

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This section contains explanations of the theoretical framework used to analyze the research problems. The writer also uses Searle's theory on the types and the functions of commissive speech acts.

2.1.1 Speech Act

According to Searle (1969, p. 16), a speech act is the study of how utterances are employed in context or refer to an action that a phrase performs. Austin (1962, p. 102-103) classified the speech acts into three categories, which are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. A locutionary act refers to the literal meaning of the utterances. Meanwhile, the perlocutionary act are the responses that listeners experience as the speaker communicates their intentions by producing utterances. In this study, the writer will focus on the illocutionary act performed by the two main characters. Searle (1969, p. 42) explains that illocutionary acts are the actions performed through a speaker's utterances, refer to the purpose and intent behind the speaker's utterances. For example, when someone says, "It's so cold." This goes beyond a simple declaration; it serves as the speaker's indirect meaning of asking to adjust the air conditioning temperature. Therefore, the illocutionary act conveyed by the utterance is a request.

Searle (1969) classified illocutionary acts into five categories: declarative, assertive, expressive, directive, and commissive. A declarative is a kind of speech act that has the function to change the world via utterances. An assertive is a type

of speech act that states what the speaker believes is true or not. An expressive is a speech act that expresses what the speaker feels. Directives are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something. Commissives, which are the focus of this study, are speech acts that commit the speaker to a future action. Examples include promises, guarantees, refusals, threats, vows, and offers.

2.1.2 Commissive Speech Acts

Commissive speech acts are those in which the speaker commits to a particular future action. These include guarantee, offer, refuse, threat, vow, and making promises. For example, the phrase "I will be here" symbolizes the speaker's promise to never leave (Searle, 1979, p. 14). When speakers say these utterances, they are not simply conveying information. Meanwhile, the speaker is doing an action that will bind them to a future commitment. The utterance indicates that the speaker intends to stay in a specific location. That statement was more than just a declaration; it was a commitment not to leave that place.

2.1.2.1 Promise

A promise is a type of commissive speech act in which the speaker commits to performing a future action (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p. 192). When someone makes a promise, they are expressing their deliberate and conscious intention to do something that will help the listener. Unlike a mere declaration about the future, a promise is a binding commitment that obligates the speaker to act and aligns with the hearer's interests. For example, "I promise to return your book tomorrow" this statement explicitly demonstrates the speaker's commitment and seriousness about taking action in the future. The speaker is responsible for

returning the book to fulfil the listener's expectation that the speaker would actually do it.

2.1.2.2 Guarantee

Guarantee is a commitment by the speaker to the fulfilment of a statement or action in the future. A guarantee indicates a higher level of certainty and commitment on the part of the speaker. It implies a greater assurance that the promised activity will be carried out (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p. 197). For example, in the statement "The fridge is guaranteed for three years," the speaker declares the product's reliability for that time period and implicitly commits to accepting responsibility, such as delivering repairs or replacements, if the fridge fails during that time.

2.1.2.3 Refuse

Refuse is a type of commissive speech act where the speaker commits that they will not do or accept something that is offered or requested from another person. This action demonstrates the speaker's refusal to accept the listener's offer (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p. 195). For example, when someone says, "I'm sorry, but I can't take that job offer." The sentence indicates the speaker's rejection of the job offer. By using the utterance "I can't," the speaker is directly making a future commitment not to accept the offered position. This rejection is a negative promise that directly states the decision not to take the proposed action.

2.1.2.4 Threat

Threat is a kind of commissive speech act in which the speaker expresses their desire to do something that will harm the listener in the future. If the listener

does not agree with the speaker's request, the speaker aims to create unpleasant feelings in the listener. Threats are frequently created by negative emotions like anger and disbelief (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p. 193). For example, "Leave me alone or I'll call security," the statement includes a threat meant to intimidate the listener. The speaker insists that if their request is ignored, they will call security. Therefore, the statement acts as a threat, forcing the listener to stop their action.

2.1.2.5 Vow

A vow is a type of commissive speech act in which the speaker commits to do a future action. This act is carried out religiously before God. The speaker is not simply making a promise, but is genuinely dedicated to carrying out an action related to the sacred vow made before God in joy and grief (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p. 193). For example, in a wedding ceremony, the speaker says, "I vow to be true to you in good times and bad, in sickness and health, to love and cherish you for all the days of my life." The speaker is not just making a promise, but also committing to remain faithful and loving in every situation, including joy and sadness, throughout their lives.

2.1.2.6 Offer

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p. 195-196), an offer is a type of commissive speech act where the speaker expresses readiness to perform something as an offer to the hearer. In the context of an offer, the speaker commits to take particular activities in the future, depending on the hearer's acceptance. An offer suggests that the hearer has the option of accepting or rejecting the action being provided. For example, when a listener accepts an offer like "May I help you,

Sir?” or “Would you like some coffee?” the speaker is obligated to follow through on that action.

2.1.3 Illocutionary Force Indicating Devices (IFIDs)

Yule (1996, p. 49) defines Illocutionary Force Indicating Devices (IFIDs) as linguistic elements in an utterance that help to identify or indicate the type of illocutionary force of that speech. These devices help listeners to understand the meaning of a statement, such as whether it functions as a command, request, or promise. According to Searle (1969, p. 30), the elements of IFIDs include word order, stress, intonation contour, punctuation, verb mood, and the performative verbs. Searle (1969) emphasizes that IFIDs provide explicit cues about the illocutionary function of an utterance, thereby aiding in the identification of the speaker’s communicative intent and facilitating the listener’s accurate interpretation of that intention. For instance, performative phrases like "I promise," "I order," or "I request" function as IFIDs that denote commissive, directive, and other speech acts.

2.1.4 Felicity Conditions

According to Yule (1996, p. 50), felicity conditions are the requirements that must be fulfilled for a speech act to be considered valid or achieve its intended purpose. These conditions ensure that the utterance is spoken in the appropriate and suitable circumstances to be recognized as the intended action. A speech act can be successfully uttered, but if it does not meet the felicity conditions, it is not considered a complete or perfect speech act. Searle (1969, p. 63) explains that a

successful speech act must satisfy four felicity conditions: propositional content conditions, preparatory conditions, sincerity conditions, and essential conditions.

The propositional content conditions require that the content of the speech act be in line with the circumstances that permit the speech act to be performed. For example, in a promise speech act, the proposition's content must refer to future actions that the speaker will take. Someone cannot make promises about something that has already happened in the past (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p. 43). For example, "I promise I will come tomorrow," this statement meets this condition; meanwhile, "I promise I came yesterday" does not meet this condition. The utterance cannot meet the propositional content condition because it has already occurred.

The preparatory conditions refer to the shared assumptions or presuppositions that the speaker and hearer must mutually accept for the speech act to be appropriate (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p. 43-44). In the case of promises, these conditions require that the speaker believes the hearer desires the future action, that the action has not already occurred, and that the speaker is capable of performing it in a way that benefits the hearer. For example, "I promise to return your book tomorrow." This meets the preparatory conditions, because the speaker presumably has the ability to do so and the action benefits the hearer by fulfilling their expectation. In contrast, the statement "I promise I will fly to the moon with my own hands" fails to meet these conditions, because the speaker clearly does not have ability to perform the action, making the promise infelicitous and invalid despite its superficial form.

The sincerity conditions explain that the speaker must be sincere in their willingness to fulfil the promise (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985, p. 44-45). For a speech act to be real and meaningful, the person speaking has to mean it truly. If this condition is not met, the speech act might still happen, but it is considered insincere. For instance, if you tell someone, “I promise I will be at your party,” your statement must be made with the honest intention to attend. If you make that promise knowing you have no intention of showing up, the promise technically happened, but it was not a genuine one because your intentions do not align with your words.

The essential conditions occur when the speaker influences the listener with the goal of carrying out the speech act in the future. This condition binds the speaker to the consequences of the speech act (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985). For example, when you say, “I promise I will come,” by saying the word “promise,” you are obligated to follow your word because you have already made a promise.

2.2 Research Method

This section is divided into five parts: type of research, data and data source, population and sample, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

2.2.1 Type of Research

The writer used qualitative research and a descriptive method as the most suitable approach for this study. According to Patton (2002), qualitative research aims to comprehend and investigate human experiences and social phenomena, particularly those that involve language and human interaction. This method was chosen because the study focuses on analyzing the utterances made by the two main

characters, Luke and Cassie, in *Purple Hearts* (2022) movie. The research aims to analyze the types and functions of commissive speech acts produced by the two main characters. The writer used the descriptive method to identify, classify, and describe each speech data found.

2.2.2 Data and Data Source

The writer used the utterances produced by Luke and Cassie that contains commissive speech acts in *Purple Hearts* (2022) movie. The writer uses the data sources from the *Purple Hearts* (2022) movie. The writer also used the script for supporting the primary data sources. The script was utilized to identify utterances that fit into the types and functions of commissive speech acts.

2.2.3 Population and Sample

For the population, the writer uses a purposive sampling method to get the sample of the study. The writer will only include populations that are relevant to the study's topic. The population consists of all utterances made by Luke and Cassie with all of the characters in the *Purple Hearts* (2022) movie that demonstrated types and the functions of commissive speech acts. The utterances were taken from the *Purple Hearts* (2022) movie on Netflix.

2.2.4 Method of Collecting Data

The writer collected research data using non-participant observation and note-taking methods. The steps for data collection were as follows:

1. Watching the movie several times to obtain more accurate data.
2. Reading the movie script to better comprehend the utterances.

3. Classifying Luke and Cassie's utterances into six types and functions of commissive speech acts using Searle and Vanderveken's (1985) theory.
4. Analyzing and presenting the data using IFIDs theory and felicity conditions with results structured in table style.

2.2.5 Method of Analyzing Data

The writer uses a qualitative method for analyzing the types and the functions of Luke and Cassie's commissive speech acts. The first step is data collecting, during which the writer prepares the collected data. Second, the data analysis includes analyzing the collected utterances using the IFIDs theory and felicity conditions, followed by categorizing them into six kinds and the functions of commissive speech acts based on Searle and Vanderveken's (1985) theory. The last step is data reporting, in which analyzed utterances are presented in a table form.