

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five sub-chapters that are important to discuss, namely background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. These sub-chapters are very important to explain because they can help the reader to understand this chapter well.

1.1 Background of the Study

In our daily life, we are constantly communicating with many people. Communication is very important for the life of every human being to provide information to each other, give some ideas, and increase some relations. According to Sumponogati (2018), communication is the most important thing in life because every human being desires to socialize and communicate with each other. Using language is one way to communicate properly and correctly. Yusanti (2022) stated that using language is not only about creating sentences but also taking action. Language is a tool that is used to make connections between humans. To effectively comprehend a sentence or expression in language, someone must pay attention to the context. So, it will be no misunderstanding between the listener and the speaker. According to Wardhono & Hadi (2016), misunderstanding often occurs when doing a conversation with other people. So, to understand the context that will be discussed, the speaker and listener must understand speech acts theory.

Speech acts are one of the functions of language in Pragmatics. Based on Austin (1962), speech acts are a theory about the person who performs an action through utterance. In another side, Rahmawati & Sulistyaningsih (2021) stated that speech acts are a Pragmatic phenomenon. Furthermore, according to Marbun & Handayani (2020), speech acts are a theory that analyzes utterances to the behavioral relationship between speakers and listeners. Besides that, Wardhono & Hadi (2016) stated that speech acts are a theory that discusses about how to communicate and understand each other in context between listener and speaker.

Speech acts are used to express an utterance to the listener when interacting. Speech acts are very important to use when communicating with someone, it is important to develop the ability so that communication will look coherent and structured. According to Marbun & Handayani (2020), speech acts are a very concrete basis for Pragmatics analysis with language functions. In another side, Anabokay (2022) stated that a speech acts are an action used to convey an utterance. Based on some of the previous opinions, it can be understood that speech acts are a theory used to analyze speech which aims to understand what the speaker is saying and what the listener will do after understanding the context of what the speaker has said. An example of a sentence from the speech acts itself is when the speaker said “You stepped on my foot” which means that the speaker wants the listener to take his foot away from the speaker. Speech acts can be found through an utterance in conversation, speech, and many others. In this study, the writer uses Joe Biden’s speech to analyze the speech acts in his speech.

Joe Biden is an American politician who served as the 46th President of the United States. He managed to defeat Donald Trump who was a defense during the 2020 United States Presidential election. He was appointed as President of the United States on January 20, 2020. He delivered a speech on Thursday, September 1, 2022, at Independence National Historical Park. The event was attended by fellow Americans and was held at the Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

In his speech, he said that it was in that place that America declared its world independence over two centuries ago. It was also the place where the American Constitution was written and debated. On that occasion, Joe Biden ordered everyone that they should set in motion the most extraordinary self-government experiment the world has ever known. Joe Biden said that "America was a lighthouse to the world for more than two centuries, but as he stood there that night, justice and democracy are being attacked and threatened". At that night and in that place, all must begin to tell the public as clearly as possible about the threats they face, the power they have at their disposal to meet those threats, and the extraordinary future that awaits them. Should they choose from among these

options, they must never forget that they are the true beneficiaries of an American experiment that began more than two centuries ago. Joe Biden's speech is recorded in the form of a video uploaded on YouTube channel that will be easily accessible by people who want to listen to his speech. This video is 26:33 minutes long. Based on research conducted by the writer, this video has been viewed 270.000 and still growing.

In this study, the writer chose Joe Biden's speech at Independence National Historical Park for several reasons. First, Joe Biden is one of the most famous leaders in the United States and he is the newest President in the United States. Second, the speech delivered by Joe Biden contains the theory of speech acts. Third, Joe Biden's speech is always different in every situation. Fourth, Joe Biden is very enthusiastic to face the threat of democracy. Those are several reasons why the writer wants to analyze this object.

From this explanation, the writer is interested in conducting research on Joe Biden's speech at Independence National Historical Park. The writer will focus on the locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act that found in Joe Biden's speech.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, the research questions of this problem is formulated as follows:

1. What are the locutionary acts found in Joe Biden's Speech at Independence National Historical Park?
2. What are the illocutionary acts found in Joe Biden's Speech at Independence National Historical Park?
3. What are the perlocutionary acts found in Joe Biden's Speech at Independence National Historical Park?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the locutionary acts found in Joe Biden's Speech at Independence National Historical Park.

- 2 To describe the illocutionary acts found in Joe Biden's Speech at Independence National Historical Park.
- 3 To describe the perlocutionary acts found in Joe Biden's Speech at Independence National Historical Park.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is to give contributions both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the writer hopes that the results of this study can be used as a reference in the study that be carried out by readers and can be useful for further study. This study can also increase knowledge about speech acts, especially in the field of Pragmatics.

Practically, this study can help the next researcher to provide additional knowledge and insight on the same topic and can provide an easier understanding to make new research. In another side, this study also helps the readers to understand about the theory of speech acts that are often used.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is focused on analyzing the locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act proposed by Austin (1962). To avoid a wider discussion and can be understood easily, the writer only focuses on Joe Biden's speech which was held at the Independence National Historical Park.