

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

A speech act is a form of utterance that passes on information, but at the same time, the utterance itself also represents an action from the speaker. Searle (1969: 16) defined the speech act as “... *acts such as making statements, giving commands, asking questions, making promises, and so on....*”.

Austin (1962) in his book titled “*How to do Things with Words*”, developed theory of speech acts in which in this theory he mentioned three types of acts, they are: the locutionary act is a speech act which its meaning is obvious in the utterance itself; the illocutionary act is the extension of an implied message from locutionary acts; and the perlocutionary act is the effect of both locutionary and illocutionary acts. The illocutionary acts theory of Austin (1962) later became the main concept of the speech act, this theory was expanded further by Austin’s student, Searle (1979), who defined illocutionary acts as: “... *the notions of referring and predicating from notions of such complete speech acts as asserting, questioning, commanding, etc.*”.

“*Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland*”, written by Lewis Carroll and published in 1865, is one of the most influential fantasy fiction literature works, as there are still numerous people trying to analyze the novel to expand their understanding of the novel. Numerous studies have been conducted on this

literary work with various topics and focus. Young (2017) and Graner (2014) are two examples, with their topic being how the Victorian era culture was represented in this novel. Both of them are trying to find any clue or indication of Victorian era culture being illustrated through every element of the work itself, such as the settings, characterization, plots, and so on. Meanwhile, there were people, such as Zwart (2016) who came up with the idea if Wonderland, the main setting of the novel take place, being an experiment laboratory with Alice being a test subject due to how Alice keep facing numerous bizarre conflicts in her journey. Gist (2022) on the other hand, had a different kind of topic in her research. Her research focused on explaining the contribution of the illustrations found in the novel, as she thought that the bizarre narration of the novel might disorient the readers who were yet familiar with this novel's writing style and that the illustrations could facilitate the readers to understand the story.

Katarina (2022) conducted a speech act study on "*Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*". Her study focused on the frequency of the usage of the speech act in the novel. Katarina (2022) also included another literature work and the movie adaptation of both works, to provide a comparison data on the usage frequency of speech act through the story.

The main characteristic of illocutionary act is that to understand the implication meaning of an utterance we should first see the whole context of the scene. It means that it is possible to find and understand the character from "*Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*" despite the unusual writing style and

narration, by looking at how the character performed the speech acts and their motives for performing them.

This research aimed to find the character of Alice based on her actions through her dialogue and monologue during her journey, as well as how frequent she is to perform speech acts and what kind of illocutionary acts she frequently used to express her thoughts.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

There are three main problems that become the main topic of this research:

1. What the illocutionary acts are used by Alice through the story?
2. What are the most illocutionary acts used by Alice in her monologue and dialogue?
3. What are the situations Alice has been using to utilize illocutionary acts in her dialogue and monologue?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this research are:

1. To find the categories of illocutionary acts Alice used in the story.
2. To explain Alice's preference of speech acts usage.
3. To find Alice's preference for speech acts in certain situations.

## 1.4 Previous Studies

In the last ten years, there have been numerous studies about “*Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland.*” Graner's (2014) was one example. The study of Graner (2014) on “*Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland*” is using the ethnography research method, as the focus of his study is about the view of Wonderland through the perspective of Victorian English Era culture. This study of Graner focuses more on the extrinsic factor of “*Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland,*” which is the relationship between the novel, the writer, and the culture of Victorian English during the period when this work has written.

Young (2017) also conducted a similar study with a similar research method about the relationship between this novel and Victorian English culture. Young’s (2017) research focused on the practice of taxidermy during the Victorian era, which is symbolized through the bizarreness of Wonderland, where animals behaving like humans where they could talk and taking on a role as various objects or tools.

Unlike the previous two, Zwart (2016) performed an intrinsic factor of “*Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland*” novel instead of an extrinsic factor study. The study from Zwart (2016) focuses on the psychology analysis of the main character of this work, Alice. The theory Zwart (2016) used in this study is Lacan Psychoanalysis by Jacques Lacan. The research method that Zwart (2016) uses in his study is narrative research, as the data he is using includes the whole experience of Alice during her journey in Wonderland.

Gist's (2022) focus on her research is about the usage of the illustrations that can be found scattered throughout the pages of the novel. The purpose of her study is to understand and explain the importance of the illustration in “*Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*” to the narration of the story. The study of Gist (2022) is considered a case study research method due to the characteristic of her study, which is performing an in-depth analysis or explanation of the significance of the illustration in the novel. Gist (2022) is also including some illustrations from the novel to support her analysis, and not only that, she also includes the illustration works from several artists about this novel, although this part is quite distracting from the original topic of Gist’s (2022) study as those illustrations are not included in the novel itself but instead part of the artist’s book.

The next study with the object of study is the novel “*Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland*” by Christopher (2014). The study of Christopher (2014) is historical research on this work, meaning that this work involves a discussion on how this novel is being treated in the numerous eras of literature history. The study of Christopher contains very detailed information for his analysis to understand the significance of this work to the history of literature; however, this detailed information might cause the numerous information that is included in this study to be too complicated for general readers.

The next study about this novel is from Putra (2024). The focus of his study is on the characterization of Alice. The research method Putra (2024) is using in their study is formalism research based on Shklovsky (1927) and Jakobson (1960) theories. The research method Putra (2024) used is descriptive

qualitative research due to the nature of their study, which is to analyse and then describe the sentences from the character of Alice, which becomes the data for their study. The method of data collection or sampling technique is not mentioned, however, although it is relatively easy to identify this study as a narrative analysis based on how Putra (2024) is using Alice's experience or interaction with Wonderland as the data for their study. The study from Putra (2024) shows that the formalism approach is able to analyse the behaviour of Alice based on how she is using the language, although a more in-depth analysis is required to reach a convincing conclusion from the data.

Bulut (2020), on the other hand, performed a linguistic study on this novel. Bulut's (2020) study focuses on the usage of pun in the "*Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*" novel using Relevance Theory by Sperber and Wilson (1986). The data analysis method that Bulut (2020) use is a discourse analysis to analyse how a pun is used in a conversation in this novel. The sampling technique of Bulut (2020), despite not being mentioned in the study, is a purposive sampling technique, in which the data used in their study are those that are part of Delabastita's (1996) categorization of puns along with the allusions and secret wordplay that can be found in the novel. The analysis from Bulut (2020) is really comprehensible and to the point of explaining the purpose and meaning of each pun they have found. Unfortunately, Bulut (2020) only includes the puns from chapters nine to ten, despite other puns that can be found in other chapters, meaning the data of this study is still considered lacking.

Moqbel (2023) has also performed a study on this novel, but his focus is shifted to the Wonderland factor instead of the main character, Alice. In his study, Moqbel (2023) is focusing on understanding the bizarre usage of language by Wonderland residents along with the justification for their behaviour. The theory Moqbel (2023) uses pragmatic presupposition, the cooperative principle (CP) of Grice (1975), and the politeness principle (PP) of Brown and Levinson (1978). The research method Moqbel (2023) chose is the qualitative descriptive method, which involves analysing the conversation between Alice and Wonderland citizens using a pragmatic approach. The type of data analysis is not mentioned in this study, though it can be identified as discourse analysis with the involvement of a pragmatic approach to analyse the data. The study by Moqbel (2023) has an in-depth analysis to cover the aim of the study; however, the conclusion part is still so simplified that it is missing many necessary details that are important to understand the findings of this study.

Another person who has done a study on the novel "*Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*" is Ulfa (2019), with a focus on the main character, Alice, more specifically on her defence mechanism. Ulfa (2019) is using the psychoanalysis theory from Sigmund Freud about anxiety and defence mechanisms to assist in the data analysis of their study. The research method Ulfa (2019) has chosen for their study is the qualitative descriptive method, as their study involves explaining their in-depth analysis of the findings to reach their conclusion. While not mentioned, Ulfa (2019) is using the purposive sampling technique as they only choose scenes that show Alice performing a defence mechanism when she is feeling anxious,

and they are also using interpretive Phenomenological Analysis as the data this study is using mostly involves the experience of Alice on the specific event, which is her anxiety. The study from Ulfa (2019) about anxiety and defence mechanisms has a very comprehensible and in-depth analysis, although the conclusion needs to be more detailed as it does not include all the findings that this study has.

In regard to the speech act study on the novel "*Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*," Katarina (2022) is one of the examples. The study of Katarina (2022) focuses on the speech act usage in "*Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*," "*Through the Looking Glass*" by Lewis Carroll, and the "*Inkheart*" novel by Cornelia Funke, along with their adaptations as well. The speech act Katarina (2022) used is the speech act theory from Austin (1962) and Searle (1976) for the classification purpose of the data. Katarina (2022) is also included in the Felicity Condition Theory by Austin (1962) to verify the effectiveness of a speech act in the literature works that become the object of the study. The study of Katarina (2022) uses a descriptive qualitative research method to give an explanation of their findings. As for the data analysis, Katarina (2022) is using the discourse analysis method because the study heavily involves the linguistic aspect of the novel. Despite numerous theories has been used, the study of Katarina about speech act is still poorly constructed and still lacking of sufficient explanation to comprehend the comprehend Katarina's (2022) finding and conclusion.

## **1.5 Scope of the Study**

This study focus on finding the illocutionary act of dialogue and monologue from Alice. Each dialogue and monologue is categorized based on the illocutionary act categorization. The condition on the usage of illocutionary act in certain scenario is analyzed with the Felicity Conditions theory. The approach of this study is the Speech Act Theory by Searle (1979).

## **1.6 Writing Organization**

The content of this research will be divided into five sections: four of them are the main chapter content, and one of them is the summarization of the whole study. The first section, Abstract, is the summarization of the whole research from chapter I to chapter IV, and it should only contains 200 words at most.

The first chapter is the introduction, which contains explanations of the purpose of conducting this study. This chapter divided into several sub-chapters, which are: background of the study, research problems, object of the study, previous studies, scope of the study, and writing organization. Background of the study explains the purpose of choosing the research subject and theory; research problems and objectives of the study are the main topic of the study; scope of the study shows the limitations of the field of the research, and writing organization clarifies the content of each chapter of the research.

The second chapter is theory and methods. The details of the theory and research methods are further explained in this chapter. This chapter is divided into two chapters: the first is theoretical analysis and the second is research methods.

The theoretical analysis section describes the theory on how they work while analyzing the data and later processing it to find the desired conclusion. Research methods explained the process of data gathering and analysis.

The third chapter is findings and discussions. This chapter is where the further detail regarding the analysis of data and the result of the analysis is explained as comprehensively as possible to reach the definitive and desired conclusion.

The last chapter is conclusion, the result of the third chapter explained in a simplified and summarized manner in this chapter. This chapter also included the personal opinion from the writer regarding the whole experience of the research. This chapter also decides whether the research that has been conducted considered success or not.