

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THEORY AND METHOD**

#### **2.1 Theoretical framework**

##### **2.1.1 Speech Acts and Illocutionary acts**

Speech acts are a branch of pragmatics that studies actions performed via utterances. According to Searle (1976), speech acts are the basic or the minimal units of linguistic communication. It consists of three related acts namely locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and prelocutionary acts. Although there are three types of related acts, Illocutionary acts are the main analysis of speech acts.

Illocutionary acts are acts of performing utterances with some purpose, which can be used to make statements, offers, explanations, or for other communicative purposes (Yule, 1996). For example, when someone says "It's so cold", the utterance is not just a statement but a way for the speaker to request something (raise the AC temperature). Therefore, the illocutionary acts of the utterance are requests.

According to (Searle, 1976), there are five types of speech acts: declaration, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive. Declaration is a kind of speech act that has the function to change the world via utterance. Representative is a type of speech act that states what the speaker believes is true or not. It includes statements of fact, assertions, conclusions, and descriptions. Moreover, Expressive is a kind of speech act that states what the speaker feels. It states a psychological state, including statements of pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, or sorrow. It can be caused by

something the speaker or hearer does, but they are about the experience of the speaker. Then, directive speech acts is a kind of speech act that is used by speakers to get someone to do something. It includes commands, orders, requests, and suggestions. It can be positive or negative. Last, Commissive is a kind of speech act that the speakers use to commit themselves to some future actions. It expresses what the speaker means. It includes promises, threats, refusals, and pledges. It can be done by the speaker alone or by the speaker as a member of a group.

One of a type of speech acts that are used by writers in writing literary work is the commissive speech acts.

### **2.1.2 Commissive Speech Acts**

Commissive is a kind of speech act that the speakers use to commit themselves to some future actions. It expresses what the speaker means. It includes promises, threats, refusals, and pledges. It can be done by the speaker alone or by the speaker as a member of a group (Yule, 1996). In using a commissive, the speaker tries to make the world fit the words (via the speaker). For example: "*I'll be back.*" In this example, the speaker commits himself to some future actions, he promises to be back.

Commissive speech acts are divided into some categories. According to Searle (1976), commissive speech acts include promise, vow, pledge, covenant, contract, guarantee, embrace, and swear.

Moreover, Searle and Vanderveken (1985) divided commissive speech acts into more specific categories. According to them, there are seventeen types of commissive

speech acts: commit, promise, threaten, vow, pledge, swear, accept, consent, refuse, offer, bid, assure, guarantee, warrant, contract, covenant, and bet.

Commissive speech acts usually appear in the form of declarative sentences, stating the speaker's intention directly. For example, in the sentence "I promise to come". However, there are cases where the speaker conveys his commitment without stating it directly.

### **2.1.3 Direct and Indirect Speech Acts**

Searle (1979) classified speech acts into two categories: direct and indirect. A direct speech act occurs when the speaker says something that they mean. Searle suggested that direct speech acts have a literal meaning and are comprised of a set of truths.

According to Yule (1996), a sentence is considered a direct speech act when there is a clear relationship between its structure and function. In this context, the structure pertains to the type of sentence used by the speaker, such as declarative, interrogative, imperative, exclamation, and conditional. Meanwhile, the function refers to the speaker's intention, as stated by Searle (1979).

When someone commits to do something, he/she must convey it implicitly. For instance, when a guy promises to his girlfriend to meet her tomorrow, then he says "I promise to meet you tomorrow". In this example, the girlfriend would expect her boyfriend to meet her tomorrow as he states a promise to her. Also, when one wants to ask about something, then he/she must use interrogative sentences. For example, when a father asks his son "where is mother?" In this example, the father

expects answers from his son about where his mother is. Both examples show the congruence between sentence structure and sentence fusion.

Moreover, Searle (1979) introduced the concept of indirect illocutionary acts, which are also known as indirect speech acts. He explained that in such acts, the speaker conveys more than what they explicitly say to the listener. This type of communication relies on shared background information, both linguistic and non-linguistic, between the speaker and the listener regarding the conversation. For example, when someone says "I already eat" uttered by someone to another when being ordered to eat the food. This utterance is a declarative sentence to inform that he already eats as well as a refusal to the interlocutor without directly refuse it with negative response.

#### **2.1.4 Factors influencing the realization of speech acts.**

The choice of language used by speakers, either using the direct commissive speech act or indirect commissive speech act, is certainly inseparable from the reasons behind it. The factors that determine the use of direct and indirect commissive speech act in this movie are related to the relationship between the speaker and the interlocutor. This relationship refers to three points: power, distance, rank of imposition.

According to Brown and Levinson (1978), the language choice of the speaker and the hearer are determined by three factors namely social distance, power, and rank of imposition.

#### **2.1.4.1 Social distance (D)**

Obviously there are differences in the way a person speaks when talking to people who are close and with people who are not too close. Someone who has intimacy with the other person will be more freely to talk than with people he just knows. For example, a person may use the sentence “I promise to come to your birthday party” while talking to his/her best friend instead of using “I’ll do my best to be able to come to your birthday party” Therefore, social distance is one of the factors that affect the use of speech acts. Social distance is the degree of familiarity or proximity between the speaker and the hearer. If the interlocutors do not know each other or are not close to each other, the social distance is high (+D). Otherwise, if the speaker and hearer have an intimate relationship or are well acquainted, the social distance is low (-D).

#### **2.1.4.2 Power (P)**

Power is one of the factors that influence the use of speech acts. The way someone communicates with someone who has more power than with someone who is powerless will certainly be very different. For example, when a daughter talks to her parents, she will tend to be more polite than when she talks to the servant. She may use the sentence “I’m sorry, I’m full” to her parents, and use “I don’t like that” to her servant while rejecting a food. Therefore, Power is the relative position of the speaker and the hearer in a social hierarchy. In a social hierarchy, the speaker's power can be high (+P) or low (-P) depending on factors like status, age, ethnicity, etc. If the

speaker and the listener both have the same power, then the power can also be equal (P).

#### **2.1.4.3 Rank of imposition (R)**

Another factor that affects the realization of speech acts is the rank of imposition. Rank of imposition refers to the importance or degree of difficulty. Obviously there is a difference when someone commits for something that is difficult to do and that is easy to do. Someone will use the indirect forms when the commitment is hard. For example, a man uses the sentence “I will buy you a candy” as a promise to response for his daughter to buy her a candy, and uses the sentence “I’ll see what I can do to buy you that car” when he promises her daughter to buy her a car. The language he uses when he commits to buy a car is indirect because the commitment is way harder than buying the candy. The rank of imposition is high (+R) if the request is a big favor and difficult. Otherwise, the rank of imposition is low (-R) if the request is an easy thing to do.

## **2.2 Method**

### **2.2.1 Types of Research**

This is descriptive-qualitative research. Qualitative research is a research study that investigates the quality of relationships, activities, situations, or materials. It describes in detail all of what goes on in particular activity in the situation rather than comparing the effects of a particular treatment. The data collected in the forms of words or picture rather than numbers (Fraenkel and Wallen, 2009). The descriptive

qualitative method is used in this study because it analyzes the data in the form of utterances analysis to explain the types of commissive speech acts used by Lionel in *The King's Speech* movie.

### **2.2.2 Data, Population, Sample, and Sampling Technique**

The researcher used one of David Seidler works, which was the movie entitled "*The King's Speech*" (2010). The genre of this movie is history and drama. The researcher obtained the movie script from <https://stephenfollows.com/resource-docs/scripts/kings-speech-script1.pdf>.

This research took population from one of the works of David Seidler. The sample from David Seidler's works is one of the movie entitled "*The King's Speech*". The researcher took the data included the types of speech acts, especially the illocutionary acts, perlocutionary effects, direct speech acts, and indirect speech acts, expressed by the main characters in the movie "*The King's Speech*" by David Seidler.

In the movie *The King's Speech*, two characters are taken as samples for this research. The first main character is a therapist named Lionel. He is an Australian who lived in England with his wife and three children. The second main characters is Bertie, who is a member of the royal family and The King of England.

The sampling technique for this research is purposive sampling technique. This techniques is used because the researcher only select data based on specific criteria that relevant to research questions or objective. The sample is only from

utterances from Lionel and Bertie to other characters that contains direct and indirect commissive speech acts.

### **2.2.3 Methods of Collecting Data**

The researcher used the non-participant observation and note-taking method to collect the data. The nonparticipant method is the method where the researchers do not participate in the activity being observed, but rather ‘sit on the sidelines’ and watch. They are not directly involved in the situation they are observing (Fraenkel and Wallen, 2009). In this study, the researcher watches the movie from the start to the end.

The note-taking technique is used by researchers to take notes on the context and situation of the utterances that happened in the movie which is unavailable in the script. This is very important for researchers to make observations easier. All the utterances which contain commissive speech acts are recorded into categorization tables which are classified according to Vandereveken’s theory.

There are several steps that are used by the researcher in collecting the data as follows:

1. Reading the movie script that is available on the internet to gain the primary data (Lionel’s and Bertie’s Utterances),
2. Watching the movie entitled “The King’s Speech” multiple times to gain the secondary data (context of the utterances and the situation in which utterances is conveyed),



3. Highlighting the utterances of Lionel and Bertie which are considered as commissive speech acts,
4. Making a note of each utterances of Lionel and Bertie,
5. Classifying the data based on the forms of the commissive speech acts by Searle and Vanderveken,
6. Classify the structure of utterance according to its structure (direct or indirect),
7. Analyzing the factors influencing the realization of speech acts,
8. Drawing a conclusion.

#### **2.2.4 Method of Analyzing Data**

The researcher used content analysis method in analyzing data since this research described the phenomenon of commissive speech acts in the utterances by a character in a movie. According to Fraenkel and Wallen (2009), content analysis is a technique which allows researchers to study human behavior indirectly, through analysis of their communications. It is usually, but not necessarily, written contents of a communication. For instance, textbooks, essays, newspapers, novels, magazine articles, cookbooks, songs, political speeches, advertisements, pictures – in fact, the content of almost any type of communication can be analyzed.

The researcher carried out several stages in analyzing the data: First, the researcher classified the data into the types of commissive speech acts based on Searle and Vanderveken's theory. Next, the researcher classified the commissive

speech acts into direct and indirect speech acts. Thus, the data were analyzed descriptively. Next, the researcher evaluated all the data analysis. Last, the researcher made the conclusion based on the data found.