

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is an important part in life in which people share their ideas; however, sometimes they fail to meet the successful one. They might or often misunderstand because they speak and think differently from each other where it is likely to occur that the hearer gives unexpected response from what the speaker actually wants. As we know, every utterances performed by a person will be considered as actions. It is obvious that the person is not only uttering the sentence but he or she also “does” something. It happens because of the ‘circumstances’ and the knowledge that we have of the condition of rules that constitute particular acts. For instance, a mother tells her daughter’s boy friend that it has already been 10 p.m. Here, the mother is not only telling the boy about the time but she also indirectly tells the boy to go home. And if the boy still does not go home, it can be said that the message fails to function.

Considering the problem above, many researchers try to pay more attention in analyzing the relationship between form and function of messages in the utterances using the Speech Act Theory that is basically concerned with what people “do” with a language - that is with the functions of language and its

messages. Two philosophers, John Austin and John Searle, have developed Speech Act Theory from the basic belief that language is used to perform actions; thus, they focus on how meaning and action are related to language. According to Searle, the essential insight of Speech Act Theory is that language performs communicative acts. In Searle's (1969:21) words:

The hypothesis that the speech act is the basic unit of communication, taken together with the principle of expressibility (whatever can be meant can be said), suggests that there are a series of analytic connections between the notion of speech acts, what the speaker means, what the sentence (or other linguistic element) uttered means, what the speaker intends, what the hearer understands, and what the rules governing the linguistic elements are.

In speech acts, people share rules that create the acts where utterances "count as" successful and non-defective performances of speech acts when they fulfil certain conditions. Acts specify what kind of response is expected: they create options for a next utterance each time they are performed. Since an utterance can also perform more than one act at a time, a single utterance creates different response options for a next utterance.

In language teaching and learning, the speech act theory is also needed. Nowadays, language teaching and learning is being focussed on the communicative approach in the effort to get the sociolinguistic competence of the speaker. What is meant by sociolinguistic competence related to the Speech Act Theory is the ability to use language in any social context and express it properly in a certain situation and condition, for example:

A child says to his mother, "Open the door!"

As we see, this utterance is not proper. A child cannot talk like that to older people; otherwise, he will be considered impolite. However, we understand that a child still does not have a sociolinguistic competence that he does not understand how to use and choose the proper language, though he is actually only asking his mother to open the door. So, it is obvious that speech acts are also needed in students' language teaching and learning, that hopefully there is an achievement that they will get a sociolinguistic competence successfully.

In accordance with some points above, Speech Act Theory seems to have more and more considerations both now and in the future. Many people or linguists begin to consider the importance of form and function of language and they develop some ideas of Speech Act Theory that later on can be a good contribution to the speech act study.

For this thesis, the writer is eager to know how the application of Speech Act Theory is in literary work such as novel. The reason of choosing novel than any other literary work is that from the writer's point of view, most people or the English Department students prefer to read novels. Kenney (1991:213) states that

...among the forms of imaginative literature in our language, the novel has been the favourites of both writers and readers for more than two hundred years...

Here, the writer chooses the novel of an Indonesian famous author, Mr. Budi Darma. He is one of good Indonesian writers. People often think that he is the pioneer of the Indonesian modern prose writing as many of his work have

been further analyzed both by Indonesian analysts or foreign analysts. Budi Darma's novel portrays a human life.

The novel that is going to be analyzed is entitled "Ny Talis (Kisah Mengenai Madras)", that was published in 1996. This novel represents a real life which commonly happens in Surabaya. In "Ny. Talis (Kisah Mengenai Madras)", the story tells about one main character, that is Madras, being uncertain about his identity and being lonely in his life. He has a good personality and is clever but he is also lazy and always messy. However, he has an effort to make his life meaningful and high quality, either in his own life, his marriage, his socialization or in any aspects of life. Those kinds of feeling and attitude describe the experience of common man that might happen in everybody's life.

The reason of choosing this novel is due to the fact that the utterances have a specific characteristic of the speech act since the author really concerns with the language used daily in Surabaya. However, the writer thinks that many utterances are too poetic because some of them do not meet its function of language concerning with the Speech Act Theory and the Language Function Theory effectively.

So, speech act is central for successful communication since a speech act that a speaker was performing by the literal utterance of a sentence could be a mystery if the hearer is not fully aware of the meaning beyond it. That is why the writer tries to find out whether the speech act performed in the novel has met its function or not.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the background of the study, the writer of this proposal is concerned with the speech acts found in the utterances of Budi Darma's novel entitled "Ny. Talis (Kisah Mengenai Madras)". So, the questions she would like to put forward are:

1. How is the application of the Speech Act Theory in finding whether the utterances of Madras have met its appropriate functions ?

This question is concerning with three elements of speech acts, they are:

- a. locution
 - b. illocution
 - c. perlocution
2. How is the language function of the utterances ?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In order to make this study complete, the writer has two objectives:

1. To find out the application of Speech Act Theory in finding whether the utterances of Madras has met its appropriate functions, concerning with three elements of speech acts, they are:
 - a. locution
 - b. illocution
 - c. perlocution
2. To find out the language function of the utterances.

1.4 Significance of the Study

As what has been discussed in the background of the study, this thesis is expected to be a good contribution for the language teaching and learning in the effort of improving the quality of the institution, lecturers and students of Widya Mandala University, especially to the materials of Discourse Analysis and Speech Act Study. Besides that, the result of the analysis on the psychological aspects found in the novel is also expected to be able to improve the mental quality of the readers that may make them high quality in life and also to improve the understanding of the readers concerning with some Indonesian culture found in the novel.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In this study, the writer is not going to use all utterances in the conversations of the novel. She takes only the utterances of the main character, that is Madras, which contain the three elements of the Speech Act Theory as the representative of the novel. Those utterances are taken only from some chapters. Furthermore, those utterances of the main character are limited into three categories, they are:

1. utterances to listener, which are divided into:
 - a. those to listeners as close people
 - b. those to listeners as friends
 - c. those to listeners as common people or outsiders
2. utterances to himself

3. utterances to God

In analyzing them, the writer applies the elements of Speech Act Theory, that use three kinds of acts in speaking a language, formulated by an English philosopher, John Austin (1976), as locution, illocution, and perlocution.

The writer of the thesis tries to explain how the study of speech acts initiated by J.L. Austin relates to and complements the truth-theoretic approach to the problems of linguistic meaning. It is shown that there are aspects of our use of language which cannot be explained by a semantics concerns exclusively with truth conditions. As the nature of the illocutionary act performed in uttering a sentence is partially determined by the semantic type of the sentence, the speaker's intentions and features of the context are also relevant.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

What is going to be defined by the writer are some certain words taken from the title of this thesis. Thus, before proceeding to further discussion, those words are:

1. Manifestation

It is the act of showing or making clear and plain (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1978).

2. Speech Act

Searle (1969) said that speech is act characteristically performed by uttering expressions in accordance with sets of constitutive rules , while Austin (1962)

formulated speech act as an approach which tries to formulate how much knowledge is brought into language.

In this study, the appropriate meaning for Speech Act Theory is the first definition, that is acts characteristically performed by uttering expressions in accordance with sets of constitutive rules by Searle.

3. Utterance

According to Cook (1989), an utterance is a unit of language used by somebody in context to do something - to communicate - and reserve sentence for grammatically complete units regarded purely formally, in isolation from their context and their function.

4. Novel

It is a long, narrative story written about imaginary characters, treated as if they were real (The Holt Basic Dictionary of American-English, 1966).

5. Ny. Talis (Kisah Mengenai Madras)

This is a novel about how to be a man with high quality in life, written by Mr. Budi Darma when he was in Bloomington, Indiana. The background of the whole story is taken in Surabaya. Here, the main character is Madras who has an effort in finding his identity and furthermore is being motivated to improve himself to be a man with high quality, either in his own life, his marriage, his socialization and in any other aspects of life.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I deals with the Introduction, including the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and the last, definition of the key terms. Chapter II deals with the Review of the Related Literature, especially with the theoretical framework; Speech Act Theory and Language Function. Chapter III deals with the Methodology of the Study, which concerns with research design, source of the data, form of the data, instrument, procedure of the data collection, and techniques of the data analysis. Chapter IV deals with the Finding and Data Analysis. At last, Chapter V deals with the Conclusion.