CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is an important aspect of communication. In language use, there are elements of language or speech acts that are related to the form and choice of language variety, including who is speaking, with whom, about what, what kind of situation there is, what the purpose is, and all that affects the process of communication. This language is characteristic of human beings and distinguishes them from other creatures. With language, humans can also express a sentence and develop their knowledge by interacting with the environment so that the meaning of an utterance can be understood by a speech partner.

In communication, participants or speakers want to convey messages in various forms, such as greeting, stating, demanding, ordering, informing, and joking. The form is used, and the speaker is involved in the situation. In context, it is the speaker who has meaning in the language that fills the requirements of its speakers to achieve communication goals. Rogers and Kincaid (1981) declared that communication is the act of conveying a message from one person to another to inform and express opinions, either directly or indirectly through the media. This form of communication is pragmatically called a speech act that needs to be understood. A speech act arises because the speaker does not merely state speech; it can contain the meaning behind the speech. Speech is a sentence that speakers utter when they are communicating. To understand speech acts, we not only treat language as a description of a situation or fact that is bound by truth conditions but

also consider non-linguistic communication situations called context (Austin, 1962).

According to Austin in Levinson (1983), the speech act is separated into three basic senses: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts. An illocutionary speech act is a speech act that plays the role in doing an act in stating something. Based on Austin's theory, Searle (1979) divided illocutionary into five acts, assertive or representative, directive, expressive, commisive, and declarative. The assertive act is the focus of this research. Assertive acts involve telling the truth of the expressed proposition. When someone uses an assertive act, it means he or she expresses themselves honestly. These assertive acts work to state, suggest, boast, complain, claim, and report several speeches belonging to several acts of assertives (Leech, 1983).

According to the explanation above, an utterance of assertive acts can be found in daily life which is a conversation between two speakers or more. An example was found in the talk show, The Kelly Clarkson Show aired on March 22nd, on NBC. Daniel Radcliffe was invited to the talk show. There were Daniel as the speaker and Kelly as the hearer.

Daniel   : "If you want to like, just, if you come to earth tomorrow and had quickly educate somebody about the last 30 years about of American culture, you could do worse than doing Simpsons."

Kelly   : "I'm just saying, **it's a great show**."

Kelly asked him if it was true that The Simpsons was how he learned about America. Daniel answered and described it clearly with a small joke. Then, Kelly responded by stating the sentence "**It's a great show**." This indicates an assertive act and is called a **stating** act. She stated the truth or the correctness of what she

said and everyone agreed with the statement. The function of the stating act above is **collaborative**. The collaborative function is indifferent to the social goal (Leech, 1983). Another expression can be found on social media. The conversation was taken from Ryan Reynold's social media account. The situation showed Ryan Reynolds making a cocktail with his mother's help. The short conversation below involved Mom as the speaker and Ryan as the hearer.

Mom   : "**Always stir counter-clockwise, honey.**"
Ryan   : "Thank you."

The context showed Ryan stirring the cocktail. His mom uttered, "**Always stir counter-clockwise, honey.**" His mom confirmed to Ryan to make sure that he must stir counter-clockwise the water in the glass. This utterance indicates **informing** act. Informing is an act to assert that the hearer is ignorant of the information being provided. The function of this expression is **collaborative**. It can be categorized as a collaborative function that aims to give an instructing goal.

This research conducted utterances of assertive acts in the movie. A movie is a media that shows or visualizes the communication of speakers. Flick (2014) stated that movies are important media to be analyzed in society. In the movie, society interacts and communicates with each other. He also added movies are discursive parts and practices of society, reflecting the condition and structures of society or individuals. Movies must be analyzed systematically based on the structures, scripts, texts, the terms of production and perception, and social context (Flick, 2014). Therefore, the researcher used Spider-man: No Way Home movie to analyze the utterances of the characters. This movie was released in 2021, and directed by Jon Watts. The movie was chosen because the characters mostly uttered

the truth about the hero's struggles in the movie. Many utterances were spoken by the characters in this movie. One of the utterances is below.

Peter   : "**Can we just stay up here all day, it is so crazy down there**."

At 00:14:10, this utterance was uttered by Peter. The scene showed Peter and MJ on the rooftop of the school. He stated, "**Can we just stay up here all day, it is so crazy down there**." Peter used a **suggesting** act, he told her girlfriend and wanted to stay on top of their school building, because the ground was too crowded. This sentence contains one of the act of assertives, namely suggesting. The function of this utterance is **convivial**. The speaker expressed the utterance politely. The expression is more polite to show the attitude of the speaker to the hearer. Therefore, the way the speaker uttered the sentence, took the more positive politeness form of seeking opportunities to be respectful. Another expression of the movie is uttered at 00:19:48. The situation showed Peter coming to Dr. Stephen's house to ask for help.

Stephen : "Because someone forgot to cast a monthly maintenance spell to keep the seals tight."
Wong   : "**That's right, he did, because he forgot I, now, have higher duty**."

Stephen as a speaker and Wong as a hearer. Stephen came from nowhere and offended Wong. Wong responded with a **boasting** act that Stephen forgot that he has a higher duty than him. Wong used boasting words to respond to it. It means that this phenomenon is an act of assertives. This assertive act has a **conflictive** function, which is this function is aimed at causing anger (Leech, 1983).

Some research has been studied by previous researchers related to this study. First, Hastuti et al. (2021) analyzed five types of illocutionary acts and the function uttered by the main character in Fear of Rain. They used Searle's theory to analyze the data. They investigated the main character's utterances and obtained 53% of assertive acts which contained 7 functions of assertive. In the second research, Indrawati et al. (2021) analyzed assertive illocutionary in different data sources. Researchers used local tour guides' speeches in one of the tourism objects in Bali as the data source. By using Searle's theory, researchers analyzed four assertive. The result of the research was informing is the most uttered in this research.

Previous and present research analyzed assertive acts by using Searle's theory. After finding the phenomena, the researcher was interested in analyzing and examining more assertive acts. Uniquely, what distinguishes it from previous research, the researcher used two theories and different data sources. Moreover, the researcher used Spider-man: No Way Home movie as the data source. The purposes of this research were to analyze the acts of assertive by using Searle and Vanderveken (1985)'s theory and Leech (1983)'s theory to find the functions of assertive acts uttered in the movie. Therefore, the researcher proposed the title, "An analysis of assertive acts in Spider-man No Way Home movie: pragmatic approach."

1.2 Identification of the Problem

According to the background of the research, the researcher identified the following several problems following:

1. Assertive acts exist as general phenomena.

2. Assertive acts are contained in the movie.

3. Factors that cause the expression.

4. The acts of assertive in the Spider-man No Way Home movie.

5. The functions of assertive acts in the Spider-man No Way Home movie.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

The researcher limited the problem based on the identification of the problem above as follows:

1. The acts of assertive are uttered in the Spider-man No Way Home movie.

2. The functions of assertive acts are uttered in the Spider-man No Way Home movie.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Formulation of the problems become research questions according to the limitation of the identifying problems:

1. What are the acts of assertive uttered in the Spider-man No Way Home movie?

2. What are the functions of assertive acts uttered in the Spider-man No Way Home movie?

1.5 Objective of the research

Based on the background of the problem that has been described previously, the objective of this research is:

1. To find out the acts of assertive uttered in the Spider-man No Way Home movie.

2. To find out the functions of assertive acts uttered in the Spider-man No Way Home movie.

1.6   Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical significance

This research has two main goals theoretically. First, to enrich the repertoire of research on speech acts, especially the acts of assertive illocutionary and its function for further research. Second, to apply the theory of speech acts in the classification and its functions according to Searle and Leech.

2. Practical significance

Practically, this research has two significances. First, the results of this research are intended to be useful for students as input and contributions to linguistics. Second, to add insight and become a stimulus for other researchers to examine in more depth the analysis of assertive acts in a speech act.

1.7   Definition of Key Terms

Speech acts   :   Speech act is an expression that is performed by a locator or speaker, it can be explained by following the rules that apply when performing an utterance (Yule, 2014).

Illocutionary speech acts	:	Illocutionary speech act occurs when someone says something and performs an action that contains intent or meaning that embodies an expression (Cutting, 2002).
Assertive acts	:	Assertive act is an illocutionary speech act that commits the speaker to tell the truth of the expressed proposition (Searle, 1979).