

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some aspects related to the topic of the research. They are background of the study, formulation of research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Learning a language is nothing new. Language is a means of communication that functions to convey thoughts, ideas, and feelings, either orally or in writing. According to Fasold (2006) language as a finite system of elements and principles that make it possible for speakers to construct sentences to do particular communicative jobs. Therefore, language plays an important role in all aspects of human life. Likewise in learning activities, language plays a very important role as a means of communication between teachers and students. Not only as a means of communication, in learning activities, language functions as a support for the success of students in understanding the field of study being studied. A child's understanding of a material is quite influenced by the language used by the teacher. Therefore, the grammar and language style of a teacher are very important in conveying lessons to students.

In linguistic, there is a pragmatic approach which discusses about the meaning in use. According to Yule (1996), pragmatic is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). Communication obviously relies not only on

recognizing the meaning of the words in an utterance, but also on recognizing what the speaker means in the utterance. On the other hand, pragmatics is a study of imperceptible meanings, or how listeners discern meanings even when they are not actually said or written. Speakers must be able to rely on many assumptions and expectations if they want to communicate. Pragmatic has many aspects, one of which deals with speech acts.

A speech act is an utterance that a speaker says or performs in an utterance. Actions performed via utterances are generally called speech acts and, in English are commonly given more specific labels, such as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise, or request as stated by Yule (1996). Then Austin (1962) stated speech act became three acts in which it simultaneously performed when someone uttering a sentence, those acts are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. The implication of the study of speech acts is that understand what message is in each speaker's utterance. Speech acts is one of the main branch of pragmatic studies which function as a means of taking action where a person's utterance contains some intents. Speech acts are very important to understand in order to create understandable communication. In the world of education, especially in teaching and learning activities, speech acts is needed to build social interactions between teachers and students, which are useful as external factors that can influence student learning motivation. In teaching and learning activities, communicative interaction between teachers and students is very necessary so that it can create pleasant condition and an familiarity atmosphere between teachers and students. So to create communicative

interactions, a language of instruction is needed so that it can be used as a means of communication. In communication, people do not just talk or just listen to what other people say, but the speech partner must also understand the context of what the speaker is talking about. Therefore, it is very important to study pragmatics and its branch of study, namely speech act, because pragmatics itself is used to study the relationship between language and context. Speech acts is not only found in everyday communication activities, but speech acts can also be found and is often used in human creative works such as, novels, speeches, comics, books and etc. One of the example that can be used to find speech acts is a conversation in a movie.

Movie is an audio-visual media that is also as an entertainment media which combine of video, sound and images so that the message or what is intended in the movie is conveyed and expressed to the audience. Nowadays, movie is the most popular works of art among people of all ages. Speech acts play important roles in the movie, because the utterance produced by the characters are very influential on the success of the movie in which the characters acts. In a movie, speech acts is also used to build the stories, develop the characters and convey the messages in it to audience. There are many movies that can be used to find the kind of speech acts. One of movie that can be a good reference is *Detachment*.

Detachment is a movie produced by Tony Kaye and written by Curl Lund that tells about the life of teaching and learning that occurs in a school based on the perspective of a substitute English teacher named Henry Barthes (Adrien Brody) who is called in for one-month assignment, teaching English

classes at a highschool with many students performing at a low grade level. Barthes becomes the role model for the students and others in that school. Henry Barthes who is starred by Adrien Brody is an American actor who won several awards such as the Academy Award for Best Actor at age of 29, becoming the youngest actor to win that category. Brody also became the second American male actor who won the Cesar Award for the category Best Actor. Brody has starred in various movies, one of which is *Kingkong (2005)* and also has won various other awards. The researcher choses this movie because the storyline presented in this movie is very interesting and have an overview of current education. This movie tells the story of teachers and their environment which provides valuable meaning for the audience and this movie shows a situation that is appropriate to current conditions where the mental health and manners of young people today are increasingly worrying. The other interesting thing about the movie which is not packaged in a Hollywood style full of effects and clear images, but this movie is described like a documentary, so that the audience can feel the expressions of the characters who make everything happen as it is. This movie makes the audience seems to be made aware that the responsibility of a teacher is very big and it makes a contribution in life. Maybe people think that teachers only teach the students according to the curriculum and academic material, so it makes some people forget and ignore, even underestimate, without paying attention to what other people are facing. However, sometimes some people forget that teachers also have a moral burden. This movie can also be used for prospective teachers in the future, how to deal with students who have

problems, because this movie provides an overview of the conditions of a school where there are students who have problems and how Henry Barthes (Adrien Brody) as the main character and substitute teacher at the school deals with the problematic students who cannot appreciate and respect the teachers in the school. This movie is also a criticism of the education system, that education is not only academic but also guides students to develop their mentality to face the world.

There are several previous studies that analysed speech acts in some movies. In the first previous study, it is discussed about speech act theory by Searle. The study is conducted by Fauzan (2022) entitled “Speech Act Analysis of the Character in the Equalizer Movie Script”. This study used descriptive qualitative method and dealt with the use of speech act produced by the main character. The result of this study showed there were 114 speech acts used by the main character such as, 43 representatives, 44 directives, 11 commissives, 16 expressives and no declarations. The most dominant speech acts was directives.

The second previous study is conducted by Sari (2022) entitled “An Analysis of Directives Speech Acts in “Up” Movie”. This research used library as the research design and descriptive qualitative research for the research approach. The result showed that there were four types of directives speech acts are in the *Up* movie script such as 106 utterances contained by command with 52 (49%) utterances, order with 19 (17,9%) utterances, request with 17 (16,1%) utterances, suggestion with 18 (16,9) utterances. It

can be concluded that command was the dominant type of directive speech acts found in *Up* movie that is uttered by the main character.

The next research is conducted by Febriani (2020) entitled “An Analysis of Speech Act Behavior in Students Speaking Performance English Education Study Program at IAIN Metro”. The result showed that most of the third semester of English Education Program in IAIN Metro make 38 speech act behavior in students and kind of speech act found were locutionary act with 29 (76,31%) utterances, illocutionary act 7 (18,42%) utterances and perlocutionary act 2 (5,6%) utterances used by students.

The fourth previous study is from Sa'adah (2021) entitled "Illocutionary Act in the Main Characters' Utterances in the Jungle Book Movie". The research method used in this study was the qualitative-descriptive method with pragmatics approach. The researcher found that the use of illocutionary act happened in many contexts and was influenced by certain situations. It was also found that the illocutionary acts were used to make the speaker easier to convey what he wanted and this happened because the speech partners had understood the speaker's intent based on the context.

The fifth study was conducted by Mufidah (2023) entitled "Request Speech Act "The Ron Clark Story" Movie". The researcher employed the qualitative approach and utilized a systematic step-by-step method. The finding was found that the most frequently used in the film is speaker-based conditions, while direct requests were less common. Moreover, the function of this kind of speech act in the film served as a means to encourage and

facilitate a novel learning experience that captured students' interest and enthusiasm for acquiring new knowledge.

The last previous study was conducted by Haikal (2019) entitled "The Use of Directive Speech Acts in the Hunger Games Movie". This study was done by using mixed method for analyzing the data. The result showed that there were six kinds of directive speech acts found in the movie, they were requestive, question, requirement, permissive, prohibitive and advisories. The finding also showed that Question is the dominant one with the total number 133 utterances and 34% as percentage.

All of those six previous studies above applied the different research method. Most of them used descriptive qualitative research method and the rest used step by step and mix method. In In this research, researchers applied J.L Austin's theory to classify data and content analysis methods to analyze data. The researcher used a different data source from previous studies, by using the film Detachment.

From all of those previous studies that have been mentioned, the researcher decides to conduct a research entitled **Speech Acts Analysis in the "Detachment (2011)" Movie by Tony Kaye.**

B. Formulation of Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the questions formulated into :

1. What are the types of speech acts used by the main character in the "Detachment" movie by Tony Kaye?.

2. What is the dominant speech act used by the main character in the “Detachment” movie?.

C. Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements above, the objectives of the research are :

1. To find out the types of speech acts used by the main character in the “Detachment” movie by Tony Kaye.
2. To find the dominant speech act used by the main character in the “Detachment” movie.

D. Significance of the Study

1. For Teachers

This research is intended as an additional reference for speech acts study contained in a movie. Moreover, it is expected to give more information about types of speech acts.

2. For Future Researchers

This research can be useful for other researchers as a reference for writing a scientific paper with almost the same focus. Apart from that, it is hoped that this research can provide insight for other researchers who want to conduct research in the field of linguistics, especially speech acts.

E. Scope and Limitation

The limitation of the thesis is necessary to avoid an overly broad discussion. In this study, the scope focuses on analyzing the types of

speech acts by J.L Austin such as locutionary acts, illocutionary acts (verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives, expositives), and perlocutionary acts that performed by the main character in the *Detachment* movie. It means that the focus of this research is only on speech acts produced by the main character.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

These terms below are expected to avoid the ambiguity for the readers, as follows :

1. Speech Act

Austin (1962) stated that basically when someone says something, he also does something. This statement then underlies the birth of speech act theory. Yule (1996) defines speech acts as actions carried out through speech. Meanwhile, Cohen (in Hornberger and McKay (1996)) defines a speech act as a functional unit in communication. So it can be concluded that a speech act is an utterance that contains action as a functional unit in communication that takes into account aspects of the speech situation.

2. Movie

Movie can be defined as a public entertainment media that can be watched by everyone, the result of a combination of video, sound and images to express the contents of the film. According to Sapp (1986), movie is a motion picture that is considered as a source of entertainment or as an art form.