

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introduction chapter presents background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Language plays an important role in life. According to Chris Livaccari—a senior advisor for Asia Society's China Learning Initiatives—in his new book *New Ways of Seeing*, makes an eloquent case for language learning as more than just communication. It is also, he argues, a means to enhance and deepen students' capacity for processing information and analyzing the shape of the world, such as the Holy Guidance Book, the Quran.

Language occupies not just important but fundamental role in the Quran as the main text of Islam. Shahiditabar et al (2017) acknowledged that God sent the Quran in the current language to warn people about bad deeds and to encourage people to do good deeds; by means of a language that is understandable for the recipient ethnic group. The Quran is the oldest book in the Arabic language-system and even today is regarded as the final authority regarding diction, morphology, syntax, grammar and rhetoric in Arabic (Turner, 2006:356). Thus it could be definitely difficult for non-Arabics to understand, yet it does not mean it is impossible. Due to the fact that the Quran has been translated into various languages in the world, therefore there is no

reason for those non-Arabics cannot understand it. In the English itself, the Quran has been translated since 17th Century. The reception of the Quran by English audiences now indicates a third stage in the historical development of Quran translation. In the past, there were many errors in the translation of the Quran. However, nowadays it becomes clearer, yet it still needs deep understanding because part of the difficulty in translating the Quran is the presence of a huge number of difficult and archaic words with a wide range of contextual meanings (Omar, 2006:662).

In linguistics, the contextual meaning deals with pragmatics. It is a study focused on the usage of language. Pragmatics concerns with four areas, namely the study of speaker's meaning, contextual meaning, how more gets communicated than said, and the expression of relative distance. Pragmatics concerns to people's assumption, people purposes, and the types of action that they are performing when they speak (Yule, 1996:4-5). There are many approaches for studying pragmatics such as deixis, implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and conversation structure. In addition, this study is aimed to analyze the English translation text of the Quran especially Surah Luqman by Dr. Mustafa Khattab using speech acts theory.

Speech acts, according to Chojimah (2015: 31), is preceded from philosopher's opinion believing that sentence is meaningless unless its truthfulness and falsity can be tested. The sentence having such property is declarative ones whose function is to describe state of affairs. It means that every sentence of the spoken people has some meanings in speech act theoretically. Studying speech act plays a huge role in

developing people's ability in using language. People will understand the purpose of an utterance in speech act.

In addition, Parker (1986:14) defined speech act as every utterance of speech act constitutes some sort of fact. In the communication, the speaker expresses certain attitude that has the relationship with the performance of a particular type of speech acts. The success of speech acts in its rule at the act of communication occurred when the audience or the hearer is able to identify the expression of the speaker's attitude when they intend to communicate something. In short, speech acts success if the hearer comprehends the speaker's intention in communication by means of their acts performance.

A large amount of work has been published in speech act theory since Austin's *How to do things with words* (1992). According to Austin in Meyer (2009:50) that Austin divides speech act into three categories; locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. Locutionary acts is act of uttering the utterance. Illocutionary acts is act behind the utterance. And the last perlocutionary acts is act of affecting the addressee/interlocutor. For instance, someone says "I fail you", the locutionary is producing utterance, meanwhile the illocutionary is act of failing, and the perlocutionary is that the addressee getting worried or sad because of that utterance. Searle in Meyer (2009:50) categorizes five illocutionary/perlocutionary points; Assertives, Directives, Commissives, Declarations, and Expressives. Here the researcher only uses two types of it, those are assertive and directive acts. Assertive acts are those kinds of speech acts that state what speaker believes to be the case or

not. For example, someone states “The earth is flat.” The simple test of assertives is can we literally categorize it as true or false (Searle, 1976). While directive acts are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to get someone to do something. It express what the speakers want. For instance, “Gimme a cup of coffee. Make it black.”

Numerous studies about speech acts have been conducted by researchers all around the world. And there is one of which is similar to this study yet with different subject. It is thesis written by Trisnawati (2017) under the title “Assertive and Directive Acts Found in “My Name is Khan” Movie by Karan Johar”. The result of her study showed that there are 68 data of assertive acts with 5 types in it. And 47 data of directive acts with 4 types in it. She concluded that assertive and directive acts often appear in that movie. Meanwhile in this study, the subject is the English translation text of Surah Luqman by Dr. Mustafa Khattab.

Translating the Quran needs to master both Arabic and the target language itself. Written in his CV on his official website mustafakhattab.org, Dr. Mustafa Khattab has already had ten years of experience in the field of Islamic translation (Arabic into English & vice versa). Hence, the researcher decides to use the English translation by Dr. Mustafa Khattab rather than others.

In addition, Surah Luqman itself is the 31st chapter of the Holy Qur’an which contains 34 verses. The title of this surah is from the mention of the sage Luqman in verses 12-19. The focus of this surah, once broken down into its many elements, can be seen as emphasizing principles of moderation. Due to the surah do contains educational verses in which we could learn for educational purposes, this study is

intended to analyze assertive and directive acts found in the English translation of Surah Luqman by Dr. Mustafa Khattab in which the researcher expects to get deeper understanding about the Surah itself. As it is explained on the sixth paragraph above that assertive acts is the one that state what the speaker believes to be case or not. It can be statement of the fact, assertions, conclusions, descriptions, etc. In the Surah Luqman, it contains a lot of assertive acts as found in the second verse that is “These are the verses of the Book, rich in wisdom.” In addition, as it is known as educational surah, the researcher uses directive acts theory to get deep understanding about the verse that contains educational commands.

B. Statement of Research Questions

Based on the background of the study on the point (A), the researcher states the research question as follows:

1. What are the types of assertive acts found in the English translation of Surah Luqman by Dr. Mustafa Khattab?
2. What are the types of directive acts found in the English translation of Surah Luqman by Dr. Mustafa Khattab?

C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the research question mentioned on the point (B), the aims of this study are:

1. To describe the types of assertive acts found in th English translation of Surah Luqman by Dr, Mustafa Khattab.

2. To describe the types of directive acts found in the English translation of Surah Luqman by Dr. Mustafa Khattab.

D. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to benefit both theoretical and practical. The theoretical benefits that expected from this study are that the study would be useful to find out more about the application of the speech act theory, and also can contribute to the development of speech act theory.

The practical benefit is expected to be obtained through this research is a deeper understanding of Surah Luqman. This research also can be used as inputs for further research or add to their similar type of research that is the speech act. In addition, since the surah do contains educational verses, the researcher hopes this research is useful for educational purposes both in teaching and learning.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

This study analyzes about illocutionary act, but it focused only on two classifications of illocutionary acts those are assertive and directive act. The researcher do not analyze five types of illocutionary acts. The researcher wants to analyze more specific types of illocutionary act. This study only focused on utterance that found in the English translation of Surah Luqman b Dr. Mustafa Khattab.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Assertive Acts

Assertive is the term introduced by Searle, formerly it is called as representative. Thus, there is no different between assertive and representative acts. Yule (1996:53) defined assertive acts as kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker believes to be the case or not.

2. Directive Acts

Directive acts according to Yule are utterance performed by the speakers to get someone else to do something.

3. Translation of Surah Luqman

The translation here is an English translation done by Dr. Mustafa Khattab in his the English translation of the Quran book, that is *The Clear Quran: A Thematic English Translation of the Message of the Final Revelation*.