

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an introduction of this research. The first section starts from background of study and the next is followed by statement of problems, research objectives, research significances, definition of key term, and organization of writing.

1.1 Background of Study

People as social beings are inseparable with communication. In communicating, people obviously need language to talk with another. Wardhaugh (2006, p.1) declares that a language is every word that is spoken by a group of a society. In other words, language is a system for expressing ideas that has arbitrary vocal symbols and used by a group of society to communicate. In communicating, besides uttering information or statement, people also utter many expressions, declare something, make promises and do a command to another. The theory related to the utterance and verbal language are included in pragmatics.

Pragmatics as a branch of linguistics explains about speech act. Speech act in modern study was firstly introduced by Austin (1962). Later, in 1969 Searle developed it and states that “The unit of linguistic communication is not, as has generally been supposed, the symbol, word, or sentence, but rather the production

of the symbol or word or sentence in the performance of the speech act” (p. 16). It shows that linguistics and communication do not only discuss written language but also spoken language. Mey argues that speech acts are produced by actual situation of language use, by people having something in their mind, and so on. It is not produced by the solitary philosopher’s think-tank (2001, p.93). It can exemplified as the way people talk in daily life. Usually, the utterance that was spoken did not constructed well, not used an appropriate grammatical, and so on.

Speech acts consist of three aspects. Those are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. The writer chooses two aspects of speech act to study, that is illocutionary act and perlocutionary act. Illocutionary act according to Yule (1996, p. 48) is carried out via communicative force of an utterance. People might utter to make statement, an offer, an explanation, or for some other communicative purpose. Yule adds that In classification, speech acts have five types of general function that be performed, those are; declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives (1996, pp. 53-54). In addition, perlocutionary act is the assumption that the hearer gets as an effect towards somebody’s utterances, it is also known as perlocutionary effect (Yule, 1996, p. 49).

Nowadays, everybody communicates to each other everywhere. They speak up the idea in their mind through the utterance that they said. The utterance itself is not only utterance. It has meaning, it can be used for making a promise to somebody (comissive), and making the hearer do something such as an order/command (directives). As some kinds of illocutionary acts, directives and

commissives become the focus of this research that are discovered in a movie as the object of this research.

Movie is a story or event that has plot and characters recorded by a camera as a set of moving images and shown in a theater or on television. Due to consider that movie as a part of literary work owns its superiority that makes human fascinated and also watching any kind of movie still becomes exhilarate activity in society, in a movie people can find every utterance that the characters feel and it is expressed as well through words which is available in a movie script. Therefore, the writer choose movie as the object of research, specifically a movie entitled *Spotlight*. *Spotlight* was an American biographical drama film that was related to The Boston Globe's "Spotlight" team. The movie has been critically acclaimed and received over 100 industry and critics' awards and nominations, one of award that the movie won is the best writing and original screenplay from Oscar. This movie directed by Tom McCarty and the script was also written by him and Josh Singer released in 2015. The writer decides to discover directives and commissives types of illocutionary act in this movie through the utterances of main character when he does communication to another characters and also the power of main character that further has an effect to the hearer.

There are many previous researches related to directives and commissives illocutionary acts, but the writer only takes two previous researches. Pratama (2014) did a qualitative research that focused on finding out the types of commissives and directives act performed by David Cameron in his Davos speech. Another research was done by Pambudi (2017). The research was focused

on discovering only the types of commissives act in a movie entitled *The Vow*. The writer also takes a previous research with the similar object. Caly (2017) did a research that focus on finding out about the power discourse on the text in *Spotlight* movie. Moreover, the purpose is to know about power discourse on the discourse practice in *Spotlight* movie. And the second one, is to know about social cultural practice in *Spotlight* movie. From the previous researches above, the writer distinguished this research to another. The writer focuses on two classifications of illocutionary act, those are directives and commissives act and their types, the context of each utterances and also explains about power and solidarity concept of the main character that determines the effect that the addressee gets towards the utterances.

By the description above, the writer is eager to develop another directives and commissives act research in *Spotlight* movie. This research will investigate two categorizes of illocutionary act found in the movie script using Searle theory and analyze the context of situation of the utterance using context theory by Hymes that consists of addressee and addressor, topic, setting, channel, code, message-form, event, key, and purpose (in Brown and Yule, 1983, pp.38-39) and the last is a concept of power and solidarity—using Brown and Gilman (1960) theory—that the main character has which determines the addressee's perlocution. Therefore, this research is entitled “Directives and Commissives Speech Act In *Spotlight* Movie Script By Tom McCarty and Josh Singer”.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The writer determines that it is important to learn illocutionary act, particularly directives and commissives act. Since people do communicate in daily life, it is helpful to deeply understand what is the aim or intention of the speaker. In a conversation, the hearer have to understand well what the speaker's intention while uttering something, moreover if the participants talk about something significant. There are similar cases in *Spotlight* movie that makes the participants of a conversation have to understand each other to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpret. So, the writer tries to analyze illocutionary found in this movie by proposing two problems that represent the research analysis. The questions proposed in this research are;

1. How are directives and commissives act uttered by the main character of *Spotlight* movie?
2. How is the power of the main character indicated by his utterances' effect on the addressee?



1.3 Research Objectives

Generally, the objective of this research; to understand about the directives and commissives acts found in *Spotlight* movie. Specifically, the objectives of this research are defined as follows;

1. To find out the directives and commissives act are uttered by the main character of *Spotlight* movie.

2. To identify the power of the main character indicated by his utterances' effect on the addressee.

1.4 Research Significance

Since speech act is one of pragmatics studies which learning about the classifications and types in an utterance, this research has significances for the writer as linguistics student. Theoretically, this research is helpful for the writer to apply the linguistics theories that had been studied during college. Practically, this research has a benefit related to directives and commissives act theory for another parties, such as the reader, another researcher, and so forth.

1.5 Definition of Key Term

The writer makes a definition of key term to avoid misunderstanding of the term used in this research. There are:

1. Commissives are the utterance that shows promising or vowing something.
2. Directives means to the utterance that contain the meaning of ordering, commanding, requesting, and so on.
3. Movie is a story or event that has plot and characters recorded by a camera as a set of moving images and shown in theater or on television.
4. Perlocution is the effect that the hearer got from the speaker when hearing the utterances.

5. Utterance means the dialogue that is uttered between the characters in the movie.
6. Power governs asymmetrical relationships where one is subordinate to another.
7. Solidarity governs symmetrical relationships characterized by social equality and similarity.

1.6 Organization of Writing

This research consists of five chapters that have different content from one to another. The first chapter is entitled as introduction. This part consists of background of study and the next is followed by statement of problems, research objectives, research significances, definition of key term, and organization of writing.

The second chapter contains theoretical foundation. This part explains theories related to the research, such as pragmatics theory, speech act and its categories, the situation context and the concept of power and solidarity.

The third chapter is research method. This part describes the methodology used in this research, such as research design, data, source of data, techniques of collecting data, and techniques of analyzing data.

The forth chapter presents research findings and discussion. This part discusses the analysis about how the main character in the movie deliver their

intention while speaking—especially delivering the act of directives and commissives—the context behind it, and the power that the addressor has.

The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion. This part consists of the conclusion as a result of the research and the writer's suggestion for the next researcher or the reader to develop this research.

