

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains of several subchapter: background of the study, research questions, objective of the study, significance of the study and scope and limitation of the study

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an important tool for human to share ideas, deliver information, express feeling and build relationship with others. Without language, human interaction would be very limited because people need words to explain and deliver their thoughts and to connecting. However, language is not only about words or grammar, language also about the way people to understand the meaning in different situation. According to Corvi (2025), when people speak, their words often perform actions such as asking, promising, declaring, etc. this shows that language is not only the medium of expression but also a way to act in communication. Communication has two ways of communicate, they are sentences and utterances. Learning about sentences and utterances can use the linguistics approach.

Linguistics is a study about language. Linguistics looks at many aspects of language, such as structure, meaning, and sounds. Linguistics also has several branches including phonetics, phonology, morphology, pragmatics, syntax, semantics, etc. The one branch of linguistics approach is pragmatics. Pragmatics focuses on how people use language in real situations. It studies how meaning is influenced by context, the relationship between speaker and listener and the purpose of communication. According to Wiley & Sons (2025), Pragmatics helps us to understand the meaning not only in words but also in the speaker's intention. Therefore, pragmatics plays an important role in explaining how communication works in daily conversation. One of the concepts in pragmatics approach is speech act theory.

Speech act is a basic part of linguistics communication and its contexts (Kabalmay & Susanto, 2025). That's means that speech act is the basic units of language communication and shows the function of sentences or utterances. Speech acts refer to sentences or utterances are used to perform action. When people speak is not only say something but also wants others to do something through the words. For example, when someone says "I will come again", they are not just giving information but actually making promise. This makes speech act theory very useful in language research. There are three types of speech act, the first is locutionary acts, the second is illocutionary acts and the last is perlocutionary acts.

Locutionary acts refers to the act of saying, it is simply about the literal meaning of the utterances. For example, "It's raining outside", it just stating a fact. Meanwhile, illocutionary acts refer to the intention or function behind the utterances, such as requesting, promising, warning, etc. For example, "it's raining outside", it could mean a command to borrow an umbrella. The other hand, perlocutionary acts is the effect of the utterances, such as persuading, frightening, or encouraging to do something. For example, "It's raining outside", the listener borrows the umbrella.

From the three types of speech act, in this research only focuses on illocutionary acts. According to Rismayanti & Anggraeni (2021) illocutionary act is necessary to understand the purpose of what people say. That is means illocutionary act is important because it reveal the intended meaning and the intention behind sentences or utterances. By analyzing the illocutionary acts, readers can understand how language functions as a tool of action, not just a medium of expression. This is also to avoid misunderstandings, because the same utterances can have different meaning depending on the context and the speaker's intention. Illocutionary acts also explore cultural and social aspects of communication, because different societies may use different strategies to express intentions.

This study applies illocutionary acts theory proposed by John Searle (1979). This theory has several advantages, Searle improved Austin's theory by

giving a clearer and more organized classification of illocutionary acts such as assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. This makes the theory easier to use in analyzing the data. According to George Yule (1996), Searle's classification is practical and widely used because it helps identify the function of utterances clearly. In addition, while Leech focuses on politeness, Searle focuses more on the speaker's intention. Therefore, Stephen C. Levinson (1983) also states that Searle's theory helps explain the connection between the form of an utterance and its communicative function. Therefore, Searle's theory is clearer and easier to apply, although context is still needed to fully understand meaning.

According to Searle's theory, illocutionary acts have five classifications: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative. First, assertive refers to the utterances that convey something true. The second is directive, refers to the utterances that convey question or command. Then, commissive refers to the utterances that include promises. While, expressive refers to the utterances that show feelings. And the last is declarative, refers to the utterances that change situation, for example declaring a winner. Studying illocutionary classification can come from a variety of sources such as song lyrics, film scripts, plays, movies, personal conversations, formal speeches, or any text or oral that contains sentences or utterances that demonstrate illocutionary act. Therefore, this research focused on illocutionary acts based on movie analysis.

Movie is interesting source which presents language in natural and interesting ways. In movie, the characters interact in variety of situations. It observes several types or classification of speech acts. Movie also combine words, expression and action, it can provide more context for analysis. Movie titled *Coco* was chosen in this research. *Coco* is animated movie from Disney Pixar that released in 2017. This film tells the story of a Mexico boy named *Miguel*, who loves music and dreams of becoming a musician but his family prohibit music. One day accidentally *Miguel* travels to the land of the dead. *Miguel* has to meet his ancestors for back to his world. This movie becomes interesting because *Coco* movie is an animated movie that got several awards, one of them is *Oscar Award*

2018 in nomination the best animated movie. In addition, *Coco* also became a viral makeup trend named *poco loco makeup trends* in 2024 on social media, especially the TikTok and Instagram. That's why this movie is interesting to analyze, especially using illocutionary act theory.

This study also contributes in the field of linguistics, especially in pragmatics. This research helps to explain how speakers show its intended meaning through language and explain how context affects meaning, not just the words themselves. However, this study uses movie dialogue as the data, showing how language is used in everyday communication. Because, language is the medium to deliver information and the function of communication is to avoid misunderstanding between speaker and hearer. According to Williams, Wharton & Jagoe (2021), a good communication happens when there is no misunderstanding and the information successfully delivered to the hearer in dialogue conversation. That's why important to study speech act, especially illocutionary act, because it is analyze the speaker's intended meaning in the utterances or dialogue conversation depends on the context. Speech act also studied in movie because the utterances in the movie functions as a form of communication. Likewise, in the *Coco* movie has dialogue conversation as media of communication that include illocutionary act. Therefore, the researcher conducted this study titled "*An Analysis of Illocutionary Act Used by All Characters in Coco (2017) Movie*".

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the research questions formulated as follows:

1. What types of illocutionary acts are used by characters in the *Coco* movie?
2. What are the contexts in illocutionary acts used by Characters in *Coco* movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions, the objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To find out the types of illocutionary acts used by characters in the *Coco* movie.
2. To find and explain the contexts in illocutionary acts used by characters in *Coco* movie

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study contributes both of theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the researcher hopes that this study can enrich the previous research and increase knowledge in the field of pragmatics, especially about illocutionary acts in utterances or dialogue conversation. This research focuses on the speech in the *Coco* movie and shows how language is used for actions such as asking questions, expressing feelings, giving orders, making promises, and so on.

While practically, this research provides the examples for students or hearer and researcher to understand how speech acts used in real communication, for example in daily conversation or dialogues conversation. Dialogue in the movie can be used for learning or teaching contextual function of language.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of the study focuses on analysis of illocutionary acts used by characters in *Coco* movie. This study analyzes the classification of illocutionary acts proposed by Searle (1979) and the context used in illocutionary acts proposed by Hymes (1974). The analysis focused on utterances or dialogue conversation in the movie based on the context. The limitation of this study is only focused on movie and in this research only analyze one types of speech act that illocutionary acts.