CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Language has important role in our life. We communicate each other using language in our daily life. By using language, people could exchange idea, and information, and we also could have good communication.

Oral language is often used in daily life because it is easier than written language. The way of communication using oral language is usually connected with the situation when their conversation happens. This case will be studied in Pragmatics.

According to George Yule (1996), Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning and also studies how people comprehend and produce a communicative act in a concrete situation in conversation analysis. So, Pragmatics is the aspects of meaning which is used in communication among speakers, utterance and addresser which cannot be predicted because it is interpreted as contextual meaning.

Speech act is a topic of pragmatics. According to Yule (1996) Speech act is a study of how the speakers and hearers use language. The action is performed by producing an utterance. Utterance which is produced by speaker is not only to explain their mind toward the listener, but also a means to show the relationship between them. When we want to know the relationship of their utterance, we can see it from speech act. When people

speak, they will consist of three related acts. Those are locutionary acts (utterance), illocutionary acts (process of meaning from the utterance) and perlocutionary acts (utterance effect on the hearer).

However, the writer will focus on the illocutionary acts. The writer strongly thinks that illocutionary acts have big impact on the language cognition. When we talk to someone, we have to find the illocutionary acts from the speaker.

The illocutionary acts can also be defined as how to do things with words. It is because when we utter a sentence, it can make someone do something without our direct command. For example, when someone says "it is dark here", the addressee who could understand that the speaker will turn on the lamp since he can understand that the speaker feels dark and the speaker wants him to turn on the lamp.

Searle categorizes illocutionary act into 5 (1976), such as assertive, directive, commisive, expressive, and declarative. The classification has its own condition to occur. The first is assertive. It commits the speaker to truth of the expressed proportion. The second is directive, it attempts by speaker to get the addressee to do something. The third is commissive. It commits the speaker to do some future action. The fourth is expressive. It expresses on the speaker's attitude and emotions towards the preposition. The last is declarative. It affects immediate change in the institutional state of affair and tends to rely on elaborating extra linguistic institution. These five classifications are used to analyze illocutionary acts deeper to be understood.

In this research, the writer wants to know the relationship between theories of illocutionary acts, especially assertive with its practice in the drama of Edward Albee: The Zoo Story. The main conflict of The Zoo Story is the impact of the modernization of a society that makes people suffer from the alienation in Jerry's lives. Jerry and Peter's background as opposed makes them have different personality sides. Jerry who lives alone in a seedy apartment, the landlady abusive and crazy dog, Jerry does not have a permanent job seems jealous that Peter has a life of intact, get married, have children, and pets.

Based on their different background, certainly it is not strange if their personalities are very contradictory. Peter comes from the middle class society (the favorite social class in America), while Jerry is poor white trash. Peter is well educated from the way he speaks, and Jerry is not educated from the way he provokes Peter, lose control of his emotions.

Regarding the end of the story is death, Jerry commits suicides, using a knife which he carries himself, even though at that time, the knife is in Peter's hand.

In this drama, Peter and Jerry utter many sentences containing many assertive illocutionary acts. One of them when Jerry says "MISTER, I'VE BEEN TO THE ZOO!" in that utterance, Jerry tries to inform to Peter that he has been to the zoo. But there is an intended meaning of Jerry's utterance. He has not gone to the zoo which the place of many kind of animals. However he just wants to have conversation with someone who he meets because he really

feels lonely. It is found that Jerry's utterance is kind of assertive illocutionary act.

One of the reasons why the writer wants to analyze The Zoo Story is because there are many intended meaning which is found in the conversation between Peter and Jerry. The writer is curious about that intended meaning. So, by analyzing this drama will help the reader of The Zoo story to know some intended meaning, especially when they inform or tell something, which is categorized as assertive illocutionary acts.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background of study, the statements of the problem in this study are formulated as:

- 1. What assertive illocutionary acts are used in The Zoo Story?
- 2. What are social contexts underlying the use of those act?

1.3 Research Purposes

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

- 1. To describe kind of assertive illocutionary acts used in The Zoo Story.
- 2. To describe the social factor which influence the character using certain illocutionary acts.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer is expected that the research will be useful for the writer and the reader to understand about assertive illocutionary acts which are used in The Zoo Story. Besides it, the writer also hope this research is useful as a reference for the next researchers who want to do a research on illocutionary acts, especially assertive illocutionary acts.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is focused on the discourse analysis. The discourse analysis is taken as one of the theories for this study because the study of speech acts is subdivision of discourse analysis. The analysis is focus on the illocutionary acts, especially assertive act which are contained in the dialogue of the characters in the drama. The study is focused on the utterance of the characters in *The Zoo Story* that is the utterance of Peter and Jerry as the only character in that drama. The writer chooses assertive act because there are many conversation of the characters which consist of informing, claiming, conveying, describing, and giving statement as same as the form of assertive acts. By analyzing assertive acts, it will help the reader easily to understand drama of The Zoo Story.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- Assertive acts: the utterance by the speaker to commit in doing something. It can be form of informing, claiming, conveying, describing, and giving statement.
- Illocutionary acts: the act of saying which is committed with the intention of the speaker by uttering a sentence such as asking, questioning, promising, ordering, apologizing, threatening and requesting.

- 3. Speech acts: Utterance by the speaker order to achieve particular purpose, it can be a command, question, request, etc.
- 4. Pragmatics: the study of meaning which is related to the context or situation of using language.

