

Coffi SAMBIENI



ACTES DU 2^{ème} COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL DU LABO GUR

THEME

**ORIGINES, MIGRATIONS ET
IMPLANTATIONS DES PEUPLES GUR**

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La Revue *GurPapers / Cahiers Gur* reçoit les articles au plus tard en avril de chaque année.

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LETTRES ET LANGUES

DECIPHERING NANA AKUFO-ADDO'S AND JOE BIDEN'S ENCODED MESSAGES IN THEIR SPEECHES ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A SPEECH-ACTS-ORIENTED STUDY

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Abstract

This study seeks to scrutinize speech acts in Nana Akufo-Addo's And Joe Biden's Speeches on Covid-19 Pandemic. The investigation is aimed at decoding both presidents' various encoded messages in their speeches to help understand beyond what is literally said therein by each one of them about the pandemic within the period when both speeches got delivered. The study is further intended to examine how similar and/or different both political figures' perspectives are about the pandemic. To reach such aims, the article appeals to the mixed quantitative and qualitative methodology. The study has made important findings. Among others, the investigation has unveiled that both Nana Akufo-Addo and Joe Biden are seriously concerned and committed to the fight against Covid-19 pandemic. The results further indicate, via their use of the directive speech acts, that the success in the battle is largely incumbent upon the presidents' populations who need collaborating by complying with their respective political leaders' requirements. More to the point, the use of the commissives has revealed that Joe Biden sounds, by far, more strategically and pragmatically committed to future steps against the pandemic than Nana Akufo-Addo. The study has opened up avenues for further researches. Exploring implicature and implication as well as the Gricean maxims of the cooperative principle in both studied speeches will, no doubt, contribute to the decoding of additional meanings to those arrived at in this paper.

Key words: Covid-19, Locution, Meaning, Pragmatics, Speech acts.

Résumé

Cette étude vise à examiner les actes de langage dans les discours des présidents Nana Akufo-Addo et Joe Biden sur la pandémie du Covid-19. La recherche vise à déchiffrer les divers messages encodés par lesdits présidents dans leur discours respectif afin d'aider à comprendre au-delà de ce qui y est littéralement dit au sujet de la pandémie du Covid-19 au moment où les deux discours furent prononcés. L'étude vise également à examiner à quel point les perspectives des deux figures politiques au sujet de la pandémie sont similaires et/ou différentes. En vue de l'atteinte de tels objectifs, la méthodologie à la fois quantitative et qualitative dite mixte a été adoptée. L'étude a abouti à des résultats importants. Parmi tant d'autres, l'investigation a révélé que les deux présidents sont sérieusement préoccupés et engagés dans la lutte contre la pandémie du Covid-19. L'usage des actes de langage directifs par les deux présidents révèlent également que le succès dans le combat contre la pandémie incombe largement aux populations qui doivent collaborer et se conformer aux exigences de leur leader politique respectif. De plus, l'usage des actes de langage commis dans les deux discours révèle que Joe Biden est de loin plus stratégiquement et de façons plus pragmatique engagé dans les étapes à suivre dans la lutte contre la pandémie que Nana Akufo-Addo. L'étude a ouvert de nouveaux horizons pour de futures recherches. L'examen des implications de même que l'étude des maximes du principe de coopération de Grice dans les deux discours étudiés contribueraient à coup sûr à décoder des messages complémentaires à ceux déchiffrés par cette étude.

Mots clés : Actes de langage, Covid-19, locution, Pragmatique, signification.

Introduction

According to their various social and cultural backgrounds, people use language differently to achieve several purposes. For Aitchison (2003), speakers use language in ways which are unpredictable from linguistics knowledge alone. It goes without saying that the knowledge of the meanings of the words used by a speaker is not enough to understand her/his intended messages. Actually, language plays a vital role in human relationships especially as it is the sole means whereby people express their ideas, feelings, emotions, and moods to one another via communication in their daily interactions. In the same perspective, Austin (1962) argued that language is used to express such psychological states as embarrassment, gratitude, irritation, regrets etc. O'Grady, Dobrovolsky, and Aronoff (1989) state that "language is a system of communication, a medium for thought a vehicle for literacy expression, a social institution, a matter for political controversy, and a factor in nation building" (p. 1). From Clark's (1977) perception, language stands at the center of human affairs. As such, language is unavoidable in human life. In their daily interactions, people take such actions as giving information, commending, ordering, requesting, and asking as signs of their involvement in their social interaction with their interlocutors. These actions are what are referred to as speech acts in pragmatics. Yule (2010) perceived a speech act as "the action performed by a speaker with an utterance" (p.133). As this quote implies, speaking entails action. As a consequence, speakers use utterances according to their needs and the types of actions that they want their interlocutors to take as a result. These needs may be expressed directly, in which case it's not that much difficult to get the speaker easily. Conversely, they can be expressed indirectly creating complexity and difficulty for understanding in the language use unless both the situational and cultural contexts as well as one's experiential background are made use of. In fact, with indirect speech acts, the literal meanings of the words used in utterances are not enough to understand the speaker's communicative intentions behind what s/he says or writes. This paper examines presidents Nana Akufo-Addo's And Joe Biden's Speeches on Covid-19 Pandemic to decode their messages beyond the surface words of their various utterances. It further aims at examining how similar and/or different both political figures' perspectives are about

the pandemic. The following are the different key points the article goes round. In addition to this introduction, the first section deals with the investigation theoretical perspectives and reviews a few recently published related literatures. The second section concerns the identification of speech acts in the selected speeches. Here a recap statistical table of the recorded speech acts is provided and described for a better display of the findings. The ensuing section is that of the interpretation of findings. At this point in the development, the recorded findings are interpreted for hidden messages decoding. A conclusion rounds off the paper with a summary of the key findings and highlights the avenues opened up by the research for further researches.

1. Theoretical Framework and Literature Review

This section explores the essential aspects of the speech acts theory necessary for the ongoing study. It also reviews a few related recently published works.

1.1. Theoretical Framework

Speech acts are actions that change the universe of discourse when a speaker utters it, and a recipient grasps it (Searle, 1975). They can be oral or written. They can also be expressed via some other communication forms such as sign language. Language is not just used to produce isolated series of sentences. It is also used to perform different types of actions. Searle (1977:34) classify speech acts into five categories namely representatives, directives, commissives, expressive, and declarations.

Representative speech acts are utterances that are produced to state a fact or opinion based on the observation of a certain number of things. Hence, they commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition. Representatives are expressive of the speaker's beliefs. They include statements of fact, assertions, conclusions and descriptions. More specifically, they represent the speaker's assertions and opinions about people, things, and the world as a whole. For instance, when I say "Africans are hospitable", that assertion represents my own opinion about Africans based on my observation and the experience that I have had with Africans. The statement is therefore, a representative speech act. As a matter of fact, representative speech acts are expressed through such speech acts verbs as:

assert, claim, believe, state, conclude, agree, predict, guess, describe, deny, insist, assure, describe, report, remind, inform, tell, boast, characterize, diagnose, class, and complain.

Directive speech acts are utterances used by a speaker to get the hearer to do something. Directives include orders, commands, requesting, questioning, begging, pleading, praying, entreating, permitting, advising and suggesting. The utterance “could I use your pen?” for example is a directive speech act and represents the speaker’s request to have the hearer lend him/her his/her pen

Commissive speech acts are those utterances that commit the speaker to some future course of action. Via the commissives, the speaker intends to do something by promising, offering, pledging, threatening, or refusing. The utterance “*I will let you know*” is the speaker’s promise to provide the hearer with a feedback on a given issue and is therefore illustrative of a commissive speech act.

As for the expressive speech acts, they are utterances that are used to express the speaker’s state of mind about a given situation. They embrace congratulating, thanking, welcoming, apologizing, and consoling. An illustrative example of an expressive speech act would be “thank you so much for responding to my appeal”

In other respects, declarative speech acts are utterances whose propositional content matches the reality. They include appointing, nominating, resigning, naming, declaring, calling, defining, declaring the bride and bridegroom wife and husband, and pronouncing sentences.

All the five categories of speech acts function differently according to the situational context in which they are used and their users. In fact, they can function as direct speech acts or indirect speech acts. A direct speech act uses an interrogative syntactic structure for the function of a question, an imperative syntactic structure for the function of a command or request, and a declarative syntactic structure for the function of a statement (Yule, 2010, p. 134).

When a declarative syntactic structure, an imperative or an interrogative one is used to perform a function other than the one they are literally recognized for, the result is an indirect speech act. According to Yule (2010), indirect speech acts are used because such actions as requests

presented in an indirect way (as for example in *could you hand that stuff over to me?*) are generally considered to *be more gentle or more polite in our society* than direct speech acts (*hand that stuff over to me*).

Both direct and indirect speech acts are assessed via the concept of politeness. Indeed, politeness in pragmatics is showing awareness and consideration of another person's face. In fact, it is being tactful, modest and nice to other people. The key concept in studies related to politeness is face. Face is one's public self-image, viz., the emotional and social sense of self that everyone has and expects everyone else to recognize. In pragmatics, face can be positive or negative (Yule, 2010:135). While a negative face is the need to be independent and free from imposition, a positive face is the need to be connected, to belong to, or to be a member of a group.

Austin (1962) in his posthumous work entitled *How to Do Things with Words*, elaborated on a number of conditions that must be in place and criteria that have to be satisfied for a speech act to achieve its purpose. He called these conditions felicity conditions. As an illustration, for performatives to actually 'perform', both speaker and audience have to accept a certain number of assumptions about the speech act.

Yule (1996: 50) identified five types of felicity conditions for the realization of both direct and indirect speech acts. These include: general conditions, content conditions, preparatory conditions, sincerity conditions and essential conditions. General conditions presuppose the participants' knowledge of the language being used and his non-play acting. Content conditions concern the appropriate content of an utterance. Preparatory conditions deal with differences of various illocutionary acts. They relate to whether the person performing a speech act has the authority to do so (e.g. not everyone is qualified to fine, christen, arrest, etc.). Sincerity conditions count with the speaker's intention to carry out a certain act. They relate to whether the speech act is performed sincerely (e.g. the speaker is not lying). Essential conditions combine with a specification of what must be in the utterance content, the context, and the speaker's intentions, in order for a specific act to be appropriately (felicitously) performed.

1.2. Literature Review

The application of speech acts theories to text analysis has been of great interest to so many researchers within the field of applied linguistics. This section of the paper critically reviews some of the most recently published articles within the field of pragmatics that use the theories of speech acts for hidden meanings unveiling in literary genres.

Tutuarima, Nuraeningsih and Rusiana (2018) carried out a research work entitled: An analysis of speech act used in London has fallen movie. Their investigation aims to find out the kinds of speech act used in London Has Fallen Movie. It further looks into the classifications of illocutionary acts used in London Has Fallen Movie. The descriptive qualitative method has been used to reach the above objectives. The research unveils that there are 76 utterances of speech act used in London Has Fallen Movie. In addition, the results reveal that illocutionary speech acts are the overriding ones. In the movie, they consist of 37 utterances. There are 99 illocutionary acts embedded in the movie. The most dominant types of speech acts recorded in the movie are directives made up of 32 utterances and expressive speech acts counting 23 utterances. Though interesting, this research work has failed to assess the validity of the direct and indirect illocutionary acts registered in the movie by examining the felicity conditions around them. The researchers have also failed to include in their paper, such aspects of the speech act theory as politeness and face as used by the actors and actresses of the movie. They would have reached far better results if they had taken all these details into account.

Christianto (2020) investigated speech acts in EFL classrooms. His investigation was aimed to find out and analyze the types of speech acts which were performed by teachers and students in English as Foreign Language (EFL) classrooms. The researcher employed Cruse's (2000) speech act theory to analyze and interpret his findings. To reach his objective, he appealed to the qualitative research method. He found out that there were three types of speech acts used in the interactions between the teachers and students. These include locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. According to his findings, the Locutionary act was performed when teachers and students uttered expressions with no certain intentions. As for the Illocutionary act, it was performed when the

expressions contained certain intentions to listeners. Finally, perlocutionary act was performed when the listeners showed responses and acted as feedback to the speakers' utterances. The researcher would have reached more findings if he had looked into the power continuum between the investigated teachers and students by closely examining the directive speech acts to see if they involved face threatening and/ or face saving acts, and who used them between the teachers and students. Moreover, exploring to see if the way the directives were used by teachers in particular was conducive to a good classroom atmosphere for the learning of English as a foreign language would have allowed the researcher to expand the limits to his research work.

Marbun and Handayani (2020) did a research on an analysis of speech acts in the *grownups movie*. The investigation used the qualitative descriptive method. The results of the study reveal that there are 30 utterances of speech acts in *Grown Ups* movie. Among the 30 speeches, there are 6 locutionary acts, 15 illocutionary acts, and 9 Perlocutionary which are mostly expressed by the key characters. The researchers concluded that the most used speech acts found in their collected data was illocutionary act. They are followed in the preponderance ranking order by the perlocutionary acts and the locutionary acts. This research could have yielded more findings if the researchers have looked into both the locutionary and the illocutionary speech acts to see which between the direct and indirect speech acts prevail over the other in the movie. This could have allowed them to assess the accessibility of the language used in the movie. Moreover, they would have extended the limits of their research work if they studied Politeness terms as used by the interactants in the movie to examine the power hierarchy among the actors and actresses of the movie for deeper meaning digging.

Alfghhe and Mohammadzadeh (2021) carried out an investigation on realization of the speech act of request, suggestion and apology by Libyan EFL learners. The study explored the three speech act strategies of request, suggestion and apology in Libyan Arab EFL undergraduate students (AREFLUS) and Amazigh EFL undergraduate students (AMEFLUS). The study also examined the students' linguistic and pragmatic competence in these strategies. The findings of their research work indicate that there are

several similarities between both above pinpointed groups of Libyan participants. Both AREFLUS and AMEFLUS mostly used direct and explicit forms for performing the speech acts of request and suggestion. Furthermore, the study found that male participants used more explicit and direct strategies in both request and suggestion speech acts compared to females. As far as the speech act of apology is concerned, both groups utilized the formula of (IFID + EXPL) the most for responding to the three situations of the speech act of apology. Moreover, females used more strategies than males. Finally, this study revealed that Libyan male EFL students have more sociopragmatic and pragmalinguistic competence in performing the speech acts of request, suggestion and apology than female participants. In fact, this investigation has explored only two types of speech acts namely directive speech act (request and suggestion) and the expressive speech act (Apology). The researchers have also failed to examine which between the direct and indirect speech acts have been more used between the two categories of investigated students. This could have helped assess more objectively the pragmatic competence of the targeted groups of students. They could have also explored the notions of politeness, positive and negative face in the students' use of the directive speech acts to see the type of interpersonal relations the English language they are learning serves to build among them.

Muhsen and Smeer (2022) did research on: A Pragmatic Analysis of Speech Acts in Reagan's First Inaugural Speech. In this paper, the authors are concerned with analyzing speech acts as a sequence manifested in Reagan's first inaugural speech. In fact, the study aims to analyze the whole five forms of speech acts in the selected political speech from a pragmatic perspective using Searle's (1969) taxonomy of speech acts. To this end, the authors used a mixed method. The qualitative component of this method has allowed the researchers to describe and analyze types of speech acts in the selected data using a proposed model of two theories: Searle's (1969) theory of speech acts and Ferrara's (1980) theory of speech acts within sequences. In the quantitative component, the researchers analyzed the frequencies and percentages of speech acts types. The findings of the investigation indicate that four types of Searle's classification of speech acts figured out in the studied speech namely assertives, commissives, expressives and directives. It

is noticed by the authors that assertive speech acts are the most frequently used by President Reagan. According to the researchers, this type of speech acts has been overridingly used by the President to communicate his messages to his audience without directly embarrassing them. The authors add that this type of speech act is used in political speeches to give them accuracy especially as they commit the speaker to the truth of the text. The model of two theories has been used by the researchers to highlight that a given sentence is a commissive one regardless of its form because the same speech act can contain more than one message.

A careful look into this research shows that the researchers have failed to examine politeness, positive and negative face which should have been done along with the study of the speech acts within the political speech. This would have allowed them to uncover the type of relationship President Reagan really intends or projects to establish between the nation henceforward under his leadership and himself. They could have also explored the felicity conditions of the speech acts used by the president to assess the extent to which what he said in his speech is trustworthy and reliable. This would have allowed to guess how much the president would have been able to achieve by the end of his term of office. All these non-scrutinized aspects that constitute limits to these authors' investigation are taken into account in the present research work for a step forward in the field of political addresses analyses that are pragmatically oriented to the study of speech acts.

As it can be witnessed from the literature critically reviewed so far, no research work has been carried out on Nana Akufo-Addo's And Joe Biden's Speeches on Covid-19 Pandemic, which makes room for the research work at hand and highlights its relevance for the extension of the existing scientific knowledge within the field of pragmatics.

2. Methodology

This section describes all the techniques employed to reach the objectives of this research. From the selection of the studied speeches to their technical analyses, data collection and interpretation of the findings, a number of methods have been appealed to. Indeed, the examined speeches have not been chosen at random. The speeches were to yield to the

examination of speech acts. Moreover, they were to meet the requirements that they be delivered by people of the same social and political rank and have the same theme focus. Such are the reasons that motivated the selection of President Nana Akufo-Addo's and President Joe Biden's speeches on counterattack measures against the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in their respective countries. The study further uses the mixed quantitative and qualitative method. Via the quantitative component of the mixed method, the speech act theory elaborated on in the foregoing theoretical framework has been applied to the selected texts for data collection. At this point, each utterance of both selected speeches has been labeled according to the type of speech act it belongs to into curly brackets. Following the quantitative method, the collected data have been categorized, organized, numerated, and statistically presented in a way that recaps them. The statistics are then described objectively to help pave the way to the qualitative method whereby the interpretation of the findings has been carried out for encoded meanings deciphering.

3. Identification of Speech Acts in the Selected Speeches

The analysis of the speech acts has been carried out in the selected speeches. Different types of speech acts embedded in the latter ones have been identified. The statistical table below summarizes not only the number of each type of speech act recorded in each selected speech but also the total number of each type of speech acts in both speeches altogether as well as their respective percentages.

Types of Speech Acts	Number in the first Speech	Number in the second speech	Total Number per type in both speeches	Percentage
Representatives	11	97	108	47.57%
Directives	13	48	61	26.87%
Expressives	03	18	21	09.25%
Commissives	02	35	37	16.29%
Declaratives	00	00	00	3,08%
Total	29	198	227	

Recap statistical table of the number of speech acts recorded in both selected speeches

Two different speeches have been analyzed. The first speech is that delivered by the Ghanaian president Nana Akufo-Addo and the second speech is delivered by the American President Joe Biden.

As it can be witnessed from the above statistical table, all the different types of speech acts have been recorded in each one of the examined speeches except for the declarative speech act which is missing in both analyzed speeches. It is of utmost importance to highlight that the identified speech acts are recorded in different proportions. In fact the representative speech acts come top of the other types of speech acts in both speeches taken together. A close look at the statistical table shows that they are a total number of one hundred and eight (108) in both speeches representing a global percentage of 47.57% of the overall two hundred and twenty seven (227) speech acts recorded in the studied speeches taken together. In the speech delivered by president Nana Akufo-Addo, representatives are second in the ranking order overridden by the directive speech acts which come top of all the identified speech acts in his speech. Conversely, representative speech acts predominate over all the other type of speech acts recorded in President Joe Biden's speech followed by the directive speech acts which come second in that speech. When combined, the directive speech acts of the first and second speeches come second in the ranking order of the overall identified speech acts in both selected speeches. While commissive speech acts are fourth in president Nana Akufo-Addo's speech, they represent the third most prevailing speech act type in Joe Biden's one. Gathering a total of thirty-seven (37) in both examined speeches, commissive speech acts are third in the ranking order with a total percentage of 16.29%. In President Nana Akufo-Addo's speech, expressive speech acts are third whereas they are fourth in President Joe Biden's speech. The same speech act type is fourth when adding up the numbers it records in the first and second speeches. The declarative speech act is non-existent in the first studied speech as well as in the second one. While Nana Akufo-Addo's speech records twenty-nine (29) speech acts, Joe Biden's one count one hundred and ninety-eight (198) speech acts. The noticeable unbalance in the number of speech acts recorded in each of the studied speeches is largely due to their length. In fact Joe Biden's speech has been far longer than that of Nana Akufo-Addo.

4. Findings and Interpretation

The statistics as presented above encode a number of significant messages that are going to be deciphered under this section. As a matter of fact, the huge number of representative speech acts in Nana Akufo-Addo's speech is not without meaning. In fact, it is evocative of the Ghanaian's president's concerns about the coronavirus pandemic in his country at this early stage of its outbreak. Actually Nana Akufo-Addo has used the representative speech acts to let his nation know about how far he and his government have got as far as the counterattack measures they have taken against the spread of the pandemic are concerned. Knowing that representative speech acts commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed utterances, one understands that the president's messages via these representative speech acts are real, trustworthy and are therefore not just political ones to praise his citizens to the skies. That was no more the time to tease Ghanaians about the rigorous measures to take to avoid the worse to occur especially as six cases were already confirmed even if these were people that travelled into the country. In fact the decision of the Ghanaian president to review the public gathering advisories in the interest of public safety and the protection of his population at that specific time, is evocative of his understanding of the danger that these six confirmed cases constituted for his entire country especially as they could represent the epicenter of the expansion of the pandemic to the other non-infected population if care was not seriously taken. As a president, Nana Akufo-Addo has the authority to carry out his decisions. Hence, the preparatory and sincerity felicity conditions are met. No doubt the Ghanaian President's decisions for the safety and protection of his citizens against covid-19 are going to be enforced.

The representative speech acts in Joe Biden's speech on the other hand have been used to describe the level reached in vaccinating Americans against covid-19. They have been used to account for the rate of vaccination in America by September 2021. In fact, the representative speech acts as used in this speech, highlight the president's observations about the reluctance of a large number of Americans to get covid-19 injection. Until September 09, 2021 when this speech was being delivered, the rate of vaccination in America was low. Nearly 80 million Americans were still not

vaccinated and many Americans were dying. The grim weekly toll was about 70 percent at that time. The use of the representative speech acts by The American President is evocative of the fact that what he is talking about is real. This in fact wasn't just a political speech to push Americans to go for the covid-19 injections. Actually here was the American President's unadorned truth devoid of diplomacy. This dominant use of the representative speech acts indicate that the president's speech wasn't meant to make use of the American people for whatever political or diplomatic end it might be. Knowing that representatives commit a speaker to the accuracy viz. the truth of the expressed proposition, the statistics presented by the president in his speech about the rate of vaccination at the time he was delivering his speech were not wrong but rather real. His intention by providing real statistics was, no doubt, to convince the reluctant Americans to opt for vaccination for the good of all Americans and for the restoration of their economy. A clause look into the representative speech acts recorded in the American president's speech shows that they are all direct speech acts. Such a state of affairs reveals that Joe Biden is a plain-spoken viz. a straightforward person. Actually, the pandemic period was not one to play with. That wasn't the time to beat about the bush that is why he has gone straight to the point with convincing arguments backed up with genuine statistics via representative speech acts.

Whether in the Ghanaian president's speech or in that of the American one, directive speech acts are the second most prevailing ones after the representative speech acts. This way of using both directive speech acts dominantly after representatives is not surprising. In fact every problem needs solution just as illness requires cure. Indeed, both presidents have used the directive speech acts to let their respective nations know about their responsibilities in this pandemic time in their respective countries. This speech type has further been used to lay emphasis on what Ghanaians as well as Americans were expected to do and not to do within this period. While the Ghanaian president was giving preventive guidance to his citizens to avoid the spread of the pandemic as they were at its outbreak stage, the American president was giving curative instructions to his people because the pandemic here was at its most ravaging peak. A look into the different directive speech acts used by each president show that Nana Akufo-Addo's

directives contain more advice than command, order, request and prohibition. Likewise the directive speech acts used by Joe Biden on the other hand also involve more advice than request, order, command and interdiction. This indicates that both presidents have shown awareness and consideration of their people's face. More to the point they have been tactful, modest and nice to their people. Even when requests are made and orders given in this critical period of the corona virus, both presidents used politeness terms. This can be witnessed in clauses seventy-six, eighty-eight, ninety-one, one hundred and nine and one hundred and sixteen of the American president's speech, and in the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth clauses of the Ghanaian president's speech. This clearly indicates that both presidents have opted for a democratic management of the pandemic. It goes without saying that both Joe Biden and Nana Akufo-Addo are neither autocratic nor dictatorial presidents. The directive speech acts as used in both speeches although the realities of the pandemic were not the same in both countries show that both presidents have fully fulfilled their duties as first political leaders of their countries by showing concerns for their population and getting them all to do the right thing for both countries social and economic salvations. The directive speech acts such as used by both presidents are revelatory of the hierarchical organization of the political powers established in both countries.

Nana Akufo-Addo has used just two (02) commissive speech acts in his studied speech. As a recall, commissive speech acts deal with what is intended to be done by the speaker in the future. The pandemic being at its outbreak, the Ghanaian president has been cautious enough not to undertake any future actions especially as he doesn't know the turn events were going to take. He is certainly the kind of person that doesn't like failing to honor his commitments. The few promises he made were about the aspects of the pandemic he was sure to manage successfully such as taking measures to avoid the spread of the pandemic and constantly reviewing these latter ones for improvement following the development of the pandemic within the borders of his homeland. This use of the commissive speech acts is evocative of the Ghanaian president's desire not to disappoint his population or to lose face pragmatically speaking.

In other respects, the American president has used a lot of commissive speech acts in his speech. Indeed, they represent 17.67% of the overall 198 speech acts recorded in the speech and are third in the ranking order. Unlike the Ghanaian President, Joe Biden has been very daring to commit himself to future actions though he could not predict what the following events would be like due to the pandemic. Indeed, the American president has used the commissive speech acts to unveil his six preparedness plans for an effective fight against covid-19 in almost every single aspect of Americans' lives. The use of the commissive speech acts in this speech reveals the president's commitment to avoid the pandemic undermining his nation in whatever manner it might be. It also indicates that Joe Biden knows exactly what matters for his nations at this specific time. A look into his different plans accounts for this. In fact, because the pandemic had largely developed and a large number of people infected, the president's first plan was intended to reduce the spread of the pandemic by increasing vaccinations among the unvaccinated with new vaccination requirements. His second plan aimed to continue to protect the vaccinated. His third plan that he qualified as most important was intended to keep Americans' children safe and schools open. His fourth plan was to increase testing and masking. The fifth plan aimed at protecting their economic recovery. The last plan but not least was to continue to improve the care of those who do get COVID-19. As evidence of his resolution to get all these plans achieved \$2 billion has been committed to purchase nearly 300 million rapid tests for distribution to community health centers, food banks, schools, so that every American, no matter their income, can access free and convenient tests. This highlights that Joe Biden was not just conveying a political message to brag but that he really meant what he intended to do. As a result, the felicity preparatory and Sincerity conditions for the implementation of the American president's promises are met. As it can be witnessed, all the plans are centered on saving American lives. Indeed, the pragmatic message that the American president is trying to convey via his plans is that the future of America as well as its economy is dependent upon Americans' lives. The American president has not just thought of his people. The evidence is the commissive speech act he uttered hereafter: "And I'll be announcing

additional steps to help the rest of the world later this month.” This indicates that President Joe Biden is a philanthropic person and that he is not selfish.

The expressive speech acts have been used by both presidents to account for their worrying state of mind about the fate of their respective nations with the pandemic. Their prayers committing their citizens into God’s keeping is highly evocative of their acknowledgement that beyond all their lifesaving counterattack measures against covid-19, only the almighty God is infallibly able to save them from the worst. The complete absence of declarative speech acts is indicative that both presidents are not autocratic.

Conclusion

This investigation has attempted to decipher presidents Nana Akufo-Addo’s and Joe Biden’s encoded messages in their speeches on Covid-19 pandemic from a pragmatic perspective using the speech act theory as a backdrop. The investigation stemmed from my personal interest in political speeches. Politicians hardly express their minds directly making it hard to get their messages being conveyed fully unless examined closely or read between lines. Alternatively put, political addresses are usually diplomatically veiled. That is why I have decided to explore both above mentioned presidents’ speeches to help get into their cores. The study aims to decode both presidents’ messages beyond the surface words of their various utterances using the speech act theory. It further examines how similar and/or different both political figures’ perspectives are about the pandemic. The investigation appeals to the mixed quantitative and qualitative method to reach its objectives.

The research has arrived at impressive results. Among several others elaborated on in the findings and interpretation section, the study has unveiled that representative speech acts are the most prevailing ones in both studied speeches when taken together. Their occurrence in large number in the Ghanaian president’s speech is evocative that his messages are not just political ones to praise his citizens to the skies. They have allowed the American president to express his unadorned truth devoid of diplomacy to his nation about the counterattack measures that he was planning to enforce against the spread of the pandemic in his country. The overriding use of representatives in the second speech and their occurrence in huge numbers in

the first speech indicates that both presidents are not hypocritical but rather realistic. Directive speech acts in both speeches involve more advice than request, order, command and prohibition. This indicates that both presidents have shown awareness and consideration of their people's face. The use of directives in both speeches shows that both presidents have opted for a democratic management of the pandemic in their countries. The directive speech acts such as used by both presidents are revelatory of the hierarchical organization of the political powers established in both countries. While the Ghanaian president was giving preventive guidance to his citizens to avoid the spread of the pandemic as they were at its outbreak stage, the American president was giving curative instructions to his people because the pandemic here was at its most ravaging peak. Unlike the Ghanaian president who has been cautious enough not to commit himself to barely any future actions especially as he doesn't know the turn events were going to take, the American president has been very daring to commit himself to doing many things though he could not predict what the following events would be like.

This study has opened up further research avenues. As a matter of fact, exploring the field, tenor and mode dimensions as well as the discourse-semantics of the selected speeches along with the maxims of Grice's cooperative principle would help dig up further messages in both examined political addresses.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Nana Akufo-Addo's speech

1. Fellow Ghanaians, I have come into your homes, again, this evening to provide an update, as I promised, on the measures taken by Government to combat the Coronavirus pandemic. **{representative}**
2. You may recall that on Wednesday, 12th March, 2020, when I first spoke to you directly on this matter, **{Representative}**
3. I announced the first raft of enhanced measures taken in response to the pandemic. **{Representative}**
4. At the time, there had been no reported, confirmed case of the Coronavirus in Ghana. **{Representative}**
5. Since then, six (6) confirmed cases have been announced, all of people who recently travelled into the country. **{Representative}**
6. Advisories on how to manage the developments have also been announced by the Ministries of Health and Information. **{Representative}**
7. Public education is being intensified to ensure that citizens are well advised on preventive measures. **{Representative}**
8. Earlier today, Sunday, 15th March, 2020, I chaired a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Coronavirus response. **{Representative}**
9. After deliberations, I have decided, in the interest of public safety and the protection of our population, to review the public gathering advisories earlier announced as follows: **{Representative}**
10. All public gatherings, including conferences, workshops, funerals, festivals, political rallies, sporting events and religious activities, such as services in churches and mosques, have been suspended for the next four (4) weeks. Private burials are permitted, but with limited numbers, not exceeding twenty-five (25) in attendance; **{Directive}**
11. All Universities, Senior High Schools, and basic schools, i.e. public and private schools, will be closed Monday, 16th March, 2020, till further notice. The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication, has been tasked to roll out distance learning programmes. However, BECE and WASSCE candidates will be allowed to attend school

to prepare for their examinations, but with prescribed social distancing protocols; **{Directive}**

12. The Government of Ghana's Travel Advisory issued earlier today should be observed as announced; **{Directive}**
13. Businesses and other workplaces can continue to operate, but should observe prescribed social distancing between patrons and staff; **{Directive}**
14. Establishments, such as supermarkets, shopping malls, restaurants, night clubs, hotels and drinking spots, should observe enhanced hygiene procedures by providing, amongst others, hand sanitizers, running water and soap for washing of hands; **{Directive}**
15. The Ministry of Transport should work with the transport unions and private and public transport operators to ensure enhanced hygienic conditions in all vehicles and terminals, by providing, amongst others, hand sanitizers, running water and soap for washing of hands; and **{Directive}**
16. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development should co-ordinate, with the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, measures to enhance conditions of hygiene in markets across the country. **{Directive}**
17. Additionally, as the experts conduct contact tracing, I appeal to all to cooperate with them to ensure that persons who have come into contact with positive cases are identified and supported. **{Directive}**
18. I have directed the Attorney General to submit, immediately, to Parliament emergency legislation, in accordance with Article 21 (4) (c) & (d) of the Constitution of the Republic, to embody these measures, **{Directive}**
19. and I have further directed the Minister for Health to exercise his powers, under section 169 of the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851), by the immediate issuance of an Executive Instrument, to govern the relevant measures. **{Directive}**
20. I call upon Parliament to support the Executive in this national endeavour. **{Directive}**
21. As I said earlier, there is every need to observe prescribed social distancing and good personal hygiene to prevent community spread. **{Directive}**
22. We are determined to do whatever we can to prevent the spread of the virus, and protect the population. **{Commissive}**

23. All the measures that have been announced will be subject to constant review and enhancement, if necessary. **{Commissive}**
24. Fellow Ghanaians, these are not ordinary times, **{Representative}**
25. so, let us all put our shoulders to the wheel, **{Directive}**
26. and I am confident that, together, by the Grace of God, **{Expressive}**
27. We shall overcome this challenge. **{Representative}**
28. May God bless us all, and our homeland Ghana, and make her great and strong. **{Expressive}**
29. I thank you for your attention. **{Expressive}**

Appendix 2: Joe Biden's speech

1. Good evening, my fellow Americans. I want to talk to you about where we are in the battle against COVID-19, the progress we've made, and the work we have left to do. **{Representative}**
2. And it starts with understanding this **{Representative}**:
3. Even as the Delta variant 19 [sic] has — COVID-19 — has been hitting this country hard, **{Representative}**
4. We have the tools to combat the virus, if we can come together as a country and use those tools. **{Directive}**
5. If we raise our vaccination rate, protect ourselves and others with masking and expanded testing, and identify people who are infected, we can and we will turn the tide on COVID-19. **{Directive}**
6. It will take a lot of hard work, and it's going to take some time. **{Representative}**
7. Many of us are frustrated with the nearly 80 million Americans who are still not vaccinated, even though the vaccine is safe, effective, and free. **{Representative}**
8. You might be confused about what is true and what is false about COVID-19. **{Representative}**
9. So before I outline the new steps to fight COVID-19 that I'm going to be announcing tonight, **{Commissive}**
10. let me give you some clear information about where we stand. **{Representative}**

11. First, we have cons- — we have made considerable progress in battling COVID-19. **{Representative}**
12. When I became President, about 2 million Americans were fully vaccinated. **{Representative}**
13. Today, over 175 million Americans have that protection. **{Representative}**
14. Before I took office, we hadn't ordered enough vaccine for every American. **{Representative}**
15. Just weeks in office, we did. **{Representative}**
16. The week before I took office, on January 20th of this year, over 25,000 Americans died that week from COVID-19. **{Representative}**
17. Last week, that grim weekly toll was down 70 percent. **{Representative}**
18. And in the three months before I took office, our economy was faltering, creating just 50,000 jobs a month. **{Representative}**
19. We're now averaging 700,000 new jobs a month in the past three months. **{Representative}**
20. This progress is real. **{Representative}**
21. But while America is in much better shape than it was seven months ago when I took office, **{Representative}**
22. I need to tell you a second fact. **{Representative}**
23. We're in a tough stretch, and it could last for a while. **{Representative}**
24. The highly contagious Delta variant that I began to warn America about back in July spread in late summer like it did in other countries before us. **{Representative}**
25. While the vaccines provide strong protections for the vaccinated, we read about, we hear about, and we see the stories of hospitalized people, people on their death beds, among the unvaccinated over these past few weeks. **{Representative}**
26. This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated. **{Representative}**
27. And it's caused by the fact that despite America having an unprecedented and successful vaccination program, despite the fact that for almost five months free vaccines have been available in 80,000 different locations, we still have nearly 80 million Americans who have failed to get the shot. **{Representative}**
28. And to make matters worse, there are elected officials actively working to undermine the fight against COVID-19. **{Representative}**

29. Instead of encouraging people to get vaccinated and mask up, they're ordering mobile morgues for the unvaccinated dying from COVID in their communities. **{Representative}**
30. This is totally unacceptable. **{Expressive}**
31. Third, if you wonder how all this adds up, here's the math: The vast majority of Americans are doing the right thing. **{Representative}**
32. Nearly three quarters of the eligible have gotten at least one shot, but one quarter has not gotten any. **{Representative}**
33. That's nearly 80 million Americans not vaccinated. **{Representative}**
34. And in a country as large as ours, that's 25 percent minority. **{Representative}**
35. That 25 percent can cause a lot of damage — and they are. **{Representative}**
36. The unvaccinated overcrowd our hospitals, are overrunning the emergency rooms and intensive care units, leaving no room for someone with a heart attack, or pancreatitis [pancreatitis], or cancer. **{Representative}**
37. And fourth, I want to emphasize that the vaccines provide very strong protection from severe illness from COVID-19. **{Representative}**
38. I know there's a lot of confusion and misinformation. **{Expressive}**
39. But the world's leading scientists confirm that if you are fully vaccinated, your risk of severe illness from COVID-19 is very low. **{Representative}**
40. In fact, based on available data from the summer, only one of out of every 160,000 fully vaccinated Americans was hospitalized for COVID per day. **{Representative}**
41. These are the facts. **{Representative}**
42. So here's where we stand: The path ahead, even with the Delta variant, is not nearly as bad as last winter. **{Representative}**
43. But what makes it incredibly more frustrating is that we have the tools to combat COVID-19, and a distinct minority of Americans —supported by a distinct minority of elected officials — are keeping us from turning the corner. **{Representative}**
44. These pandemic politics, as I refer to, are making people sick, causing unvaccinated people to die. **{Representative}**

45. We cannot allow these actions to stand in the way of protecting the large majority of Americans who have done their part and want to get back to life as normal. **{Expressive}**
46. As your President, I'm announcing tonight a new plan to require more Americans to be vaccinated, to combat those blocking public health. **{Directive}**
47. My plan also increases testing, protects our economy, and will make our kids safer in schools. It consists of six broad areas of action and many specific measures in each that — and each of those actions that you can read more about at WhiteHouse.gov. **{Commissive}**
48. The measures — these are going to take time to have full impact. **{Representative}**
49. But if we implement them, I believe and the scientists indicate, that in the months ahead we can reduce the number of unvaccinated Americans, decrease hospitalizations and deaths, and allow our children to go to school safely and keep our economy strong by keeping businesses open. **{Representative}**
50. First, we must increase vaccinations among the unvaccinated with new vaccination requirements. **{Commissive}**
51. Of the nearly 80 million eligible Americans who have not gotten vaccinated, many said they were waiting for approval from the Food and Drug Administration — the FDA. **{Representative}**
52. Well, last month, the FDA granted that approval. **{Representative}**
53. So, the time for waiting is over. **{Directive}**
54. This summer, we made progress through the combination of vaccine requirements and incentives, as well as the FDA approval. **{Representative}**
55. Four million more people got their first shot in August than they did in July. **{Representative}**
56. But we need to do more. **{Directive}**
57. This is not about freedom or personal choice. **{Expressive}**
58. It's about protecting yourself and those around you — the people you work with, the people you care about, the people you love. **{Directive}**
59. My job as President is to protect all Americans. **{Commissive}**

60. So, tonight, I'm announcing that the Department of Labor is developing an emergency rule to require all employers with 100 or more employees, that together employ over 80 million workers, to ensure their workforces are fully vaccinated or show a negative test at least once a week. **{Directive}**
61. Some of the biggest companies are already requiring this: United Airlines, Disney, Tysons Food, and even Fox News. **{Representative}**
62. The bottom line: We're going to protect vaccinated workers from unvaccinated co-workers. **{Commissive}**
63. We're going to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by increasing the share of the workforce that is vaccinated in businesses all across America. **{Commissive}**
64. My plan will extend the vaccination requirements that I previously issued in the healthcare field. **{Commissive}**
65. Already, I've announced, we'll be requiring vaccinations that all nursing home workers who treat patients on Medicare and Medicaid, because I have that federal authority. **{Directive}**
66. Tonight, I'm using that same authority to expand that to cover those who work in hospitals, home healthcare facilities, or other medical facilities — a total of 17 million healthcare workers. **{Directive}**
67. If you're seeking care at a health facility, you should be able to know that the people treating you are vaccinated. Simple. Straightforward. Period. **{Directive}**
68. Next, I will sign an executive order that will now require all executive branch federal employees to be vaccinated — all. **{Directive}**
69. And I've signed another executive order that will require federal contractors to do the same. **{Directive}**
70. If you want to work with the federal government and do business with us, get vaccinated. **{Directive}**
71. If you want to do business with the federal government, vaccinate your workforce. **{Directive}**
72. And tonight, I'm removing one of the last remaining obstacles that make it difficult for you to get vaccinated. **{Representative}**
73. The Department of Labor will require employers with 100 or more workers to give those workers paid time off to get vaccinated. **{Directive}**

74. No one should lose pay in order to get vaccinated or take a loved one to get vaccinated. **{Directive}**
75. Today, in total, the vaccine requirements in my plan will affect about 100 million Americans — two thirds of all workers. **{Representative}**
76. And for other sectors, I issue this appeal: To those of you running large entertainment venues — from sports arenas to concert venues to movie theaters — please require folks to get vaccinated or show a negative test as a condition of entry. **{Directive}**
77. And to the nation’s family physicians, pediatricians, GPs — general practitioners — you’re the most trusted medical voice to your patients. **{Directive}**
78. You may be the one person who can get someone to change their mind about being vaccinated. **{Directive}**
79. Tonight, I’m asking each of you to reach out to your unvaccinated patients over the next two weeks and make a personal appeal to them to get the shot. **{Directive}**
80. America needs your personal involvement in this critical effort. **{Directive}**
81. And my message to unvaccinated Americans is this: What more is there to wait for? **{Directive}**
82. What more do you need to see? **{Directive}**
83. We’ve made vaccinations free, safe, and convenient. **{Representative}**
84. The vaccine has FDA approval. **{Representative}**
85. Over 200 million Americans have gotten at least one shot. **{Representative}**
86. We’ve been patient, but our patience is wearing thin. **{Representative}**
87. And your refusal has cost all of us. **{Representative}**
88. So, please, do the right thing. **{Directive}**
89. But just don’t take it from me; listen to the voices of unvaccinated Americans who are lying in hospital beds, taking their final breaths, saying, “If only I had gotten vaccinated.” “If only.” **{Directive}**
90. It’s a tragedy. **{Expressive}**
91. Please don’t let it become yours. **{Directive}**
92. The second piece of my plan is continuing to protect the vaccinated. **{Commissive}**
93. For the vast majority of you who have gotten vaccinated, I understand your anger at those who haven’t gotten vaccinated. **{Expressive}**

94. I understand the anxiety about getting a “breakthrough” case. **{Expressive}**
95. But as the science makes clear, if you’re fully vaccinated, you’re highly protected from severe illness, even if you get COVID-19. **{Representative}**
96. In fact, recent data indicates there is only one confirmed positive case per 5,000 fully vaccinated Americans per day. **{Representative}**
97. You’re as safe as possible, and we’re doing everything we can to keep it that way — keep it that way, keep you safe. **{Commissive}**
98. That’s where boosters come in — the shots that give you even more protection than after your second shot. **{Expressive}**
99. Now, I know there’s been some confusion about boosters. **{Expressive}**
100. So, let me be clear: Last month, our top government doctors announced an initial plan for booster shots for vaccinated Americans. **{Representative}**
101. They believe that a booster is likely to provide the highest level of protection yet. **{Representative}**
102. Of course, the decision of which booster shots to give, when to start them, and who will give them, will be left completely to the scientists at the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control. **{Directive}**
103. But while we wait, we’ve done our part. **{Expressive}**
104. We’ve bought enough boosters — enough booster shots — and the distribution system is ready to administer them. **{Representative}**
105. As soon as they are authorized, those eligible will be able to get a booster right away in tens of thousands of sites across the — sites across the country for most Americans, at your nearby drug store, and for free. **{Representative}**
106. The third piece of my plan is keeping — and maybe the most important — is keeping our children safe and our schools open. **{Commissive}**
107. For any parent, it doesn’t matter how low the risk of any illness or accident is when it comes to your child or grandchild. **{Expressive}**
108. Trust me, I know. **{Expressive}**
109. So, let me speak to you directly. Let me speak to you directly to help ease some of your worries. **{Directive}**

110. It comes down to two separate categories: children ages 12 and older who are eligible for a vaccine now, and children ages 11 and under who are not yet eligible. **{Representative}**
111. The safest thing for your child 12 and older is to get them vaccinated. **{Directive}**
112. They get vaccinated for a lot of things. **{Directive}**
113. That's it. **{Representative}**
114. Get them vaccinated. **{Directive}**
115. As with adults, almost all the serious COVID-19 cases we're seeing among adolescents are in unvaccinated 12- to 17-year-olds — an age group that lags behind in vaccination rates. **{Representative}**
116. So, parents, please get your teenager vaccinated. **{Directive}**
117. What about children under the age of 12 who can't get vaccinated yet? **{Representative}**
118. Well, the best way for a parent to protect their child under the age of 12 starts at home. **{Directive}**
119. Every parent, every teen sibling, every caregiver around them should be vaccinated. **{Directive}**
120. Children have four times higher chance of getting hospitalized if they live in a state with low vaccination rates rather than the states with high vaccination rates. **{Representative}**
121. Now, if you're a parent of a young child, you're wondering when will it be — when will it be — the vaccine available for them. **{Representative}**
122. I strongly support an independent scientific review for vaccine uses for children under 12. **{Expressive}**
123. We can't take shortcuts with that scientific work. **{Directive}**
124. But I've made it clear I will do everything within my power to support the FDA with any resource it needs to continue to do this as safely and as quickly as possible, and our nation's top doctors are committed to keeping the public at large updated on the process so parents can plan. **{Commissive}**
125. Now to the schools. We know that if schools follow the science and implement the safety measures — like testing, masking, adequate ventilation systems that we provided the money for, social distancing, and

vaccinations — then children can be safe from COVID-19 in schools.

{Directive}

126. Today, about 90 percent of school staff and teachers are vaccinated.

{Representative}

127. We should get that to 100 percent. **{Directive}**

128. My administration has already acquired teachers at the schools run by the Defense Department — because I have the authority as President in the federal system — the Defense Department and the Interior Department — to get vaccinated. **{Representative}**

129. That's authority I possess. **{Representative}**

130. Tonight, I'm announcing that we'll require all of nearly 300,000 educators in the federal paid program, Head Start program, must be vaccinated as well to protect your youngest — our youngest — most precious Americans and give parents the comfort. **{Directive}**

131. And tonight, I'm calling on all governors to require vaccination for all teachers and staff. **{Directive}**

132. Some already have done so, but we need more to step up. **{Directive}**

133. Vaccination requirements in schools are nothing new. **{Representative}**

134. They work. **{Representative}**

135. They're overwhelmingly supported by educators and their unions. **{Representative}**

136. And to all school officials trying to do the right thing by our children: I'll always be on your side. **{Commissive}**

137. Let me be blunt. **{Expressive}**

138. My plan also takes on elected officials and states that are undermining you and these lifesaving actions. **{Commissive}**

139. Right now, local school officials are trying to keep children safe in a pandemic while their governor picks a fight with them and even threatens their salaries or their jobs. **{Representative}**

140. Talk about bullying in schools. If they'll not help — if these governors won't help us beat the pandemic, I'll use my power as President to get them out of the way. **{Commissive}**

141. The Department of Education has already begun to take legal action against states undermining protection that local school officials have ordered. **{Representative}**
142. Any teacher or school official whose pay is withheld for doing the right thing, we will have that pay restored by the federal government 100 percent. **{Commissive}**
143. I promise you I will have your back. **{Commissive}**
144. The fourth piece of my plan is increasing testing and masking. **{Commissive}**
145. From the start, America has failed to do enough COVID-19 testing. **{Representative}**
146. In order to better detect and control the Delta variant, I'm taking steps tonight to make testing more available, more affordable, and more convenient. **{Commissive}**
147. I'll use the Defense Production Act to increase production of rapid tests, including those that you can use at home. **{Commissive}**
148. While that production is ramping up, my administration has worked with top retailers, like Walmart, Amazon, and Kroger's, and tonight we're announcing that, no later than next week, each of these outlets will start to sell at-home rapid test kits at cost for the next three months. **{Commissive}**
149. This is an immediate price reduction for at-home test kits for up to 35 percent reduction. **{Representative}**
150. We'll also expand — expand free testing at 10,000 pharmacies around the country. **{Commissive}**
151. And we'll commit — we're committing \$2 billion to purchase nearly 300 million rapid tests for distribution to community health centers, food banks, schools, so that every American, no matter their income, can access free and convenient tests. **{Commissive}**
152. This is important to everyone, particularly for a parent or a child — with a child not old enough to be vaccinated. **{Expressive}**
153. You'll be able to test them at home and test those around them. **{Representative}**
154. In addition to testing, we know masking helps stop the spread of COVID-19. **{Representative}**

155. That's why when I came into office, I required masks for all federal buildings and on federal lands, on airlines, and other modes of transportation. **{Representative}**
156. Today — tonight, I'm announcing that the Transportation Safety Administration — the TSA — will double the fines on travelers that refuse to mask. **{Directive}**
157. If you break the rules, be prepared to pay. **{Directive}**
158. And, by the way, show some respect. **{Directive}**
159. The anger you see on television toward flight attendants and others doing their job is wrong; it's ugly. **{Representative}**
160. The fifth piece of my plan is protecting our economic recovery. **{Commissive}**
161. Because of our vaccination program and the American Rescue Plan, which we passed early in my administration, we've had record job creation for a new administration, economic growth unmatched in 40 years. **{Representative}**
162. We cannot let unvaccinated do this progress — undo it, turn it back. **{Directive}**
163. So tonight, I'm announcing additional steps to strengthen our economic recovery. **{Commissive}**
164. We'll be expanding COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan programs. **{Commissive}**
165. That's a program that's going to allow small businesses to borrow up to \$2 million from the current \$500,000 to keep going if COVID-19 impacts on their sales. **{Representative}**
166. These low-interest, long-term loans require no repayment for two years and can be used to hire and retain workers, purchase inventory, or even pay down higher cost debt racked up since the pandemic began. **{Representative}**
167. I'll also be taking additional steps to help small businesses stay afloat during the pandemic. **{Commissive}**
168. Sixth, we're going to continue to improve the care of those who do get COVID-19. **{Commissive}**
169. In early July, I announced the deployment of surge response teams. **{Representative}**

170. These are teams comprised of experts from the Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC, the Defense Department, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency — FEMA — to areas in the country that need help to stem the spread of COVID-19. **{Representative}**
171. Since then, the federal government has deployed nearly 1,000 staff, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, into 18 states. **{Representative}**
172. Today, I'm announcing that the Defense Department will double the number of military health teams that they'll deploy to help their fellow Americans in hospitals around the country. **{Commissive}**
173. Additionally, we're increasing the availability of new medicines recommended by real doctors, not conspir- — conspiracy theorists. **{Commissive}**
174. The monoclonal antibody treatments have been shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization by up to 70 percent for unvaccinated people at risk of developing sefe- — severe disease. **{Representative}**
175. We've already distributed 1.4 million courses of these treatments to save lives and reduce the strain on hospitals. **{Representative}**
176. Tonight, I'm announcing we will increase the average pace of shipment across the country of free monoclonal antibody treatments by another 50 percent. **{Commissive}**
177. Before I close, let me say this: Communities of color are disproportionately impacted by this virus. **{Expressive}**
178. And as we continue to battle COVID-19, we will ensure that equity continues to be at the center of our response. **{Commissive}**
179. We'll ensure that everyone is reached. **{Commissive}**
180. My first responsibility as President is to protect the American people and make sure we have enough vaccine for every American, including enough boosters for every American who's approved to get one. **{Commissive}**
181. We also know this virus transcends borders. **{Representative}**
182. That's why, even as we execute this plan at home, we need to continue fighting the virus overseas, continue to be the arsenal of vaccines. **{Directive}**

183. We're proud to have donated nearly 140 million vaccines over 90 countries, more than all other countries combined, including Europe, China, and Russia combined. **{Representative}**
184. That's American leadership on a global stage, and that's just the beginning. **{Representative}**
185. We've also now started to ship another 500 million COVID vaccines — Pfizer vaccines — purchased to donate to 100 lower-income countries in need of vaccines. **{Representative}**
186. And I'll be announcing additional steps to help the rest of the world later this month. **{Commissive}**
187. As I recently released the key parts of my pandemic preparedness plan so that America isn't caught flat-footed when a new pandemic comes again — as it will — next month, I'm also going to release the plan in greater detail. **{Commissive}**
188. So let me close with this: We have so- — we've made so much progress during the past seven months of this pandemic. **{Representative}**
189. The recent increases in vaccinations in August already are having an impact in some states where case counts are dropping in recent days. **{Representative}**
190. Even so, we remain at a critical moment, a critical time. **{Representative}**
191. We have the tools. **{Representative}**
192. Now we just have to finish the job with truth, with science, with confidence, and together as one nation. **{Directive}**
193. Look, we're the United States of America. **{Representative}**
194. There's nothing — not a single thing — we're unable to do if we do it together. **{Representative}**
195. So, let's stay together. **{Directive}**
196. God bless you all and all those who continue to serve on the frontlines of this pandemic. **{Expressive}**
197. And may God protect our troops. **{Expressive}**
198. Get vaccinated. **{Directive}**