

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presented some important aspects of the research, as follows: background of the research, questions and scopes of the research, objective, and significance of the research, operational of definitions, and systematization of the research.

#### **A. Background of the Research**

In everyday life, humans are never separated from communication. One of the communication tools used in society is language. However, a speaker not only conveys the language utterance in the form of words in communication but is accompanied by action. As a result, it can achieve the communication's purpose. Its purposes, such as to convey or ask for information, convey feelings, give advice, give orders, make requests, make threats, convey warnings, and various other purposes. These actions were called speech acts.

The use of language and speech acts is not limited in number, leading to variety of utterances that varied according to the purpose and speech spoken. There are classified into three types. First, locutionary acts, aimed to express something through words and sentence meanings that corresponded with lexical definitions or syntactic rules. Second, illocutionary acts in which the speakers intended a hidden meaning or other meaning for the speech partner. The last is the perlocutionary act, which speakers said often influenced the speech partners.

In this illocutionary act, Searle expanded on Austin's theory in classifying illocutionary acts as assertive (e.g., affirming), directive (e.g., asking), commissive (e.g., promising), expressive (e.g., thanking), and declarations (e.g., pointing) (Searle, 1979, p. 12). Commissive speech acts is one of the illocutionary acts that attracted the writer's attention. It forces the speakers to do exactly what he said in his speech. Speakers are expected to be sincere or voluntary to keep their promises. The speech acts cover guarantees, promises, oaths, offers, and threats.

An understanding of commissive speech acts is needed in oral or written communication. In understanding commissive speech acts pragmatically, it is expected to facilitate communication, increase communication politeness, reduce misunderstandings in communication, and clarify the accuracy of communication messages. In order to create meaningful communication, language knowledge alone is insufficient, but must be supported by situational and context factors in language use. Therefore, the term speech act arises due to utterance put forward by speakers. The speaker does not only state the utterance but could contain other meanings behind the speech.

The speech act cannot be separated from interactions that involve parties in a specific time, place, and situation, especially the speakers and the interlocutors. Some speech acts are prepared to achieve a goal. In other words, speech acts can be studied pragmatically in context. Speakers use strategies in selecting the speech forms that are spoken in the form of sentences in speech act events. The sentence forms are divided into direct and indirect forms.

A direct speech act is an action in which the form used (e.g., interrogative) is directly related to the function (e.g., question) performed by a speaker with an utterance. In other words, direct speech acts imply that the speakers convey what is intended to the listener directly and clearly, which means if the speakers gave a speech, they would use declarative sentences to make statements, interrogative sentence to ask something, and command sentence to state commands. Moreover, the listener can easily understand this speech act because the utterances were in the form of sentences with clear meaning. On the other hand, if these sentences are used to express other meanings, the resulting speech is indirect speech.

An indirect speech act is an action in which the form used (e.g., interrogative) does not directly correspond to the function (e.g., request) performed by a speaker with an utterance. The meaning of the speech is usually only understood if the speech partner listens to the speech as well as the context of the situation. This action is carried out by utilizing news or interrogative sentences. As a result, the person being ordered is completely unaware that he was being ordered. Eventually, language and context have a relationship through indirect speech acts. This relationship has been studied in the field of pragmatics. (Yule, 2017, p. 263)

The study of what speakers mean, or “speaker meaning” named pragmatics, is strengthened by Yule (2016, p. 249). In this case, pragmatics examines how clear communication does not only depend on recognizing the meaning of words in an utterance, but also recognizing what speakers mean by

their utterances in a specific context. To fully understand the meaning of a pronounced sentence, we must understand the context in which it is pronounced firstly. Pragmatics is concerned with how and why people used language in context.

Pragmatics, particularly speech acts, can be found not only in conversation, but also in monologues, such as speech. Speech is a way of communicating that is addressed to many people, which has a specific purpose. In a speech, the message is delivered to all the listeners, not one or some. Therefore, language skills and understanding are needed to achieve communication goals.

In general, speeches are delivered by important people in formal situations, such as state speeches. The speech act delivered in a state speech should be able to influence the listeners and leave a positive impression. This is expected that it would help to maintain and increase the people's trust in their president. The real intention of the delivered speech can be discovered through this research, as well as whether the speech affected the listener and left a positive impression or vice versa.

The writer chose to conduct research on Joe Biden's speeches. His speech was about the speech on the American Jobs Plan to improve the U.S.'s infrastructure and economy. One of his speeches was delivered at the beginning of Joe Biden's presidency. It included plans for infrastructure development in America in the aftermath of the Covid-19 virus case. The speeches of Joe Biden were chosen as the objective of this research because we

could see the application of speech acts, particularly commissive speech acts, directly in real life. Furthermore, we could see how much a president can influence his people to still trust in him through his speech.

Based on the previous considerations, it was possible to conclude that this research concentrated on pragmatic studies, particularly speech acts. As a result, the research's title was "The Use of Direct and Indirect Commissive Speech Acts in Joe Biden's Speeches".

## **B. Questions and Scopes of the Research**

### **1. Questions of the Research**

In this research, there were several questions in this research about the problem from the data resources or how to analyze the commissive speech acts. As a result, the writer discussed the problem in detail with the following questions:

- a. What types of commissive acts are performed by Joe Biden in his speeches?
- b. What are the functions of the commissive speech acts performed in Joe Biden's speeches?
- c. How does the commissive acts in Joe Biden's speeches uttered, directly or indirectly?

### **2. Scopes of the Research**

The scope of research was limited to one branch of linguistics, namely pragmatics. In this research, the writer looked at the meaning of speech acts contained in Joe Biden's speeches. The writer used Searle and

Vanderveken's theory to discuss the function and meaning of the commissive speech acts used by Joe Biden in his speech and Yule's theory to discuss whether the speech is uttered directly or indirectly. The data used in this research were utterances in which there were commissive speech acts. The writer chose Joe Biden's speeches in the early months of his reign, including the titles *"President Biden Delivers Remarks on his Economic Vision for the Future"*, *"President Biden Delivers Remarks on the Historic Investments in the American Jobs Plan"*, and *"President Biden Delivers Remarks on the Economy"*.

## **C. Objective and Significance of the Research**

### **1. Objective of the Research**

According to the research problem above, this research aimed to determine the following:

- a. To identify the types of commissive acts are performed by Joe Biden in his speeches.
- b. To know the function and meaning of the commissive acts are performed.
- c. To know how commissive act in Joe Biden's speeches is uttered, it is directly or indirectly.

### **2. Significances of the Research**

This writing should hopefully be useful not only to the writer but also to the advancement of linguistics studies, particularly those concerning commissive speech acts. This research should provide the following valuable implications:

### 1. Theoretically

The findings of this research were expected to have broader implications for language development, particularly in pragmatics. Furthermore, this research could increase the number of language research, specifically research on commissive speech acts.

### 2. Practically

#### a. For researchers

The results are expected to describe the different types and purposes of using commissive speech acts in a speech. Moreover, it could also be used as a reference for further research.

#### b. For students

The writer hoped that this research would be useful in increasing knowledge about the different types and purposes of using commissive speech acts in speech.

## **D. Operational Definitions**

After reading and comprehending several books as primary data sources, the writer could reach some definitions as to the actual existence of the title as follows:

### **1. Commissive Speech Act**

Commissive speech acts were speech acts carried out with the intention of binding the speaker to act in the future, for example, promises and offers.

## **2. Direct Speech Act**

Direct speech acts explicitly described the clear meaning what is meant to the listener. On the other hand, if there was no direct match between the structure and the function of communication.

## **3. Indirect Speech Act**

Indirect speech acts illustrated that communication depends not only on recognizing the structure and meaning of words in an utterance, but also on recognizing what the speaker means by speech in a certain context.

## **E. Systematization of the Research**

The writer organized this research paper to clarify the research's content. There were five chapters in this research paper as follow:

Chapter I Introduction consists of the Background of the Research, Questions and Scopes of the Research, Objectives and Significance of the Research, Operational Definitions, and Systematization of the Research.

Chapter II Theoretical Descriptions contains of Description of the Concept of Pragmatics, Joe Biden's Speech, and Research of the Relevance.

Chapter III Research Methodology explains Method of the Research, Procedure of the Research, Technique of the Data Collection, Technique of the Data Analysis, and Data Source.

Chapter IV Analysis Data shows Data Description, Data Analysis, and Interpretation of the Research Findings.

Chapter V Conclusion and Suggestion includes Conclusion and Suggestion.