

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

*The Greatest Showman* is a musical movie directed by Michael Gracey in 2017. The movie narrates the birth of a show business and a visionary who started from nothing. It follows Phineas Taylor Barnum as he created a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation.

In this movie, the director portrayed Barnum as a character who faced numerous hardships and lived a life filled with shortcomings, yet he never stopped dreaming. Despite being degraded by others due to his low social status, Barnum chose not to retaliate and continued to view everyone as equals, even after he achieved a higher status. This observation raises questions regarding the types and purposes of speech functions and the interpersonal meanings conveyed by Barnum in his interactions with other characters.

In analyzing the speech function, I apply Halliday's (2014) classification of speech function to analyze the types of speech function spoken by Barnum in *The Greatest Showman* movie. The selection of Halliday's interpersonal metafunctions for this analysis is particularly appropriate due to their emphasis on the social dynamics inherent in communication, which aligns well with the examination of Barnum's interactions in *The Greatest Showman*. Halliday's (2014) classification of speech functions—including statements, questions, offers, and commands—provides a structured framework for identifying and analyzing the types and purposes of Barnum's dialogue. Furthermore, the classification of interpersonal meaning by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014)

centers on the social relationship between the speaker and listener and considers clauses as forms of exchange. This approach is instrumental in exploring how Barnum's speech not only reflects his personal principles but also shapes and reinforces the social bonds and power dynamics within the narrative, thereby offering deeper insights into his interpersonal strategies and their significance in his success.

Research on speech functions in movies has been conducted by various scholars. Study from Larasati (2024) about speech functions analysis of utterances in “Moana” movies script by Ron and Jhon. This research used Holmes’ theory. The researcher found that in the analysis of Moana and Maui’s dialogue, a total of 225 utterances were classified into five types of speech functions. The most frequently used type was the referential function, comprising 108 utterances, or 48% of the total. The study from Intan Aklima (2024). The study was about “An Interpersonal Functions Analysis Through Mood And Modality In “Crazy Rich Asian” Movie (A Study At Department Of English Language Education, UIN Ar-Raniry)”. This study used a systemic functional linguistics (SFL) approach, especially the Interpersonal Meta-function proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). Aklima's research revealed that the most prevalent mood type was declarative, and the dominant modality type was modalization with medium value. The findings emphasized how the selection of mood and modality reflected the characters' attitudes, intentions, and interpersonal relationships within the film.

Despite extensive research on speech functions in movies, there remains a significant research gap in analyzing the speech functions and interpersonal

meanings of key characters in specific cinematic contexts. While Larasati (2024) focused on the speech functions in the Moana movie script using Holmes' theory this research use interpersonal metafunction within Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). On the other hand, Intan Aklima (2024) analysed the interpersonal functions in Crazy Rich Asians using the systemic functional linguistics (SFL) approach proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), revealing the predominant use of declarative moods and moralization to highlight character attitudes and relationships in Crazy Rich movie meanwhile this research analyse The Greatest Showman movie as the study.

However, no research to date has explored the specific speech functions and interpersonal meanings used by P.T. Barnum in *The Greatest Showman* (2017) directed by Michael Gracey. Barnum's character, as a complex protagonist who navigates diverse social roles and interactions, presents a unique opportunity to analyse how speech functions contribute to character development and social dynamics within the narrative. This study aims to fill this research gap by examining Barnum's dialogues through the lens of Halliday's interpersonal meta functions, focusing on how speech functions shape his relationships and reflect his evolving social status.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

Based on the background study above, I formulated two research questions as follows:

1. What are the types of speech functions of P.T Barnum's clauses in the movie?

2. What are the interpersonal meaning communicated through P.T Barnum's clauses?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

By the following research questions above, I have two purposes in conducting this research namely:

1. To discover out the types of speech functions used by Barnum in *The Greatest Showman* movie.
2. To describe the interpersonal meaning produced by P.T Barnum in *The Greatest Showman* movie.

### **1.4 Previous Study**

Research on speech functions in movies and literary works has been conducted by various scholars, with a primary focus on classifying different types of speech functions. Ridha Rehana (2018), Nur Syamsiah (2018), Arum Septiowati (2021), Annisa Larasati (2023), Ni Made Rima Agustina Dwiningtyas (2023), and Widya Novia Damayanti and Meita Luckitawati Sujatna (2022) all examined the classification of speech functions using Halliday's (2014) framework. They categorized utterances into types such as statements, questions, offers, and commands, which helped identify the ways in which dialogue functions within various cinematic or literary contexts.

A different approach was taken by Intan Aklima (2024), who expanded on Halliday's framework to focus on interpersonal meaning within a movie context. Aklima's study, which examined *Crazy Rich Asians*, revealed that the most dominant mood type was declarative, with modalization in the medium value being the predominant modality. This research not only categorized

speech functions but also explored how mood and modality reflect characters' attitudes, intentions, and relationships.

Another study by Prahita Isnaini Ningtyas, Dwi Rukmini, and Hendrikus Joko Yulianto (2023) extended the analysis of interpersonal meaning beyond films, applying it to music. Their research aimed to classify the relationship between singers and listeners, thus broadening the scope of speech function analysis into musical communication.

In contrast to these studies, my research focuses specifically on analyzing the speech functions and interpersonal meaning conveyed by P.T. Barnum in *The Greatest Showman* (2017). Unlike previous studies that classify speech functions or explore interpersonal meaning without a focus on one central character, my study examines how Barnum, a multifaceted character, uses speech to navigate various social roles (son, father, husband, business partner, and circus leader). Barnum's dialogues with diverse characters such as Philo Barnum (father), Caroline and Helen Barnum (daughters), Charity Hallett (wife), Philip Carlyle (business partner), the circus performers ("the freaks"), and O'Malley (worker) will be analyzed to understand how speech functions reflect the shifting power dynamics and interpersonal relationships across the narrative.

While earlier studies primarily classified speech functions or explored general interpersonal meaning, this research distinguishes itself by analyzing how the protagonist's changing social status influences the speech functions he uses in various interactions, offering a deeper understanding of character development and interpersonal dynamics in the context of the film.

## **1.5 Scope of the Study**

This study focused on analyzing and identifying the speech functions used by P.T Barnum in *The Greatest Showman* movie based on the different roles of the communications between P.T Barnum and other characters using the fourth edition of Halliday and Matthiessen 2014 (Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar)'s theory.

## **1.6 Thesis Organization**

### **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter includes the background of the study, research problem, objective of the study, previous study, scope of the study and thesis organization as well

### **CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD**

This chapter includes the theoretical framework that describes the approach of this study and the research method used in this study

### **CHAPTER III ANALYSIS**

This chapter includes the discussion and the result of this study

### **CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION**

This chapter includes the summarize of the result of this study