

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of six parts : research background, research problems, research objectives, scope of the research, research benefits and definition of terms. It elaborates the major reasons underlining the study , problems that will be analyzed, the aim of the study, the limitation for the study, the theoretical and practical advantages of the study and the explanation on the specific terms used in the study.

1.1 Research Background

Language is the main part of communication. That can not be separated from human being. It is used to express one's feeling, respond something, share their idea, and also criticize. Moreover, language has rich meaning, our communication is not only limited to one topic but also we can produce and understand the other messages in responding a new situation and new experience. Based on these fact, people realize that language has an important role in their daily life.

People use language either in oral or written form to communicate in society. In this term, the language use has to be meaningful and understandable to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation between speaker and listener. In linguistic, the study that concerned on language of meaning called pragmatic. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistic which deals with meaning in purpose or context from a speaker to a listener. As Yule (1996: 3) said on his book, pragmatic is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by listener (or reader).

In pragmatics, the language function is studied in speech acts. Speech acts are the use of language to perform some acts. In simple words, speech acts is a theory in which to say something is to do something (Austin J.L, 1962: 94). It means that when someone says something, she or he not only respond by saying but also uses it to perform an act. Speech act is one element of pragmatic which is important to be studied. It can make us understand message hidden in every utterances. Speech act also decided by the language ability of speaker to deliver the message in communication.

According to Destra in Cutting (2002: 16), every utterance essentially contains three dimensions of speech acts: locution, illocution, and perlocution. Locution is what the speaker says, illocution is the purpose of what speakers says, and perlocution is the effect of what the speakers says. In other words, locutionary acts is the speaker produce

utterance based on textual meaning. Illocutionary acts is the contextual meaning of speaker's utterance. Perlocutionary acts is the effect of speaker's utterance to the listener.

Not all of utterance contain the three dimensions of speech acts. There are some utterances that can not be easily interpreted by the listener. It happens because there is misunderstanding or misinterpretation between the speaker and the listener. For example : a teacher in the classroom talks to the students "It's very hot". The students do not respond something because they do not understand the teacher's purpose, actually the teacher wants the students to turn on the fan in the classroom. The example shows that the perlocutionary act does not happen in the classroom because the students do not understand the illocutionary act of teacher's utterance.

Such problem above always occurs by student with asperger syndrome. Asperger syndrome is one of the symptoms of autism where the sufferer has difficulty in communicate with their environment, making it less acceptable(Rahmani, 2017: 16). People with Asperger syndrome are of average or above average intelligence. They do not usually have the learning disabilities that many autistic people have, but they may have specific learning difficulties. They have fewer problems with speech but may still have difficulties with processing language. The problem of interpretation always happen when they do communication with others. It is because in their thought every word has interpretation in a real meaning. They do not know the hidden meaning from people's utterance, making friends, and managing emotions.

The researcher found the problem of interpretation like this in a novel. It is "Mocking Bird" novel. This novel is written by *Kathryn Erskine* (2010). Mockingbird is an interesting novel. The main character Caitlin Smith has an interpretation problem due to her asperger syndrome. She tries extra hard to understand people and knows the meaning of their utterance. In this novel, the example of illocutionary acts which are misinterpreted by Caitlin as:

Context :

Caitlin and Mrs. Brook are sitting at the little round table in Mrs. Brook's room. This is the first time Mrs. Brook officially talk to Caitlin about Caitlin's feeling after one traumatic tragedy that happens to her brother.

Utterance :

Caitlin : *He's not completely gone anyway*, I tell her. I think about his bedroom even though the door is shut and his bike leaning against the back of the house and his chest in the corner of the living room.

Mrs. Brook : Her face squishes up like she's trying to get it. *That's true*, she says slowly. ***A part of Devon will always be with you.***

Caitlin : ***Which part***, I wonder. ***No parts of his body are left because he was cremated.*** That means burned up into ashes. (P.15)

Analysis :

That conversation occurred between Caitlin and Mrs. Brook in the school. The situation in the novel, Caitlin's brother Devon just passed away. Everybody missed him. Mrs. Brook wanted to remind Caitlin that Devon are already done something special together with her, by saying "A part of Devon will always be with you". But, Caitlin responded with "Which part.... No parts of his body are left because he was cremated". This utterance shown is an illocutionary act which unsuccessfully interpreted by Caitlin because she has misunderstood with the meaning of Mrs Brook's utterance.

The successful of communication can be reached if the listener understand the meaning of speaker's utterance by giving appropriate respond. That is the reason why study on language of meaning especially illocutionary acts is very important. The listener can give proper respond when they know the purpose of speaker's utterance. By studying the types and functions of illocutionary acts. Every utterance contains one of type and function of illocutionary acts, it depends on speaker's purpose to produce that utterance. However, people with asperger syndrome can not analyze it, because they have less sensitive feelings. Sometime, as normal people, we do not realize that we also have same problems. In Mockingbird novel contains many utterances which shown the problem of interpretation by main character Caitlin Smith who has asperger syndrome. Therefore, the researcher is interested to take this novel to be analyzed. The researcher wants to explore those illocutionary acts which are used in Mockingbird novel. To do that, the researcher decides to bring the novel into a study entitled ***An Illocutionary Acts Misunderstood by Caitlin (A Girl with Asperger Syndrome) in Mockingbird Novel.***

1.2 Research Problems

The researcher formulates two problems to be answered in the study. The research problems are formulated as follows :

1. What types of illocutionary acts are misunderstood by Caitlin in "Mockingbird" novel?

2. What functions of illocutionary acts are misunderstood by Caitlin in “Mockingbird” novel?

1.3 Research Objectives

The aims of this research are

1. To identify the types of illocutionary acts which are misunderstood by Caitlin in “Mockingbird” novel.
2. To identify the functions of illocutionary acts which are misunderstood by Caitlin in “Mockingbird” novel.

1.4 Scope of The Research

Identification a speech acts in literary work as novel is very interesting to discuss. It is about the actions performed when the speaker is using language in context either oral or written form. Therefore, the researcher needs to limit the scope of the study to make the study focus and to give the best outcome from the analysis. The researcher limits this study on illocutionary acts. The researcher only focuses on illocutionary acts of statement or sentences which are misunderstood only by main character in “Mockingbird” novel. The main character of this novel is Caitlin Smith who has asperger syndrom. The illocutionary acts analyzed here are those misunderstood by Caitlin Smith only.

1.5 Research Benefits

There are some benefits of the research. The first, **theoretically** this research hopefully gives benefit and be useful for the readers, especially students of English Education Department. This study can be used as reference to start further research on the same novel, that is *Mockingbird*.

Second, **practically** this study is expected can contribute to the development of English mastery for student of Mercu Buana University, especially the students of English Education. Hopefully this research is useful when they teach their students who have different character and also is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the researcher and another researcher who have interest in linguistic study on the novel.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In order to help the readers in understanding the topic discussed, the researcher need to clarify the definition of some terms. The first is **Speech Act**. Speech act is the utterance which show the action of the speaker. According to Yule (1996: 47) speech act

is the action performed via utterances. The second term is **Context**. According to Leech (1983: 13) stated that context as background of knowledge assumed to be shared by speaker and hearer and which contributes to hearer's interpretation of what speaker means by given utterance. In another word, context is the reason which underly the utterance produced. The third term is **Illocutionary Act**. Illocutionary act is an act which show by say something e.g. asking and remembeing. Austin (1962: 99) stated that illocutionary act are acts performed by speakers in saying something (with an appropriate intention and in an appropriate context), rather than by virtue of having produced a particular effect by saying something. Additionally, **Mockingbird** is novel which written by Kathryn Erskine. The novel was published by Puffin Books, an imprint of Pinguin Group USA in 2010. Therefore, **Caitlin Smith** is the main character in Mockingbird novel. This novel describe clearly how Caitlin uttered her different interpretation about some utterance from another character in this novel. It is happened because she has an asperger syndrom.