

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Communication is a fundamental aspect of human interaction, essential for conveying ideas, sharing information, and building relationships. According to Mehrabian (1971), communication can be broken down into three key elements: verbal, vocal, and visual. Verbal communication pertains to the words the speakers employ, vocal communication encompasses the tone, pitch, and cadence of our speech, and visual communication encompasses our non-verbal cues, such as body language and facial expressions. Effective communication requires a combination of these three components to convey messages clearly and accurately. As such, understanding the nuances of communication and the various forms it can take is crucial in many aspects of life, including personal relationships, business, and social interactions.

In the study of language, pragmatics focuses on how speakers use language to achieve their goals, while speech act theory investigates the functions and effects of utterances in different contexts. Understanding the principles of pragmatics and speech acts can enhance communication skills and facilitate successful interactions in various situations. In communication, speech acts play a crucial role in making communication successful. Speech acts, which are the basic units of communication, are powerful tools for conveying meaning and carrying out actions. They are used to express ideas, make promises, give orders, offer advice, and perform many other functions. In fact, the success of communication

often depends on how effectively speech acts are used. As Searle (1969) noted, “speech acts are not merely something we do when we speak, they are what we are doing when we speak.” This highlights the significance of speech acts in communication and emphasizes the need to understand their various types and functions.

According to Searle (1979), speech acts can be divided into three categories: locutionary acts (uttering words with a specific meaning), illocutionary acts (using words to perform an action), and perlocutionary acts (producing an effect on the listener). Illocutionary acts, as a branch of speech act theory, are an important part of communication as they allow speakers to convey meaning beyond the literal interpretation of their words. Illocutionary acts are divided into 5 types: representatives (or assertive), directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives (Searle, 1979).

Commissive speech acts are captivating as they require the speaker to make a commitment to a specific action, which creates an anticipation that the speaker will follow through with the promise. This, in turn, generates a desire on the part of the listener that the speaker will fulfill the promise made (Grice, 1989). This means that commissive speech acts have a significant impact on social interactions and relationships, as they involve a commitment on the part of the speaker and create expectations and hope on the part of the hearer. Therefore, analyzing commissive speech acts can provide valuable insights into how individuals use language to create and maintain social relationships.

Commissive speech acts occur frequently in society, as people often make promises and commitments to one another in various contexts, such as in personal relationships, business transactions, and political agreements. For example, a politician might make a promise to their constituents during a campaign speech, committing themselves to a certain course of action if elected. Similarly, a salesperson might make a commitment to deliver a product by a certain date to a customer. These kinds of commissive speech acts can influence the behavior of others and shape the course of social interactions and relationships.

Communication styles are important aspects of language use that influence how speech acts are performed, interpreted, and understood within specific contexts. Leech (1983) introduced the functions of illocutionary acts to encompass patterns of behavior, social norms, power dynamics, and cultural influences that shape the way individuals interact with one another. Leech's framework primarily focuses on the functional analysis of illocutionary acts, other scholars have explored the relationship between speech acts and communication styles or the functions of speech acts itself.

According to the explanation above, the utterance of commissive speech acts can be found from the interactions of people in various media such as talk shows, newspaper, social media, etc. One of the examples occurred from a talk show, Big Little Shot TalkShow, with a host guided by Steve Smith. This talk show was published on April 21, 2022. The following is a short conversation:

Smith : *“Would you go to space do you think?”*
 Boy : *“Well, I was going to keep as prayer, when I grew up but they were lucky, **I will go to Mars.**”*

In the dialogue above, there is a commissive speech act where boy says he wants to go to Mars. The statement, *“**I will go to Mars,**”* is an example of a commissive speech acts, called **promising** act. This child had thought about going to Mars and living there. The function of this sentence is **collaborative**, because the individuals work together in a cooperative and mutually supportive manner. The speaker is providing information or expressing opinion.

Another utterance is also found on the interview from social media. The interview was about Jennie Kim attending the Met Gala. Emma, as the interviewer, interviewed Jennie Kim as her first-time attending Met Gala. This interview was published by Vogue YouTube channel on May 2, 2023. Below is the conversation:

Emma : *“What’s like the biggest mystery to you?”*
 Jennie Kim : *“I would say literally everything because it’s my first time. I don’t know what to expect.”*
 Emma : *“Totally.”*
 Jennie Kim : *“But Rosie, she was here last year. She told me just have fun. **So that’s the plan for today. I’m gonna go have fun.**”*

In the dialogue, Emma is asking Jennie Kim about her first time being there. Then, Jennie Kim responds to the question with her promise. This statement is an example of commissive speech acts, called **promising** act, because Jennie Kim intends to carry out the action that they have promised. This utterance indicates **collaborative** function, because Jennie Kim as the hearer tells Emma to do something in the future and it is neutral or mediocre.

Commissive speech acts are not only found on social media but can also be found in movies. According to Flick (2014), movies are an important media to be analyzed as linguistic sources because they provide a rich source of spoken language data in a naturalistic context. Unlike traditional language data sources, such as written texts or recorded conversations, movies allow researchers to observe and analyze language use in a dynamic and interactive setting. Movies also offer a diverse range of language use across various genres, settings, and social contexts, which can provide insights into how language is used in different situations. Additionally, movies are a cultural product that reflects the attitudes, values, and norms of a particular society, making them an important resource for studying language and culture.

The researcher has selected the film “Free Guy” as the primary data source for this study. The analysis will focus on the dialogues and utterances of the characters within the movie. It’s worth noting that “Free Guy”, with a runtime of 2 hours and 55 minutes, was released in the United States on August 13, 2021, and is classified as a comedy film directed by Shawn Levy, with a screenplay crafted by Matt Lieberman and Zak Penn. This movie presents an action-packed and comedic adventure story about the journey of an extra character in a game called Free City, who tries to fight fate and wants to become a hero in his world. Many utterances from the movie showed the types of commissive speech acts. For instance, one of the characters in the movie, Buttons, expresses this utterance at 01:00:42.

Buttons : *“Mom! Do not touch that sock! I swear to God, if you touch that sock... you will be in therapy for the rest of your life!” (Data 90)*

The sentence includes a **threatening** act, as the speaker is making a threat to his mother, *“Mom! Do not touch that sock!”* The speaker then follows this up with a promise in the form of a threat, saying *“I swear to God, if you touch that sock... you will be in therapy for the rest of your life!”* This is a type of commissive act known as a promising speech act, but in this context, it is used in a threatening manner. The speaker is using the **conflictive** function, because the speaker might be caused violations toward the hearer.

Molotovgirl : *“Oh, yeah. I thought you were an NPC. How did you find me?”*
 Guy : *“I waited outside by the murder train, then I followed you. Shit! **Should I come with you?**”*
 Guy : *“Holy hell, what just happened?”*
 Molotovgirl : *“What just happened is you almost blew my mission.” (Data 32)*

In the next conversation provided, at 00:25:52, Guy and Molotovgirl have an encounter that quickly becomes a tense exchange. Guy starts by trying to establish familiarity, referencing their previous interaction. Molotovgirl is initially skeptical and questions Guy’s presence. Guy then admits he followed her and, in a moment of uncertainty, asks, *“Should I come with you?”* This question functions as an **offering** act, as Guy is proposing to accompany Molotovgirl and provide assistance. By making this offer, Guy is attempting to participate collaboratively, indicating his willingness to support and be part of Molotovgirl’s mission. Despite the tension and Guy’s naivety about the situation, his offer to join her emphasizes

cooperation and a desire to contribute to a shared goal, embodying the **collaborative** function in their interaction.

Some of the researchers have studied commissive speech acts that relate to this study. First, Wijayanti et al., (2022) analyzed the types of commissive speech acts in the interview and public examination of candidates for KPK commissioners. They investigated the type of commissive speech acts by using Searle's theory. The researcher focused on female and male candidates' utterances. As the result, they found 53 utterances and female candidates dominated the utterance of commissive speech acts with 66%. Second, Al-ghrafy (2023) analyzed commissive acts by the characters in the novel *She Wore Red Trainers*. The researcher conducted the research by using Searle's theory. As the result, he found 10 data with 5 data of offering as the most uttered in this research.

Previous and present research analyze commissive speech acts by using Searle's theory. Based on the phenomena, the researcher is fascinated in conducting this research. This research differs from previous studies. Especially in the selection of different data sources. Previous studies chose interview and novel as the data source and using Searle's theory. Meanwhile, the present research choose movie as the data source and using Searle and Vanderveken (1985) theory to find out the types of commissive acts and Leech (1983) theory to find out the functions of commissive acts. Therefore, the title of this research is "An Analysis of Commissive Illocutionary Acts in "Free Guy" Movie: Pragmatic Approach."

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research, the researcher identified the following several problems:

1. Communication is essential for conveying ideas, sharing information, and building relationships, as depicted in Free Guy movie.
2. Understanding the nuances of communication and the various forms it can take is crucial in many aspects of life, as shown in Free Guy movie.
3. Commissive speech acts are commonly found in different media, including social media and talk shows, and are also present in Free Guy movie
4. The types of commissive acts are uttered in Free Guy movie.
5. The functions of commissive acts are uttered in Free Guy movie.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

The researcher constrained the scope of the study by delineating the problem as follows, stemming from the previously identified issue:

1. The types of commissive acts are uttered in Free Guy movie.
2. The functions of commissive acts are uttered in Free Guy 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 types of commissive acts that are uttered in Free Guy movie?
2. What are the functions of commissive acts uttered in Free Guy movie?

1.5 Objective of the Research

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

1. To find out the types of commissive acts are uttered in Free Guy movie.
2. To find out the functions of commissive acts uttered in Free Guy movie.

1.6 Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical significance

This research has several important theoretical implications. Firstly, it aims to expand our understanding of how language is used to perform certain intentions, specifically commissive speech acts for the reader. Secondly, it seeks to advance our knowledge in the field of incorporating materials into scientific studies of commissive speech acts. Lastly, this research is intended to serve as a reference for future studies analyzing similar data.

2. Practical significance

This research is anticipated to have significant practical implications for a number of reasons. Firstly, it will help speakers and interlocutors to better understand all acts and functions of commissive speech acts, thereby

reducing misunderstandings. Secondly, it will enable speakers to perform appropriate commissive speech acts that align with their intended outcomes. Finally, this research will help reveal the speaker's objective in carrying out commissive speech acts to their interlocutors.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Speech acts : A speech act refers to an expression enacted by a speaker or communicator, and its elucidation can be derived from adhering to the governing rules that dictate the execution of a spoken statement (Yule, 2014).

Illocutionary acts : An illocutionary act transpires when an individual articulates a statement while concurrently carrying out an action that encapsulates an intended significance or purpose (Cutting, 2002).

Commissive acts : Commissive speech acts are captivating as they require the speaker to make a commitment to a specific action, which creates an anticipation that the speaker will follow through with the promise. (Searle, 1979).