

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The King's Speech is a movie directed by Tom Hooper and written by David Seidler (2010). The movie tells the story of King George VI, also known as Bertie, and his struggle to overcome his stammer. The stammer was a significant obstacle for Bertie, as being a member of the royal family required him to speak effectively in public. Despite his best efforts, he was unable to find a solution to his problem and became discouraged. Eventually, his wife encouraged him to seek the help of Lionel, an experienced speech therapist.

Lionel is an Australian commoner who lives with his wife and three children in a small house. Despite his humble background, Lionel becomes a therapist and develops a close friendship with Bertie, a member of the royal family. It is noticeable that Lionel and Bertie have different communication styles where Lionel tends to be more polite while talking to everyone except Bertie, whereas Bertie tends to be more assertive to everyone. This difference in communication is likely influenced by various factors.

The communication process is influenced by socio-cultural situation background factors and also social relationship factors among the perpetrators (Fleur. 1993) in (Sumadi, 2007). Culture has a significant impact on a person's speech and behavior in different social situations, especially when interacting with people from diverse

cultural backgrounds. By recognizing and understanding these cultural differences, individuals can adjust their communication style accordingly to ensure that it is appropriate and effective in the given cultural context.

In communication, one uses speeches that will give the interlocutor stimulus to respond. The stimulus may vary depending on the social interaction that occurs. For example, the speech to express how one feels, praising someone, congratulating, ordering the addressee to do something, or promising something to the addressee.

One type of speech act that is often employed in the social interaction of the characters in *The King's Speech* movie is commissive speech acts, since in Lionel's and Bertie's interaction as therapist and patient, commitment is crucial for the success of the therapy process.

The researcher intends to analyze the types of commissive speech acts of Lionel and Bertie, the main characters in the movie "*The King's Speech*" as well as their various forms of commissive speech acts and the underlying factors that influence these speech acts.

The researcher finds it intriguing to study how Lionel and Bertie present their commissive speech acts given their different social positions. This study is different from any other study because it explores the use of commissive speech acts and their underlying factors in *The King's Speech* movie, which has not been previously investigated.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the writer formulates the problems of the study as follows:

- 1) what are the types of commissive speech acts of Lionel and Bertie in *The King's Speech* movie?
- 2) how are the commissive speech acts performed by Lionel and Bertie in *The King's Speech* movie are expressed?
- 3) why certain utterances of commissive speech acts of Lionel and Bertie in *The King's Speech* movie are delivered?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the problems of the study above, the purposes of this study are:

- 1) to reveal the types of commissive speech acts of Lionel and Bertie in *The King's Speech* movie.
- 2) to describe how the commissive speech acts of Lionel and Bertie in *The King's Speech* movie are expressed.
- 3) to explain of factors determining the commissive speech acts of Lionel and Bertie in *The King's Speech* movie.

1.4 Previous Studies

There were several kinds of research conducted previously about the use of commissive speech acts in movies.

Desica and Ambalegin (2021) conducted a study about commissive speech acts entitled *Commissive Speech Acts Found in "Onward" Movie by Dan Scanlon*. The purpose of this study was to identify the different types of commissive speech acts made in the movie "Onward" by analyzing the utterance of the characters. This research is a descriptive qualitative research. The researchers used Searle and Vanderveken's theory of commissive acts to classify the utterances. The findings revealed a total of 17 commissive acts in the movie.

Similar from the first previous study, Nugraheni and Sari (2022) conducted a research about commissive speech acts in a movie entitled "Cinderella". The aim of this study was twofold: to describe the types of commissive speech acts used in the movie and to analyze how these speech acts were employed. Additionally, the study also examined nonverbal communication such as gestures and eye contact among the characters. The data collected were classified based on Searle and Vanderveken's (1985) theory of commissive speech acts, resulting in nine types of commissive speech acts identified in the movie Cinderella, which include refuse, threat, promise, accept, offer, bet, commit, consent, and assure.

Additionally, Ditrivan et al. (2023) conducted a study titled *"Commissive Illocutionary Act Used in Turning Red Movie"* which focused on analyzing the types of commissive illocutionary acts used by the characters in the movie and explaining the contextual situations that supported the character's utterances. The study utilized a

descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data, and the theories of Searle & Vanderveken (1985) on commissive illocutionary acts and Holmes (2013) on the context of the situation were employed. The analysis revealed that all data sources contained five types of commissive illocutionary acts proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985), which included promise, threat, accept, refuse, and offer. The most frequently used commissive illocutionary act in the movie was promising.

The three previous studies above investigated the commissive speech acts of the characters in the movie. They also classify commissive speech acts based on Searle and Vanderveken's theory. The difference is that the second and the third previous study also focuses on the non-verbal aspects of the movie.

Moreover, there is another study about commissive speech acts conducted by Devi and Degaf (2021). The researchers conducted an analysis of the commissive speech acts used by the main character in the movie "Knives Out". The purpose of the study was to identify the different types and functions of commissive speech acts used by all the characters in the movie using a qualitative descriptive method. To classify the utterances, the researchers used the theories proposed by Searle (1985) and Austin (1969). The researchers identified six types of commissive speech acts in the movie, namely promise, guarantee, refusal, threat, volunteer, and offer. The study found a total of 13 instances of these six types of commissive speech acts. The most commonly used commissive speech act in the movie was the rejection

Caniago and Afriana (2022) also conducted a study about commissive speech acts in a movie. They conducted a commissive speech acts research in a movie entitled "Fatherhood" that is released in 2021. In this research, the data was analyzed using Yule's and Searle's theories. The researchers identified 15 instances of commissive speech acts, which were classified into 6 different types based on Yule's and Searle's theory. The offering was the most commonly used commissive speech act in the movie "Fatherhood" while volunteering was the least used.

Both of the research studies mentioned above utilized Searle's theory to classify the types of commissive speech acts that were identified. In both studies, the commissive speech acts that were found were classified into the same six categories: promise, guarantee, refusal, threat, volunteer, and offer. Additionally, both studies identified the most frequently used commissive speech acts in the movie that was analyzed.

Farwati et al. (2023) conducted research on commissive speech acts and their functions in the main character's utterances in the movie "Tomorrow War". The aim of the study was to identify the types of commissive speech acts used by the main character, Daniel Forester, and to investigate the functions of these speech acts. Descriptive qualitative research was employed to collect and analyze the data. The researchers utilized the theories of Austin and Searle to analyze the types of commissive speech acts and their functions. The analysis revealed a total of 23

instances of commissive speech acts, which were classified into 6 different types including refusal, offer, promise, volunteer, threat, and guarantee. Furthermore, the researchers identified the functions of each instance of commissive speech act.

Moreover, using Searle's theory, Chasanah (2017) conducted a research about commissive speech acts entitled "*The Analysis of Commissive Speech Acts Found in Spectre Movie*". The research focused on analyzing all the utterances in the movie, and the data was collected through documentation. The researcher utilized a data coding technique to make the data analysis more efficient. The results showed that there were five types of commissive speech acts present in the movie "Spectre": offering, planning, promising, vowing, and betting. Among these, offering was the most frequently used commissive speech act.

In addition to the previous studies on commissive speech acts, Prastuti et al. (2017) conducted a study that examined the usage of commissive speech acts and the factors that contributed to their use, including the power dynamic and social factors of the characters. The study was titled "An Analysis on Commissive Utterances in The movie entitled 'The Gods Must Be Crazy' and Its Implication on Teaching Speaking". The theory from Searle was used in analyzing the data. The researchers utilized a descriptive qualitative method for this study, and the data was collected from the movie and its transcript.

Apart from previous studies on commissive speech acts, there are also studies that focus on "*The King's Speech*" movie. Nurhandayani (2015) conducted research titled "*A Pragmatic Study on the Illocutionary Force of Expressive Utterances in 'The King's Speech' Movie Transcript*". The study employed a qualitative method and aimed to describe the contexts of expressive utterances used by the characters in the movie and explain the illocutionary forces of those utterances. To classify the kinds of expressive utterances, the researchers used Leech and Cutting's theory.

Hidayati (2018) conducted research entitled Semantic Change Analysis on Film "*The King's Speech*". This research aims to analyze semantic change by characters in *The King's Speech* Movie written by David Seidler. Based on the findings of the study, the researcher found two semantic changes such as the semantic change of generalization reaching the highest number with 10 data (62.5%).

Based on previous studies, researchers have analyzed commissive speech acts using theories from Searle, Vanderveken, Yule, and Austin. However, this particular research utilizes theories from Searle and Vanderveken (1985) to analyze commissive speech acts in *The King's Speech* movie. Moreover, this research investigates the factors that influence the production of such speech acts, such as power and social distance, unlike previous studies that primarily focused on the types and functions of commissive speech acts.

This research is different from the previous studies because it focuses on the study of commissive speech acts in *The King's Speech* movie, which has not been

previously studied for this purpose. Therefore, this research is the first to investigate commissive speech acts in this movie.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study uses *The King's Speech* movie as the object. Various speech acts are contained in dialogue expressed by one character to another character in literary works with their respective functions. These speech acts are commissive, assertive, expressive, directive, and declaration. Therefore, of the many types of speech acts, the researcher focuses on commissive speech acts. The researcher only chose the commissive speech acts spoken by Lionel and Bertie to other characters because of their interaction as therapist and patient and the difference in their social status. To analyze this, the researcher will use Searle and Vanderveken's theory of commissive speech acts.

1.6 Organization of the Writing

The writer creates the outline of the organization of the writing which is divided into four chapters

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes the background of the study, research questions, purpose of the study, the scope of the study, significance of the study, previous study, and organization of the writing.

CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter describes the theory which is used to analyze the study, the type of research, data, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

CHAPTER III RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the result of the data analysis.

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

This chapter sums up the conclusion drawn from the study.

