

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter discusses about the basic consideration of research, research problem, objective of the research, significance of the research, the delimitation of research.

Basic Consideration

It is known that people speak anything while do the communication among each other.

Sometimes, they speak about future actions. For example, speaker utters words that make hearer to do something or not to do something in the future. Beside that, there is a moment when the hearer does not believe in the speaker's words. Then, the speaker commits his/herself to make hearer believe in the speaker's words. Therefore, people use commissive utterances in their conversation to show their acts in the future.

John Searle (1979, pp. 21-26) emphasized commissive is one of classification of illocutionary act. It is used in the theory of speech acts that commits a speaker to a course of action. These include some categories; promises, guarantee, refusal, threat, volunteer, and offer. Commissive speech act is illustrated by the commissive verbs such as promise, offer, refuse, and swear, all with following infinitive. They are prospective and concerned with the speaker's commitment to the future action. The examples of Commissive Speech Act:

(1) *"Is there anything in particular you wanted?" Billy asked politely.*

"No, not really." (p.201) (Offer)

(2) *"I'll be very quick. You won't feel a thing, I promise. Oh, I'll lie to*

Victoria about that later, naturally, just to placate her. But if you knew

what she had planned for you, Bella..." (p.211) (Promise)

In the first utterance (1), the speaker commits himself to do something to the hearer. The speaker offers the hearer if there is anything in particular the hearer wants from the speaker. This utterance is the commissive speech act.

The second (2) commissive speech act in this utterance is shown by the existence of the speech act verb 'promise'. The speaker promises the hearer to be very quick and will not make the hearer feel a thing. It means that the speaker commits something in the future to the hearer.

(examples were taken by Ainurrohmah. 2011)

Observing commissive speech act used in communication can be conducted both spoken and written. In spoken, we can notice the commissive use is daily communication to each other. While in written, we can observe it in literary work since it is means of human communication that is to share thoughts, feelings, wishes and attitudes. According to Francis Connolly as quoted by Koesnosobroto (1988, p.3) "Literary work what so-called literature is divided into two, those are literature of imagination and literature of knowledge. The literature of imagination such as drama, poem, novel, short story, etc., whereas the literature of knowledge such as technical books, textbooks, biography, etc."

Novel is a kind of imagination literature which is preferable by some people. Most of them spend their free time to read novel than watch a movie. This is mainly because mostly they can find a conversation between the characters in detail. A writer does not merely 'flow' his idea that develops the story of the novel through the sentences description. Nevertheless, often the writer builds the story through the conversation of the characters. Almost all novelists of course use the conversation to advance the story. So that, by reading novel the reader can imagine the story broadly.

In fact, sometimes people who like reading novel do not understand about the form or the function of language that used there. They do not care about the form or the functions of communication used in the novel. The most important for them is whether the story is interesting or not. Hence, the researcher believes that a novel with its entire characteristic can be very enjoyable means of studying commissive speech act.

Therefore it is interesting to study commissive speech act because we can know how actually the utterances reflected into actions. It is also an interesting research to analyze the commissive speech act used in literary work like in *Bridge Jones' Diary*, a very popular novel by Helen Fielding. In that novel, we can find many utterances dealing with commissive speech act, in various categories.

Based on the explanation above, the study about speech acts in the novel is still needed to contribute pragmatics study. Previous researches in exploring the use of commissive speech act have been done by Novika Negrita Sari and Nabilah Fairuz Al-Bantany who analyzed commissive speech act. They investigated the using of commissive speech act based on John Searle theory (1967) in debating video, but the explanation of their studies will be explained more in the next chapter.

Regarding that, the researcher is decided to analyze each utterance of commissive speech act. To make a different way, the researcher decides to analyze it in a novel *Bridget Jones's Diary Novel* by Helen Fielding. The title of this research is “**An analysis of commissive speech act in *Bridget Jones's Diary* by Helen Fielding**”.

Research Question

Regarding to the basic consideration above, this study shows two main problems. They are;

1. What category of commissive speech acts are showed in *Bridget Jones's Diary* by Helen Fielding?
2. What is the dominant category of commissive speech acts that found in *Bridget Jones's Diary* by Helen Fielding?

Research Objective

Based on the research question, this study has the following research objectives:

To find out the category of commissive speech acts are showed and to identify the dominant category of commissive speech acts that found in *Bridget Jones's Diary* by Helen Fielding.

The Delimitation of Research

To delimit this study, the writer observes it based on John R. Searle's commissive speech act theory because he defined the categories of commissive speech acts in detail. They are; promise, guarantee, refusal, threat, volunteer, and offer. And to support the commissive utterances, the researcher analyzed the context of each utterance. The delimitation here is used to make the result of the study be more specific.

Significance of Research

The significance of this study is expected to offer or present some important contributions;

- In theoretical significance, this study would enrich the knowledge of the reader about speech act and become an evidence to support the theory of speech act by many linguists.
- In practical significance, the study would improve the skill of analysis for researchers who conduct commissive speech act and improve the understanding of speech act in specific. The study would improve the communicative competence of the English users and improve the understanding of the readers of *Bridget Jones's Diary*.
- In pedagogical significance, this study would improve the knowledge of speech act in the linguistic lectures and become an example of commissive speech act analysis for supporting the linguistic lectures.