

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is the way people deliver their desire. They do such thing through language. They produce language for communication into several forms such as asking question, requesting something, blaming, thanking, etc. Based on that fact, each language has its function. Yule states that language has transactional and interactional functions. The function of language that serves in the expression of content is called transactional, while the function of language that involved in expressing social relations and personal attitudes is called interactional. Furthermore, language also has its function as primarily transactional language. It is the language that is used to convey factual or propositional information (Yule, 1996:1-3).

From the language, people create a communication, and then an interaction will be produced automatically. Generally, if people want to deliver a message to other people, they will produce utterances in order to understand what the message means.

This paper aims to analyze the way people communicate with others. The writer assumes that the way people communicate with others is different from time to time. Therefore, to support this assumption, the writer uses a piece of literary work to be the object of the analysis. The literary work that is going to be analyzed is a specific work of play which also be called drama. The writer analyzes drama because in the drama there are a lot of dialogues. From this dialogue, the writer can distinguish the

kinds of illocutionary act. The writer chooses illocutionary acts as his analysis because he thinks that he can know the meaning of someone's utterances through illocutionary act whether they want to say assertive, directive, and etc. There are some references for analyzing the kinds of it, such as in a speech, etc.

In this paper, the writer attempts to discuss *The Bald Soprano* written by Eugene Ionesco. As he knows, Ionesco is a Romanian. Ionesco is also known as one of foremost playwrights of the Theater of the Absurd (<http://www.levity.com/corduroy/ionesco.htm>. It is accessed October 23, 2013 at 07.00 p.m.). *Bald Soprano* is his first play. In this play, he tries to explain about satirizes the deadliness and stupidity of the daily life of a bourgeois society frozen in meaningless formalities (<http://www.levity.com/corduroy/ionesco.htm>. It is accessed October 23, 2013 at 07.00 p.m.). Because of this interesting thing, the writer chooses this drama to be analyzed.

Eugene Ionesco began to write *The Bald Soprano* in 1948. He inspired to write the play while trying to learn English from a primer. Basically, he kept copying over and over again some simple sentences, like "*The ceiling is up*" and "*The floor is down*" One of the main points of the play is that language can sometimes be an ineffective means of communication. The characters in *The Bald Soprano* speak in all kinds of crazy gibberish and barely seem to communicate at all (<http://www.shmoop.com/bald-soprano/> It is accessed April 22, 2013 at 07.00 p.m.).

The Bald Soprano, a one-act "anti-play," opens in a "middle-class English" interior, furnished with typically English furniture and a typically English couple, Mr.

and Mrs. Smith, whose first names remain strange (<http://www.shmoop.com/bald-soprano/> It is accessed April 22, 2013 at 07.00 p.m). The writer chooses Mr. Smith and Mrs. Smith because he thinks that those two people can support the whole story in this drama through their dialogue. The reader will focus on their first dialogue to know the whole story. This play is categorized a parody. Some of the dialogues have bad and good words. The author creates this play to touch people about communication in modern society. Ionesco made this work to suggest the modern society at that time.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Eunesco's *The Bald Soprano* shows the way of communication in the modern society. Besides that, Eunesco also wants to tell about the way of communication in the society at that time. Based on the statements above, this paper comes along with the following questions:

- 1.2.1 What kinds of illocutionary acts are performed by Mrs. Smith to Mr. Smith in Eunesco's *The Bald Soprano*?
- 1.2.2 What are the purposes of using those illocutionary acts?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study concern of presenting a brief account for the readers about the problems stated previously. Through this study, the writer tries to present the following aims:

1.3.1 Describe the illocutionary acts from the dialogue of Mrs. Smith to Mr. Smith in Eunesco's *The Bald Soprano*.

1.3.2 To reveal the purposes of using illocutionary acts in the drama.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study of "The Analysis of Speech Act in Eunesco's *The Bald Soprano*" is expected to provide contribution to the students of linguistic study and the readers of literary works as well. For the linguistic students, this study has a purpose to explore the kinds of illocutionary acts found in the drama. In this study, the writer wants to explore the kinds of speech acts in the drama through its dialogues. Moreover, for the common readers, this study is presented as a reflection that each dialogue or utterance spoken by people has its own meaning. By knowing the meaning of the utterances, it will make people easy to communicate each other.

1.5 Scope of the Study

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 also under the discourse analysis. The analysis is centered on the illocutionary acts which are contained in the dialogue of the characters in the drama. The study is focused on the utterance among the characters in the *Bald Soprano* drama, and it is mainly focused on the dialogue of Mr. Smith and Mrs. Smith. The writer chooses those characters to be analyzed because he thinks that their dialogues are important to

be analyzed for his study. Through their dialogue, the reader will understand the whole drama easily because their dialogue is in the first scene of the drama, so it will be the first step to grasp the whole drama. The study is also limited on the types of illocutionary acts found in the conversation of the drama.

1.6 Key to Specific Terms

The definitions below are given to the specific terms employed within this study:

Speech act: it means that when someone saying something means that he is doing something in the same time.

Illocutionary acts: represented as just the act of meaning something.

Transactional: the function of language that serves in the expression of content. (Yule, 1996:1)

Interactional: the function of language that involved in expressing social relations and personal attitudes. (Yule, 1996:1)