

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of research background that will explain the rationale for this research. Research questions will identify the problems in this research. Objectives of the study are designed to outline the specific goals and aims of the research, scope will discuss the limitations that will be the focus of the research, and limitation will discuss the limitations or obstacles of this research.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a system of communication that involves a set of sounds and written symbols used by people in a shared culture to convey meaning. Language is a communication tool that is very important for every human being, with the existence of language we can easily obtain information from other people, so every human being must use good and correct language so that it is easily understood by fellow humans (Kuntarto, 2014). Language is not simply a collection of words, but an organized system that enables effective communication between individuals. Language also plays an important role in the formation of social and cultural identity. Every language reflects the way of thinking, worldview, and social structure of the people who use it. In this increasingly globalized world, language is a bridge that connects various nations, but it also has the potential to cause challenges, such as the shift of local languages and threats to their preservation. Yule (2022) language is also considered a highly dynamic communication system, which is always evolving over time, both through internal evolution and through external influences, such as contact with other languages or social change.

Pragmatics is a linguistic field that explores the complex relationship between language, context, and meaning. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies meaning in the context of language use, especially the context of implied meaning which is not always conveyed directly in everyday language (Pratiwi, 2024). In this context, the research focuses on illocutionary acts, which refer to

actions performed through speech, this concept developed by the English philosopher of language, Austin (1962), and later expanded by Searle (1969), who explains that when people communicate, they not only convey information (locutionary acts) but also perform actions (illocutionary acts) that have a specific purpose or intention. These speech acts have social functions that go beyond conveying messages; they create effects in social interactions.

This research focuses on the analysis of illocutionary acts in the movie “Last Black Man in San Francisco” by Joe Talbot (2019)”, specifically examining how speech acts such as assertions, questions, commands, and promises—are used to convey meaning, establish character relationships, and reflect the underlying social and cultural dynamics in the film. By analyzing the illocutionary acts in the dialogue, this research reveals how language is not just a word to be heard and spoken, but also has a certain purpose and intention in each pronunciation.

In this research, the writer chooses to analyze the script of “The Last Black Man in San Francisco” by Joe Talbot (2019). The reason for choosing scripts is that they provide direct and clear access to the verbal text used in the movie, which facilitates an in-depth analysis of the illocutionary acts that are the focus of this study. In the study of pragmatics, speech acts refer to the speaker's intentions implied in their utterances, which are often easier to analyze in the form of written texts compared to audiovisual media. Scripts allow me to analyze each sentence in greater detail, paying attention to word choice, sentence structure, and the intention behind the utterance without interference from external factors such as facial expressions or visual elements that might affect interpretation (Levinson, 2018). In addition, movie scripts can be a locus in identifying speech act patterns and compare conversations between scenes systematically, which was more difficult to do by watching the videos directly. While film videos provide important visual context, scripts remain the primary source for understanding verbatim dialogue and allow for a more focused and structured linguistic analysis. Therefore, the selection of film scripts is highly relevant to explore the linguistic and pragmatics elements contained in the dialog between characters in “The Last Black Man in San Francisco” by Joe Talbot (Cutting, 2020).

“The Last Black Man in San Francisco” (2019), directed by Joe Talbot, explores themes of racial identity, social inequality, and alienation. The story follows Jimmie Fails, who struggles to find his place in a rapidly changing San Francisco, where people like him feel increasingly marginalized. The film’s dialogues, influenced by the characters' cultural backgrounds, reflect feelings of resistance, alienation, and a search for an authentic identity. Through pragmatics, specifically illocutionary acts, the film illustrates how language is used to navigate personal and social identity in a fragmented society. The characters' interactions convey complex emotions, such as homesickness and helplessness, revealing the layers of meaning in their conversations.

In addition, the movie offers an opportunity to explore social dynamics through language. When characters speak, they not only convey information, but also build or destroy relationships between individuals. In this study, the film script of *The Last Black Man in San Francisco* was chosen as the main object because it provides a clear insight into the way language is used to respond and respond to complex social contexts. The movie not only exposes the differences between individuals and society, but also shows how verbal interactions can reveal larger tensions within society. Therefore, the film's script is well suited to be analyzed in pragmatic studies as it allows for the examination of speech acts in conversations that are deeply intertwined with social and cultural structures (Fowler, 2020).

The movie entitled “Last Black Man in San Francisco” by Joe Talbot (2019) tells the story of two friends, namely Jimmie fails a young black man and Montgomery Allen a writer on the city and its history, they both have a plan to reclaim Jimmie's house in San Francisco, the house is Jimmie's family home that has been sold, Jimmie intends to take the house because Jimmie feels part of himself is in the house. The film explores major themes such as identity, social change, and the struggle to maintain heritage in the face of gentrification. On their journey, Jimmie and Montgomery encounter many things-from emotional conflicts to tensions with the people who now inhabit the neighbourhood. Over time, they realise that their search for home is not just about the physical building,

but also about finding their identity and place in a city that has changed dramatically.

Illocutionary acts were chosen as the analysis approach in this study because the concept is very relevant to understand the purpose and meaning contained in the conversations between characters in “The Last Black Man in San Francisco”. These speech acts provide insight into how language can function not only as a means of communication but also as a way for characters to negotiate their identity and position in a fragmented society. Therefore, illocutionary acts offer an appropriate framework for analyzing the communication dynamics in this film, which is full of layers of meaning that influence the relationships between characters and the audience's interpretation of events in the film (Mey, 2019).

This film tells the story of the journey of Jimmie Fails and his friend Mont Allen, as they attempt to restore Jimmie's long-abandoned childhood home, which is also a symbol of their identity and cultural roots. In this context, communication between characters, both verbal and non-verbal, plays a very important role in shaping the audience's understanding of the themes. One approach that can be used to analyze the communication in this film is to utilize the theory of speech act or illocutionary act, developed by Searle (1969). Illocutionary act refers to the purpose or function of an utterance made by a speaker, whether to convey information, request something, or express feelings. In this movie, characters such as Jimmie Fails and Mont Allen often engage in conversations that not only reflect their personal expressions, but also open up conversations about larger social issues, such as racial inequality, urban change, and the search for identity. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the illocutionary acts in the interactions that occur between the two main characters, focusing on how their utterances serve to shape the narrative and main themes of the film, as well as how these conversations reflect social and cultural dynamics in the context of a changing San Francisco.

This research aims to explore the illocutionary acts in the movie script of “Last Black Man in San Francisco” By Joe Talbot (2019), which presents a rich data for analysis. The dialogue in this film is full of instances that highlight the use of illocutionary acts, as characters express various intentions through their

This research can be a reference for further researchers using the theories in this study, especially for the next generation of English literature students who are interested in research similar to this.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is Illocutionary acts. The analysis of illocutionary acts in Pragmatics plays a crucial role in understanding the social dynamics and communication strategies employed by the characters in the movie script “Last Black Man in San Francisco”. By examining the illocutionary acts—such as assertions, requests, offers, and directives—this study aims to uncover how these speech acts function to convey the characters' responses to the themes of identity, loss, and change within the script movie

This research is limited to the theory of speech act by Searle (1969) which analyzes the types of illocutionary acts and analyzes the functions of illocutionary acts use the theory of Leech (1983). This research examines the illocutionary act, specifically analyzing assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, declarations contained in the movie script. The analysis of illocutionary acts in pragmatics plays a crucial role in understanding the social dynamics and communication strategies employed by the characters in the movie script “Last Black Man in San Francisco”. By examining the illocutionary acts—such as assertions, requests, offers, and directives—this study aims to background how these speech acts function to convey the characters' responses to the themes of identity, loss, and change within the script movie.