

## **CHAPTER II**

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

This chapter provides a comprehensive review of the literature relevant to this study, focusing on the theoretical underpinnings that guide the analysis of language in context. Central to this research is the field of pragmatics, which examines how language is used by speakers to convey meaning, achieve intentions, and navigate social interactions. The following sections will delve into the principles of pragmatics, including speech act theory, with a particular emphasis on commissive illocutionary acts, as well as the functions of these acts within communicative exchanges.

#### **2.1 Pragmatics**

Pragmatics constitutes a specialized branch within the field of linguistics, focusing on the examination of how language is employed within social contexts and the various methods by which individuals utilize language to convey meanings that extend beyond the literal interpretations of words. According to Levinson (1983), pragmatics involves the study of how context contributes to meaning in communication, and how people use language in different situations to achieve their communicative goals. Pragmatics also examines the ways in which language users employ implicature, or the meaning conveyed by an utterance that goes beyond the literal meaning of the words themselves.

In accordance with the explanation above, pragmatics plays a crucial role in linguistic research as it helps to bridge the gap between the structure of language and its actual use in everyday communication. By studying pragmatics, linguists can gain a deeper understanding of how language is used in social interactions, how meaning is conveyed through context, and how speakers and listeners interpret language in real-life situations. Pragmatics is particularly relevant in the study of second language acquisition, as it can help to explain why learners sometimes struggle to understand the meaning behind certain utterances or to use language appropriately in different social contexts. As stated by Blum-Kulka et al. (1989), pragmatics is essential for understanding how speakers use language to express their intentions, negotiate meaning, and manage social relationships.

### **2.1.1 Speech Acts**

According to Searle (1969), a speech act is the basic unit of communication, and it can be performed through the use of language, including words, sentences, and discourse. In the field of pragmatics, the notion of speech acts holds paramount importance as it delineates how language functions as a tool for executing actions and achieving defined aims during communication. Austin (1962) further categorized speech acts into three types: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. The study of speech acts can provide insights into how speakers use language to convey meaning and achieve communicative goals, as well as how listeners interpret and respond to these acts.

Locutionary speech acts refer to the act of saying something to convey meaning through the use of words, sentences, or phrases. As described by Austin (1962), this type of speech act involves producing a meaningful sentence or phrase that has a clear referential meaning, such as “It is raining outside” or “The cat is on the mat.” The locutionary act is the basic component of speech acts and forms the foundation upon which illocutionary and perlocutionary acts are built.

Illocutionary speech acts, as defined by Austin (1962), refer to the intention behind the use of language, or the speech act’s intended effect on the listener. This type of speech act includes various communicative functions, such as making a request, giving an order, issuing an invitation, or expressing an apology. For instance, saying “Can you pass me the salt?” is an example of a request for an illocutionary act. Searle (1976) further categorized illocutionary acts into five categories, namely assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives, each with their own set of communicative functions.

Perlocutionary speech acts, as described by Austin (1962), are concerned with the effect of the speech act on the listener or the hearer’s interpretation of the speaker’s message. This type of speech act is intended to produce a particular effect in the listener, such as persuading them to take a specific action or changing their beliefs or attitudes. For instance, a persuasive speech aimed at convincing people to support a particular cause is an example of a perlocutionary act. The success of a perlocutionary act depends on the listener’s response, and it is not always guaranteed.

In conclusion, speech acts are a crucial aspect of pragmatics that involve the use of language to accomplish specific goals and achieve communicative intentions. The study of speech acts can provide valuable insights into how speakers use language to convey meaning and how listeners interpret and respond to these acts. By categorizing speech acts into locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts, linguists can gain a better understanding of the complex nature of human communication.

### **2.1.2 Illocutionary Speech Acts**

Illocutionary speech acts refer to the intended meaning behind a speaker's utterance. Yule (1996) explains that speakers often use language to perform certain actions, such as making requests, giving commands, or making promises, rather than simply conveying information. These actions are performed through the use of illocutionary speech acts. Yule identified five main types of illocutionary speech acts:

- a. Assertives: These are speech acts in which the speaker commits to the truth of the proposition being expressed. Examples include stating, asserting, and claiming. Example: "I can teach you English fluently."
- b. Directives: These are speech acts in which the speaker attempts to get the hearer to do something. Examples include requesting, ordering, and suggesting. Example: "Would you please pass me the book?"

- c. **Commissives:** These are speech acts in which the speaker commits to doing something in the future. Examples include promising, vowing, and guaranteeing. Example: “I promise to help you out at my house at 3 pm.”
- d. **Expressives:** These are speech acts in which the speaker expresses a psychological state or emotion. Examples include thanking, apologizing, and congratulating. Example: “I’m sorry I’m late.”
- e. **Declarations:** These are speech acts in which the utterance brings about a new state of affairs or changes someone’s status. Examples include pronouncing, declaring, and naming. Example: “I pronounce you husband and wife now.”

Understanding illocutionary speech acts is important for analyzing the meaning of utterances beyond their literal interpretation. It helps us to understand how speakers use language to perform different functions and achieve their communicative goals.

#### **2.1.2.1 The Types of Commissive Acts**

Commissive acts are a type of speech act that involves the speaker committing themselves to some future course of action. In commissive acts, the speaker is committing to performing a future action or refraining from doing so. This type of speech act is important in interpersonal communication because it establishes obligations and expectations for future behavior. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) proposed seventeen of commissive acts: commit, promise, threaten, vow, pledge, swear, accept, consent, refuse, offer, bid, assure, guarantee,

warrant, contract, covenant, and bet. Each act involves a different type of commitment to future action or inaction.

#### a. Committing

Committing involves expressing dedication or resolve to undertake a future course of action. It signifies the speaker's commitment to a particular task, responsibility, or behavior, conveying a sense of determination to follow through with their stated intention. For instance, "**Walking home that day, we agreed that we also wanted to be significant.**" (Saputri et al., 2021)

#### b. Promising

A promising act is when the speaker commits themselves to a future course of action. The speaker intends to carry out the action that they have promised. For example,

Ella's mother : "Ella, my darling. I want to tell you a secret. A great secret that will see you through all the trials that life can offer. You must always remember this. Have courage and be kind. You have more kindness in your little finger than most people possess in their whole body. And it has power, more than you know. And magic."

Ella : "Magic?"

Ella's mother : "Have courage and be kind, my darling. Will you promise me?"

Ella : "**I promise.**"

(Nugraheni & Sari, 2022)

#### c. Threatening

A threatening act is when the speaker intends to bring about a negative consequence if the hearer fails to comply with the speaker's request. For example,

“Get your hand out of my face, or **I’ll bite your finger off**. Hold on a second. Can we just slow this down for just a second? H-Hold on, hold on, hold on. Can we just slow down one second? I...” (Farwati et al., 2023)

#### d. Vowing

Vowing is a solemn commissive act, often associated with religious or deeply personal contexts. It represents a commitment made with a strong sense of devotion, emphasizing the seriousness and importance of the pledge. For instance,

“**I vow to fiercely love you in all your forms, now and forever**. I promise to never forget that this is a once-in-a-lifetime love. And to always know in the deepest part of my soul that no matter what challenges might carry us apart, that we’ll always find the way back to each other.” (Ramadhani & Mustikawati, 2023)

#### e. Pledging

Pledging involves making a promise that includes some form of valuable asset or collateral as a guarantee. It adds an extra layer of commitment, often with material or financial stakes. For example, “**I pledge half a million dollar to him by the end of the month**” (Wulandary, 2022)

#### f. Swearing

Swearing is the act of making a promise or commitment with the invocation of a sacred entity or deity, highlighting the gravity of the commitment and the speaker’s belief in its sanctity. For instance, “I never see him, I swear!” (Kumalasari, 2019)

#### g. Accepting

Accepting is the act of committing to take on or agree to a proposal, offer, or responsibility presented by someone else. It signifies a willingness to proceed

with the suggested course of action. For instance, **“Yeah! See you there!”**  
(Desica & Ambalegin, 2021)

#### **h. Consenting**

Consenting is a commissive act that involves the explicit agreement or approval of a particular action or proposal, indicating a readiness to go along with it. For example,

Ella : “No, please don’t. This was my mother’s. And I’d like to wear it when I go to the palace. It’s almost like taking her with me.”  
Fairy : “I understand. But she wouldn’t mind if I get it up a bit? **Wouldn’t mind a nice blue?”**

(Nugraheni & Sari, 2022)

#### **i. Refusing**

Refusing is the commitment to decline or reject a proposal, action, or request made by someone else. It asserts the speaker’s unwillingness to participate or comply with the request. For example,



King : “It’s that girl in the forest, isn’t it? That’s why you were so generous with the invitations.”

Kit : “**Father, it was for the people.**”

(Nugraheni & Sari, 2022)

#### **j. Offering**

An offering act is when the speaker offers to do something for the hearer. The speaker intends to carry out the action that they have offered. For example, “**Will you do it, Marta?**” (Devi & Degaf, 2021)

#### **k. Bidding**

Bidding is a commitment to purchase or acquire something, typically in an auction or competitive context, with the intention of fulfilling the purchase by offering the highest price. For instance, “Oh, hey. Shit. That’s supposed to be buried deeper than that. **I’ll give you ten dollars if you tell your mom that you cut that cable, not me.**” Farwati et al. (2023)

#### **l. Assuring**

Assuring is a commissive act that involves providing confidence or a guarantee to someone regarding the successful outcome of a future event or action, often aimed at alleviating doubt or concern. For example,

Ella : “But... They’re made of glass?”

Fairy : “Yes. **And you’ll find they’re really comfortable.** Ella, you really must go now.”

(Nugraheni & Sari, 2022)

#### **m. Guaranteeing**

Guaranteeing is the commitment to take responsibility for the successful outcome of a particular event or action. It often includes a formal assurance of compensation or remedy if the commitment is not met. For instance, “**We will**

**ensure peace through strength, two and a half trillion dollar have the strongest military we've ever had, beautiful brand-new equipment"** (Gea & Johan, 2020)

**n. Warranting**

Warranting is similar to guaranteeing but may involve a more legally binding commitment to the quality, condition, or performance of a product or service. It often carries legal implications. For instance, **"There is no warrant for this short of behavior."** (Kumalasari, 2019)

**o. Contracting**

Contracting is a formal and legally binding commissive act, involving an agreement between parties with specified obligations and terms. It establishes a comprehensive framework for future actions and commitments. For instance, **"Party A promises to do something for party B in exchange for making another."** (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985)

**p. Covenanting**

Covenanting is making a formal and often solemn agreement with binding commitments. It is commonly associated with religious or legal contexts and signifies a sacred or legally binding promise. For instance, For instance, **"Covenant has the same meaning as contract in English, but it is more somber, antique, and noble."** (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985)

### q. Betting

Betting is a commissive act where the speaker commits to a particular outcome of a future event, typically in a gambling or competitive context. It often involves a wager or something of value at stake based on the predicted outcome.

Drisella : “Certainly not. It might change my mind.”  
 Anastasia : “**I bet you have never ever spoken to a man.** Have you, moon-face?”

(Nugraheni & Sari, 2022)

### 2.1.2.2 The functions of Commissive Acts

Leech (1983) provided the functions of commissive acts into four different functions. There are collaborative, conflictive, convivial and competitive and the explanation of each function below.

#### a. Collaborative

Collaborative function refers to a style of interaction where individuals work together in a cooperative and mutually supportive manner. It involves fostering teamwork, seeking consensus, and actively participating in shared decision-making processes. Collaborative emphasizes cooperation, open dialogue, and the pooling of ideas and resources to achieve common goals.

#### b. Conflictive

Conflictive refers to a style of interaction characterized by disagreement, confrontation, and the expression of opposing viewpoints. It often involves assertiveness, argumentation, and the pursuit of individual interests or goals. Conflictive communication can occur when there are conflicting opinions, interests, or objectives among participants, leading to debates, disagreements, or even heated exchanges.

**c. Convivial**

Convivial function refers to a friendly, sociable, and congenial style of interaction. It emphasizes creating a pleasant and enjoyable atmosphere, fostering positive relationships, and promoting a sense of camaraderie. Convivial often involves humor, lighthearted banter, and a focus on shared enjoyment and social bonding.

**d. Competitive**

Competitive refers to a style of interaction where individuals strive to outperform others, assert their dominance, or achieve personal success. It often involves a focus on individual achievements, comparison with others, and the pursuit of rewards or recognition. Competitive can manifest as assertive statements, persuasion techniques, or efforts to gain an advantage over others.

**2.2 Previous Studies**

There have been various studies conducted by researchers that are relevant to the objective of this research. First, Gea and Johan (2020) analyzed commissive speech acts. The objective of this study was to identify the types of commissive speech acts in Donald Trump's speech campaign in Henderson. Searle's theory was utilized to analyze the data. The findings revealed 28 data of commissive speech acts, including promise, threaten, swear, guarantee, warrant, refuse, assure, and vow. Among these types, promise was the most frequently used commissive speech act, accounting for 15 out of 28 data.

The next previous study was examined by Saputri et al. (2021). This study focused on analyzing the types of illocutionary acts and the functions of

illocutionary acts from Melati and Isabel Wijzen's ted talk utterances as the data source. The researchers drew upon Searle's theory to analyze the types of illocutionary acts and Leech's theory to examine the functions of illocutionary acts. The study identified 64 data of illocutionary acts. The most frequently occurring types of illocutionary acts were assertive (50 data), commissive (8 data), directive (4 data) and expressive (2 data). Meanwhile, the functions of this research were found 3 functions, which were competitive, convivial and collaborative.

Devi and Degaf (2021) conducted a study on commissive acts, which focused on analyzing the types and functions of commissive speech acts. The data source for this study was the *Knives Out* movie, with the utterances from the characters used as data for analysis. Searle's and Austin's theories were employed in the study. The results showed 13 data of commissive acts, with the most frequently uttered being refusal with 3 data, followed by guarantee, promise, offer, threat, and volunteering, with 2 data of each type.

Desica and Ambalegin (2021) conducted a previous study that was similar to the present study. They used Searle's theory to analyze the types of commissive acts in the movie *Onward*, using the characters' utterances as the data source. The study found 17 data of commissive acts, including promising (2 data), threatening (4 data), accepting (2 data), refusing (6 data), and offering (2 data).

Wulandary (2022) investigated the types and functions of commissive speech acts in the movie *Moana*, using the characters' utterances as the data source. Yule's theory was used to describe the types of commissive speech acts.

The study found 18 instances of commissive speech acts, with refusal being the most frequent (9 data), followed by promise (5 data) and threat (4 data).

Nugraheni and Sari (2022) aimed to identify and analyze the use of commissive speech acts in the Cinderella movie, as well as how these acts were expressed by the characters. This qualitative research involved analyzing the movie script and categorizing the data based on Searle and Vanderveken (1985) classification of commissive speech acts. The results showed a total of 77 data of commissive speech acts, with the most frequently used being refusal (18 data), followed by promise and threat (12 data each), accept (11 data), offer (8 data), bet (6 data), commit (5 data), consent (4 data), and the least uttered was assure (1).

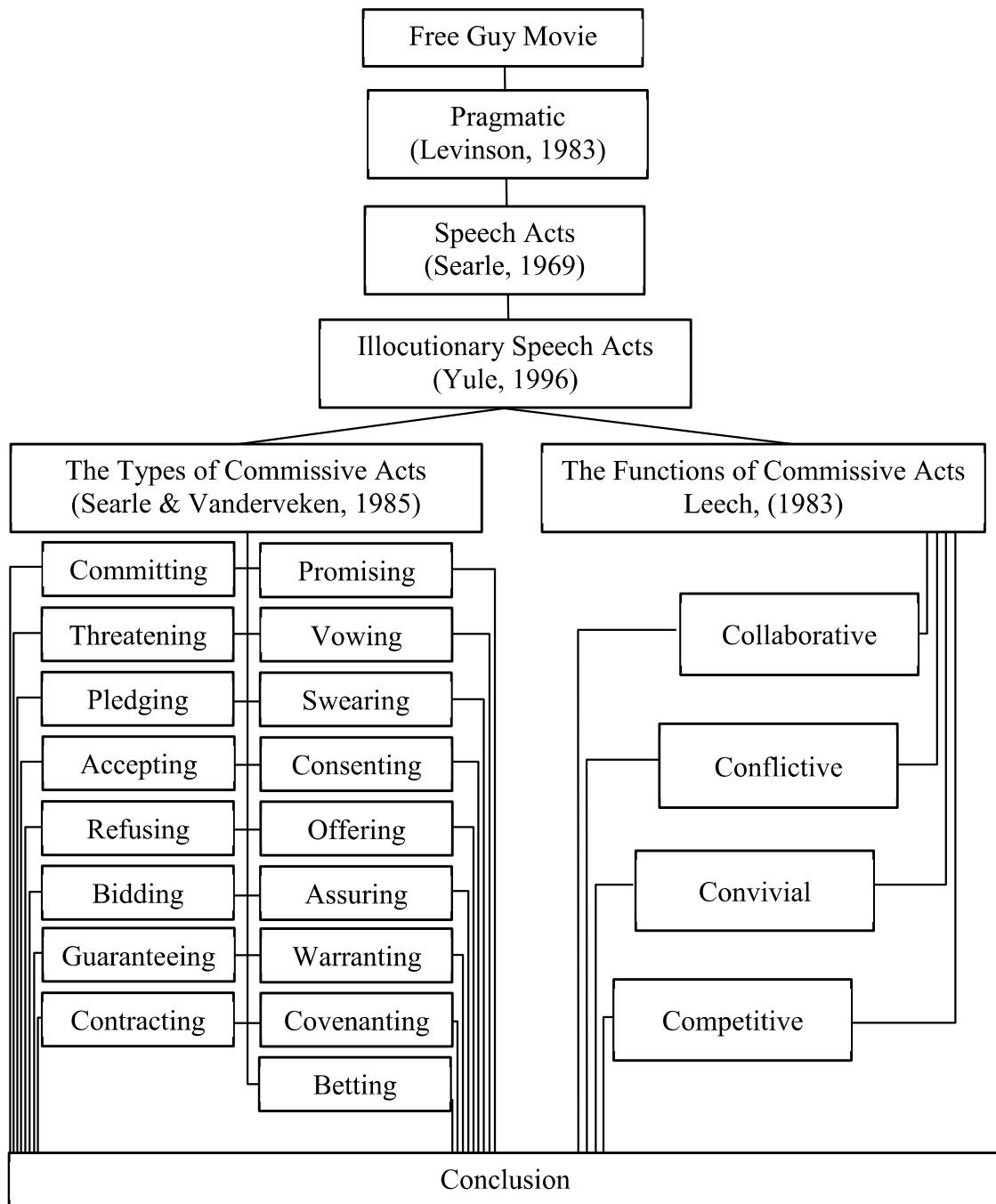
The last researchers, Farwati et al. (2023), aimed to analyze the kinds and the functions of commissive speech acts by the main character's utterances in the Tomorrow War movie. They used Austin's and Searle's theories to analyze the aims of the research. The findings revealed 23 instances of commissive speech acts, with promise being the most frequently used (7 data), followed by offer (6 data), refusal (4 data), and the least uttered were volunteer, threat, and guarantee (2 data of each).

From all several previous studies above, it can be concluded that these studies aimed to analyze commissive speech acts in various contexts using different theories, such as Searle's, Austin's, and Yule's theories. Similarly, the present study aims to analyze the acts of commissive using Searle's theory. The difference lies in the data source used. By analyzing commissive speech acts, these studies contribute to a better understanding of their roles in communication.

In addition, the present research added Leech's theory to examine the functions of commissive acts.

### **2.3 Theoretical Framework**

This study initially employs Levinson's pragmatic approach and subsequently integrates Searle's theory of speech acts, which comprises locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. The research focuses on illocutionary acts and particularly on two branches, namely the acts and the function of commissive acts, which serve as the problem formulation. The first branch pertains to the acts of commissive, which include seventeen acts, based on Searle and Vandervaken's theory. The second branch concerns the functions of commissive acts, which are collaborative, conflictive, convivial and competitive according to Leech's theory. To analyze the data from the Free Guy movie as the data source, the researcher presents an overview of the theoretical framework in a figure.



**Figure 2.1 Theoretical Framework**