

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter, the writer presents the research background of study that describes the reason why the writer intends to conduct the study. On the basis of the reason, formulation of problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study are formulated. Definition of key term is given so that the readers are expected to have the same interpretation in understanding the study.

A. Background of the Research

Language is the system of human communication which consists of the structured arrangement of sounds (or their written representation) into larger units. Language is one important thing for human. By receiving and sending language, people can fulfill their need to survive. Language is primarily spoken, although it can be transferred to another way, such as written. It also makes people easier to exchange information and to express our ideas and feelings. Using language we can understand the meaning and purposes of others speak or talk when we listen carefully to what is said.

According to Murcia (2000:1) that human communication fulfills many different goals at the personal and social levels. We communicate information, ideas, beliefs, emotions, and attitudes to one another in our daily interactions, and

we construct and maintain our positions within various social contexts by employing appropriate language forms and performing speech activities to ensure solidarity, harmony, and cooperation. In general, language has some functions. The function of language is to express thoughts and feelings. So not only express our mind. The role of language is evident in the expression of aesthetic, sadness, and pleasure in social interaction. In this case they express feelings, because language has a social role and emotional role in addition to expressing ideas.

In doing communication, people may not realize that spoken or written sentences also carry a function. However, the hearer may get confused if people speak without a purpose. It means that the language function leads the hearers to achieve the purpose of someone's speech. Language itself consists of some functions which are to give information, deliver message, express feelings, persuade people, entertain people, and share opinion. According to Roman Jakobson in Cook (1989:26), language functions include expressive, directive, phatic, poetic, referential, and metalinguistic function.

Language functions are important for our communication. When we communicate with other people usually we don't understand what they mean. Understanding language functions can make our mind easier in analyzing every sentence what the speaker said when we communicate. It also will help us explain how stretches of language. Language functions can also be seen in many places, we can find in the literature.

Literature is inseparable from language functions. Literature is a term used to describe written texts marked by careful use of language, including features such as creative metaphors, well-turned phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, alliteration, which are aesthetically read or intended by the author to be aesthetically read and are deliberately somewhat open in interpretation, Mey in Meyer (1997:1). Literature is a study that concerns a whole range of human life and activities. Human life and activities has many varieties, so literature has many forms. Forms of literature are taken from human activities (spoken or written) in their daily life. According to Ade (2008:6) types of literature we mean genres of literature.

In general, there are three broad types of literature, these are drama, poetry and prose. Under drama we have: dance drama, radio and television drama, mime, pantomime, heroic and morality plays. Principally however, they all come under: tragedy, comedy, tragic-comedy and melodrama. From literature we can analyze kind of language functions are used in the types of literature.

Language function can also be seen in literacy work works, such as movie or cinema film. In this case film is included in drama. According to Cambridge Advance Learner's Dictionary (2008), film is a series of moving pictures, usually shown in a cinema or on television and often telling a story. Using movie we can learning about language are used. In the teaching and learning language, it can be used to teaching and learning language media. Study about language use a media is easier.

On the basis of the importance of language functions, the writer would like to study it in a movie. The researcher analyzes language functions used by the main character in “12 Years a Slave” movie transcript. The writer chooses the film to be observed because it is directed by Steve Mc Queen from England it is the first film directed by negroid people who won the highest award of the film industry. This film is the best film and the winner of best film categories in the 86th Academy Awards ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) and took place March 2, 2014, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles (wikipedia.org).

The study about language functions itself has been studied in UIN (*State Islamic University*) Jakarta before. Muhammad Hasits in his thesis *An Analysis of Language Functions Used by Marcus Burnett in Bad Boys II Film (2007)*, his thesis emphasizes on theory of language functions by Janet Holmes. And also Agwin Degaf in his thesis *A Study of Language Functions Used by the Caretakers of Autistic Children in “Miracle Run”(2010)* studied in Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang, his thesis emphasizes on theory of language functions by M.A.K. Halliday. It’s also has been studied in Universitas Brawijaya before. Nanda Yunita in her thesis *An Analysis on Language Function in Utterances Produced by Carl to Russell in Movie Up (2013)*, his thesis emphasizes on theory of language functions by Halliday.

Based on the description above, the researcher studies about language function used in the main character in “12 Years a Slave” movie transcript. Beside

the writer find the kind of language function used in the main character, he also studies the implication of language function itself.

B. Statement of Research Problem

Based on the above background, there are two problems that are formulated, and they are as follow:

What types of language functions used by the main character in “12 Years a Slave” movie transcript by Stave Mc Queen?

C. Objective of the Research

According to the problems of the study, the purpose of the study can be states as follow:

To find out the types of language functions used by the main character in “12 Years a Slave” movie transcript by Stave Mc Queen.

D. Significance of the Research

1. Theoretically

Based on the purpose of the study above, the result of this study can be expected to give something worthwhile contribution of all people

who want study English especially in English literature. So, the result of this study gives more explanation about language function.

2. Practically

The result of this study is hopefully will be useful for the reader, students and the writer because this study is expected to give and develop more description about the theory of language function and appreciate the literacy work especially in plays (drama or movie). Understanding language function will make the student or the reader easier to understand the function in every sentence in the conversation.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

Based on the research problem above the limitation of this study are:

1. This study focuses on the main character's dialogue in "12 Years a Slave" movie transcript by Stave Mc Queen.
2. This study focuses on the types of language functions used by the main character's dialogue in "12 Years a Slave" movie transcript by Stave Mc Queen.
3. This study focuses on the types of language functions from Roman Jakobson's Theory for analyzing the main character's dialogue in "12 Years a Slave" movie transcript by Stave Mc Queen.

F. Definitions of the Key Terms

The title of this thesis is Language Functions Used by The Main Character in “12 Years a Slave” movie transcript by Stave Mc Queen. Concerning with this title to avoid misunderstanding the researcher would like to give some definitions:

1. Language function

Language itself consists of some functions which are to give information, deliver message, express feelings, persuade people, entertain people, and share opinion.

2. Movie

According to Tomlison and Brown (2002:56), that plays as a literary genre, refers to written, dramatic or scripts intended to be acted.

3. Character

Character is the representative of a person a narrative or dramatic work of art (such as novel, play, or film).

4. Main Character

Main character is mean one who plays first part, chief actor of the central or primary personal figure of literary, theatrical, or musical narrative, around whom the events of the narrative’s plot revolve and whom audience is intended to share the most empathy.