

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Speech Act

A speech act studies the meaning and purpose of an utterance. The speech act or an utterance that indicates a purpose, according to Searle (1969), is the fundamental building block of language used to convey meaning. A speech act is a subfield of pragmatics that studies how utterances are used in context or allude to an action a phrase performs. Austin (1962) divided speech acts into locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. A locutionary act is when an individual makes utterances or meaningful linguistic expressions. While the perlocutionary act is the effect of the speech made by speakers, it can have an effect and influence on speech partners. Of those three types of speech acts, one of the speech acts highlighted in this study is the illocutionary act.

Illocutionary acts include using traditional language to say something, such as informing, commanding, warning, whining, demanding, or refusing. People in daily communication with others usually apply it. Searle (1976) divided the illocutionary acts into five types: Declarative, Assertive, Expressive, Directive, and Commissive. Declarative acts refer to an illocutionary act where the produced utterance has the potential to impact the world. Then, an assertive act involves the speaker committing to their truth and declaring whether something is true. Meanwhile, an expressive act is an illocutionary behavior that conveys the speaker's feelings. Directive acts are illocutionary acts in which the speaker attempts to persuade someone else to

do something. The last type is commissive acts, and I explained it below since commissive is the focus of the study.

2.1.2 Commissive

Committing an illocutionary act causes the speaker to achieve what they have said. It is also a speaker's future action. The act can be a promise or a simple declaration, but the purpose is for the person to be dedicated to their commitment. Commissive acts are illocutionary acts in which the speaker agrees to take specific action in the future. These consist of making promises, threats, offers, and rejections. For example, when someone says, "I will be here," it represents the speaker's promise that they will never go anywhere (Searle, 1976:11). Searle divided the commissive speech acts into seven categorizations:

2.1.2.1 Promising

A promise is a commitment to do or refrain from doing something for another person. It is a verbal agreement between two people to carry out future actions. The speaker has to do what he promises on purpose. The speaker must claim that the step is in the hearer's best interests, have faith in his ability to take action, plan for future movement, and anticipate action on his behalf. For example, in "I promise that I will marry you," the speaker convinces himself of his intention to marry the hearer.

2.1.2.2 Threatening

A threat is a statement that you intend to punish others. It means intimidating the listener if they refuse to obey the speaker's command. Frequently, the threat is based on the speaker's dislike and intrigue for the listener, and the speaker thinks that someone in a position of authority can use his words to intimidate the listener. For example: "I am going to come to your house and do some serious damage."

2.1.2.3 Offering

An offer is an ability when you are prepared to provide a service or a gift to someone. Offer is the hearer's way of saying that they will perform an act in the addressee's or hearer's best interests. For example: "Do you want me to take your phone?"

2.1.2.4 Refusal

Refusal is a typical negative response we use daily to respond to invitations, requests, offers, suggestions, etc. A "no" is more important than an actual response. Depending on cultural-linguistic and ethnic values, the speaker and hearer are bothered to comprehend the context, form, and purpose of refusal. For example: "Sorry, I do not think I will be coming to your graduation."

2.1.2.5 Guarantee

A guarantee is a firm declaration that the speaker will confidently act or convey to the audience that something will occur. An agreement of this nature implies something is genuine or will occur in the future. The levels of affirmation can be used to distinguish between promises and guarantees, according to Searle (1975). For example: "I am sure that he will be here."

2.1.2.6 Volunteer

To provide a service of one's own free will, one is encouraged to volunteer, which is defined as suggesting they do so without being required to. Volunteering is making a voluntary offer and providing without being asked. For example: "I will help you bring your bag."

2.1.3 Language Feature

A language feature refers to a specific characteristic or element of a language that contributes to its structure, meaning, or function. Language features can include various aspects of grammar, vocabulary, syntax, phonetics, semantics, and pragmatics. Lakoff (1975) divided the language features into seven types:

2.1.3.1 Intensifier

An intensifier is a linguistic device used to emphasize or intensify the meaning of a word or phrase. It is employed to add emphasis, strengthen the impact, or exaggerate the degree or extent of something. Intensifiers can be adverbs, adjectives, or even phrases that modify other words in a sentence. Example: "She is *very* happy."

2.1.3.2 Empty Adjective

Empty adjectives often function as subjective evaluative terms that express a general positive or negative impression without providing specific descriptive details. They are typically vague and open to interpretation, as their meaning can vary depending on the individual's perspective or the context in which they are used. For example, adjectives such as "nice," "good," or "beautiful".

2.1.3.3 Tag Question

A tag question is a type of interrogative construction that is added to the end of a statement to turn it into a question. It is used to seek confirmation, agreement, or to invite a response from the listener. Example "You don't mind, do you?"

2.1.3.4 Super-polite form

The term "super polite form" generally refers to an extremely formal and respectful form of language used in certain cultural or social contexts. It is a linguistic register that goes beyond standard polite language and is often employed to show utmost respect, deference, or hierarchical distance between the speaker and the listener. Example: "Good Morning, Sir."

2.1.3.5 Hyper-correct Grammar

Hypercorrect grammar refers to the excessive or overly rigid adherence to grammatical rules and conventions, often resulting in the incorrect or unnatural usage of language. It occurs when individuals attempt to apply grammatical rules in situations where they are not necessary or appropriate. Example: "My friend and I went to the grocery"

2.1.3.6 Emphatic Stress

Emphatic stress refers to the deliberate emphasis or accentuation placed on a particular word or phrase in a sentence to convey strong or heightened significance. It is a vocal emphasis that is used to highlight and draw attention to a specific part of a sentence. Example: "I absolutely love strawberry."

2.1.3.7 Lexical Hedges

Lexical hedges, also known as hedging expressions or hedge words, are linguistic devices used to soften or mitigate the impact of a statement or to express uncertainty, caution, or modesty. They are often employed to indicate that the speaker or writer is not making absolute claims or is allowing for alternative interpretations. For example, “Mom, I think you got a fever.”

2.2 Research Methods

2.2.1 Type of Research

The method used in this research belongs to the qualitative-descriptive approach. The data are the source of well-grounded, rich descriptions and explanations of processes in an identifiable local context. I used this method because this study aims to classify and analyze the commissive utterances by Alma and Mirabel in the *Encanto* movie.

2.2.2 Data and Data Source

The data of this study are utterances that contain commissive speech acts from the *Encanto* Movie. In doing this study, I used the data sources from the *Encanto* movie. I also used *Encanto* movie script for support the primary data source.

2.2.3 Population and Sample

I used all of Alma and Mirabel’s utterances that indicate commissive speech acts in *Encanto* Movie as the population.

2.2.4 Methods of Data Collection

I used non-participant observation and note-taking techniques. The data collection technique was as follows: First, I watched and listened to the utterances in the *Encanto* movie. Second, I compared and observed the movie script to make the data more valid and effective. Third, I found all Commissive Acts uttered by Alma and Mirabel in *Encanto*. Then, I classified

the data in the table to calculate the frequency and explain the types of commissive speech acts based on Searle's theory. In addition, I double-checked that the list of utterances is not repeated. Last, I analyzed the reasons of the commissive action. Several techniques are used, including classifying the data, calculating its frequency, analyzing its utterances, and interpreting its meaning.

2.2.5 Methods of Data Analysis

The referential and inferential methods were used to analyze the data in this study (Sudaryanto, 1993). The referential method is used to identify the unit of analysis based on its referent, concept, or meaning. The inferential method is a technical analysis method used to examine data by concluding the current information. After collecting the data, I described each utterance's context and analyzed the commissive act.