

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the research background, problem identification, problem limitation, research question, research objectives, research significance, and research scope.

### 1.1 Research Background

Language is an essential thing in communication. In everyday life, language is used by people to communicate with each other. Without language, it is impossible to communicate. Either written or spoken, language is used as a system to express individuals' feelings. According to Trudgill (2000), language is not only for communicating information or subject but also for establishing and maintaining relationships with others. The most important thing that people talk about in a conversation is the fact or the conversation topic.

Sometimes, people use utterances with an implied meaning behind the utterances. Sometimes, people also use utterances that have two or more meanings. To guess the meaning of the utterances spoken, we have to look at the situation or contexts. Situation or contexts will affect the meaning of the utterance conveyed. According to Austin (1975), as cited in Baktir (2012), sometimes people perform an act using speech. Austin (1975), as cited in

Baktir (2012), stated that speech is classified based on the function that is called speech act. Based on language, people act based on the meaning that they construct (Merdana, et al., 2013; 2).

According to Searle (1969) speech act has five types: representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Representative is what the speaker believes, and the utterance consists of a statement, fact, description, and others. Directive is what the speaker asks the hearer to do; it can be command or orders. Commissive is what the speaker said related to future action, such as promises. Expressive is what the speaker feels; the utterance expresses the speaker's feelings such as happiness, pain, dislike, etc. Declarative is what the speaker said to change the hearer's world and reality.

Not only spoken but speech acts are also found in written utterances. People can make a new year wish in spoken or printed cards, and so speech acts (Griffiths, 2006; 148). Nowadays, communication can be done using electronic media. Some applications have features like call and message, making it easy to communicate with other people.

In this covid-19 pandemic, people are restricted to do activities outside the home. By using electronic media, people are helped when working from home. People can use video conferences to do meetings, send files, and other things using electronic media. Schools are also temporarily closed; teaching and learning processes must be done at home. In communicating with the

students, there are some applications and media that the teachers can use. In several schools, they use applications that can be used to do video conference meetings. Yet, in some schools, they only use chatting applications to do the learning process because of the facilities' limitations. One of the applications that teachers use is WhatsApp. WhatsApp is one of the popular applications that the teachers uses as a learning medium. WhatsApp has facilities to make group chat used as a platform to share material in the learning. WhatsApp also has facilities for sharing videos, pictures, and also documents. Although teaching in limited situations, teachers have to make a successful learning process.

According to Basra and Toyyibah (2017), teaching foreign languages often causes misunderstanding to the students. If teaching foreign language in classroom meetings often causes misunderstanding, the researcher is interested to see whether teaching and learning using WhatsApp in this covid-19 pandemic is effective.

Language and learning are the approach in education (Merdana et al., 2013; 2). Speech act involved all of the teachers' utterances and was the medium in the learning process. Merdana (2013) stated that language in the classroom is related to the instructional function of speech act, controlling, organizing, and motivating.

Different from previous research that uses teacher as the subject, the subject of this research are pre-service teachers and students. Based on the observation that has been done, pre-service teachers and students of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja were chosen as the subject for this research. Pre-service teachers are students from the education department who are doing practice teaching before becoming teachers. One of departments in SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja is *Perhotelan* (hospitality). The students in that department must have good English ability to prepare them before they do an internship. The students in that department have good English proficiency, but some of them still have different interpretations or understandings of the teacher's speech.

The researcher used pre-service teachers and students as the subject of this research because the researcher interest to see how the pre-service teachers and students use speech act and instructional function in online learning. It would be a challenge especially for the pre-service teachers, because they have to teach in online learning. Because the pre-service teachers is a beginner teacher or students from education department who conduct practice teaching. SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja was chosen as the setting of this research, because this school is one of place where online practice teaching is conducted.

In doing this research, some of the previous studies related to this research also help the researcher conduct this research. From the previous research, the researcher got references that help the researcher know how to

analyze kinds of speech acts produced by pre-service teachers and students of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja and the instructional function of pre-service teachers' speech acts.

The previous research is *An Analysis of Speech Acts Used by Seventh-Grade Teacher of SMPN 2 Bangli in EFL Classroom Interaction* (2020), written by Swastiana, Putra, and Suarnajaya. Based on the research finding, the teachers use directive speech act dominantly, and declarative speech acts rarely. In the first previous research, the directive speech act proved that the teacher played a role in managing classroom instructional systems, counseling the students and their learning, and instructing and assessing. Merdana, Seken, and Putra write the other research. The title of the research is *An Analysis of Speech Acts Produced by Elementary School Teachers and Students to Facilitate Teaching and Learning at SDN 10 Pringgasela East Lombok* (2013). It was found that the teacher performed more speech acts than the students. The teachers use directive dominantly, and students use assertive dominantly. Another research is *A Speech Act Analysis of Teacher Talk in EFL Classroom* (2017), written by Basra and Thooyibah. The researchers found the teacher mostly uses directive speech acts because the teacher uses Communicative Language Teaching, and the speech act classification is based on the approach used by the teachers.

Based on the problem and the previous research above, the research on speech acts that investigate pre-service teachers and students were still

limited. Based on this, the researcher conducted research on Speech Act Analysis of Pre-Service Teachers and Students of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja.

## **1.2 Problem Identification**

Based on the background of the research, the researcher was interested to see how speech acts were used by the pre-service teachers and the students and how the pre-service teachers used the instructional function of the speech act in the teaching and learning process through WhatsApp.

## **1.3 Problem Limitation**

Based on the identification of the problem, this research focuses on analyzing the types of speech acts used by pre-service teachers and students and the instructional function of speech acts used by pre-service teachers of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja in Whatsapp group conversation as learning media.

## **1.4 Research Question**

Based on the background of the research, the research question were follows :

1. What are the types of speech acts used by pre-service teachers and students of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja in WhatsApp group?
2. What is the most dominant speech act used by pre-service teachers and students of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja in WhatsApp group?
3. What are the instructional functions of speech acts used by pre-service teachers of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja in WhatsApp group?

## **1.5 Research Objectives**

## 1. General Objective

The general objective of the research is to explain types of speech acts, the most dominant speech act, the most dominant speech act used by pre-service teachers and students, and the instructional functions of speech act used by pre-service teachers of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja in WhatsApp group.

## 2. Specific Objective

- a) To know the types of speech acts and the most dominant speech act used by pre-service teachers and students of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja in WhatsApp group.
- b) To describe the types of speech acts used by pre-service teachers and students of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja in WhatsApp group.
- c) To analyze the types of speech and the instructional functions of speech act used by pre-service teachers of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja in WhatsApp group.

## 1.6 Research Significance

### 1. Theoretical Significance

Hopefully, this study can give benefit and contribution to the semantics and pragmatics field, especially to develop knowledge about speech acts and instructional function. This study also expected to contribute to the teaching and learning field, especially in using WhatsApp group conversation as media for online learning.

### 2. Practical Significance

a. For the teachers

Hopefully, this study can give benefits for language teaching and can be a reference for English teachers and also for pre-service teachers who want to teach using WhatsApp as online learning media during covid-19 pandemic.

b. For the other researchers

For future researchers, this research could be a reference for those who take a similar field of speech act and instructional function of teachers' utterance in using WhatsApp group as media for online learning.

### **1.7 Research Scope**

In this research, the subject are pre-service teachers of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja in the academic year 2020/2021 and students grade 11 in the academic year 2020/2021. The object of this research are speech acts and the instructional function of speech act used in WhatsApp group conversation as learning media in SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja. The researcher focuses on analyzing the types of speech act used by pre-service teachers and students and the instructional functions of speech act used by pre-service teachers of SMK Negeri 1 Singaraja in WhatsApp group conversation as learning media.