CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Research

Human needs language to transfer the information through communication. Communication is a way to provides information between human beings (Cruse, 2000). Language is used to communicate about objects, events, and current events in the world, and language is one of way of addressing of meaning which used to connect language phrases with characteristics of the world. Then, the interaction can be done through communication where it is processed by two or more human which position as speaker and interlocutors with a main topic of conversation. When doing communication, speaker and interlocutors practice language using many utterances (Yule, 1996). Thus, communication is the way of the speaker transfer massage by using words through the indirect or direct speech.

The indirect and the direct speech have different way to convey the speaker's meaning. According to Levinson (1983) indirect speech means which is typical in high-context societies, conveys meaning not only through words but also through nonverbal behaviors where direct speech means the speaker will speak based on the literal meaning. The meaning is mostly expressed through the words they use, and they rely on the literal interpretation of these words to convey their intention. "Getting or delivering information" is the overall purpose of communication. However, the hearer frequently misinterprets meaning from the speaker when it happened through the direct communication. As the result, it needs a contextual study to understand the meaning

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called pragmatics.

Pragmatics is the analysis of the interaction between sign and interpret. According to Levinson (1983) pragmatics is one of those words (societal and cognitive are others) that give the impression that something very specialized and technical. Pragmatics is the study of purpose as it is delivered by a speaker or writer and perceived by a user (or reader) in order to convey those words, have some meaning (Yule, 1996). Related to the Saeed and John (2009), the function of pragmatic itself is to interpret the meaning of language that speaker uttered to hearer in a communication. However, one of the main concepts in pragmatics is speech acts.

Speech acts is an action taken by hearer from speaker using language in the hope that the listener produces the effect of the speaker's speech acts. The speech acts also be one of the aspects in pragmatics that exists in conversation and has an impact on written and spoken language. Then, according to Austin (1962) the term "speech act" is to describe a fundamental unit of communication. Speakers generate three types of acts while articulating words and utterances: a locutionary act, an illocutionary act, and a perlocutionary act. Speaker will speak and the hearer will interpret what speaker said related to the context of communication of pragmatics and if the speaker and the hearer were connected to the speech act, it will be divided into three types of speech acts. Those are, a locutionary act, an illocutionary act, and a perlocutionary act. A locutionary act is the process of making speakers utter with a specific meaning, structure, and reconciliation. Meanwhile illocutionary act is implementation of speaker's utter through context of conversation. A perlocutionary act used to influence

or giving impact of an utterance by speaker on the hearer (Alston, 2000).

Types of Illocutionary acts related to Searle & Vanderveken (1985) are divided into five types. These are assertive, directive, declarative, expressive and commissive. In assertive utterances, thespeaker presents a preposition as if it were describing a real situation in the world of speech. The directive utterances, the speaker tries to persuade the listener to take the action signified by the prepositional content. The declarative point is to say something that will transform the world. The speaker brings about the condition of events reflected by the propositional content. The goal of expressiveis to convey emotion and attitude where the speaker displays some psychological attitude towards the state of circumstances reflected by the propositional contentin utterances with declarative point. Finally, the type of commissive where it used to attach the speaker to a particular action.

Related to the explanation above, the main discussion of this research is only focuses on the assertive acts study. Through the word "Representative" was used in the original publication, but "Assertive" is generally preferred because any speaking act with a propositional meaning is in some sense a representation (Searle, 1979). Then, an assertive act is divided into several types that appear in the speech event. Those types are assert, report, insist, claim, confess, agree, complaint, predict, and, criticizing. Thus, thosetypes of assertive acts can be found on daily conversation, such as from the interview that found on 60 minute's YouTube channel

Scott Pelley   : "Was it a mistake that you didn't?"
Barack Obama   : "Every president brings a certain temperament tooffice. I think part of the reason I got elected was because I sent a message that fundamentally, **I believethe American people are good and decent** and that politics doesn't have to be some

cage match in which everybody is going at each other's throats and that wecan agree without being disagreeable."

The utterances above were found on minutes **11:24** from script on YouTube channel. The utterance was spoken by speaker (Barack Obama) expressed the assertive or representative speech acts as it is classified into assert type. Assert type is one of several types that appear in the speech event where it has function to state information related to the context of conversation. The utterance of speaker trying to state information related to what speakers believes. The context show, the speaker believe that American people are good and polite even though not all-American people agree with the electrical decision. Assertive speech acts can be seen not only from interview or speech, but also from movie. The dialogue from "Case 39" movie:

Barron : "Lily, it's difficult sometimes to tell the truth, but I know you will because you're a good kid."
Lily : "**I am telling the truth.**"

These utterances were found at **1:08:28**. The listener's utterance showed the assertive or representative speech acts as it is categorized into assert type because the utterance's listener telling the truth information. The dialogue that uttered **"I am telling the truth"** Is categories as assertive types in assertiveacts. The utterance "telling the truth" Expressed the function of assertive actsof asserting because related to Jary (2010), the utterance "telling the truth" Is closely to the nation of belief and use to treat as source of information for hearer.

The other one phenomenon found from movie "A Fall from Grace" that was produced on 2020. From that movie the researcher found the utterances which can

be used to be example:

Woman	: **"My husband and I worked for everything I had**. Don't come near me!"
Police	: "Okay, Okay. Hey, you don't wanna do this."
Woman	: "I don't know how I could be so stupid!"

The conversation above was uttered at (00:00:19-00:00:34) second. The utterance was spoken by the speaker present assertive type. As stated by Vergaro (2018) assertive speech act used to convey that the speaker's utterances are true and make sure hearer belief to the speaker.

The utterance **"My husband and I worked for everything I had"** expressed assertive acts because from those utterances, is easily led to conclude not only in terms of belief commitment, but also in terms of structure of information (Jary, 2010). Based on the explanation, those have mentioned in the "A Fall from Grace" movie, assertive act used to express belief or truth commitment and information by the characters. The researcher chose "A Fall from Grace" movie as data source because from movie the characters can be expressed the actions of assertive. Furthermore, the action that played by characters helped to express what speaker's intention.

From the phenomena above, assertive is important to be discussed because assertive is used to commit speaker to something being true which express an action, the thoughts and feeling by utterances and willing to respect rights to the resolving conflict. To examine this research, the researcher has found some researches which can be supported the researcher reach the goal of this research. The goal of this research was to determine the types and functions of assertive acts. Dominant type that was mentioned in this research is representative speech performed by (Febriana & Fajariah,

2018). This research was focus on types of illocutionary act. However, the most illocutionary has found is assertive act. Then this research applied the theory of speech act from Yule. According to the results of the previous point, dominant type that mentioned in this research is assertion and statement of fact.

The second research performed by Qadir & Riloff (2011). This research focused to separate the types of speech act in Message Board Posts. The theory from Searle was applied in this research. There are four types of speech act that were mention in this research. Assertive and commissive are hard to analyze. Assertive explained that information of this research as a hypothesis rather than as truth. However, the assertive is different with commissive, where the information from speaker as known as future plan.

There are some differences between this research with previous researches. The differences of previous researches and this research are, this research will use "A Fall from Grace" as a data source. It had been chosen because there were many utterances where it consists of assertive in the movie. The action will be performed by characters and can be seen from situation that the characters uttered refers to assertive in the movie. Furthermore, this research focused on assertive act especially in types of assertive and function of assertive.

In addition, the researcher was interested to identify assertive because this research will help the researcher to identification the phenomena of assertive trough movie and to avoid misunderstanding between speaker and listener. Theory from Alston (2000) will be applied in this research to analyze types of assertive acts because this theory has specific explanation of assertive act where helped this research and to

analyze functions of assertive act, this research not only used theory from one expert but also used theory from the other one expert that is (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). This research used theory from Searle & Vanderveken (1985). because this theory more concern to explain function of assertive act. In addition, the researcher wishes, the reader will understand about assertive act through the movie and be able to apply assertive act in daily dialogue. Finally, this research will take the title **"An Analysis of Assertive Speech Acts in A Fall from Grace" Movie: Pragmatic Approach.**

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Those focuses are stated in the background below:

1. The assertive acts statement that uttered in *"A Fall from Grace"* movie.

2. The assertive acts in *"A Fall from Grace"* movie.

3. The types of assertive acts in *"A Fall from Grace"* movie.

4. The misunderstood functions of assertive acts in *"A Fall from Grace"* movie.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

The theory that the researcher used to support this research is restricted. Then, the researcher narrows the scope of this research to two focuses based on the issues raised during the problem identification process. Those focuses are stated in the statement below:

1. The types of assertive acts in *"A Fall from Grace"* Movie.

2. The functions of assertive act in *"A Fall from Grace"* Movie.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The goal that can be reached on this research to separate types and function of assertive illocutionary act as the main the problem of this research is realizing as the following:

1. What are the types of assertive illocutionary act are realized in *"A Fall from Grace"* Movie?

2. What are the functions assertive that finding in the *"A Fall from Grace"* Movie?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

Related to the problem of study above, the research purposes are:

1. To analyze the types of illocutionary acts found in *"A Fall from Grace"* Movie.

2. To analyze the function of illocutionary acts in *"A Fall from Grace"* Movie.

1.6 Significance of the Research

Those are two types of benefits from this study, theoretically and technically. The following are the theoretical and practical purpose of this research:

1.6.1 Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this research has some purposes. Theoretically, this research has some objectives. First, this research is aimed to provide readers with additional information on pragmatics, particularly in speech acts and forms of assertive illocutionary acts. Second, this research is likely to add to our understanding of the role of assertive illocutionary acts. Third, this research present that assertive illocutionary act can be found in art.

1.6.2 Practical Significance

The following parties are expected to benefit from this research in practice. First, this research use to make readers realized of speech acts specifically assertive illocutionary acts. It can be used as reference for the readers to learn more about the types of illocutionary act and other field knowledge of linguistic. Second, this study is expected to provide the researcher with a more practical contribution in defining the phenomenon of illocutionary acts in communication as seen in the *"A Fall from Grace"* movie. This study also serves as a resource for those interested in the types and functions of assertive illocutionary.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

a. Pragmatics : According to George (1996) Pragmatics is the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker and perceived by the listener.

b. Speech act : According to Gill (1979),speech act has the aim to avoid the miscommunication between speaker and listener, the speech both of speaker and interlocutors has to know the meaning of the utterances to get response from the listener.

c. Illocutionary acts : Illocutionary Act according to Austin (1962) Illocutionary acts can be defined as utterances with a specific (conventional) force. Related to Cutting (2002) stated that illocutionary act is what is done by saying the

words, the function of the words, the specific purpose that the speakers have in mind.

d. Assertive : Speech acts that take the speaker to the facts are said to as assertive. The speaker is obligated to explain their belief in this form of illocutionary Searle (1979).

e. Movie : Movie has a special intention for people. Movie also has attraction to influence and to give people message from director and as an action of live image (Klarer, 2013)