CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher gives a brief explanation of his study. There are six parts in this chapter; background of the study, statement of the problems, research objectives, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

The Voice USA is an American reality television singing competition. The concept of the singing competition is to find currently unsigned singing talent contested by aspiring singers, aged fifteen or over, and drawn from public audition. In a singing competition show, the judges' comments play very important role in affecting the contestants' performances. It is because the contestants are demanded to perform better than their performances before, if they want to stay in or go forward in the next level of the competition. Each commentator has his/her own way or strategies in choosing the sentences that will be delivered to the contestants. Therefore, the present researcher is interested in making a study on one type of illocutionary speech acts, that is expressive acts. The present researcher wants to make a study on expressive acts in the judges' comments in "The Voice USA 2017" because many of researchers have made studies focusing on all types of illocutionary acts, and many researchers use novel, movie script, or drama script as their subject.

Speech act is one of pragmatics studies. It is utterance defined in terms of speakers' intention and the effect of it has on the listeners. Toolan (1997: 250) stated that "Speech act refers to what is done by the listener when something is said by the speaker, for example, warning, threatening, ordering, promising, requesting." It means

that people perform speech act when they utter such as apology, greeting, request, complaint, invitation, compliment, congratulating, advicing, or refusing.

Austin (1955: 94) states that "there are three things we do when we use language in communication." Then he identifies the three levels of action beyond the act of utterance in communication, they are: the act in saying something, what people do in saying it and what people do by saying it. Then he classifies those into the 'locutionary act', 'illocutionary act', and 'perlocutionary act'. Locutionary act is an ability to perform the act of saying something. While illocutionary act is an ability to perform and act to say something. Illocutionary act refers to the force that makes it a particular act, thus its intended significance as a socially valid verbal action. And perlocutionary act is actual effects of illocutionary act, such as persuading, convincing, advicing, scaring, enlightening, inspiring, or getting someone to do or realize something, whether intended or not.

Furthermore, Searle (1975) classifies the illocutionary act into five types. The first type of illocutionary act is assertive. It is a speech act that commits a speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition. Assertive speech act uses language to tell people how things are. The second is directive speech act. It is a speech act that causes the listeners to take a particular action. Directive speech act attempts the speakers to get the addressees to do something. In other word, directive uses language to try to get someone to do something. The third type of illocutionary act is commissive. It is a speech act that commits speakers to some future action. The fourth type of illocutionary act is expressive. It is a speech act that expresses the speakers' attitudes and emotions towards the proposition. In the other word expressive uses language to express the feeling and attitude. The last type of illocutionary act is declarative. It is a speech act that changes the reality in accord with the proposition of the declaration.

This speech act is made by someone who is especially authorized to do so within some institutional framework.

However, the present researcher is interested to make a study focuses on one of Searle's (1975) speech act classification, that is expressive speech act, because many researchers have made studies focusing on all types of illocutionary acts. Expressive is illocutionary act that is used to express the psychological state in sincerity condition about a state of affair in specified in the propositional context, including the expressive speech acts are welcoming, praising, blaming, etc. (Searle: 1976). Furthermore, Yule (1996) states that expressive can be a statement of pleasure, pain, like, dislike, joy, or sorrow. It means that expressive speech acts tell about the speaker's feeling.

There are some related studies made previously. A study is made by Machmud (2011). He analyzes illocutionary acts of the oath utterances in English translation of the Noble Qur'an. His study is aimed to find illocutionary acts and the illocutionary force performance of the oath utterances in English translation of the Noble Qur'an chapter 30. The result of his study shows that the objects of oath utterances are mostly abstract nouns. Then, there is a study made by a student of State University of Semarang, Ainurrohmah (2011). She analyzes the use of illocutionary acts in the novel entitled "New Moon". The aims of her study are to identify and analyze the use of illocutionary acts in Stephenie Meyer's New Moon. The result of her study shows that there are 219 utterances containing the illocutionary acts. She finds 95 utterances are representative, 49 utterances are directive, 25 utterances are commissive, 41 utterances are expressive, and 9 utterances are declarative.

Moreover, a study of illocutionary acts is made by a student of Muara Kudus University, Zuhairo (2013). She analyzes illocutionary act in the "Harry Potter and

The Deathly Hallows Part 1" movie script. The purpose of her study is to describe the types of illocutionary acts and the functions of illocutionary acts. The findings of her study show that there are some types and functions of illocutionary acs which are found in "Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows Part 1" movie script. The most dominant type of illocutionary acts in her study is representative. She also finds four functions of illocutionary acts; 136 collaborative functions, 14 convivial functions, 92 competitive function, and 0 conflictive functions.

Furthermore, the study that focuses on one feature of illocutionary act is made by a student of Ahmad Dahlan University, Handayani (2015). She analyzes the use of expressive speech act in "Hannah Montana Session 1" movie. The aim of her study is to describe kinds and forms of expressive speech act in Hannah Montana Session 1. The result of her study shows that there are ten types of expressive act in "Hannah Montana Session 1" movie.

The study of speech act theory is also closely related to the concept of politeness strategy. Leech (1983) states that "when we talk about speech acts, we must distinguish between positive politeness, which increases the politeness in the case of inherently polite speech acts, and negative politeness which reduces the impoliteness of inherently impolite speech acts." It means that the strategies used by someone, whether polite or impolite also influences what kind of speech act someone decides to use.

A study made by Allami and Nekouzadeh (2011) entitled "Congratulation and Positive Politeness Strategies in Iranian Context". The aim of their study is to find the strategies used by Iranian Persian speakers in offering congratulations. The analysis of their data reveals that mostly used types of congratulation strategies are "illocutionary force indicating device (IFID)", "offer of good wishes", and "expression of

happiness". As the result of their study shows that Iranian people mostly use strategies "giving gift to listener", "exaggeration", and "in group identity marker" when responding to other's happy news.

However, this present study is different with Handayani's (2015) study, and Allami's (2011) study. The subject of Hadayani's (2015) study is "Hannah Montana Session 1" movie, and the subject of Allami's (2011) study is Iranian people, while the subject of this present study is the judges' comments in "The VoiceUSA 2017". The data of this study will be transcription of 30 videos of "The VoiceUSA 2017". The present researcher is interested to make a study on expressive acts in the judges' comments in "The Voice USA 2017" because many of researchers have made studies on illocutionary act using movie script, drama script, or novels as their subjects. Hence, the result of this study is expected to help the readers to get more understanding about expressive speech acts and the present researcher hopes that this study will be useful for the future study.

1.2 Research problems

This study is conducted to answer the problems formulated in the following questions:

- 1. What are expressive acts uttered by the commentators in "The VoiceUSA 2017"?
- 2. What are strategies used by commentators to realize the expressive acts in "The Voice USA 2017"?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research problems above, the objectives of the study are aimed:

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1. To describe the types of expressive acts uttered by the commentators in "The

VoiceUSA 2017".

2. To describe the strategies used by commentators to realize expressive acts in

"The Voice USA 2017".

1.4 Significance of the Study

There are two significances of this study, theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, the present researcher hopes that this study can give information or

explanation to the readers who are interested to make a study of speech acts,

especially expressive speech acts. In addition, it also can be a reference for the

readers who want to make a study on expressive speech acts, especially

expressive act in the same field. And practically, the result of this study can give

any contribution in linguistic fields, especially in pragmatic field.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is only take expressive acts as the field of the

theory. The writer observes the expressive illocutionary acts by using Searle's

classification of illocutionary speech act. Thus, the future researchers can make a

study of all types of illocutionary acts. Moreover, the present researcher uses both

male and female as his subject, but the present researcher does not make the

comparation data between those both genders. Thus, the present researcher

suggests for the future researchers to make a study of expressive acts use

comparison data between male and female.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Speech act

: Actions that are performed via utterances.

Illocutionary Act : An act that is performed via the communicative force of

an utterance.

Expressive Act : Speech acts that state what the speaker feels.

IFID : (Illocutionary Force Indicating Device) is an aspect of

language indicating that an utterance is made with a

certain illocutionary force.

Judges' comments : The opinion or the comments of the commentators

related to the contestants performances.

