

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses several aspects that form the basis of this study. First, the background of the study will be explained to provide an overview of the topic selection. Secondly, this chapter also explains the formulation of the research question that shows the focus of this study on the issue to be answered. Next, it outlines the significance of this study that shows the results of the study that can be useful as theory development and application in the real world. Finally, the scope and limitations of the study are explained to show the extent of the research, including the aspects covered in the study and the limitations of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a communication tool used to interact with people, whether it is spoken or written. The purpose of language is communication (Searle, 1979). Language is not just a collection of words, but also a system for expressing thoughts, feelings, and ideas. Language has rules that govern how words and sentences are formed. The social function of language is to convey information, show emotions, and build social relationships. Language allows for interaction between individuals, both spoken and written. As a means of communication, language is a basic aspect of culture and society. Through language, we can communicate with other individuals in our daily lives.

Communication is the process of conveying messages, ideas and information. Communication is the activity of giving or receiving messages to convey ideas and feelings between individuals or groups. Communication is a process by which individuals share information, ideas, and attitudes (Wilson, 1995). The communication process occurs in various forms, such as oral or written forms to ensure that the interlocutor can understand the information conveyed by the speaker or sender. Communication can be verbal, such as spoken or written, or non-verbal, including facial expressions, tone of voice, and body language to convey messages.

The unit of human communication in language is the speech acts (1969). Through communication, every utterance not only conveys information, it also highlights how the speaker performs certain actions.

According to Searle (1969), speech act is a base unit of communication united with the principle of expressibility (what can be means can be said), which shows that there is a certain set of analytical relations between the notion of speech act, the speaker's intention, the spoken sentence (or other linguistic elements), the speaker's intention, the listener's understanding, and the rules governing these linguistic elements. The concept of speech acts was developed by Searle. Moreover, when speaking, the speaker not only utters the sentence, but also performs the action contained in the utterance. From the understanding of speech acts, Searle elaborates speech acts into several types that have different functions depending on the context of speech by the speaker.

Speech act is the actions performed by speakers when saying something, where the meaning of the speech does not only lie in the words spoken, but also lies in the purpose or intention of the speaker (Searle, 1969). Searle also states that speech acts have three types, utterances act which simply consist of the pronunciation of a series of words, such as morpheme and sentence, while illocutionary acts are speaker actions that have a certain intention such as stating, questioning, commanding, promising, etc., and propositional act is an act of conveying propositional meaning, such as referring and predicating. Speech acts emphasize that communication is not only about conveying information but also about performing actions and influencing others through language, highlighting the complex interaction between the speaker's intention and the listener's interpretation in effective communication.

Furthermore, Illocutionary acts are classified into five types, namely assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declaration, each of which has its own function and purpose (Searle, 1979). First, Searle explains that assertive is a speech act that functions to state the truth, typically in the form of a statement, report, or explanation. Second, directive which is an action that aims to ask someone to do something. Third, commissive, this action is the action of the speaker who

commits to do something, namely promising, as the utterance by Mei in the *Turning Red* movie, Mei said to her friends “*I promise I will go to the concert with you guys, no matter what,*” (2022) which means that Mei is committed which shows her seriousness to attend the concert. Fourth, expressive are actions that express the speaker's feelings or attitudes. The last is declarations which is the act of changing a certain status or situation.

Turning Red is an animated movie produced by Disney and Pixar released in 2022 under the direction of Domee Shi. The movie about a journey of a 13-year-old girl, Mei Lee. Mei Lee is an obedient child to her mother, Ming Lee. However, Mei Lee also faces changes when she begins to face the emotional challenges of adolescence. The movie *Turning Red* has a lot of interaction and communication between characters that occurs throughout the movie. The writer chose the movie *Turning Red* as data because this movie shows many interesting interactions how the characters express their thoughts and emotions through language. The utterances that occurs in the movie reflects various emotions and dynamics between characters. The communication that occurs shows how utterances can affect each character's relationship and how they express their feelings. Thus, the movie *Turning Red* provides an example of how language and utterances play a role in character development and storyline.

Illocutionary acts analysis is important in understanding how language is used in interactions between individuals. To complete the classification of types of illocutionary acts, Leech (1983) offers an approach that emphasizes the function of utterances in social contexts. To find the function of each type of utterance, this study uses Leech's (1983) classification of illocutionary functions which he divides into four categories of functions, namely competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive. Each illocution has a communicative function based on its intended meaning. Utterances is not only used to convey stories and information, but also to show intentions, feelings, and relationships between characters. This is in line with Diffani and Kholis (2023), who stated that dialog in movie is not only a communication tool, but also a tool to convey moral and social messages to the audience. By understanding the utterances spoken by five characters in movies, this

study can help in understanding how speech is not only a storytelling tool, but also an action that affects the dynamics of the story and the interaction between characters.

Illocutionary acts are relevant in analyzing how five characters not only use language to speak, but also perform actions, namely requesting, expressing feelings, or influencing other characters. This study uses animated movie script because the movie has a high reliance on utterances as a tool to convey the story. The movie script *Turning Red* also highlights the high social value of character interaction. The use of movie scripts allows analysis based on the linguistic structure of the text, this approach makes it easier to classify and analyze the data. Although some previous studies have analyzed illocutionary acts using the same theory, but the study mainly focused on classification, this shows that there is room for deeper analysis, while this study not only identifies the types and functions of the utterances, but also combines them in the context of character development and social conflict in the movie. The use of systematic data coding, the categorization of social functions based on context, and the focus on the dynamics of relationships between characters make this study different from previous studies that tend to be categorical.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background above, this research focuses on the following questions:

1. What are the types of illocutionary acts used by five characters in *Turning Red* movie?
2. What are the functions of illocutionary acts used by five characters in *Turning Red* movie?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In accordance with the research questions mentioned previously, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To identify the types of illocutionary acts used by five characters in *Turning Red* movie.

2. To explain the functions of illocutionary acts used by five characters in *Turning Red* movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study contributes to the field of pragmatics, especially the study of illocutionary acts by applying Searle's (1979) theory to the utterances in the *Turning Red* movie script. This study indicates how illocutionary acts are used in character interactions to convey intentions and shape communication dynamics. It also helps in understanding the categorization of words or sentences according to the types of illocutionary acts in movie scripts.

Practically, this study is useful for linguistics, media, and screenwriting studies. In linguistics, this study shows the application of pragmatic analysis in contemporary movies. In media studies, this study reveals how movies reflect communication patterns between cultures and generations. For screenwriters, this study provides insight into the use of speech acts in building characters and conflicts in the story.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

This research is within the scope of pragmatics, especially in the study of speech acts with a focus on illocutionary acts based Searle's theory (1979). This study analyzes the script of the movie *Turning Red* how some characters use illocutionary acts in their conversations. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach by identifying and classifying utterances based on five types of illocution, namely assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declaration (Searle, 1979).

This study is limited to analyzing the script, not in the movie directly, thus the movie only develops verbal elements. This study also only focuses on the conversations of Mei, Ming, Abby, Miriam, and Priya, not the entire utterances and all characters in the movie because of the five characters who build the conflict in the movie. This study analyze 25 utterances instead the entire of the utterances in the movie script due to considerations of scope, time constraints, and the focus of the study which emphasizes depth of analysis.