

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents the background of the study, research question, objective of the study, significance of the study, and the scope and limitations of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In the process of communication, language becomes an important element that allows humans to communicate and convey feelings, thoughts, and ideas. Language also has an important role in creating social interactions and influencing relationships between individuals. Holmes (2013) explains that language usage varies based on its purposes and the individuals involved, as well as the context of its use and the audience addressed. People adapt their communication in diverse ways depending on their lifestyles. The addressees and the situational context influence our selection of language codes, dialects, or styles (Holmes, 2013). According to Bulain & Linuwih (2022), style pertains to how individuals express themselves in specific contexts. This indicates that an individual's way of speaking can vary depending on the social circumstances they find themselves in.

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies how language is related to everyday life and society. This is a science that combines knowledge about *socio* (related to society) and *linguistics* (the science of language). Sociolinguistic is a very broad field, and it can be used to describe many different ways of studying language (Meyerhoff, 2006). In addition, Wardhaugh & Fuller (2015) states that sociolinguistics is the study of the use of language within or among groups of speakers. Thus, Sociolinguistics not only pays attention to the linguistic aspect, but also learns how language is influenced by the social dimension of society.

One significant aspect of Sociolinguistics is the study of speech function. To understand what other people say, one must understand the speech function itself. Speech function is a function that a speaker does with the intention of

defining their role (Mahendra & Zulham, 2017). In addition, Holmes (2013) classified speech functions into six categories. There are expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, poetic, and phatic functions. First, the speaker expresses their emotions using the expressive function. Second, trying to persuade someone to take action is the directive function. Third, the purpose of the referential function is to deliver information. Fourth, the role of metalinguistic function is to talk about the language itself. Fifth is the poetic function, which concerned with language's artistic qualities. Last but not least, the phatic function fosters a sense of empathy and solidarity with others.

In communication, getting to know each other is a key factor that influences the way someone speaks. Holmes (2001) states that how well someone knows someone is one of the most important factors that influences the way they talk to other people. For example, Mr. and Mrs., a boy and an old man, may simply reflect the degree of solidarity between speaker and hearer. While according to Holmes (2013), there are four social dimensions that affect how people communicate with each other, there are social distance scale, status scale, Formality scale, Referential and affective scales. This social dimension is an important factor in understanding the dynamics of communication between individuals.

Each utterance certainly has its function. Even though it is only a short or simple sentence, it still conveys a function. One example is shown by the sentence 'Hurry up!'. Even though it is a very short sentence, the sentence 'hurry up!' has the function of inviting or encouraging someone to do something quickly or immediately. Therefore, knowledge about the speech function is also very important in communication, because it can help listeners to better understand the meaning behind utterances by paying attention to the context of the situation when the speaker utters it. With a clear understanding of the speech function, the hearer can better understand what the speaker is conveying and avoid possible misunderstandings.

Besides being founded in direct conversations, speech functions can also be identified in other types of media such as books, films, novels, and similar

sources. A movie is a very popular form of media and has various genres, such as drama, comedy, horror, action, and many more. Each movie genre has its own characteristics and appeals to various groups of viewers. One type of movie that is very popular with various ages, such as children, teenagers, and even adults today, is animated movies. Animated movies are a form of movie that uses animation techniques to bring characters and stories to life through moving images. The unique thing about animated movies is that they are able to present beautiful visuals, entertaining stories, and adorable or interesting characters. According to Wells (2002), animation is often considered only as a means of entertainment for children, and is rarely taken seriously or receives sustained academic attention. However, modern animation is able to convey deep messages, has stunning visual beauty, and presents complex stories.

In this study, the writer analyzes the types of speech functions in an animated movie. One of the newest animated movies in 2023 and still trending at the moment is the movie entitled *Elemental: Forces of Nature*. This movie is still a trending movie on the Disney+ Hotstar application until now, and this movie is even nominated as the best animated movie at Oscars Awards 2024.

Elemental: Forces of Nature is an animated movie produced by Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studios, and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. This movie was directed by Peter Sohn. This movie tells the story of the lives of water, fire, earth, and air elemental creatures who live side by side in Element City. This movie was released on June 16, 2023 in America and on June 21, 2023, in Indonesia.

Apart from that, this movie is interesting to watch because it tells the story of Ember Lumen, a woman from the fire element who has a very fiery nature and cannot control her emotions. This movie also tells the story of love between the elements of fire and water, which creates interesting conflict and drama. It can enrich the use of various types of speech function in conversation between characters. Ember Lumen often engages in various conversations with other characters that reflects various speech function. The most important reason the writer chose this movie is because of the many utterances found in the dialogue in

this movie contain many examples of different speech functions. In this movie, Ember Lumen as the main character has several conversations with other people.

Based on the explanation provided earlier, this study aims to describe the types of speech functions uttered by the main character in *Elemental: Forces of Nature* movie and the social dimension of the speech function used by the main character. The writer analyzes the data using the theory from Janet Holmes (2013) regarding speech functions and social dimensions.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study above, the writer formulated the research question to be analyzed in this study as follows:

1. What are the types of speech functions uttered by the main character in *Elemental: Forces of Nature* movie?
2. What is the social dimension of the speech function used by the main character in *Elemental: Forces of Nature* movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In connection with the research question, the writer set the research objective as follows:

1. To describe the types of speech functions uttered by the main character in *Elemental: Forces of Nature* movie.
2. To explain the social dimension of the speech function used by the main character in *Elemental: Forces of Nature* movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is to give the contributions in Sociolinguistic study, especially in speech function and social dimension. This study has two significance, namely theoretical significance and practical significance.

Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to contribute to the development of Sociolinguistics theory, especially in understanding speech function. It is also hoped that this study can enrich information for future

researchers, especially students in English Study Program who want to study speech functions used in movies.

Practically, it is hoped that this study can become a reference for future researchers, as well as help future researchers in researching speech function. For students in the English Study Program, the writer hopes that they can expand their knowledge about speech function from a Sociolinguistics perspective by reading the results of this study. Apart from that, it is hoped that this study can become a useful object of study for students of the English Study Program at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura who are taking a linguistic concentration.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on a sociolinguistic approach that uses the theory of speech function and social dimensions proposed by Holmes (2013) to answer the two research questions in this study. The writer limits this study to only focusing on analyzing the utterances of the main character, namely Ember Lumen, in the *Elemental: Forces of Nature* movie. Thus, the utterances of other characters are not explained because they are not part of the data.