

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This section presents research background, problem identification, problem limitation, research questions, and research significance.

1.1 Research Background

The speaker uses spoken language to help the listener understand and respond immediately through their utterance. In this process, language comprehension is required for both participants in order to reduce interpretation failures in the communication (Budasi et al., 2021). However, there are still a lot of misunderstandings and misinterpretations in our society, because people are not aware of the functions of their utterance. The first phenomenon is from the speaker's side. The speaker often fails to commit to their own utterances, which can lead to infelicitous utterances. From this problem, the speaker ignores the sincerity and essential condition. The solution of this issue, the speaker could focus on the felicity conditions as a part of speech acts study, so their utterances can be categorized as a felicitous utterance (Austin and Searle, 1969).

The second one is the listener's problem, which is the ambiguous utterance. This becomes a phenomenon because the listener has poor language comprehension, and the speaker often uses indirect speech acts, which makes the communication gap between the speaker and the listener. The solution for this problem includes three aspects, the first one is mutual shared knowledge, in which the speaker produces utterances that are easily

recognized by the listener's inferences (Bach and Harnish, 1979). Next, it is through direct speech act, in which the speaker states the utterances in a straightforward way to avoid misunderstanding (Suarnajaya and Putra, 2020). And the last one is through face-to-face interactions to make the listener understand the speaker's utterance more deeply, rather than in written forms to avoid ambiguity (Suryana and Permana, 2025). These three solutions are needed to bridge the communication gap because in linguistics studies, good communication can only be considered successful when both participants are able to accomplish the goal in the conversation (Zhenguang, 2022).

Another challenge faced by the listener, which is the struggle to distinguish the specific functions of the utterance. This happens because they just have basic knowledge; their capability to distinguish the specific functions of the utterances is still limited. This becomes a problem because their acts will be different if their comprehension is not advanced. The solution for this problem is to increase their comprehension, specifically in pragmatic competence (Thomas, 1999), which involves the ability of people to understand complete meaning transfer, use the strategies in interpret the utterance, and can apply context in communication. In this study, pragmatic and contextual aspects are closely interconnected (Yule, 1996). Another solution for this problem, by focuses on the speech acts functions (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985) to help the listener to distinguish the functions of utterances in detail.

This is a part of speech act that stands as a holistic study (Austin, 1962). In further, speech acts, pragmatics, and context, ensuring the communication is not only linguistically correct but also contextually appropriate and successfully understood by both participants in the interaction (Tantra and Ramendra, 2021).

Based on the brief observation from the writer, the problem like misunderstanding, misinterpretation, and infelicitous utterances are not only found in real life, but also found in movies. As a medium of entertainment, a movie consists of many dialogues about human experience and activities. The dialogue occurs between its characters that can be analyzed using the speech act theory. The utterances from the movie can be useful as an object of the study to identify and analyze the form of locutionary acts, the types and the function of illocutionary acts, also the application of the felicity conditions. Moreover, movies help the writer to think critically after being served in many situations. It is worth analyzing more and more regarding the language use of speech act such as in the conversation in a particular movie. Several previous studies have conducted speech acts study and contributed to the development of pragmatic study. Khodijah et al. (2025) and Diffani and Kholis (2025) analyzed speech acts in movie dialogues, but their studies still limited, only focused on identifying the types of speech acts without analyzing the each types of the illocutionary act using Mulyono (2024) investigated speech acts in political movies, yet the analysis was limited only focusing on political discourse and combined with figure of speech rather than focusing on pragmatic function.

Other studies conducted by Trihanto et al. (2022), Devi and Degaf (2021), Izar et al.,(2020) and Purwita et. al., (2019) also only focus on certain types of speech acts.

Previous studies had not conducted a comprehensive analysis of speech acts in relation to felicity conditions; they had focused on the types and functions. Hence, this research was conducted to address the limitations of the previous studies by provided a detailed analysis of speech acts and enriching insight in the field of pragmatics. This study was important to be conducted because this study still relevant on a national scale and affected many people. This research was expected to be useful in educating society to become more aware of their utterance in communication.

This present research was important to conduct in order to confirm speech acts study was urgent, so that phenomenon from practical gap like communication gap and empirical gap can be fulfilled. The study examined the form, function, and the effect of speech acts, also the felicity conditions from ten characters in the movie. This makes the research highly relevant. The writer analyzed the utterances that appeared in the movie entitled “The Last Supper Movie” directed by Mauro Borelli, which was released in 2025. There were several reasons supported the selection of this movie: the first because this movie has never been conducted by a previous researcher, so it becomes novelty.

The second because this movie provide a rich data about speech act study, so it allows the writer to gather rich data, the third is because this movie using the English language, which it makes still relevant to the writer's study in ELE program. It was for all these reasons and to build on previous research on the study of speech acts, the researcher was conducted a study entitled "An Analysis of Speech Acts Performed by Ten Characters in The Last Supper Movie".

1.2 Problem Identification

One of the main problems in today's society is that many people often failed to recognize and understand the function of their utterance in detail. This can lead to misunderstandings, misinterpretations, and communication that does not achieve the pragmatic competence standard and becomes infelicitous. This issue highlights the need to carefully analyze speech acts in detail.

The misinterpretation, misunderstanding and infelicitous utterances can also be found from the movie. The movie has a variety of utterances made by all character that represent speech acts data. Among so many movie names and genres, the researcher chose *the Last Supper*, which was released in 2025. The rationale for selecting this movie is that it is the first to Employ English as the major language. This is consistent with the researcher's goal of analyzing speech acts study in everyday English communication.

1.3 Limitations of the Study

This research was limited to analyzed speech acts performed in the dialogues of the Last Supper movie using a descriptive method within the pragmatic perspective. The source of data was the Last Supper movie 2025. The subject of this research included ten characters in the Last Supper movie. Furthermore, the object of this study was the utterances to found the forms, functions, effects of speech acts, and the felicity conditions from the Last Supper movie.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the research background of the study above, the problem of the study can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the forms of speech acts performed by ten characters in the Last Supper movie?
2. What are the functions of speech acts performed by ten characters in the Last Supper movie?
3. What are the effects of speech acts based on the listener's emotion performed by ten characters in the Last Supper movie?
4. How are the realization of the felicity conditions performed by ten characters in the Last Supper movie?

1.5 Research Objectives

Based on the situations above, the purpose of this study can be formulated as follows:

1. To find the forms of speech acts performed by ten characters in the Last Supper movie.
2. To find the functions of speech acts performed by ten characters in the Last Supper movie.
3. To find the effects of speech acts based on the listener's emotion performed by ten characters in the Last Supper movie.
4. To find the realization of the felicity conditions performed by ten characters in the Last Supper Movie.

1.6 Practical Significance

1.6.1 Teacher

This study was important for teacher because it helped develop their pragmatic competence. Many teacher may speak without fully understanding how their words can be interpreted. By studying speech acts, teachers could learned not only how to convey their ideas clearly but to adjust their speech according to the situation, the listener and the purpose of communication. Strengthened pragmatic competence equips teacher with essential skills for academic discussions, professional interactions, and everyday social communication, ensured that their language is meaningful, contextually appropriated, and impactful.

1.6.2 Future Researcher

This study can be used as a reference for future studies on speech act studies. This research can served as a valuable reference for future researchers who were interested in conducting research on speech acts, particularly in the context of the school environment. Furthermore, this study was expected to provide teachers with a deeper understanding of speech acts theory and its application in communication and the teaching and learning process in the future.

1.6.3 Society

This study shows why it is so important for people to truly understand the purpose and context of their speech. Nowadays, people speak without realizing the full effect of their words, which leads to misunderstandings, mistakes, and failed communication. By learning speech act study, people can communicate more clearly, make better decisions, and work together effectively, make wiser decisions, and strengthen collaboration in everyday life. This concentration study must be preserved, practiced. In schools, workplaces, and communities, mastering the art of clear and effective communications becomes a tool for progress, cooperation, and building a society that thrives on mutual understanding