CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, problem identification, the scope of the study, research questions, the purpose of the study, and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Language is one of the most important things that are very useful in everyday life, especially to help humans communicate with each other. As social beings, humans will always communicate with other humans for several purposes such as exchanging information, sharing thoughts, ideas, expressing feelings, entertaining, or other purposes in any kind of situation. Language itself is the system of rules or agreements as in an alphabet letter, a pause, or a single word that can be combined by humans to convey larger meanings. (Amberg&Vause, 2010). By using language, humans can communicate and express themselves to get them connected with other humans in society, for this reason, language is very important for humans as social beings.

Language is a pure natural object as it is a component of the human mind that is represented physically in the human brain. Language is naturally a complex system of rules and principles from human expressions, and also a tool for showing thought and feeling that comes from a truly human existence. (Chomsky,2002,2006). Human existence refers more to the social aspect where humans use language to interact with other humans. Hence, it is reasonable that

language and humans are two things closely related to each other because language comes naturally from every human mind and becomes the main system to communicate with each other.

Language is also considered as a habit system that appears and is used through repetition because understanding language is a habitual exercise for humans as they engage in daily conversation. (Chomsky,2006, Williams,2014). When it is called a habit, it means that humans repeatedly use language in everyday life. The habitual of language use necessarily caused improvement in ability in both practical speaking and in the way of understanding the language. A better ability in understanding language influences the success of communication, it is affecting humans' knowledge of how the way language can be used and what kind of further response they should make.

The reason why language becoming so crucial is the role and function of the language itself that is closely connected. The role refers to how it becomes important for human life, while the function refers to how it is used by humans with specific purposes. According to Wardhaugh&Fuller (2015), language is a linguistic communication system that is specific to a group in society which also includes communication through written, spoken, and sign forms of communication. It means that the role of language as a part of the culture since a particular language is specified to a certain group which has its own way to interact and speak the language in communicating. Moreover, the function of language is as a communication tool for humans that can be used possibly differently from one group to another. Communication itself is an interaction activity that is done by one person to another person or group by using language

for any kind of purpose. The most common form of communication is in the form of spoken language or verbal communication. Thus, both sides of the communicators are expected to succeed in delivering their purpose and being understood by each other. Kaburise (2011) stated that successful communication not only depends on the hearer's acceptance but also the way the hearer could recognize the speaker's communication intention so there will produce an appropriate behavior and responds of it.

In communicating, humans perform language and expecting the successfulness in delivering thoughts, feeling, or other things that are intended to convey in verbal or nonverbal communication. The success of delivering the intention relies on the intended meaning of the utterances by the speaker, and the intended meaning can be expressed through the speech act. The speech act is a phenomenon of the performance of the speaker's intention and context uttered. Speech acts require the intentions and the intention content, but the content of intention must be the same complex as the natural language sentence itself to make the meaning can directly recognize. (Dylgjeri, 2017, Barker, 2004). Therefore, speech act is a natural phenomenon of the language used by humans when they tried to convey a particular action through speech utterances. As for the term of speech act, the 'speech' refers to the sentence or utterance, and 'act' refers to the action that is represented or conveyed from the speech that is spoken.

The speech act was first introduced by Austin in 1962 and becomes a wider theory after being developed by Searle. Austin (1962) discovered speech acts as a way of saying something to do something. Searle (1969) defines his idea that a speech act is the basic unit of communication that is performed under

certain conditions. Austin defined three acts in the speech acts named locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act, and then Searle developed his theory of speech act more into the illocutionary act with the result of the five illocutionary act classifications by types. Wardhaugh&fuller (2015) argued that Searle's theory addressed to the thing that makes utterance become a particular type of speech act. Mabaquiao(2018) described that Searle complete the speech act theory with two points; the difference of the illocutionary types and how such acts are possible.

Searle (1969) stated that the reason for studying the speech act is because the whole communication in linguistics concern to the linguistic acts on it, and the speech act is the basic component or unit of linguistic communication. As the basic unit, it can be observed the action that relates to the speech produced by the speaker to know the importance of the utterance and consider the specific action. In other words, speech act theory is important to be observed to create a deeper understanding of speech to improve humans skill in communication as it is one of the most important things in everyday life.

A speech act is an action that can be done through utterance and it is about the speaker's intention to get the intended response from the listeners. (Yuliarti et. al, 2021). In line with Austin's theory of speech act, Yule (1995:48) argues that in producing utterances that included the act and intention, there are three types of speech acts with three different levels which are; (1) Locutionary act, which refers to the basic act that performing the literal meaning of the speech (2) Illocutionary act, refers to the function of the speech which produces for the communicative purpose, can be used to make a statement, an order, etc. (3) Perlocutionary act,

refers to the effect of the speech, this is when the listeners are affected by the speech or utterance delivered by the speaker. These three types reflect that speech acts can represent various kinds of language use that aimed to accomplish particular goals, they provide the literal meaning, the functions, and the effect of the utterances produced by the speaker to the listeners.

The illocutionary act is the function of the speech act. The classification of illocutionary acts represents the specific function named representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative, based on Searle's theory (1969). The action that can be represented by speech acts can be a report, command, apology, request, promise, and many more depending on the context of the utterances in the communication process. Saeed (2009) stated that in a speech act, each utterance's meaning intended the social purpose or function on it as we need to learn how to suggest, ask questions, and even how to thank others.

There is also the term of the direct and indirect speech act, Searle (1976) distinguished that it is the direct speech act if the words used straightly express the literal meaning, while the indirect speech act is when it can be referred to a different meaning from the words that appear. Furthermore, Yule (1996) defines the direct and indirect speech acts are based on the relation between the structural form and the sentence function itself. It is a direct speech act if the relationship between the structural form and the function is directly related, and it is an indirect speech act if the relationship is indirectly related. This means that in analyzing speech act is also focused on how the way it is conveyed by the speaker, especially for the speaker's intention through the language use. Understanding the different between the direct and indirect speech acts is also an

important point in the speech act analysis because it relates how the way the intended meaning is conveyed.

Utterances that reflect speech acts can be detected in many kinds of human conversation in common, for countries that use English as a foreign language might get misconceptions in analyzing speech acts which makes it necessary to learn more to get a better understanding of speech acts as one of the language use. It is worth to be analyzed more and more regarding the language use of speech acts such as in the conversation in a particular movie. Movies can be useful as an object to identify the speech act as it contains conversations between the characters in various situations along the movie plot. Moreover, Rizki (2015) explained the movie will help students to think critically after being served by many situations and conditions such as personal and social issues or certain cultural lives through the movie. Added by Syarifuddin (2013), movies present the kinds of human existence stories including the social problem in the certain community which makes movies become a type of learning media. Thus, a movie is such a great medium for analyzing speech acts and this research will focus on conducting the analysis about the utterances of illocutionary acts in a popular movie titled "Avengers: Infinity War" that are used by the superheroes and the villain as the movie characters.

Some previous studies have been conducted research on the analysis of speech acts in a particular movie. The first one is conducted by Violeta (2019) who conducted research on the speech act analysis in the Maleficent movie, it focused on the speech act used by the main character with the result that the dominant speech act used by Maleficent is the illocutionary act with five all types

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of it. Second, Zamzami (2016) conducted a research of speech act analysis in the Frozen movie, it focused on illocutionary act used by the main characters with the result that the most used illocutionary act is the directive act and the least is the declarative act. The next research was conducted by Paramitha (2021) who conducted an illocutionary act analysis of the main character in Luca movie, she found the result of 53 data on illocutionary acts of all types as the result of the study. Then, there is also Septiawan (2022) who conducted a research on the speech act analysis in Matilda Wormwood movie, it brings the result of the dominant form of the locutionary act is in the declarative form and also 36% of representative illocutionary acts. Furthermore, there is also previous research conducted analyzing the same movie with this study, using the same movie, Sari and Zakimal (2020) focused on the deixis that was found used in the movie based on Levinson's theory. Therefore, this present study intends to conduct the analysis with a different focus which is focused on the analysis of the illocutionary act that is used by Avengers: Infinity War movie characters and describe the direct and indirect speech acts of the utterance that is used in the movie.

This study focused on the speech act analysis, especially the illocutionary act that indentified in the movie. Avengers Infinity War movie is such a great movie to analyze the speech act because of the uniqueness of this movie, it uses the setting of both earth and space which is different from the other movie in common. The characters in this movie are the fictional superheroes and the supervillain from space, it is reasonable that the issues that appear in this movie are way different from everyday life issues so the speech acts that produced are tends to be in a different context in common. Even though it seems like a fantasy

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story, the movie is successfully packed as a real story because the majority of the characters are humans which also makes this analysis can relate to the language as a natural communication system. Along with the movie plot, there are a lot of speech acts that are actually produced by the characters to be analyzed in this study.

Regarding the description above, this research will focus on the illocutionary acts that are produced and used by the movie's characters which are the superheroes (the Avengers) and the villain (Thanos). The researcher chooses to concern with the illocutionary act in purpose to conduct the same focus on the illocutionary act as the previous research with a different movie, and also develop a new focus topic of research on this movie. The researcher also focuses on describing the direct and indirect speech acts of the utterance which relates to the way the speech acts conveyed by the speaker. Therefore, it is important to conduct this research to provide more insight into the function and types of speech acts produced by the characters in the *"Avengers: Infinity War"* movie.

Among so many movies that exist, the researcher chooses the "*Avengers: Infinity War"* movie because it is agreed as one of the most popular movies in the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) and become a favorite for the Marvel enthusiast including the students. Among three of the most popular movie review websites; IMDb (Internet Movie Database), Rotten Tomatoes, and Metacritic, there are provided information of a good rating of this movie from the audiences worldwide. With the good insight of the movie, it is expected that this movie not only be used to entertain through the fictional superheroes characters or the fantasy stories, but this movie can also be used as a medium to learn more about

how the language is used by natives, especially the speech acts. In order to develop more research on speech act analysis in a movie, the researcher conduct this study entitled *"A Speech Act Analysis in the Popular Movie Avengers: Infinity War"*.

1.2 Problem Identification

By taking into consideration based on the background of the study description above, this study focused on the use of speech acts, especially the illocutionary act in the utterances of the characters in the movie which are the superheroes (The Avengers) and the supervillain (Thanos) in *"Avenger: Infinity War"* movie. Related to the speech acts in the utterances, this study aimed to identify two main points, which are 1) to find out the illocutionary acts used by *"Avengers: Infinity War"* movie characters by the types and 2) To describe the direct and indirect speech acts uttered by the characters in *"Avengers: Infinity War"* movie.

1.3 The Scope of The Study

Based on the problem identification of this study, the present study has two limits on two main points. The two main points are limited in the finding of the illocutionary acts based on the types (representative, directive, commissive, declarative, expressive) used by the characters in this movie, and also the direct and indirect speech acts uttered by the *Avengers: Infinity War* movie characters among the found data.

1.4 Research Questions

According to the background of the research, the problems formulated in this research are as the following :

1. What are the types of illocutionary acts produced by *"Avengers: Infinity War"* movie characters?

2. What are the direct and indirect speech acts uttered by the characters in the *"Avengers: Infinity War"* movie?

1.5 Purpose of The Study

The purposes of this study were formulated as follows:

1. To find out what are the types of illocutionary acts produced by *"Avengers: Infinity War"* movie characters.

2. To describe the direct and indirect speech acts uttered by the characters in *"Avengers: Infinity War"* movie.

1.6 Significance of The Study

1.6.1 Theoretical Significance

Based on the purposes of the study mentioned, the result of this study can be useful as a contribution to help everyone who wants to learn more about the use of English in communication especially about speech acts. This study also aimed to provide a theoretical framework through an illocutionary act analysis with a clearer description of the illocutionary act in a movie.

1.6.2 Practical Significance

For readers, the result of this study is expected to be used as study references, especially about speech acts, and can also provide additional knowledge of the language that used in everyday conversation to improve communication skill including in performing the speech acts.