

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is the introduction of the study that will elaborate on some academic rationale in choosing the topic. There are five sections in this chapter, which are the background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the most important communication tool used by all living things in this world. Language has a very important role for everyone in the world. Therefore, language is the most important and inseparable tool in social life. People can convey their ideas, thoughts, opinions, and feelings through language, whether in spoken, written, or sign form. Language is also useful to get or convey information, or just to talk to each other. Even language is also a self-identity for a person, so we can see how the character of a person by seeing the way they use language. Therefore, we always need and use language in every single activity in our daily life.

When we communicate with each other we will produce utterances as a manifestation of the language we use. The utterances that we produce should not only pay attention to the grammatical structure and diction but also have to pay attention the way we convey the utterances so that they can be received properly and appropriately by others. It aims to make the language we convey not cause misinterpretation or misunderstanding for other people, so they can catch the contents of what we convey easily and appropriately to what we mean. Since not everyone can easily get the content of what we convey, therefore, those of us who convey an utterance should be clear and unambiguous, so as not to cause multi-interpretation.

To be able to know and understand the meaning of an utterance, people should understand where and when the utterance conveyed by the speaker, they also should understand the context of what is being conveyed, so communication can proceed as expected. Therefore, it is necessary to have knowledge and understanding of an utterance that is conveyed. People can figure out what is going on in the conversation because they do not just look at words and sentences to know the meaning of conversation, but they also look at the context. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of a language used that is affected by the context inside it. It also refers to the study of a language in communication, especially the relationship between sentences and the context and where they are used.

Yule (1996), in his book, stated that

Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning, the study of contextual meaning, the study of how more gets communicated than is said, and the study of the expression of relative distance (p.3).

Therefore, pragmatics is the study that has an important role in the use of language that occurs in the interactions between humans in this world, especially the interactions between the speakers and listeners. There are some aspects of pragmatics, such as conversational implicature, rhetorical structure, managing the flow of reference in discourse, and speech acts. However, this study only focuses to discuss more detail about speech acts, especially illocutionary acts.

Speech acts is a study that shows an action that accompanies verbal communication that usually has its own meaning. Therefore, the act of communication is also an important aspect to understand, in order to avoid the occurrence of misunderstandings between the speaker and listener during the conversation. Additionally, speech act also refers to the various action people do while they convey utterances or say something (Baker & Ellece, 2011). By knowing the meaning of the speech conveyed by the speaker, we can find out what purpose of the speaker wants in the speech he/she conveys. Of course, we can minimize the occurrence of misunderstandings in the ongoing conversation.

Besides that, Austin (1975) also explained about speech act theory, which assumed that speakers are simultaneously involved in three different speech acts when uttering something, they are locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. There are three interrelated actions performed by producing the utterance on each occasion, (1) locutionary act, namely basic speech acts that produce meaningful linguistic expressions; (2) illocutionary acts are carried out through the communicative power of an utterance; (3) perlocutionary acts, in this dimension, do not only make utterances with functions without mean to cause consequences (Yule, 1996). Whereas, Searle (1979) also explained that the different types of speech acts can also show the different purposes like giving information about something, asking someone to do something, etc.

Locutionary act is the act of uttering the sentences with the literal meaning of the text itself, which comprises phonetic and syntactic aspects corresponding to any meaningful utterance. It is the basic act of an utterance which produces a meaningful linguistic expression (Yule, 1996). So the action in this act is only stating or sharing without no more intention or any hidden intention in the saying. In the locutionary act, the action is only based on what corresponds to the meaning of words, phrases, or sentences in the utterances delivered by the speaker. Thus, in the locutionary act, the speaker is only telling someone or giving information without other intention, like asking, commanding, inviting, etc.

Illocutionary acts refer to the action that someone does through saying something. In other words, sometimes the speaker has intended meaning in his/her utterances. Therefore, in some condition, it is not easy to identify the intent of the speaker's utterances if we do not know the background or context of the conversation that took place, such as who, when, where, and why the conversation occurs. So it can be concluded that there are various functions in the utterances that belong to illocutionary acts. In addition, Searle (1979) divided the illocutionary in speech act into five parts, which each part also having its own communicative function. The fifth form of illocutionary acts are directives, expressives, assertives, commissives, and declaratives.

The last level of speech acts is perlocutionary act which denotes the effects on the listener by means of performing the illocutionary act. Perlocutionary act means to speak with the intention of affecting the behavior of the receiver, thus this utterance explicitly tied up to speak to another person and seeking to influence them. According to Austin (1975), it also refers to action or state of mind as a consequence of saying something. The effects are specific to the situation and may or may not be what the speaker intended for that conversation. So, the effect of the utterances on the listener depending on the specific circumstances. Thus, we can point out that locutionary act is the purpose of the speech act, while illocutionary act is the performance of the utterance, and perlocutionary act is the effect of the utterances on the listener.

Moreover, we can also find speech acts in the conversation of the characters in the movie. However, when watching a movie, sometimes people usually have their own interpretation. Mostly, they have a different interpretation of a scene in the movie. There are even those who cannot understand the plot of a movie because they cannot interpret it properly. In fact, sometimes by watching movies, we can learn about a person's behavior, values in life, and even we can learn so much other knowledge contained in a movie. However, because we could not understand the movie properly, we could not catch what the author really wanted to convey. For this reason, the knowledge of speech acts in interpreting a movie is very necessary, with the aim that we can understand the intent that the filmmaker wants to convey. Therefore, movie is one of appropriate media to find speech acts, since there are various types of speech acts we can find in the conversations between the movie players. In this study, the writer decides to use speech act theory, especially illocutionary acts, in analyzing the movie of *Avengers: Endgame* (2019) by Marvel Studios.

The *Avengers: Endgame* (2019) movie presents an interesting storyline that makes the audience curious. The audience will feel tense, happy, and even sad when they watch this movie. Although the duration of this movie is quite long, which is about three hours, we will not be bored when watching this movie,

so we can enjoy the movie very well. Since the plot presented is also a bit complicated, therefore, we should be able to understand the story well in order to get the meaning of the storyline presented in the movie of *Avengers: Endgame* (2019). Because of some reasons explained above, the writer chooses to analyze the movie of *Avengers: Endgame* (2019) by Marvel Studios.

According to some academic rationale explained above, the writer intends to conduct a study with the title “*An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts Used by The Main Characters of “Avengers: Endgame” Movie*”. This study is focused to analyze the illocutionary acts which occur in the conversation between the members of Avengers using Searle’s (1979) theories. The writer analyzes the illocutionary acts in the conversations that occurred between them and classify them according to their function, such as directive, expressive, assertive, commissive, or declarative.

1.2 Research Questions

According to the background study explained above, the writer formulates some research questions of the study as follows:

1. What are the types of illocutionary acts that occur in the *Avengers: Endgame* (2019) movie by Marvel Studios?
2. What are the functions of illocutionary acts performed in the *Avengers: Endgame* (2019) movie by Marvel Studios?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

According to the research questions formulated above, there are four objectives of the study, they are as follows:

1. To find out and explain the types of illocutionary acts that occur in the *Avengers: Endgame* (2019) movie by Marvel Studios,
2. To identify and describe the functions of illocutionary acts performed in the *Avengers: Endgame* (2019) movie by Marvel Studios.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study expected can contribute to theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to be useful for learning linguistics better and easier. It also helps the other writers to get some references in analyzing a literary work by using speech act theory, especially in illocutionary acts. In addition, the writer expects that this study can give more knowledge to other people about the way to analyze utterances in conversation. Practically, through this study, the writer can increase her knowledge about speech act theory, especially about illocutionary acts and how to use it in analyzing a movie. This study also can be studied by everyone who wants to get more knowledge about speech skills. The knowledge about illocutionary acts is also expected to provide more information about how to understand the meaning of utterances better and how to use language appropriately, since language also plays an important role in everyday communication for everyone.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study focuses on pragmatics studies that analyze the conversation according to the context, especially about illocutionary acts. This study is only focused to analyze the conversation between the main characters, they are the members of Avengers: Thor, Black Widow, Iron Man, Captain America, Ant man, Hulk, and Hawkeye. The limitation of this study focuses to Searle's (1979) theories of illocutionary acts in analyzing the conversations occur between the members of Avengers in the movie. Searle (1979) explained that there are five speech act types, those are directives, expressives, assertives, commissives, and declaratives. The writer also uses the theory of illocutionary act' function by Leech (1983). He explained that there are four function of illocutionary act, those are competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive.