Searle categorizes illocutionary acts into five types: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

Several studies relevant to this research are as follows: the first study by Kristianingsih et al. (2023) showed the types of illocutionary speech acts in the video podcast Cerita Bibu (Bibu Story) on the YouTube channel Bicara Babibu. Furthermore, Madiyati Manggal Gita's research, entitled "Analysis of AHY's illocutionary speech acts in the DC podcast and its relevance to Indonesian language learning in junior high schools." The final study by Vicky L & Fikri H, entitled "Teacher and Student Speech Acts in the film Laskar Pelangi" by Andrea Hirata, differs from previous studies in the object of study and focus. This study specifically examines the types and meanings of declarative speech acts in podcasts that discuss the phenomenon of Generation Z



amidst the work ethics crisis. Therefore, this study aims to describe the types of declarative speech acts and their meanings in the Friends of Merry Riana podcast episode "Refusing Corporate Slaves, Gen Z's Choices Amidst an Ethical Crisis."

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method with a pragmatic approach. Abubakar (2021:17; Razak, 2017:172; Yuliani (2018:85) said that qualitative descriptive methods are commonly used in social research, including in the field of language studies.

The descriptive method was used to systematically and factually describe and illustrate the data in the form of declarative utterances found in the Friends of Merry Riana podcast. A pragmatic approach was used because this research focuses on the meaning of utterances based on the context of their use, the communication situation, and the relationship between the speaker and the conversation partner.

The research data source came from the Friends of Merry Riana podcast episode "Refusing Corporate Slaves, Gen Z's Choices Amidst an Ethical Crisis." The research data consisted of utterances containing declarative speech acts uttered by the host and interviewees during the conversation. These utterances were selected because they have specific functions that can influence the situation or conditions of the communication.

The data collection technique was carried out in three stages: documentation, listening, and note-taking. The documentation technique involved downloading and saving the podcast video as the research data source. The listening technique involved repeatedly listening to the entire conversation in the podcast to gain a deeper understanding of the context of the utterances. Next, note-taking was used to record parts of the utterances that included declarative speech acts to facilitate the data analysis process.

The data analysis technique was carried out in several stages, namely: (1) transcribing the

speech data from spoken to written form; (2) identifying the forms of declarative speech acts found in the podcast; (3) classifying the data based on the type of declarative speech act; (4) interpreting the meaning of the speech based on the conversational context; (5) systematically describing the results of the analysis; and (6) drawing conclusions based on the research findings.

The theory used in this research is the speech act theory proposed by John L. Austin and developed by John Searle, specifically regarding declarative illocutionary speech acts. This theory is used to analyze the function of speech acts that not only convey information but can also bring about certain changes in the communication situation.

RESULTS

1. Declarative Permission

Declarative permission is a form of speech act used by speakers to grant approval, opportunity, or legitimacy to their interlocutors to carry out a certain action. This utterance usually occurs when the speaker has certain authority, influence, or power so that their utterance can change or influence the social situation in the communication process. In pragmatics, the declarative speech act of permission is understood not only as conveying information but also as an act of validating someone's choice or decision.

The declarative speech act of permission in the Friends of Merry Riana podcast emerged in a discussion about Generation Z's freedom to make life and work choices. Generation Z is described as a group that is more courageous in making decisions to maintain mental health and life balance. Therefore, speech acts of permission are important because they provide moral support and acknowledge that individuals have the right to determine their own life path without social pressure or excessive work environment demands. Example speech act:

"If you really want to leave a toxic work environment, that's your right."

This speech demonstrates a form of permission and legitimacy for Generation Z to leave a work environment deemed mentally or emotionally unhealthy. The speaker understands that leaving a job that causes excessive pressure is not wrong, but rather a reasonable decision to maintain one's psychological well-being and quality of life. In this speech, the phrase "that's your right" is the main indicator of the declarative speech act of permission because the speaker directly acknowledges individual freedom to make decisions.

Pragmatically, this utterance has a deeper meaning than simply granting permission. The speaker seeks to build confidence and courage in the interlocutor so that they don't feel guilty when choosing to leave a toxic work environment. Furthermore, the utterance also contains emotional support, demonstrating that mental health is an important aspect that needs to be prioritized. Thus, the utterance's function is not only declarative but also persuasive, as it can influence the listener's perspective and attitude toward the world of work. Based on the context of the podcast conversation, the declarative utterance of permission also reflects a shift in modern society's mindset toward work. While previous generations often viewed work loyalty as a form of devotion that must be maintained under any circumstances, Generation Z places greater priority on comfort, mental health, and work-life balance. Therefore, this utterance serves as a form of social recognition that each individual has the right to determine a work environment that aligns with their needs and values.

2. Restrictive Declarative Utterances

Restrictive declarative utterances are speech acts used by speakers to establish boundaries, prohibitions, or rules regarding certain actions. In this speech act, the speaker possesses authority or influence that allows him or her to limit behavior,

actions, or policies so that they do not exceed reasonable limits. Declarative restrictive utterances aim to control a situation so that it does not cause harm to a particular party, whether physically, mentally, or socially.

In pragmatic studies, declarative restrictive utterances function not only to convey information but also as actions that can influence the behavior of the interlocutor. The speaker uses these utterances to emphasize the existence of rules or norms that must be obeyed. Thus, these utterances have illocutionary power that can change a person's perspective and actions regarding a situation.

In the Friends of Merry Riana podcast, declarative restrictive utterances emerged in a discussion about modern work culture, which often places excessive pressure on workers. These restrictions relate to work demands that are considered beyond human limits, such as excessively long working hours, excessive target pressure, and insufficient rest time for employees. In this context, the speaker seeks to emphasize that companies cannot act arbitrarily towards workers because every individual has the right to a balanced life.

Example utterance:

"The company can no longer demand that employees work indefinitely."

This utterance indicates a restriction on a work system considered exploitative. The speaker emphasizes that the company has limits to the demands placed on employees. The phrase "can no longer" is a key indicator of this restriction because it indicates that demanding excessive work from employees is no longer justifiable. This utterance directly limits the company's behavior, encouraging it to prioritize employee welfare.

Pragmatically, this utterance conveys the meaning of protecting workers' rights to maintain a balance between work and personal life. The speaker emphasizes that work productivity should not be achieved at the expense of employees' physical or mental health. Furthermore, the



utterance also serves as a critique of a work culture that overemphasizes loyalty without regard for individual circumstances.

In a social context, this declarative, restrictive utterance reflects a shift in society's perspective on the modern workplace. While previously working around the clock was often seen as a sign of dedication and loyalty, people are now beginning to recognize the importance of work-life balance. Generation Z, in particular, is increasingly rejecting work systems that demand excessive sacrifice and prefers a healthy and humane work environment. Therefore, this utterance serves as an affirmation that there are boundaries that must be respected in the relationship between companies and employees.

Furthermore, this declarative, restrictive utterance also demonstrates an effort to create a more equitable work relationship. The speaker indirectly reminds the company that it has a moral responsibility to safeguard the well-being of its employees. With these restrictions, it is hoped that a healthier, more productive work environment will be created that respects the rights of individuals as human beings, not just as workers.

3. Declarative Speech of Dismissal

A declarative speech act of dismissal is a speech act used by speakers to declare the termination of an employment relationship, the termination of a collaboration, or the rejection of a particular individual within a social or professional system. This speech act has illocutionary force that can directly change an individual's status, for example, from an employee to no longer part of a company or organization. In the declarative speech act of dismissal, the speaker typically holds a certain authority, power, or position, so that the utterance can have real consequences for the intended recipient.

In pragmatic studies, a declarative speech act of dismissal is understood not only as conveying information regarding the termination of an employment relationship but also as an official act with social and professional impacts. When uttered

by an authorized party, the status and position of the individual in question can change immediately. Therefore, the declarative speech act of dismissal is closely related to power, rules, and systems in the workplace.

In the Friends of Merry Riana podcast, the declarative speech act of dismissal emerged in a discussion about the alignment of values between individuals and companies. In the modern workplace, companies assess not only employees' technical abilities but also the alignment of their attitudes, ethics, and values ??with the organizational culture. When an individual is deemed no longer aligned with the company's rules or vision, the employment relationship can be terminated as a form of enforcement of organizational rules.

Example utterance:

"If the employee does not align with the company's values, then the collaboration must be terminated."

This utterance demonstrates the symbolic act of dismissing an individual deemed incompatible with the company's rules or values. The phrase "the collaboration must be terminated" is the primary marker of the declarative speech act of dismissal because it indicates a decision to end the professional relationship between the company and a particular individual. The speaker emphasizes that the continuation of the employment relationship is highly dependent on the alignment of the company's values, ethics, and rules. Pragmatically, this utterance serves not only to convey an opinion but also as a form of decision that can change an individual's status within the organization. This utterance implies that the company has the right to retain individuals who align with its work culture and terminate collaborations with those deemed incompatible. Thus, this utterance demonstrates the company's authority in determining who can remain part of the organization. Furthermore, the declarative dismissal utterance also reflects the importance of

value alignment in the modern workplace. Companies demand not only productivity but also loyalty to the organization's vision and culture. When values ??incongruence between the company and the individual arise, the employment relationship becomes difficult to maintain, as it can impact the stability and overall work environment. Therefore, the decision to terminate the partnership is considered a necessary step to maintain organizational consistency.

In a social context, this utterance also demonstrates the dynamics of the relationship between workers and companies in the modern era. Today, the employment relationship is no longer viewed simply as a formal relationship between superiors and subordinates, but also one based on shared principles and goals. Younger generations, especially Generation Z, tend to choose companies that align with their values, while companies are also more selective in retaining individuals deemed a good fit for the organizational culture.

4. Declarative Speech Imposing Punishment

Declarative speech impositions of punishment are found in the form of imposing consequences, negative assessments, or specific impacts for behavior deemed deviant or detrimental. This utterance demonstrates a causal relationship between an action and the consequences experienced by a particular individual or group. In this speech act, the speaker emphasizes that a behavior will have a specific impact if it continues. Example utterance:

"An unhealthy work culture will cause someone to lose their quality of life."

This utterance contains the social consequences of a work culture considered detrimental. The speaker explains that a poor work environment can negatively impact a person's physical and mental condition. The phrase "losing their quality of life" indicates a symbolic form of punishment in the form of decreased well-being due to excessive work pressure.

Pragmatically, this utterance functions as both a warning and a symbolic form of punishment for inhumane work practices. The speaker attempts to raise awareness among his interlocutors that a toxic work culture not only impacts productivity but can also damage mental health, social relationships, and individual happiness. The utterance also demonstrates criticism of a work culture that neglects employee well-being for the sole purpose of achieving company goals.

Furthermore, the declarative sentence-imposing utterance in the podcast reflects the view that every action has consequences. An unhealthy work environment is seen as a cause of stress, emotional exhaustion, and even a reduced quality of life. Therefore, this utterance serves not only to provide information but also as a form of social evaluation of modern work culture, which is considered too oppressive for individuals.

5. Declarative Speech of Surrender

Declarative speech of surrender occurs when the speaker demonstrates acceptance of a situation, condition, or reality that cannot be changed. This speech act typically reflects acceptance of life situations beyond the individual's control, both in personal life and the workplace. In this speech act, the speaker no longer attempts to deny the situation, but instead chooses to consciously and realistically accept reality.

Example speech:

"Sometimes we have to accept that not all jobs are suitable for us."

This speech demonstrates acceptance of the reality of a particular work situation. The speaker recognizes that each individual has different abilities, comfort levels, interests, and suitability for work. The phrase "must accept" indicates an attitude of resignation or acceptance of circumstances that do not always align with the individual's expectations.

In a pragmatic context, this speech serves to convey the understanding that failure or



incompatibility in a job is not something that should always be forced. The speaker attempts to reassure the listener so that they do not feel inferior when experiencing incompatibility in a particular job. The attitude of resignation in this speech is more directed towards a realistic acceptance of the situation, rather than giving up without effort. Furthermore, declarative utterances of resignation also reflect the view that everyone has different limits and life needs. Not all work environments provide comfort for every individual. Therefore, accepting the fact that a job is not a good fit for you can be a step towards finding a more suitable work environment. This utterance also demonstrates the importance of self-awareness in determining career and life choices.

6. Declarative Utterances of Categorization

Declarative utterances of categorization are found when speakers categorize individuals or groups based on certain characteristics, thought patterns, behaviors, or values. This utterance serves to identify a social group based on characteristics considered dominant. In this speech act, the speaker attempts to establish an understanding of a group's identity through specific categorizations.

Example utterance:

"Generation Z now prefers mental health over unlimited work loyalty."

This utterance categorizes Generation Z based on their mindset and values. The speaker illustrates that Generation Z tends to prioritize mental health over a work culture that demands excessive loyalty. The phrase "preferring mental health" demonstrates the distinctive characteristics attributed to Generation Z as a group more aware of the importance of personal well-being.

Pragmatically, this utterance demonstrates the process of social categorization of a particular generation based on characteristics deemed dominant. The speaker not only conveys information but also constructs a social image of

how Generation Z is viewed in the modern workplace. This utterance demonstrates the difference in mindset between the younger generation and previous generations, who tended to prioritize work loyalty.

Furthermore, this declarative categorization also reflects changes in modern society's mindset regarding the world of work and work-life balance. Generation Z is depicted as more open in discussing mental health, work limitations, and the importance of work-life balance. Thus, this utterance serves not only as a social categorization but also as a representation of changing values in modern society.

DISCUSSION

Declarative utterances of permission in podcasts demonstrate a power relationship that legitimizes the interlocutor to make certain decisions. In a pragmatic context, these utterances not only convey information but also create social change through recognition of individual rights. Austin, in Baryadi (2020:89), explains that declarative speech acts can change social reality when used in the right context. When a speaker states that someone "can quit," "it's okay to refuse overtime," or "has the right to choose mental health," the utterance indirectly grants moral authorization to the listener to take a stand against work pressures.

Permissive utterances in podcasts also demonstrate a shift in the mindset of Generation Z, who emphasize individual freedom and mental health over absolute loyalty to the company. This is relevant to research by Kristianingsih et al. (2023), which shows that speech in podcasts is often used to build solidarity and psychological empowerment for listeners. Podcasts provide a more relaxed and personal communication space, allowing speakers to provide emotional support to their audience through persuasive and empathetic language choices.

In addition to serving as emotional support, declarative speech allows for a more egalitarian

relationship between speaker and listener. In podcasts, the speaker does not appear as a completely authoritarian figure, but rather as an individual who openly shares experiences and perspectives. This creates a closer connection with the speaker, making the message more easily accepted. The use of simple, relaxed, and conversational language further strengthens the declarative's function as a form of validation of the life experiences of the younger generation. Declarative speech limits the use of social control over behavior deemed inappropriate. In podcasts, the limits are directed at exploitative work cultures. These speeches serve as a critique of modern work systems that often demand excessive productivity without regard for workers' psychological well-being. Speakers use language to emphasize specific boundaries, such as prohibiting overwork or the importance of maintaining mental health.

In podcast communication practices, restrictive utterances often appear in the form of warnings, affirmations, or recommendations that have pragmatic power for listeners. Speakers indirectly create new social norms regarding how individuals should conduct themselves in the workplace. For example, when a speaker states that a person should not continue working to the point of sacrificing their mental health, the utterance is not merely an opinion but also a form of restriction on work behaviors deemed unhealthy. Thus, declarative restrictive utterances have a performative function because they can influence the audience's perspective on modern work culture. Declarative utterances of dismissal in podcasts are not always literal but also symbolic. Dismissal can be interpreted as a rejection of a work system deemed detrimental to the individual. When a speaker states that someone is "better off from a toxic job" or "doesn't need to stay in a mentally damaging work environment," the utterance symbolically indicates the act of severing ties with conditions deemed unhealthy.

This finding aligns with research by Madiyati Manggal Gita (2023), which found that declarative utterances in podcasts serve the function of

demonstrating authority and decision-making. In the context of podcasts, the speaker assumes the role of a figure who legitimizes certain decisions, allowing listeners to feel justified in their life choices.

Declarative utterances of punishment indicate the consequences of certain behavior. In podcasts, punishment does not always take the form of formal sanctions, but can include loss of mental health, psychological distress, and a decreased quality of life. The speaker describes how an excessive work culture can "punish" individuals through stress, burnout, and emotional exhaustion. In a pragmatic context, utterances of punishment serve the function of emphasizing the causal relationship between certain behaviors and the consequences they will experience. When the speaker states that someone who continues to work without rest will experience mental exhaustion or a loss of joy in life, the utterance indirectly establishes social consequences for excessive work behavior. Thus, punishment in podcasts is not interpreted as an official legal sanction, but rather as a tangible impact arising from unhealthy lifestyles and work cultures.

Declarative utterances of resignation demonstrate an acceptance of certain social realities. This resignation in podcasts emerges as a reflection of the pressures of life and the demands of work. Statements such as "what can I do" or "sometimes it just has to be done" reflect an individual's acceptance of an unavoidable situation. In a pragmatic context, utterances of resignation function not only as emotional expressions but also as a form of adjustment to social conditions perceived as beyond the individual's control. Speakers use language to indicate that certain situations cannot be changed instantly, so individuals choose to accept them. Resignation in podcasts often emerges when speakers discuss economic pressures, work demands, or social expectations that force individuals to persevere despite physical and mental exhaustion.

This finding is relevant to research by Vicky and Fikri (2021), who found that resignation



frequently occurs in communication related to social pressure and emotional states. In podcasts, resignation is not always negative, but can be a psychological mechanism to reduce the emotional burden caused by work pressure and the demands of modern life.

Declarative classifying utterances are used to categorize Generation Z based on certain mindsets and social characteristics. This classification demonstrates how podcasts construct the social identity of the younger generation. Speakers use these utterances to portray Generation Z as a group that is more open to mental health issues, more critical of work culture, and more courageous in expressing their opinions than previous generations.

In podcast conversations, this categorization is achieved through the use of specific terms, labels, and descriptions associated with the younger generation. For example, Generation Z is described as "more aware of mental health," "not wanting to be enslaved by work," or "preferring work-life balance." These utterances not only explain Generation Z's characteristics but also shape a social identity that is then understood and accepted by society. Thus, declarative utterances play an important role in shaping social perspectives on certain groups.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research and discussion, it was found that six types of declarative utterances were found in the Friends of Merry Riana podcast episode "Rejecting Corporate Slavery," "Gen Z's Choices Amidst an Ethical Crisis." These declarative utterances in the Friends of Merry Riana podcast function as a single authority tool used by speakers to affirm, limit, and shape the professional and personal realities of their interlocutors (especially Gen Z). Declarative acts are divided into the permissive-empathetic (allowing) and authoritative-critical (limiting, dismissing, punishing, and categorizing) aspects. Allowing operates as a transfer of authority to grant agency and validation (that's your choice),

pragmatically restructuring power dynamics to be more flexible.

Conversely, other categories (especially limiting) serve to reject idealistic expectations and establish strict causal laws in careers (promotions may not be promoted). The dismissal category is a final declaration that uses institutional authority to legally change status. Meanwhile, imposing punishment acts as a pragmatic warning of logical consequences (e.g., being stupid), and classifying is used to label and criticize mentalities (the strawberry generation) as well as establish the primary prerequisite (resilience) for success. The common thread of all these types of speech is the assertion that every individual's choice and mentality will have absolute consequences that must be accepted with resignation to an unchangeable reality (there is no choice).

The meaning of declarative speech in the Friends of Merry Riana podcast episode "Rejecting Corporate Slavery," Gen Z's choices amidst an ethical crisis, represents a manifestation of the linguistic authority used by speakers to negotiate ethical boundaries and work ethic between generations. The meaning of "permission" functions as a transfer of individual sovereignty that legitimizes professional autonomy, while limiting and imposing punishment act as counterweights, establishing the harsh law of causality that freedom of choice is always tied to absolute career and financial consequences.

The act of firing cements the finality of the employment relationship legally and formally, while "categorizing" becomes a critical instrument for defining generational identity, dissecting the sources of mental fragility, and establishing resilience as an undeniable prerequisite for success. All of these dynamics culminate in the meaning of "surrender," where declarative speech forces the interlocutor to accept systemic realities, role limitations, and professional destiny as non-negotiable facts, demanding total adaptation to the realities of the competitive workplace.

The author expresses his gratitude to Allah SWT for His grace and blessings, which enabled

this research to be successfully completed. The author also expresses gratitude to the supervisor who provided guidance, input, and motivation throughout the preparation of this research. He also extends his gratitude to the lecturers of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program at Gorontalo State University for their academic support. Furthermore, he expresses his gratitude to all parties who have assisted, supported, and contributed, both directly and indirectly, to the completion of this article.

REFERENCES

- Abubakar, R. (2021). *Pengantar Metode Penelitian*. Yogyakarta: Suka-Press UIN Sunan Kalijaga.
- Baryadi, I. P. (2020). *Pragmatik*. Yogyakarta: Sanata Dharma University Press.
- Gita, M. M. (2023). *Analisis Tindak Tutur Ilokusi AHY dalam Podcast DC dan Relevansinya terhadap Pembelajaran Bahasa Indonesia SMP*. Skripsi. Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta.
- Kristianingsih, dkk. (2023). Analisis Tindak Tutur Ilokusi dalam Video Podcast Cerita Bibu pada Kanal Youtube Obrolan Babibu. *Jurnal Pragmatik Bahasa*, 4(2), 88–97.
- Munandar, I., & Darmayanti, N. (2021). Tindak Tutur Ilokusi dalam Pidato Ridwan Kamil pada Acara Bukataalks: Suatu Kajian Pragmatik. *Jurnal Metabasa*, 3(1), 25–40.
- Razak, A. (2017). *Metode Riset: Menggapai Mixed Methods Bidang Pembelajaran Bahasa Indonesia*. Pekanbaru: Ababil Press.
- Safitria, R. D., Mulyani, M., & Farikah, F. (2021). Teori Tindak Tutur dalam Studi Pragmatik. *Jurnal Kabastra*, 1(1), 59–67.
- Tarigan, H. G. (2009). *Pengajaran Pragmatik*. Bandung: Angkasa.
- Tarigan, D. M. B., & Monika, S. (2023). Tindak Tutur Ilokusi pada Acara Mata Najwa yang Berjudul Susahnya Jadi Perempuan Part 2. *Jurnal Sinestesia*, 13(2), 735–745.
- Vicky, L., & Fikri, H. (2021). Tindak Tutur Deklaratif Guru dan Murid dalam Film Laskar Pelangi Karya Andrea Hirata. *Jurnal Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan*, 1(2).
- Yule, G. (2014). *Pragmatics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Yuliani, W. (2018). Metode Penelitian Deskriptif Kualitatif dalam Perspektif Bimbingan dan Konseling. *QUANTA: Jurnal Kajian Bimbingan dan Konseling dalam Pendidikan*, 2 (2), 83–91