

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language is symbol of sounds which produced by human to be a communication tool. Language can be defined as a socially shared combination of symbols and rule governed combinations of those symbols. There are so many uses of language, we can make requests, apologizing, asking permission, making promise, teaching, etc. In academic learning, to study about an analyzing on language we have to learn about linguistics and its branches such as morphology, phonology, phonetics, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. Each branch explains a specific discussion about language.

The language itself is divided into two parts, verbal and non-verbal language. This research was conducted to analyze the verbal part of language. The verbal language also divided into two parts, spoken and written. I have analyzed only the spoken part of language. It is because the spoken language is used more often than written language and people are using spoken language every time in their daily life.

Human sound produces an utterance. It consists of words, combined to be a sentence and produced as an utterance. The utterance itself is not just a thing that is formed by a human voice or a combination of words. It also can be considered as an action of human. An utterance without intention and force will not be the figure of act. Nevertheless, when it contains both of them, people can do many things and can affect anybody. People are able to act through their statement or declaration. When a boss said “you’re fired!” to his employees, it is an action to take the right of the

employees to work and sending a signal that they are not able to work anymore, the action which happened in this circumstance is an order.

Just by saying “I sentence you three years in prison” a judge can make a person be in jail for exactly three years. He does not have to move his body or use special tools or even giving a mark to the prisoner. The judge’s statement has been an act of putting someone in the jail. The other example is when a priest says “I pronounce you husband and wife”; with his declaration he made a man and woman as husband and wife. It does not need special move or special mark. He just says it verbally and the sentence has a power to change the status of two people. Those prove that the utterance plays a big role in human act.

When people speak, the listener will receive the sound and convert it into reactions. If the speech is funny, the hearer will laugh. If it is sad, the hearer will cry. Every human speech is containing different meaning and intention, some people speak only to inform something, and some want the hearer agree with the speech and some also intimidate another with speech. This is phenomenon is known as speech act. The act of putting intention in utterance is called by an illocutionary act and it is divided into five different kinds; assertive, commissive, directive, declarative and expressive.

Different illocutionary acts have different reactions and because I conducted a research on second presidential debate between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, so I was focusing on finding the assertive illocutionary acts. This is because debate contains the act of arguing which is part of assertive illocutionary act like when Barack Obama argue to what Mitt Romney says and said “Candy, what governor

Romney said just isn't true. He wanted to take them into bankruptcy without providing them any way to stay open, and we would have lost a million jobs". But there are more parts of illocutionary acts those contain in this debate like rebutting, affirming, claiming, assuring and I will find it out and explain the mechanism that happened in it. The debate was held in 2012 before the election of the United State new President. Both of Barrack Obama and Mitt Romney are declaring their opinion and statement about many problems in United States such as sector of job, oil regulation, etc.

I took this debate because it contains a real illocutionary act because it happens in the real world. It is different with the illocutionary forces that happen in a movie or novel because they are made by a human and it is not happen naturally. The writer can decide what will happen both in the movie and in novel based on their creativity. In debate, we can see how people are defending their own opinion and how they are attacking the other opinion, this makes analyzing illocutionary force in debate will be more challenging. I took a pragmatics analysis because field of study is broader than semantics, so it will be more interesting. When semantics only concern about the meaning of words in language, pragmatics has to deal with the context of utterance. It is not only about the meaning but about also where the utterances produced. But it is also recognizing who is talking, who is listening, what the circumstance is when the speaker speaks and what is the hidden message brought by the orator when saying an utterance, especially in illocutionary act because in this field of study we will see how people are trying to make the listener either following or believing their statement and how the listener responses to the speaker.

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study, I formulate the problem statements as follow:

1. What kind of assertive illocutionary act which contain in second presidential debate between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney?
2. What are the meanings of assertive illocutionary acts, which are contained in second presidential debate between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney?

1.3 Objective of Study

The objectives of study of this research are:

1. To find out the kinds of assertive illocutionary acts in second presidential debate between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.
2. To find out the meanings of the assertive illocutionary acts in second presidential debate between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.

1.4 Significance of Study

The contributions of this research consist of theoretical benefit and practical benefit. The theoretical benefit of this study is to increase knowledge about the linguistic especially in pragmatic about speech acts. Furthermore, the practical benefits are to show the kinds of illocutionary acts that are used in second presidential debate between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. Additionally, this research can give advantages to the reader to understand speech act, which is happened between a debates when people are attacking each other by their arguments. Moreover, this research can help the students of English department who are interested to learn and understand pragmatic especialy categorizes of illocutionary acts in debate.

1.5 Scope of Study

This research is limited on finding out the assertive illocutionary acts in second presidential debate between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney by using John Searle theory of illocutionary act. Searle divided assertive illocutionary act into thirty two different kinds, they are asserting, affirming, claiming, stating, denying, disclaiming, assuring, arguing, rebutting, informing, notifying, reminding, objecting, predicting, reporting, retrodicting, suggesting, insisting, conjecturing, hypothesizing, guessing, swearing, testifying, admitting, confessing, accusing, blaming, criticizing, praising, complaining, boasting and lamenting (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985), but I limited my study on finding only two kinds of them; claiming and assuring because the debate contains those two more than the other kinds of assertive illocutionary act, and it is interesting because normally debate will consist of more arguing, rebutting and denying. But because this is a presidential debate when the candidates have to make sure the people believe that they are capable to be the president, the mechanism became a battle of claiming and assuring.

This debate's length is one hour thirty seven minutes forty seconds and consist of eight parts with eight different motion. I was only finding out the two kinds of assertive illocutionary in the second motion which is about oil and energy policy because analyzing the whole debate will take a long time and also the second motion contain more data that I need for this research. It is also easy to be analyzed since the information that related to the motion and needed for the analysis is easy to be accessed.