

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The chapter is an introduction that includes the background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a foundation that has an important role in human life as the main communication tool. Humans as social beings need to interact with other people to meet their needs. To interact with each other, people must carry out communication by conveying the speaker's message to the listener. According to Bara (2011), Communication is an activity of sharing ideas, intentions, messages, and so on between two or more people. Communication can be successful if both the speaker and the listener understand each other's intentions and desires. When speaking with listeners, someone will perform an action after the utterance of the speaker. In linguistics, it is called a speech act. There are several classifications of specific for speech acts. They are request, orders, complaints, invitations, promises, or requests. The various types of speech acts have the speaker's communicative intention to produce utterance and action. Therefore, pragmatics is one of the studies on the meaning between speaker and listener.

Pragmatics is the study of meaning according to the context of language use. According to Yule (1996), Pragmatics talks about people's intended meanings, assumptions, and even the activities they engage in when speaking. So, Pragmatics is related to the meaning of an utterance between the speaker and listener. In Pragmatics, there is a theory about speech acts. One of the main studies in Pragmatics concerns understanding the intent of the speaker's speech to the listener. Therefore, the topic of conversation conveyed by both of them must be clearly understood. A significant approach to the classification of utterances must be based on speech acts.

Speech acts are divided into three types. Based on Paltridge (2006), there is a classification of speech acts that includes locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and

perlocutionary acts. While based on Austin (1962), mentions three types. First, the Locutionary act is simply the act of saying something by giving a sign. Second, illocutionary acts can involve the use of acts that are performed when speaking. It depends on how it is understood when spoken. While the perlocutionary act means an actual action as a result of the illocutionary act. However, Searle (1979) stated that he had evaluated and divided the classification of illocutionary acts into five types. The types are declarative, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive.

First, declarative is a speech act to state a person's status or condition. Second, the representative aims to tie the speaker to something he or she believes is in the case or not. Third, expressive is a speech act that expresses the speaker's feelings or conditions. Such as saying congratulations, apologies, happiness, thanks, likes, or dislikes. Fourth, directives are speech acts in which the speaker tries to make the listener do something that is expected or desired. Such as asking, begging, commanding, advising, etc. And the last, a Commissive is a speech act that aims to bind the speaker to perform an action in the future. Such as promises, refusals, and pledges. Therefore, after the illocutionary act is done by the speaker, there is a reaction as a response given by the speech partner. The listener's response can be called a perlocutionary act. The listener's response is like speech or behavior.

According to Yule (1996), that a directive speech act is one type of speech act performed by speakers to make listeners do something they want. By studying directive speech acts, listeners will understand the meaning of certain utterances. When a conversation occurs, there is no misunderstanding between the speaker and the listener communicating. For example: *Can you give me your pen, please?* Based on these utterances, this is a type of directive speech act request. This utterance has modals (can) and question marks. The speaker wants to borrow a pen. So that the listener responds and can do what the speaker says. Based on Mey (2009), also states that directive speech acts are related to the purpose of the speaker's desire for the listener to do something after hearing what the speaker said. When there is communication, sometimes the listener does not really understand the meaning of

the speaker's utterance. So, the directive utterance is spoken by the speaker, while the listener can choose to accept or reject the utterance. It means being able to respond to what the speaker says which can be rejected or accepted.

Directive speech acts are performed by speakers, while listeners can choose to accept or reject the utterance. It means being able to respond to what the speaker says that can be rejected or accepted. Moreover, it shows a strong connection between the speaker and listener during communication. Directive speech acts are not only used in real situations but also occur in movies. That way, this can be done by people or characters in the film. The film is one of the human literary works. Usually, there are many sayings that have completely different meanings from one another (Yardha & Ambalegin, 2022). Therefore, every speech in the film is important to understand the meaning of their speech. So that, between the speaker and the listener there is no misunderstanding in speaking when a conversation occurs. It is the same with directive speech acts, which are the occurrence of an action that makes the listener do something based on what the speaker is saying. When a character in a film asks another character to do something they want. It means, the character (as a speaker) performs a speech act called a directive (Fitria, 2019). Therefore, every film can provide messages and entertainment. In addition, film as a medium of delivery is easy to learn through the study of speech acts.

There are several directive speech acts that have been done by previous researchers. First, Pertiwi (2019) for her research focuses on directive speech acts by analyzing the types of directive illocutionary speech acts that are spoken. Then, knowing the actions taken as a result of the speech acts. Related to social issues in the TV series entitled “13 Reasons Why”. From the research data, it produces four types of directive illocutionary speech acts including commands, requests, prohibition, and suggest with the highest speech act requesting. Second, Haikal’s (2019) his research focuses on identifying the types of directive speech acts and finding the dominant directive speech acts in the film entitled “The Use of Directive Speech Acts in The Hunger Games” Movie. Such as; Request, Question, Requirement, Permissive, Prohibitive, and Advisories. Third, Friska's (2020)

research focuses on analyzing the types of directive speech acts in the “Jumanji” film. She found the data from the film, there are five types of directive speech acts in the film Jumanji including Requests, Commands, Suggestions, Advice, and Asking.

The researcher uses a film as the object of research because many people like to watch movies in their spare time, even though many of them like watching movies. In addition, people can get a lot of knowledge, social values, and morals contained through films that have various genres. In this study, the researcher chooses the film *Little Women* (2019) because can only access or download the latest version of the film released in 2019. To distinguish this research from the previous one, the author will only focus on discussing the types of directives in the *Little Women* film, knowing the form of directive speech acts performed by the main character in the *Little Women* film. The reason for choosing the *Little Women* film because it is very interesting to discuss further. Moreover, the film is an adaptation of the famous novel by Louisa May Alcott. The stories depict love, family, and dreams with relevance to everyday life. The focus of this film can inspire the audience by telling the story of the March Sisters who have four young women. They have dreams and the determination to process life on their own terms. The film was included at the Oscars in 2020. *Little Women* film was included in six categories including best film, the female lead to Saoirse Ronan, supporting actress to Florence Pugh, best-adapted screenplay, best costume design, and best original score. Therefore, the researcher will choose this film as the object of research and focus on the types of directive speech acts, and the forms directive speech act performed by the main characters in *Little Women* Movie (2019).

1.2 Research Questions

To conduct research on directive speech acts, researchers put forward two issues of concern as follows:

1. What are the types of directive speech acts that appear in *Little Women* movie?
2. What are the forms of directive speech acts found in *Little Women* Movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems examined by researchers, the objectives of the research can be seen below:

1. To explain the types of directive speech acts that appear in *Little Women* movie.
2. To explain the forms of directive speech acts found in *Little Women* Movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes that the results of the analysis can provide benefits both practically and theoretically. It can also be useful for those who read and need information about directive speech acts based on the theories in this analysis. The researcher also hopes to provide an understanding of speech acts, especially directive speech acts. Then, it can be useful for English literature students to conduct research in the same field by looking for new references. Theoretically, it can be new knowledge for readers related to the types and the form of directive speech acts used by researchers. In addition, readers can also have a better understanding of interpreting directive speech acts.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is related to the Pragmatics study. This research only focuses on finding the types of directive speech acts, knowing the form of directive speech acts in *Little Women* movie. The main characters include Jo, Meg, Beth, and Amy. Based on the utterances made by the main characters data will be collected. Thus, this analysis uses the main and supporting characters to find data and analyze directive speech acts. Types of directive speech acts use theory by Allan (1986). Meanwhile, the forms of directive speech acts use the theory by Yule (1996).