

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A.1 Background of the Research

Humans are social creatures who rely on language as a vital tool for communication, enabling them to convey messages, information, ideas, feelings, and opinions. Effective communication requires considering context and meaning, which is the focus of pragmatics. Pragmatics examines how people produce and interpret meaning in interactions, going beyond literal definitions to understand intended messages. It is essential for understanding and responding to language, as it analyzes the meaning behind utterances rather than just the words themselves (Yule, 1996). Without pragmatics, comprehension of intention and meaning in linguistic exchanges would be severely limited. Speech acts, or communication activities that transmit an intended language function, are a significant topic of pragmatics.

Speech acts include things like directives, offers, suggestions, apologies, pleas, and suitable replies to those acts. It is a variety of verbal communication and also a subdivision of pragmatics, often taking place in verbal and nonverbal communication. When something is said, such as when a warning, threat, promise, or request is made, it is referred to as a speech act (Toolan, 1997:250). Conversely, Griffiths (2006) states that speech acts are defined as these fundamental units of language use, such as warning, greeting, applying, telling what, and confirming an

appointment. Kreidler (1998) states that speech acts as a locutionary that expresses what you wish to say. The speaker's intended message to the audience is illocutionary.

Speech acts can be performed in spoken and written form as communication aspects. Speech acts can be recognized in various contexts, including spoken and written speech in books, movies, comic books, and other media. A speaker makes a statement, expresses an opinion, affirms or denies something, poses a query, gives an order, and so on (Austin, 1962). The three related acts of speech acts are perlocutionary, illocutionary, and locutionary.

The three related acts are to perform the action that is produced by the utterance. The literal or basic meaning of a speech is known as the locutionary act. It includes the vocabulary applied, their grammatical construction, and their simple dictionary definitions. The speaker's intended meaning or communication objective when making an utterance is referred to as an illocutionary act. It focuses on the speaker's intended outcome rather than the literal or surface meaning (locutionary act). Perlocutionary acts are concerned with the outcomes or consequences of speech acts, such as persuading someone, convincing them, influencing their emotions, or eliciting a particular response.

Speech acts is an action performed through utterance. In the movie, the types of speech acts are performed a lot by each character. The utterance is formed by the speaker to express their feelings. The speaker

as the illocutionary and the listener as the locution performed the speech act in the movie as a part of dialogue or conversation. The situation and context has meaning in every sentence.

Yule states that there's five types of speech act that have general function: declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives. Declarations are the utterance that can change the world. Representatives state what the speaker believes about the facts, assertion, conclusions, and descriptions to be the case or not. Expressives are the utterances that relate to the speaker's feelings or expressions. Directives are the classification that the speaker wants someone else or the hearer to do something. Commissives deal with the speakers to commit themselves for future action.

In this research, the researcher is interested in analyzing the classification of speech act in the movie as the study of language meaning of pragmatics. We say many things with language in daily life which have meaning in every sentence that we utter. There are many ways to convey the utterance by a speaker, one of the ways is through movies. Just like in daily life, the movies also have conversations between each character to make the audiences understand the plot of the story in the movie.

Movies are made with a sequence of shots with a coherent storyline and then displayed on a screen accompanied by sound as a support for the success or perfection of the film. Movies can be a tool to spread knowledge and education by presenting visually and audio-

visually so that it is easily accepted by the audience to understand an event or event. There is art and entertainment value with movies which are defined as moving objects.

This research uses the movie "The Greatest Showman" as data. This movie is a musical drama directed by Michael Gracey which was released in 2017. The movie tells the story of a man named P.T. Barnum who had a unique dream since he was a child and realized it when he grew up. Barnum organized a circus show in his village by featuring strange people as participants to fill the show. But his dream was realized with many challenges. The speech acts on the before and after the circus scenes are used in the conversation between each circus performer character.

Using a popular movie like "The Greatest Showman" indicates how theoretical concepts from speech act theory, as outlined by George Yule and others, work in practical situations. It gives certain instances of how various types of speech acts (representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations) are used in everyday conversations. The film's rich dialogue includes several instances of various speech acts in different contexts, demonstrating how context influences the interpretation and effectiveness of these acts.

This research uses a movie as the object because the movie is full of conversations. Therefore, "The Greatest Showman" movie is chosen as the data of the research. The conversation in "The Greatest Showman"

movie uses daily conversation with an interesting storyline. This movie revolves around the concept of performance in terms of the characters' occupations (circus performers, entertainers) and the broader theme of presenting oneself to the world. "The Greatest Showman" provides one-of-a-kind and multifaceted data for speech act analysis in linguistics due to its rich historical background, diverse character interactions, and the combination of theatrical and musical components. Set in the nineteenth century, the film's vocabulary follows the formality and societal norms of the time, offering a contrast to modern language use.

The characters, ranging from high society officials to marginalized circus artists, employ a range of speaking acts to traverse social hierarchies, convey emotions, and assert their identities. The performance element of the discussion, complemented by motivational speeches and dramatic musical numbers, adds another layer to the analysis of how language is used to entertain, convince, and motivate. Characters often convey hidden meanings or reference cultural traditions through their speech acts, which adds depth and complexity to the interactions. This becomes one of the reasons that makes the phenomena of speech acts interesting to discuss in this research. This research focuses on the analysis of speech acts classification used by the characters in "The Greatest Showman" movie.

## **A.2 Problem of the Research**

The problem found in this research based on the background above is as follows:

1. What are the types of Illocutionary speech acts used by each character in “The Greatest Showman” movie?
2. What are the functions of each type of Illocutionary speech act used in the dialogue of “The Greatest Showman” movie?

## **A.3 Objective of the Research**

According to the problems above, the researcher explains the aim of this research:

1. To describe the types of Illocutionary speech acts used by each character in “The Greatest Showman” movie.
2. To analyze the functions of each type of Illocutionary speech act used in the dialogue of “The Greatest Showman” movie.

## **A.4 Significance of the Research**

The significance of this research is divided into two as follows:

1. Theoretically

This research aims to help English Literature students and other researchers who learn speech acts in pragmatics, especially in linguistics.

The researcher hopes this research also helps to understand speech acts.

## 2. Practically

The researcher believes that readers will find this research valuable in learning new things about speech acts. The researcher specifically expects that readers who are deeply interested in supporting their knowledge of pragmatics, particularly in implementing speech actions, will find helpful material and explanations. For those who are interested in analyzing "The Greatest Showman" movie and understanding the elements that relate to the film using a similar or different methodology, this research will be helpful.

### **A.5 Limitation of the Research**

Based on the identification of the problems above, many research studies use pragmatics to analyze speech acts with a variety theory, but in this research, the researcher uses George Yule's theory to analyze the conversations that carry the types of Illocutionary speech acts. The researcher analyzed the types of Illocutionary speech acts used in the part that shows before and after circus performances in "The Greatest Showman" movie from each character for the limitation of this research. The researcher used this limitation because those parts show the hecticness and arguments of each character with different beliefs and thoughts.

## **A.6 Definition of the key terms**

### **1. Pragmatics**

To understand the meaning of an utterance is necessary to study language use. The study of the speaker's meaning is pragmatics. The meaning that the speaker or writer communicates to the listener or reader. Since people might not understand what is meant by an expression, it analyzes the expression in an actual utterance in a particular context to achieve the intended message in a communication. According to Yule (1996), this type of research inherently involves interpreting people's intentions in specific contexts and how those contexts affect what is said.

### **2. Speech Act**

Speech acts are carried out by utterances typically described by more precise terms like compliment, apology, demand, promise, or invitation. Three types of speech acts are involved in the process of making an utterance: the locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act (Yule 1996).

### **3. The Greatest Showman**

A movie directed by Michael Gracey in the musical drama genre, "The Greatest Showman" was released in 2017. The Greatest Showman is an original musical that chronicles the creation of show business and tells the story of a dreamer who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation.

## **A.7 Organization of the Research Reports**

### **CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION**

This introduction consists of Background of the Research, Problem of the Research, Objective of the Research, Significance of the Research, Limitation of the Research, Definition of key terms, and Organization of the Research Reports.

### **CHAPTER II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

This chapter provides Theoretical Framework that explains pragmatics, speech acts and the types, classification of speech act, movie, and “The Greatest Showman” movie and Related Studies of speech act analysis in the movies.

### **CHAPTER III. RESEARCH METHOD**

In the Research Method, the researcher explains Type of the Research, Data and Source of the Data, Data, Source of the Data, Method of Collecting Data, Technique of Collecting Data, Method of Analyzing Data.

### **CHAPTER IV. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter is analyzing the data and discussing the result of the data.

### **CHAPTER V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

This chapter presents the conclusion of this research and suggestion for further research.