CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Nowadays, movies are one of the most popular literary works. It is undeniable that the various stories presented in the movie can be entertaining for the viewers. In recent years, the accessibility of movies has increased due to significant technological advancements and the emergence of various streaming services. This has enabled individuals to watch movies at their convenience, regardless of their location or time constraints.

All aspects of the movie have a uniqueness that can attract the audience. One of the essential aspects that is becoming the center of attention of the audience is a main character. The main character has a significant role in building a good story. This character can be a key to determine the quality of the movie. In addition, discussing characters cannot be separated from characterizations, which are things that are attached to characters that can describe how they are and how they behave.

In this study, the writer aims to determine the characterizations of the two main characters, named Elinor and Marianne, in *Sense and Sensibility* movie through directive speech act. The pragmatic perspective is used in analyzing the directive speech acts. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that deals with a person's ability to interpret an utterance and relate that information to what has happened before (Megawati, 2017). Yule (1996) defined pragmatics as a study of meaning communicated by the speaker and

interpreted by the listener. The pragmatic approach seeks to determine how listeners make inferences about the speaker's words.

This study examines the use of directive speech acts in the film adaptation of Jane Austen's novel, *Sense and Sensibility*. The movie tells the story of the Dashwood family, which consists of Mrs. Dashwood and her three daughters, Elinor, Marianne, and Margaret, who are forced to live a simpler life in a cottage in Devonshire after the death of their father. The loss of their home in Norland has caused them many challenges.

In *Sense and Sensibility*, the central conflict arises from the romantic relationships of the two main characters, Elinor and Marianne. Elinor falls in love with Edward, a wealthy and educated man, but Edward's sister opposes their relationship. Meanwhile, Marianne develops a close relationship with John Willoughby, who suddenly disappears to London without explanation, causing obstacles in their love story.

Elinor and Marianne have opposing personalities, which results in different responses in dealing with problems or challenges. Elinor tends to respond in a level-headed and rational manner, while Marianne's impulsive and emotional nature leads to a different response. The opposing traits between them attract the writer's interest in analyzing their characterizations through the directive speech acts they use.

A directive speech act is part of an illocutionary act, which aims to get the listener to perform a certain action or to tell someone to do something (Yule, 1996). The forms of directive speech acts include commands, orders, requests, and suggestions. The types of directive speech acts uttered by a person can reflect a person's characterization. In this context, characterization refers to the traits and attitudes that become personal qualities

of a person (Nurgiyantoro, 2002). It can be known from verbal and non-verbal activity of the character (Altenberd & Lewis in Nurgiyantoro, 2002:198-199). In S*ense and Sensibility* movies, for instance, the directive speech acts used by the main characters, such as the way they make requests or give commands, can provide important clues to their characterization.

1.2 Problem Statement

In *Sense and Sensibility* movie, Elinor and Marianne exhibit contrasting attitudes and ways of responding to problems, which are reflected in their use of directive speech acts. The study aims to investigate how their use of directive speech acts can reveal their characterizations and whether their opposing attitudes represent the themes of "Sense" and "Sensibility."

1.3 Research Questions

There are two research questions in this study as follows:

1. What types of directive speech acts are used by Elinor and Marianne in *Sense and Sensibility* movie?

2. How is the characterization of Elinor and Marianne reflected in the use of directive speech acts?

1.4 Purposes of the Study

1. To explain the communication patterns of Elinor and Marianne in *Sense and Sensibility* movie, specifically focusing on their use of directive speech acts.

2. To explain how the use of directive speech acts can reveal insight into their characterization.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In this study, the writer focuses on analyzing the directive speech acts spoken by Elinor and Marianne in *Sense and Sensibility* movie. The writer also focuses on identifying and quantifying the number of directive speech acts used by the characters and investigates how these acts contribute to their overall characterization in the movie.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study was conducted with the practical intention of contributing knowledge to readers, particularly English literature students, to enhance their understanding of directive speech acts. The theoretical objective was to advance knowledge and provide a reference for future research on related topics.

1.7 Previous Studies

The writer found ten studies that are able to support this research. There are two related studies that analyze *Sense and Sensibility*, conducted by Ismail & Moriyanti (2019) and Riskiawati & Razak (2022). Ismail & Moriyanti (2019) analyzed the elements of the movie, such as realism and local color, while Riskiawati & Razak (2022) focused on the characterization of Elinor and Marianne using the dynamic structuralism approach. They found that Elinor represents "sense" and good judgment, while Marianne represents "excess sensibility" and has a romantic soul.

A previous study on characterization through directive speech also helps the writer conduct this research. Fardani & Nirmala (2021) conducted a study about the characterization of Theodore Finch through directive speech act. Searle's theory was applied in this study to analyze the directive speech act. Meanwhile, the researchers used

Nurgiyantoro's theory to analyze the characterization. As a result, Theodore Finch is depicted as a brave, caring, and adventurous character. Even though this study has a similar topic, the object is different.

Several studies have analyzed directive speech acts in movie scripts using Searle's theory. Della & Sembiring (2018) used *Sleeping Beauty* and found that commands were the dominant type, and suggests that the genre of the film can influence the type of speech act. Hidayah (2019) analyzed *Iron Man 2* and found that questioning was the most frequent type of directive speech act in the movie script. Wijaya & Helmie (2019) analyzed *The Fault in Our Stars* and found that the most frequent type of directive speech act was suggest.

Two studies have been conducted on directive speech acts in novels. The first study by Suryanovika and Julhijah (2018) analyzed the speech acts and hedges used by six female characters (Elinor Dashwood, Elizabeth Bennet, Fanny, Emma Woodhouse, Anne Elliot, and Catherine Morland) in Jane Austen's novels, using Searle's theory. The study found that out of the six characters, only Elinor Dashwood who does not making a request. The second study was conducted by Fitriyah (2022) focused on the novel Little Men and identified seven types of directive speech acts, including questioning, commanding, requesting, advising, begging, inviting, and prohibition.

The writer also found two previous studies that analyzed directive speech acts in movies. Fitria (2019) conducted a study on the Koi Mil Gaya movie and found that directive speech acts were present in utterances containing words, phrases, clauses, and sentences, with the dominant type being command. Suryanti & Afriana (2020) analyzed

the Cinderella movie and found that the character of Cinderella used all types of directive speech acts, with the dominant type being command. They also concluded that speakers and listeners must be in the same context to create clear meaning.

The ten previous studies have provided valuable knowledge for the writer to conduct this research. These studies have shown that Searle's theory can be applied to analyze directive speech acts and that they can be found in various sentence forms. However, most of the previous studies only focused on discovering the meaning in the utterances and determining the dominant type, without relating them to characterization. Moreover, the writer did not find any articles that specifically discussed directive speech acts in *Sense and Sensibility* movie and their relation to the characterization of the main characters.

Therefore, this study will discuss the directive speech acts in the main character of *Sense and Sensibility* movie and relate it to their characterization. Even though there have been three studies discussing the characteristics of these two figures, this current research is still different from the previous ones. Current research uses directive speech acts as a tool to examine the characteristics between them.

1.8 Writing Organization

This thesis is divided into five chapters as follows:

CHAPTER I (INTRODUCTION)

Chapter I presents the background of the study, problem statements, research questions, purpose of the study, the significance of the study, previous studies, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II (THEORY AND METHOD)

Chapter II presents the theories and research methodology that used in this study. The theory in this study such as speech act theory and characterization theory. Meanwhile, the methodology includes types of research; data population, sample, and sampling technique; method of collecting data; and method of analyzing data.

CHAPTER III (RESULT AND DISCUSSION)

Chapter III presents the analysis of the data found. This chapter explains the directive speech acts and characterization of the main characters.

CHAPTER IV (CONCLUSION)

Chapter IV presents the conclusion of the results of the analysis.