

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

In analyzing a literary work, it is better firstly to understand what the literary work tells about or what is going on within it. Short (1997:1) says, “An important aspect of the study of literature is that we must struggle to explain a very difficult thing, namely how it is that we come to understand literary work”. In understanding the text of literature, language is the main thing of analysis subject. Lehmann says that, because of literary researcher to understand the language or the working of its language (1976:306).

Lehmann (1976:9) also state “all of problem involve understanding of language are the field of linguistics study”. Furthermore, he explains the position of linguistics in literary criticism. He said that although linguistics is the simplest one in literary criticism because of the research object come first from language use. It is also the most basic because understanding the story told in the literary is the first step in analyzing it.

In literature, language functions to convey the writer’s intention. So, in creating language there is certain meaning intended by speaker behind their work. Cummings (1986:147) says, “language is meaningful activity. It is often taken to be paradigm form of the acts meaning, the core of semiotic, and a descriptive norm from all others form of meaningful behavior”. It means that words are not only we use to say things, but we also use them to do thing.

The users of language contextually can use their language or speeches to do something. This is called speech acts. Mc Graw (1992:223) said that the user of language can do thing through their sentences and context is the most important aspect within it. Concerning with speech acts, Yule (1996:47) states, “actions performed via utterance are generally called speech acts”. That is why utterances do not only contain grammatical structures and words, they also perform action via those utterances.

In the study of speech acts beside discussing about uttered meaning or contextual meaning in speech acts (locutionary acts), it is also discussed about the effect which will be recognized by the hearers (perlocutionary act). Kempson (1997) states, “in speech act, a speaker utters sentences with a particular meaning (locutionari acts), and with particular force (illocutionary acts) in order to achieve a certain effect on the hearers (perlocutionary acts).

The previous study about speech acts that are quite helpful for this research. It is a thesis by Nurina Syaifana (2006), a student of English Department of Airlangga University entitled “Speech Acts in Military Conversations Performed by the Indonesia Navi’s Personnel at KRI Lambung Mangkurat”. The data of this study uses written forms. The data are taken from military conversations done by the personnel of Indonesia Navy and reprinted by the ship crees of KRI Lambung Mangkurat in duty hour. The speech acts theory is used to examine military conversation between the personnel of Indonesia Navy by identifying the locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts.

A kind of literary work, which is appropriate for analysis of speech acts is conversation. Because conversation is the most of speeches of the characters implicitly perform their acts and a film largely consist of face to face interactions which we can conclude their meaning contextually. Short (1997:108) states, “in the conversation text, characters often say one thing by mean another”. By studying types of speech acts in a film conversation script it is expected that the hearers can understand what is happening on the text and how the characters relate to one another. Futhermore, the interpretation of speech actc can be more appropriate if it is analyzed in a film conversation script.

*Man of Steel* is a 2013 superhero film directed by Zack Snyder. The film written by David S. Gayer and had produced by Christopher Nolan. Some conversation conducted by the characters in this film contain speech acts.

For example :

**Jonathan : All these changes that you're going through, one day... One day you're gonna think of them as a blessing. When that day comes... you have to make a choice. A choice of whether to stand proud in front of the human race or not.**

**Clark : Can't I just keep pretending I'm your son?**

The above example is a dialogue between Jonathan (his father) and Clark (superman). In this utterance, its shows that his father (Jonathan) gives information to Clark about all these changes that he will through it. Jonathan declares that one day Clark will think about his super power as a blessing. When that day comes, he has to make a choice. A choice of whether stands proud in front of human being or not.

. Based on the example above, the researcher considers that it is interesting to analyze speech acts, especially locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. Through the description above, the researcher wants to analyze speech acts among the main characters in *Man of Steel* Movie especially speech acts that is why the researcher give the title **“A Study of Speech Acts Used by The Main Characters in Man of Steel”**.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background of the study above, in this study the researcher mainly concern with speech acts used by main characters in *Man of Steel* Movie. Then, the researcher tries to state in the following sentence on:

1.2.1. What are the locutionary acts uttered by the main characters?

1.2.2. What are the illocutionary acts intended by the main characters?

1.2.3. What are the perlocutionary acts intended by the main characters?

## **1.3. Objective of the Study**

Related to the problem of the study, the objectives of this study are to interpret or describe the locutionary acts of the main characters utterances in their conversation and this study also describes the situations when the utterances are uttered or the cause of the utterances appeared.

From the describing of the situation, the researcher tries to interpret the possible illocutionary acts appeared by both of the main characters and shows the effects of it.

So, the objectives of the study are to find :

- 1.3.1. Interpretation the form of locutionary acts uttered by the main characters.
- 1.3.2. Interpretation the illocutionary acts intended by the main characters.
- 1.3.3. Interpretation the perlocutionary acts intended by the main characters in their utterances.

#### **1.4. Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to be able to help the readers to understand what is happening on the text movie, especially in communication between characters, which in turn can help them understand the whole story. Besides, this study can hopefully improve the movie researcher's skill in applying speech acts theory to analyze the language of literary work movie. This analysis can also serve as a reference for students who taking linguistics class, especially student in the English Department of State Islamic University (UIN) Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

#### **1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study is limited on analysis of the main character's speech acts in *Man of Steel* movie. The characters are Clark Kent (superman), Martha Kent

(mother) and Jonathan Kent (father). The analysis of speech acts is limited in the utterances of the main characters conversation in the film.

For the analysis of the main characters speech acts happen related to the situations where the conversation appeared. The researcher just analyzes the most significant speech acts describing the situation happen in the conversation. The researcher analyzes it by using the three aspects of speech acts consist on the main character's speech acts. That are locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts.

## **1.6. Definition of Key Terms**

1.6.1. Pragmatics : Pragmatics is the study of the speaker meaning (Yule, 1996:3).

Pragmatics is the general study of how context influences the way sentences or utterances in conveying information (Blair, 1988:222).

1.6.2. Speech Acts : Speech act is a bit of speech produced as part of a bit of social interaction as opposed to the linguists and philosopher's decontextualized example (Hudson, 1980:110).

Speech acts is the study of how we do things with sentences (Blair, 1988:223).

Speech acts is actions performed via utterances  
(Yule, 1996:47).

- 1.6.3. Locutionary acts : Locutionary acts is the basic of utterance which produce a meaningful linguistic expression (Hudson, 1980:110).

Based on the story, it means actual meaning in the conversation used by the main characters.

- 1.6.4. Illocutionary acts : The illocutionary acts carried out by a speaker making an utterance is the act viewed in terms of the utterance significance (Hurford, 2007:244).

Based on the story, it means that every conversation have hidden meaning and particular force used by the main characters.

- 1.6.5. Perlocutionary acts : The perlocutionary acts carried out by a speaker making an utterance is the act causing a certain effect on the hearer and others (Hurford, 2007:243).

Based on the story, it means that there is certain effect to influence the hearer in order to do something.