

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes several explanation about background of the research as well as the previous research, statement of problems, research purposes, research significant, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Research

People use language to communicate in order to exchange information to one another. To get those information it requires a good understanding in communicate between the speaker and the hearer. The hearers need to make an inference of the speaker's utterance and meaning by interpret it. According to Cutting (2002:2), the speaker's meaning is dependent on assumptions of knowledge that are shared by both speaker and hearer: the speaker constructs the linguistic message and intend or implies the meaning, and the hearer interprets the message and infers the meaning. Thus, communication requires mutual understanding from both the speaker and the hearer.

Pragmatics studies the meaning of words attached to its context, analyzing the parts of meaning that can be explain by knowledge of the physical and social world, and the socio-psychological factors influencing communication, as well as the knowledge of the time and place in which the word are uttered or written (Peccei, 1999; Yule, 1996). In accordance with Yule (1996:4), pragmatics is the study of the relationship between linguistics form and the users of those form. It involves the interpretation of what people mean in certain context and how the context influence what is said.

The study of speech acts is commonly known in pragmatics. Searle (1969) claim that the reason for learning on the study of speech acts is like all linguistic communication engaging linguistic act According to Vanderveken (2001:3), there are three main kinds of speech acts in the use of language which are locutionary,

illocutionary and prelocutionary acts. Searle as an American philosopher in 1969 then developing Austin theory by dividing illocutionary act into five terms that known as assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. In this research, the researcher will focus on assertive speech acts. Assertive speech act is the type of speech acts that states what the speaker believes to be the case or not.

Related to the study of speech acts, it could be found in a conversation between the speaker and the hearer. In this case, *Ariana Grande "Thank U, Next" Interview With Zach Sang Show* which base on conversation between Ariana and Zach that consist a lot of speech acts is chosen to be the object of the study. Zach Sang Show is a popular American radio program hosted by Zach Sang. This radio station is located in Los Angeles, United States. It also has a youtube channel with over four hundred subscriber and will increase eventually. This shows has invited lots of famous people and Ariana Grande is one of them. Ariana Grande is a famous singer and actress who has a lot of fans all over the world. She inspire people through her songs.

In the interview Ariana and Zach talked about her new album named "Thank U, Next" which released on February 8th 2019. This album proceeded into Billboard Hot 100 chart occupying the top three spot which make her the solo artist who first achieved it. Ariana explained that she wrote the lyrics with the help and contributions of her friends. Ariana talked about how the fallout of her ex-boyfriend death influenced her choice in collaborations with the team productions and how she wrote the lyrics of nine songs in a week and finished the records in only two weeks. There are several more achievements that she gain from the making of this album.

Nevertheless, assertive speech acts are the types of speech acts that mostly found in *Ariana Grande "Thank U, Next" Interview with Zach Sang Show*. By choosing this as an object of the research, it will help people to learn about speech acts, especially when it comes to understanding the speaker's intention. It could also help to avoid misunderstanding because of the misinterpretation during the

conversation. The researcher used assertive speech act theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985), which help to differentiate the function of the speaker's utterances. Music and youtube is already became part of daily routinity. Zach Sang Show is a popular radio station that has lots of famous guess. Ariana is a popular singer that being loved by lots of people. To be able to analyze the intention of the speaker in the conversation, the researcher find it interesting to do the research. Therefore, this research intend to analyze and describe the functions of assertive speech acts in Ariana Grande's utterance during the interview.

In addition, the researcher would presents the previous studies that deal with speech acts analysis. There are some writers who has investigated about this. Each of them has different object and used different perspective and theory in presenting the topic. So the researcher will provide the previous study dealing with this topic. There are three previous research related to the research that will be written.

Research by Afifah (2018) from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta entitled "*Assertive Speech Act Analysis on The Speech of Emma Watson's*" aimed to explain types of assertive utterance in Emma Watson's speech. This reseacrh identified the function and explained the reasoning value of assertives speech acts in Emma Watson's speech. Besides, this research used descriptive and qualitative method to explain the data. The researcher regarded speech of Emma Watson's in the UN on September 20th 2014 entitled "HeforShe" as the object of the research. Asssertive was used 19 times by the speaker which consisted of 11 illocutionary force with the most frequent force with 36,8%.

The differences between Afifah's and this research are the object and the questions of the problem used by the researcher in this research. Afifah's used Emma Watson's speech as the object of the study meanwhile this research used Ariana Grande interview video as the object of the research. The previous study more focused on the reasoning value of assertive in Emma Watson's speech while the current study focused to identify assertive speech acts that conveyed in Ariana Grande Interview. However both researches have similarities in conducted the

research by using descriptive and qualitative method. The previous study and this research also has similar focus in analyzing the data by using assertive speech act theory.

Another research regarding speech acts theory was conducted by Sita (2018) entitled “*An Analysis of Commissive and Assertive Speech Acts in Donald Trump’s First State of The Union Address on January 30th, 2018*” from English Letters Department of Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta. The object of this research regarded Donald Trump’s first state of the union address on January 30th 2018. This study aimed to analyze the function and explained how the commissive and assertive speech acts uttered by Donald Trump on the video using Searl and Vanderveken’s theory. Result of this study were the function of commissive and assertive classified into commit, promise, pledge, offer, assert, state, remind and report in which both uttered directly and indirectly.

The differences between the previous study and the current study are from the object of the study. The previous study used Donald Trump utterance in analyzing the data and used commissive and assertive theory while the current research only focused on assertive speech act theory in analyzing the data in Ariana Grande interview. The object of the previous study was monologue of Donald Trump’s utterance meanwhile the current study is a conversation between Ariana Grande as a guest and Zach Sang which is a host on that interview. The similarities from both research can be seen in choosing one of the theory of speech acts which is assertive speech theory.

Next was Kumalasari (2019) from Walisongo State Islamic University Semarang. The title of the paper was “*The Commissive Speech Act in Cinderella The Movie*”. The paper aimed to identify types of the commissive speech acts found in Cinderella movie and its contribution to semantic study. This research used qualitative-descriptive as a research design. Cinderella movie was chosen to be the object of the research. The researcher used documentation as a technique of collecting the data. The result of this study was there were 83 utterances of

commissive speech acts and refusal were the most frequently used in the dialogue of Cinderella movie.

Even though both studies used speech acts theory, the previous study differs from the current study in the research focus and its object. The previous study focused on commissive speech act meanwhile the current study focused on assertive speech act. It is also differs from choosing the object of the research. The previous study used Cinderella movie as the object of the study but the current study used Ariana Grande interview video as the object of the study. As well as the research problem which different from the current and the previous one and so the result. The similarity is the used of Searle's theory from both research.

Nevertheless, the previous study and the current study have a similarity. Both concerned in pragmatics analysis and used Searle's theory to analyze the data. Based on those several research in pragmatics area, it helps the researcher to do research in the same field. Hence, the researcher is interested in discussing the function of assertive speech acts and how they are conveyed in Ariana Grande "Thank U, Next" interview video with Zach Sang Show.

1.2 Statement of problems

Communication happened between the speaker and the hearer. When one uttered their intention through speech, the hearer need to interpret it in their mind. The utterance itself has different meanings and functions which depends on how the speakers deliver their utterances and how the hearer interpret it. Based on the background above, this research analyzed Ariana Grande's utterance in Zach Sang Show interview. There are several statements that being uttered by Ariana which closely related to assertive speech acts by Searle theory. The researcher would like to analyze Ariana Grande's utterances in order to know the intention of Ariana's utterance through the function of assertive speech acts. That is why assertive speech acts theory could help analyzed it to differentiate the purpose of what the speaker stated. The research is formulated into the following questions:

1. What are the functions of assertive speech acts in Ariana Grande “Thank U, Next” interview with Zach Sang Show?
2. How are the assertive speech acts conveyed in Ariana Grande “Thank U, Next” interview with Zach Sang Show?

1.3 Research Purpose

Based on the research questions formulated above, the researcher focus on the function of assertive speech acts and how they are conveyed in Ariana Grande “Thank U, Next” Interview with Zach Sang by using Searle’s illocutionary act theory. The aim of the research are:

1. To describe the functions of assertive speech acts in Ariana Grande “Thank U, Next” interview with Zach Sang Show.
2. To analyze the assertive speech acts conveyed in Ariana Grande “Thank U, Next” interview with Zach Sang Show.

1.4 Research Significances

This research is hoped to have theoretically and practically significances that could help the reader of this research especially in pragmatics. Theoretically, this research is expected to have a final result that could be useful to enrich the specific knowledge in linguistics studies especially in pragmatics area. This research also can be used as a reference to get information about assertive speech acts.

Practically, this research could be useful for the students of english literature program as a reference in studying Pragmatics. This research give contribution regarding the analysis of the function of assertive speech acts with Searle and Vanderveken theory (1985) in pragmatics. This research provides information and explanation about assertive speech act theory for those who have interest in increasing their knowledge in pragmatics area. This study will be beneficial for those who are interested to learn Searle’s illocutionary act theory, especially in assertive speech act. Hopefully this research could help other writer who wants to analyze speech acts by using Searle’s theory, specifically about assertive speech act.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

To clarify the key terms that being used in this research, some definition are put forward:

Pragmatics is the study of language usage (Levinson, 1983). It is the study of the relationship between linguistics form and the users of those form. Which means the kind of statement that the speaker's intended to and how the users take turn to act as the speaker and the hearer to build a good communication. The interpretation of what people mean is involved in certain context and how the context influence what is said (Yule, 1996).

Assertive Speech Acts is the act in which the words state what the speakers believes to be the case such as, 'describing', 'claiming', 'insisting', 'predicting' and 'hypothesizing' (Searle J. R., 1969).

The function of assertive speech act is to tell what the speaker knows or believes and the classification are to *assert, claim, affirm, state, deny, disclaim, assure, argue, rebut, inform, praise, remind, object, predict, report, suggest, insist, testify, admit, confess, accuse, blame, criticize, praise, complain, guess, predict, boast and many more* (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985).

Direct and Indirect Speech is divided into three structural form such as, declarative, interrogative, and imperative. While the statement, question, command or request categorized as the general communication functions (Yule, 1996, p.54). Direct speech acts shows the intended meaning of the speaker's utterance.