

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Pragmatics**

Pragmatics is the study of the relations between language and context that are basic to an account of language understanding (Levinson, 1983). It means that pragmatics is one of the fields of linguistics, specializing in the assessment of the relationship between language and speech context. This means that pragmatics is a knowledge that deals with the meaning interpreted by listeners. As explained by Yule (1996), the field of pragmatics is concerned with the interpretation of what is meant by speakers in certain contexts and how that context affects the meaning of speech. Speech act is one of the fields studied in pragmatics.

As stated previously, pragmatics about the use of language to communicate by looking at the context of the goal. The study of pragmatics is closely related to the context of the speech situation at the time the utterance is spoken. The context of speech is very important in understanding the meaning of the utterance. Leech (1983) revealed that pragmatics is the study of meaning and its relationship to speech situations. Thus, the meaning studied in pragmatics is the meaning that is contextual or in other words examines the meaning of the speaker.

Pragmatics can be used by every speaker to understand the meaning of the interlocutor. Speakers and interlocutors can take advantage of shared experiences to facilitate interaction. Based on the opinion above, it can be concluded that pragmatics cannot be separated from language and context. Therefore, pragmatics

is a branch of linguistics that examines the use of language in communication to find out the meaning of speech conveyed by speakers to the interlocutor to produce clear information according to the context of speech.

### **2.1.1 Speech Act**

Speech act is the theory that investigates the meaning of language based on the relationship between speech and actions performed by the speaker. A speaker performs speech act with the specific intent, which is completed by a hearer. According to Searle (1969), the basic unit of linguistics communication is speech act. It means the speech act have their own objectives, which refer to how individuals act through their speech. In addition, Austin (1962, p.102-103) divided speech acts into three kinds namely locutionary acts, illocutionary acts and perlocutionary acts.

According to Austin (1962, p.108), locutionary act is the act of producing a meaningful sentences with a certain sense and reference in the literal sense. Illocutionary act is uttering something that has a conventional force such as informing, ordering, threatening, warning, requesting, or swearing. Moreover, perlocutionary act is what we achieve by uttering something, such as convincing, persuading, deterring, and even, say, surprising or misleading. In conclusion, from all the three kinds of speech acts, this research only focused on illocutionary act.

### **2.1.2 Illocutionary Act**

An illocutionary act is one of the speech acts that function both to say something and also known as the act of doing something (Austin, 1962). In speaking, speakers do not just produce utterances, but each utterance has a force

which aims to have effect on the hearer. These utterances can have the intention of promising, asking for help and so on depending on the speaker's intention which is interpreted by the hearer. According to Yule (1996), illocutionary force of an utterance is defined as illocutionary acts. This means that for every utterance produced, another act is performed within the utterance. Furthermore, Searle and Vanderveken (1985) said that illocutionary acts occur when something is said by a speaker in a particular context with a specific intent.

It can be concluded from the explanation above, that an illocutionary act is an utterance to state something in carrying out a real action. Illocutionary acts aimed to inform or express an action in the form of speech. When performing it, the speaker must say anything with significant meaning to the listener in regard to the context and situation. By analyzing illocutionary act, it might assist to comprehend the speaker's utterance in a certain situation. There are several kinds of illocutionary act namely commissive, expressive, directive, assertive, and declarative.

### **2.1.3 Commissive Illocutionary Speech Act**

Commissive act is illocutionary acts that commit the speaker to some future course of action in differing degrees (Searle, 1979, p.14). It indicated the speaker's intention to accomplish something in the future. Someone may desire to accomplish something in the future by making a promise, threat, warning, or refusal. The actions can be performed by the speaker to self or acted as a part of a social group. Furthermore, Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p.37) also stated that commissive act is utterance that commits the speaker to carry out the future

actions: commit, promise, threaten, vow, pledge, swear, accept, consent, refuse, offer, bid, assure, guarantee, warrant, contract, covenant, and bet.

### **2.1.3.1 Acts of Commissive Illocutionary Speech Act**

As stated on the background of the research, the acts of commissive illocutionary speech act are commit, promise, threaten, vow, pledge, swear, accept, consent, refuse, offer, bid, assure, guarantee, warrant, contract, covenant, bet (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, pp. 192-200).

#### **A. Commit**

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), commit is the basic English verb for expressing commitment. It refers to the act of committing one's time, money, or commitment to a certain idea, person, or specific action.

#### **B. Promise**

A promise involves a special kind of commitment which is obligation. Promise always makes the speaker to do something for hearer's benefit. One who created a promise is obligated to perform the action in the future (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.192).

#### **C. Threaten**

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), threaten act have several differences from promise act. First, the purpose of threaten act is not to benefit the hearer, but rather to harm. Second, there is no obligation. Third, threaten act is a hybrid verb which means one can threaten someone without delivering speech act by making threatening gestures toward someone. For example: **“Dogs can make**

**threatening noise, and clouds can threaten bad weather.”** (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.193)

#### **D. Vow**

Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p.193) mentioned that vow can to do better performance in the future or to take revenge on opponents who are no longer around. A vow is a formal commitment to an act, obligation, or condition conveyed by someone to God or saint. The level of vow is stronger than a commitment because of its solemnity. For instance: **“I may simply vow to perform better in the future”** (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.193)

#### **E. Pledge**

Pledge is a solemn commitment to take action in the future (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.194). Pledge is similar to vow. However, the solemnity of vowing is not required for a pledge. Besides, pledge often involves a formal declaration to carry out a particular responsibility. For instance:

**“We pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”** (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.194)

#### **F. Swear**

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p.188), swear has the stronger level than promise or pledge. Swear is a declaration of solemnity to the commitment or the assertion that invokes God or other religious entities. Further, swear is the ways of someone telling the truth since the utterance will be relied on to undertake certain actions in such belief.

### **G. Accept**

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), an offer, application, or invitation can be accepted or rejected, and in each case, acceptance binds the speaker in certain ways. When someone accepts something, it signifies that the acceptor has granted acceptance to the speaker to accomplish the commitments he has made. For instance: **“If you offer to sell me your house for \$100,000 and I accept, I am committed to buying your house for \$100,000. And even if you simply offer to wash my car and I accept, I am committed to letting you wash my car.”** (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.194)

### **H. Consent**

Searle and Vanderveken (1985) claimed that consent is regarded as giving the permission to perform something with the condition that one has capability to say no and would not comply if not requested. For instance: **“When I consent to your proposal that you do something I give you permission to do it.”** (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.195)

### **I. Refuse**

Refuse can be considered as the negative opposite of acceptance. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p.195), the offers, invitations, and applications can be accepted or refused. The speaker's expression of denial with the requests, offers or invitations are illustrated as negative reaction. This negative reaction is called refusal. For instance : **“I refused the offer”** (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985)

**J. Offer**

Searle and Vanderveken (1985) claimed that offer is referred to a conditional commissive illocution. An offer is an expression of specific reason that requires acceptance by the hearer. When an offer is accepted by the hearer, it signifies that the speaker is committed to do something for the hearer.

**K. Bid**

Searle and Vanderveken (1985) determined that a bid is a highly specific and organized type of offer. Purchaser who makes the best offer will be the one who buys the item that has been offered for a sale. In this case, offers are called “bids”. Thus, a bid is an offer to purchase item at a specific price. For instance, **“When auctioneers say Sold, he is accepting the highest offer.”** (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.196)

**L. Assure**

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), assure refers to commit someone to do action in the future with the intention of convincing the hearer while the hearer has doubts. In addition, assure is a way of giving confidence to the interlocutor about the truth of the utterances.

**M. Guarantee**

Guarantee is used to deliver a challenging speech act which is both assertive and commissive. As determined by Searle and Vanderveken (1985), a speaker who guarantees a specific object or certain condition will promise the hearer a compensation. After delivering a guarantee statement, the speaker must be responsible for performing the act. For instance:

**“Exchange or repair if this turns out not to be the case.”** (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.197)

#### **N. Warrant**

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p.197), warrant is generally within a legal document, involved the properties and commercial items. It helps to secure the service or commercial products. Warranties are often associated with commercial products or service and exist in a legal context.

#### **O. Contract**

A contract is formed when a speaker and a listener establish conditional obligations that are dependent upon one another. As examined by Searle and Vanderveken (1985), contract is an legally binding agreement between two parties in a contract. For instance, **“Party A promises to do something for party B in return for which party B promises to do something for party A.”** (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.197)

#### **P. Covenant**

Searle and Vanderveken (1985) stated that a covenant is a legally binding contract that is more solemn, archaic, and dignified. It is preferred in both law and religion. In religion contexts, covenant is solemn agreement between God and individual. For instance, **“Covenant has the same meaning as contract in English, but it is more solemn, archaic, and dignified.”** (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.198)



## **Q. Bet**

A bet occurs when the speaker agrees to do something (for example, pay a specific amount) if a specific event occurs, the listener commits to perform a certain thing. In the typical case of betting, where one party makes a bet with another party that means we have a similar mutuality. Accordingly, bets are joint conditional promises in which one participant's promise is the negation or opposite of the others (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985). For instance:

**“I bet \$5.00 the giant will win”** (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p.198)

### **2.1.3.2 Functions of Commissive Illocutionary Speech Act**

Leech (1983, p.105) divided commissive illocutionary speech act functions into four categories namely competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive. The functions are described in the section below.

#### **A. Competitive**

As explained by Leech (1983), this function intends to compete with the societal goals including asking, ordering, begging, demanding. This function has the purpose to reduce the competition between what speaker wants and what is good attitude. An utterance can be considered impolite if it has the potential to make inconvenience to the hearer. For example: **“Getting someone to lend you money.”** (Leech, 1983, p.105)

#### **B. Convivial**

Leech (1983) claimed that the purpose of this function coincides with the societal goals. Positive politeness is included to express the speaker's attitude toward the hearer. Positive politeness encourages good manners and finds out

opportunities to develop a good relationship with society. The expressions are offering, inviting, greeting, thanking, and congratulating. Besides, offer, promise and vow acts tend to have convivial function as it is delivered for the hearer's benefit. For instance: **“If you have an opportunity to congratulate *h* on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, you should do so”** (Leech, 1983, p.105)

### **C. Collaborative**

Leech (1983) stated that collaborative is indifferent toward the societal goals. Politeness does not include as it is not relevant to this function. Besides, this function can be found in written discourse. The expressions of collaborative namely reporting, asserting, announcing, and instructing.

### **D. Conflictive**

As mentioned by Leech (1983), conflictive is meant to result in violations because it aims to conflicts with the societal goals. Politeness is not necessary as it is designed to cause offense or violation. Conflictive expressions are threatening, accusing, cursing and reprimanding. For example: **“The only way to make sense of the idea is to suppose that the speaker does so ironically.”** (Leech, 1983, p.105)

## **2.2 Previous Study**

Gea and Johan (2020) determined the commissive speech act types uttered by Donald Trump's speech. The data source was taken from Donald Trump's utterances. This research aimed to discover the types of commissive and the functions of commissive speech act. The theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985) was applied in their research. Moreover, the researchers used descriptive

qualitative as a research method. For the result, this research indicated eight types of commissive speech act namely promise, threaten, swear, guarantee, warrant, refuse, assure and vow.

Desica and Ambalegin (2021) analyzed the types of commissive speech act found in the “Onward” movie. The researchers used the “Onward” movie as data source. The researchers used theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985) for analyzing the types of commissive speech act. Moreover, the researchers used descriptive qualitative as a research method. For the result, the researchers discovered the types of commissive speech act, which were promising, threatening, accepting, refusing, and offering. The most dominant type found was refusing.

Rachman (2021) evaluated the commissive speech acts uttered by characters in the movie entitled "Hobbs and Shaw". The researcher applied theory developed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985). This descriptive qualitative research aimed to describe the linguistics feature's form of commissive act and its function uttered by the characters in Hobbs and Shaw's Movie. The results of this research found 6 linguistics feature's form of commissive act: must, will, can, would, want, and be going to. Moreover, the functions of commissive speech act was also found including information, capacity, compassion, invite, order, persuade, offering opinion, threaten, and ending conversation.

Nugraheni and Sari (2022) discovered types of commissive speech act uttered by characters in Cinderella movie. This research used a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the data. The researchers analyzed the utterances

based on the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985). The results of this study showed nine types of commissive speech act including refuse, threaten, promise, accept, offer, bet, commit, consent, and assure.

Sihotang and Ambalegin (2022) aimed at finding out the types of commissive speech act that characters applied in “Fractured” movie. The data source was taken from utterances said by the characters in the movie. The theory was applied based on theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985). Moreover, the researchers used descriptive qualitative as a research method. For the result, the types found in the movie were accept, promise, threaten, refusal, and offer. The most common types in “Fractured” movie was promise.

Dewi (2022) investigated the types and functions of commissive speech act in Joe Biden’s speeches. Furthermore, the researchers used the descriptive qualitative as a research method. This study aimed at discovering the types and functions of commissive speech acts in Joe Biden's speeches by using theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985), and found the types of direct or indirect speech acts used theory proposed by Yule (2017). The results of this study indicated 6 types of commissive speech act namely 2 data of commit, 12 data of promise, 4 data of refuse, 1 data of offer, 2 data of assure, and 1 data of guarantee. Then, direct speech acts with 2 data and indirect speech acts with 20 data were found on this study.

Widianingsih and Pratama (2023) aimed at examining the functions of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's speech on wiretapping. The utterances of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono were taken as data source. The data was analyzed based on

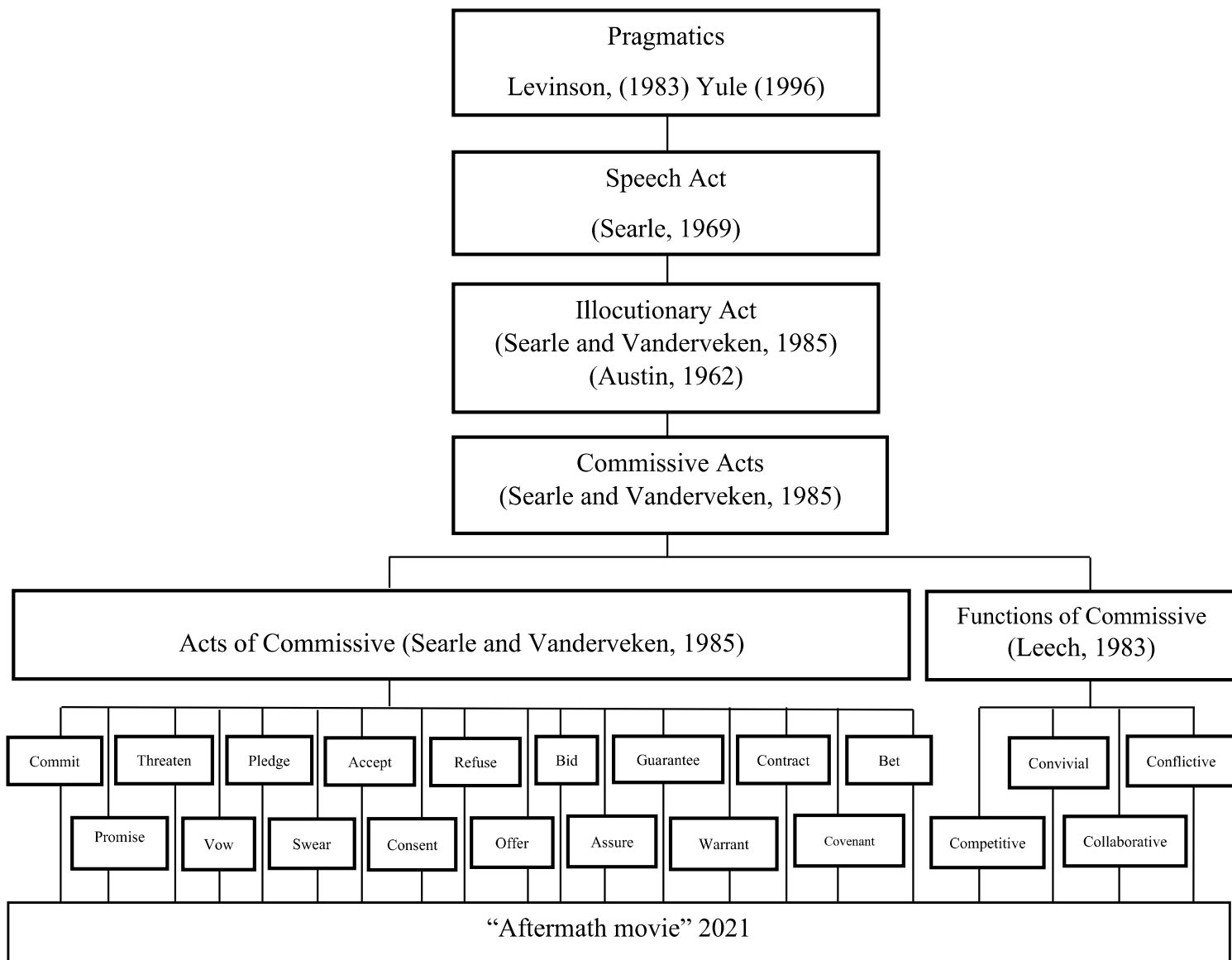
Searle (1969) theory. The result of this study showed that there were 6 types of commissive, including promise, threat, refusal, offer, volunteer, and guarantee. Whereas, there were 3 functions were found on this study, namely repairing and maintaining relationships, showing loyalty, and showing compassion.

As what demonstrated above, there are similarities between the previous and current research. The theories of Searle (1969) and Searle and Vanderveken (1985) were applied in both previous and current research. Both previous and current research focused on analyzing the commissive illocutionary speech act. Nonetheless, there are few differences between previous and current research. First, this present research used “Aftermath” movie 2021 as data source. Second, the theory of Leech (1983) was added to explore the functions of commissive acts delivered by characters in the movie. Third, this current research revealed eleven acts of commissive including commit, promise, threaten, swear, accept, consent, refuse, offer, bid, assure, and bet. Further, four functions of commissive was included in this research: competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive. The most frequently used in the movie was the refuse act and the convivial function.

### **2.3 Theoretical Framework**

Pragmatic approach is employed to begin this research. This research used the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985) to examine the acts of commissive illocutionary speech act and theory of Leech (1983) to analyze functions of commissive illocutionary speech act.

There are 17 acts of commissive: commit, promise, threaten, vow, pledge, swear, accept, assent, refuse, offer, bid, ensure, guarantee, warrant, contract, covenant, and bet. The functions of commissive illocutionary speech act are divided into four categories, competitive, convivial, collaborative and conflictive. Therefore, commissive illocutionary speech act theories are used to investigate the acts of commissive and the functions of commissive in the “Aftermath” movie (2021)



**Figure 2.1 Theoretical Framework**