

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Communication is important to socialize with others. Communication can be achieved if there is an interaction between the speaker and the listener using a certain language. However, communication can evolve every day. In communication, there are different meanings and concepts. According to Baker (2001), communication requires three elements: the source, message, and destination. The source can be found in an individual (speaking, writing, drawing, gesturing) or a communication organization (newspaper, television station, or motion picture). The message can be found in ink on paper, sound waves in the air, or any other signal capable of being interpreted meaningfully. The destination is the one who receives the communication, which is who listens, watches, or reads. To receive and research the inferred meaning of the sentence, it is important to learn pragmatics.

According to Yule (2020), pragmatic theory investigates how listeners can infer meaning from spoken words to determine the speaker's intended meaning. The study of pragmatics focuses on how it is communicated rather than stated. In pragmatics, some principles are useful for understanding what people hear or read. In pragmatics, there are various topics to discuss, including Speech Acts.

Speech acts are a theory of language with applications to modern philosophy and reference issues that describe phrases, meaning, and illocutionary acts (Searle, 1969). Speakers and/or recipients frequently utilize speech acts to communicate

certain objectives. Every kind of speaking act has a distinct purpose. On the other hand, ensuring clear and effective communication is the primary goal. As a result, both the speaker and the listener must be able to take full advantage of communication opportunities by employing specific strategies, such as small chat as a conversation starter or maintaining communication. This type of speaking behavior is referred to as phatic.

One of the principles in speech acts that we discuss is phatic utterances. Phatic utterances are one of the strategies to build, begin, or end good communication and it is related to cultures. According to Kreidler (1998), phatic utterances are to build rapport between those who belong to the same social group. It is wished to present earlier research on phatic utterance or the purpose of speech to highlight this study's uniqueness. The research by Olawe (2022) shows some findings of seven major functions achieved with the phatic speech act of student leaders in Nigeria. The seven major classifications of the pragmatics functions that they found in the greetings of politically engaged students are political position, prayer invocation, placement by hierarchical status, assertion of loyalty and support, incitation of special recognition, issuance of warning, and unveiling personality traits of student leaders. These functions are achieved through the pragmatic acts of assuring, praising, asserting, warning, praying, affirming, acknowledging, ranking, and disclosing. The previous research finds the functions of phatic speech acts in the context of student leaders in Nigeria, while this research focuses on types of phatic speech acts and its functions based on the daily conversation that occurs in the television series entitled *9-1-1: Lone Star*. Additional investigation conducts regarding the phatic conversations of Japanese

women in internet-mediated communication (IMC) (Widiana et al., 2020). The purpose of this study is to investigate the use of Javanese manners maxims in an online setting. The categories of phatic conversations that were discovered throughout the study are greetings, congratulations, compliments, condolences, support, and humor. In Javanese culture, phatic utterances occur by using some customary politeness maxims such as *Kurmat* (Respect), *Tepa Sliro* (Tolerance), *Andhap Asor* (Humility), *Empan Papan* (Self-Awareness), and *Grapyak* (Friendliness). The difference between the previous research and this research is that focuses on the phatic speech acts of Javanese women and its traditional culture, while this research focuses more on the phatic speech acts in the daily conversations of Americans based on the television series *9-1-1: Lone Star*.

This research is meant to learn and analyze types of phatic speech acts that are found in the television series, and also the functions of phatic speech act that are found. It is also hoped that the reader learns the types of phatic speech acts based on the English language and Western culture's daily conversation.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problems of research are to answer the following questions:

1. What types of phatic speech acts are found in the movie series entitled *9-1-1: Lone Star*?
2. What are the functions of phatic speech acts found in the movie series entitled *9-1-1: Lone Star*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the research are the following:

1. To describe the types of phatic utterances found in the movie series entitled *9-1-1: Lone Star*.
2. To analyze the functions of phatic utterances found in the movie series entitled *9-1-1: Lone Star*.

1.4 Scope of the Problems

Restricting the scope of the study is essential to ensuring that the conversation flows smoothly. The scope of the study is limited only to describing pragmatics. The topic to discuss is speech acts, focusing only on phatic speech acts in the daily conversation in the movie series *9-1-1: Lone Star*.

The movie is released by *Disney Hotstar's movie*. It is produced by Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk, and Tim Minear and the genre is procedural drama and action. The movie series consists of small talks and other interactions with people that can be analyzed in terms of phatic speech acts.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study tells the difference between the phatic utterances that occur in other cultures and the phatic utterances that occur in the American culture. This research might also encourage the readers to get a better knowledge about the subject, knowing some of the phatic utterances and the phatic function in English based on the conversations in the movie series *9-1-1: Lone Star*.

The result of the study is a significant reference for researchers to do further research on the types and functions of phatic utterances in movies. This study is beneficial for those who are interested in exploring phatic speech acts, including students, teachers, and other researcher.