

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) is the film adaptation of a bestselling dystopian trilogy by Suzanne Collins, entitled *The Hunger Games*. It is the second installment in the film series, continuing the story of Katniss Everdeen, a young woman from District 12 who becomes a symbol of faith and rebellion against the oppressive Capitol. After winning the death game, the 74th Hunger Games through an act of defiance and defying the capitol, Katniss and her tribe mate, Peeta Mellark are required to go on a 'Victory Tour' of the various districts. On the tour they witness the growing unrest and rule-breaking actions of the capitol triggered by their actions. Therefore, President Snow considers Katniss a threat to the control of the Capitol so he devises a brutal plan to eliminate Katniss and Peeta by forcing the previous winners to compete in a special edition of the Games: Quarter Quell. As Katniss struggles to survive once again, she becomes increasingly aware of her role as the Mockingjay, a symbol of rebellion that can unite the forces of the districts against the Capitol.

In the narrative, the characters' dialogue is often used as a means to shape characters, emphasize power contrasts, emotional conflicts and shifts in social dynamics. Set within the dystopian world of 'Panem', a totalitarian state in which speech, performance, and public declaration are instruments of political control,

made Katniss Everdeen rarely speaks in a neutral way. Shaped by fear, surveillance, and political pressure, Katniss's utterances often carry meanings beyond their literal form. Her statements often function as self-protection, indirect resistance, or strategic responses to authority.

Searle's (1976) classification of illocutionary speech act shows that assertives are utterances through which a speaker commits to the truth of a proposition, such as stating, reporting, claiming, suggesting, and complaining. Searle and Vanderveken's (1985) framework can further support this analysis by making the force of an utterance more precise, so that an utterance is not only identified as 'assertive' but also examined for its specific kinds in interaction. In Katniss' case, her statements may simultaneously express facts, defense mechanism, and subtle defiance within the oppressive world of the Capitol. For that reason, analyzing her assertive acts through Searle and Vanderveken (1985) can provide a deeper understanding of how a Katniss express her believes within oppressive environment through speech.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the topic of this research, research problem can be formulated:

1. What are the types of assertive acts performed by Katniss Everdeen in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013) movie?
2. Why does Katniss perform certain type of assertive speech acts in her utterance?

3. How are the assertive acts conveyed by Katniss in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013) movie?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The research objectives to be achieved in this research are as follows:

1. To identify the types of assertive acts used by Katniss Everdeen in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013) movie.
2. To analyze the reason why Katniss performed certain type of assertive speech acts in her utterance.
3. To examine how the assertive acts are applied by Katniss.

1.4 Previous of the Study

Several studies on this research topic have also been conducted previously. The writer found 5 studies on film *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, 3 linguistic analyses and 2 literary and cultural analyses. The writer also chose 5 studies analyzing assertive acts in other literary works.

Several linguistic studies on *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* movie have been conducted. In this study, the authors identified three studies with different research focuses. First study was conducted by Salwa and Priska (2022). The writers categorize the several kinds of directive speech actions that are employed in the film *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and describe each type's linguistic form according to its context. The authors used Kreidler's (1998) categorization of directed speech acts to analyze the data. The study's conclusions demonstrated that the most common kind of directive act is request interrogative.

Second study, by Alfiah (2025) which analyzed the speech styles by the main characters in the movie *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and examined the relationship between the use of speech styles as well as the social context in the movie. The results show that among the six types of speech styles, four were found in the movie *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, with the most frequently used speech style was casual because most conversations took place in informal situations and involved characters who already knew each other. The third study examines translation shift analysis of verb phrases and assesses the accuracy of the translation in the subtitles for *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* by Erick Jiwono, a thesis by Eksa (2015). The results show that translation shifts are divided into two categories: level shifts and structural shifts. Of the 173 data points analyzed, 36.41% of verb phrases were translated into verbs, with an accuracy rate of 58.38%.

As for literary and cultural analyses on the film *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, the first study is conducted by Christamaria and Sillahi (2024). This study investigates gender and social class stereotypes in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* by analyzing key scenes and dialogues. It shows that gender stereotypes are more prominent than social class ones, with the protagonist, Katniss Everdeen, challenging traditional gender roles by exhibiting strength and independence. In contrast, social class stereotypes are highlighted through the negative portrayal of lower-class characters. Second study is conducted by Nur et.al in 2024. This study examines Katniss Everdeen's acts of rebellion in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* movie, focusing on the causes, effects, and types

of rebellion. The study applied Kautilya's theory of rebellion and Marxist theory through qualitative research. Three causes are identified by key findings, namely social inequality, provocation, and resource imbalance. The effects include both negative and positive effect. Furthermore, five categories of rebellion are distinguished: ideological, social, political, violent, and non-violent.

The five previous studies above differ in terms of their focus, yet they analyzed the same object, which is *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* movie. A total of three studies are included in the linguistic studies in different branch, which are pragmatics, sociolinguistics and translation. Meanwhile, two previous studies concentrated on social and cultural analysis. Both concentrate on depicting the social circumstances portrayed in the film *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*. In the analysis, one study explores the issue of gender and social class stereotypes, while the other examines the rebellion act of the protagonist, Katniss Everdeen.

The next previous studies are the studies focus on assertive act analysis in other movies. The first study, by Rohmah (2020), analyzes the types and patterns of assertive acts used by the main character in the movie *Letters to Juliet*. The study identifies seven assertive acts. The character predominantly uses reporting to convey experiences to the listener. Second assertive study is written by Wulan & Tustiawati (2025). This study analyzed assertive illocutionary acts in the movie "Wish" through Searle's speech act theory (1969), focusing on the protagonist Asha's dialogues. Findings showed that reporting and telling actions were significant, indicating that Asha was a source of information in the movie.

Third study is brought by Hizkia (2023), examines speech act, particularly assertive acts in *Purple Hearts* movie by Tess, based on Searle's (1979) theory of speech acts. The study reveals that the most commonly used assertive acts include stating, suggesting, complaining, claiming, and reporting. Next study, Zega et.al (2024) applied Searle and Vanderveken's theory of assertive acts to analyze the film *Spider-man No Way Home*. Twenty-three assertive behaviors were found in the study. Informing was the most common act, highlighting the social significance of character interactions in which the speaker's reactions were influenced by the situational setting.

Last previous study, a study by Dhaneswara et.al (2024) examines the forms and intentions of the main character's assertive illocutionary acts in the film *The Adam Project* using Searle's (1979) theory. The findings identify five categories of assertive illocutionary acts: stating, reporting, explaining, asserting, and showing, emphasizing the language variations used to influence speech partners in accordance with truth.

Of all the previous studies outlined above, none have analyzed the assertive acts performed by the main character in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013) movie. In this study, the writer will analyze the assertive acts used by the main character, Katniss Everdeen in the *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* movie to examine how Katniss performed assertive acts, regardless of the film's dystopian setting.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the utterances produced by the main character in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013) movie, Katniss Everdeen. This research is a pragmatic research. The writer narrows the scope, by limiting the research on Speech Act Theory which focuses on Illocutionary act by J. Searle and Vanderveken (1985). The analyzed utterances are only assertive utterances that produced by Katniss Everdeen.

1.6 Writing Organization

This study will consist of four chapters and can be briefly deducted as follows:

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of study, research problem, objectives of the study, previous studies, scope of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II : THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter presents a theoretical framework that includes pragmatic, illocutionary acts, types of assertive by Searle and Vanderveken (1985), also direct and indirect. This chapter also presents the research method, including type of research, descriptions of data and sample, technique of collecting data and data analysis.

CHAPTER III : RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the result of types of assertive acts used by Katniss Everdeen in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013) movie, analysis the reason and level of directness.

CHAPTER IV : CONCLUSION

This chapter contains a summary of the result and discussion based on the analysis.