

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Linguistics is the scientific study of language, encompassing its structure, meaning, and usage across different contexts. Modern linguists, such as Chomsky (2002), have expanded our understanding of language through the exploration of syntax, semantics, and phonology. Linguistics aims to explain how languages work, how they evolve, and how speakers of different languages communicate meaning. This field provides the foundation for understanding how speakers produce and interpret language in diverse contexts, a process that involves not only the literal meaning of words but also the context in which they are used. In examining language use, it is crucial to understand how context plays a vital role in shaping meaning. This brings us to pragmatics, a subfield of linguistics that specifically addresses how context influences the interpretation of language.

Pragmatics, a subfield of linguistics, focuses on how context influences the meaning of language in communication. Birner (2013) defines pragmatics as the study of language in use, particularly how speakers and listeners interpret meaning based on various contextual factors. These include the social roles of the participants, the setting of the interaction, and the prior knowledge shared between them. Understanding pragmatics is essential because it allows us to interpret not only the words spoken but also the unspoken meanings that emerge from the situation. This focus on how language is used in real-world interactions leads

naturally into the study of speech acts, a key concept in pragmatics that examines how language performs specific actions in communication.

Speech acts refer to actions performed by speakers through their utterances. Huang (2014) explains that speech acts can be categorized into three types: locutionary acts (the actual utterance), illocutionary acts (the intention behind the utterance), and perlocutionary acts (the effect on the hearer). Among these, illocutionary acts are crucial for understanding a speaker's intentions. Searle (1979) further categorizes illocutionary acts into five types: Assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. This study focuses on expressive acts, which convey the speaker's psychological state, such as emotions, feelings, or attitudes.

Expressive acts, as part of illocutionary acts, serve to express the speaker's internal psychological state, including emotions such as gratitude, joy, sorrow, and anger. Yule (2020) emphasizes that expressive acts allow speakers to communicate their feelings directly, thereby facilitating emotional exchange between the speaker and hearer. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), expressive acts include actions like thanking, apologizing, congratulating, and complimenting. These acts do not seek to change the world or affect the hearer's behavior directly; rather, they serve to communicate the speaker's emotional response to a situation or an interaction.

Films, as a form of narrative and visual communication, offer rich opportunities for linguistic and pragmatic analysis. Based on Flick (2014), movies provide a dynamic environment where language is used to portray social

interactions, emotions, and relationships. Through dialogue, facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice, films encapsulate a wide range of speech acts, including expressive acts. Analyzing films allows for an exploration of how language functions in various social contexts and how characters use language to perform actions such as complimenting, apologizing, or greeting, providing a real-world application of pragmatic theories.

“Charlie’s Angels” (2019) is an action-comedy film featuring a team of female private agents. The movie explores themes of independence, empowerment, and teamwork. The characters frequently express their feelings through dialogue, using language to communicate emotions, establish relationships, and navigate social roles. The interactions in the film serve as a valuable source for studying expressive acts, particularly as they reflect the psychological states of the characters. The film’s dynamic interactions provide numerous examples of expressive acts, making it an excellent candidate for examining pragmatics in cinematic dialogue.

In “Charlie’s Angels”, expressive acts play a significant role in conveying the characters’ emotions and attitudes. For example, Jonny’s comment, “Miss independent,” is a compliment, a type of expressive act identified by Searle and Vanderveken (1985), which expresses the speaker’s approval of an attribute they find admirable, in this case, Sabina’s independence. This compliment serves to strengthen the relationship between the characters by highlighting their shared values. As stated by Martinez (2013), the function of compliments is to show

approval or admiration for a positive quality in the hearer, which is exactly what occurs here as Jonny acknowledges Sabina's strength and autonomy.

Another instance of expressive acts in "Charlie's Angels" occurs when Elena greets Ingrid with "Hey, Ingrid!" This greeting, classified as an expressive act by Searle and Vanderveken (1985), reflects the speaker's psychological state of recognition and acknowledgment. The function of a greeting, as defined by Martinez (2013), is to initiate communication and establish a social connection. Despite Ingrid's response about the meeting, Elena's greeting serves as a form of emotional expression, reinforcing the social bond between the two characters and marking the beginning of their interaction.

Previous research has analyzed expressive acts in films to explore how language reflects emotional and social dynamics. Supri and Rahmatiany (2021) studied expressive acts in *The Longest Ride*, categorizing types such as "thank," "praise," "blame," and "condole" according to Searle and Vanderveken's (1985) theory. Similarly, Virginia and Mubarak (2021) examined *I Care a Lot*, identifying compliments as the most frequently used expressive act, followed by "thank" and "apologize." These studies highlight the importance of expressive acts in cinematic dialogue and demonstrate how film characters use language to express emotions and social attitudes.

The previous research on expressive acts has largely relied on the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985), which classifies expressive acts into types such as thanking, apologizing, complimenting, and congratulating. This research also adopted the same theory to analyze expressive acts. However, unlike previous

studies, which focused on different media, this study specifically examined the expressive acts present in “Charlie’s Angels” movie. By applying Searle and Vanderveken’s classification and incorporating Martinez’s (2013) functional approach, which focuses on how expressive acts function to convey approval, initiate communication, or express emotional states, this study explored how language expresses emotions and establishes relationships in cinematic dialogue. The phenomena outlined in the background of this research motivated the investigation, which is titled **“An Analysis of Expressive Acts used in Charlie’s Angels Movie: A Pragmatics Approach.”**

1.2 Identification of the Problem

1. The identification of types of expressive speech acts within the dialogues of “Charlie’s Angels” movie.
2. The analysis of how expressive speech acts contribute to character development and the depiction of emotions and social dynamics in the “Charlie’s Angels” movie.
3. How the types and functions of expressive speech acts in “Charlie’s Angels” movie are related to Searle and Vanderveken’s theory of illocutionary acts.
4. The types of expressive speech acts found in the “Charlie’s Angels” movie.
5. The functions of expressive speech acts found in the “Charlie’s Angels” movie.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

1. The types of expressive speech acts found in the “Charlie’s Angels” movie.
2. The functions of expressive speech acts found in the “Charlie’s Angels” movie.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

1. What are the types of expressive speech acts found in the “Charlie’s Angels” movie?
2. What are the functions of expressive speech acts found in the “Charlie’s Angels” movie?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

1. To identify the types of expressive speech acts found in the “Charlie’s Angels” movie.
2. To examine the functions of expressive speech acts found in the “Charlie’s Angels” movie.

1.6 Significance of the Problem

1. Theoretical Significance

The researcher hopes this research will be used as information for readers that are interested in expressive acts. The readers that are interested in this topic can comprehend expressive acts by this research. The researcher also hopes that this research can be references for future researchers that will conduct research of expressive acts types or functions.

2. Practical Significance

This research will be done to help language users to understand the use of expressive acts. Understanding expressive acts will help speaker to use the related expressive and hearer can understand speaker's psychological state. It means that there will be no misinterpretation of expressive acts if speaker and hearer have the understanding.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Pragmatics : Pragmatics is the study of how context influences the interpretation of meaning in communication. It focuses on how speakers and listeners understand language based on social, cultural, and situational factors, which helps interpret the meaning beyond the literal words. (Birner, 2013)

Speech Acts : Speech acts refer to actions performed through language. When we speak, we not only convey information but also perform actions such as making requests, issuing commands, or offering apologies. These actions are categorized into locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. (Yule, 1996)

Expressive Acts : Expressive acts are used by speakers to convey their emotions, feelings, or psychological states. These acts allow the speaker to express personal sentiments like gratitude, sorrow, or joy through utterances such

as thank you, sorry, or congratulations. (J. Searle, 1979)