

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

It is a fact that man cannot live alone. They need to interact with others. They need a means to express their feelings, thought and ideas. And when two or more people communicate with each other in speech, we can call the system of communication that they employ a code. In most cases that code will be something we may want to call a language.

Language, as a means of communication, plays an important role in our lives. We produce language everyday in order to communicate with other people in our society. It means that language can be used for doing social interaction. We produce language to exchange the information we have with information we need and usually we produce language depends on the context.

Language has so many interrelationships with various aspects of human life that it can be studied from numerous points of view. Various concepts of language have been given by many linguists but no one is likely to satisfy everyone because the definitions tend to weaken and require qualification when confronted with the uniqueness of individual thought. Still, it is important to know some of them.

Language plays important roles in human life, mainly to communicate, in a sense that it is a means to convey someone's thoughts, ideas, concept, and also feelings. Then, our question is: "What is communication?"

In *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* (1981: 225), it is stated that communication is a process by which information exchanges between individuals through a common system of sounds, sign or behavior.

In a communication, we make use of sentences, or to be precise, utterances. And the way someone makes use of these utterances is called speaking. As a communication event, conversation is a series of speaking activities that is called speech acts. (Tarigan, 1986: 3)

Producing language means that we create sentences and share our ideas with other people. To share our ideas we have to communicate with others. The way we communicate to each other is communication. Communication occurs if both the speaker and the hearer exist. In general, is described as an action, which there is the relationship between what the speaker says and what the hearer receives, and the purpose is the transforming of information or message.

Jane Austin (Austin, 1962) in his book "*How to Do Things with Words*" is the first to introduce the idea of speech acts, analyzing the relationships between utterance and performances. Speech acts usually appear in the first person, and use the simple present tense, indicative. Speech acts are not descriptive, instead they are pronounced to affect an actual situation, speech acts usually do not refer to the past events. Austin (1962) said that a speech act is the action performed by language to modify the state of the object on which the action is performed.

Observing language used in communication can be conducted both spoken and written. In spoken, we can notice the language use in daily

communication to each other. While in written, we can observe it in literary work is means of human communication that is to share thoughts, feelings, wishes, and attitudes. Literary work what so-called literature, according to Francis Connoly as quoted by Koesnosoebroto (1988:3), is divided into two, those are literature of imagination and literature of knowledge. The literature of imagination i.e.: drama, poem, novel, short story, etc. whereas the literature of knowledge i.e.: technical books, textbooks, biography, etc.

Having discussed speech acts, it should be kept in mind that one of the aims of studying literature is to provide the learners with literary works, so that they may have resources for language activities such as analyzing the language of literary works. The researcher chose the drama text entitled *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde because it contains the use of speech acts utterances that are used among the characters in their conversations. Therefore, this topic is important to be analyzed to give a better understanding for the reader. There are many examples of the use of speech acts are found in the characters' conversation in the drama script. Thus, in this thesis, the researcher would like to analyze the use of speech acts found in the drama text.

1.2 Statement for the Problem

In this final project, the focus of the study is as follows:

1. What types of speech acts are used by the characters in the drama text?
2. Why do the characters use the speech acts in the drama text?
3. What are the most commonly speech acts verbs used by the characters in the drama text?

1.3 Scope of the Study

In this study, the researcher observes the use of the speech acts in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. To limit the study, the researcher only observes it based on Searle's speech acts classification because Searle gave more detail speech acts classification. The limitation here is used in order to make the result of the study more specific.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study can be stated as follows:

1. To find out the types of speech acts used by the characters in a drama text.
2. To find out the reason why the characters use the speech acts in a drama text.
3. To find out the most commonly of speech acts verbs used by the characters in a drama text.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of the study is expected to be able to give the readers the following benefits:

1. To facilitate the readers in understanding the drama text.
2. To be used a reference for students especially the English Department Students of Dian Nuswantoro University the application of speech acts used in a drama text.
3. To give additional knowledge for people who are interested in learning.

1.6 Thesis Organization

The discussion of this thesis is divided into chapters and subchapters. Chapter I is the introduction, which consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, scope of the study, objective of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, thesis organization. Chapter II deals with the review of the related literature. The chapter consists of definition of speech acts, kinds of speech acts and description of speech acts in a drama text. Chapter III presents research method. It contains of research design, unit of analysis, source of data, technique of data collection, technique of data analysis. Next chapter, that is chapter IV, presents data analysis. Last but not least, chapter V is the conclusion and suggestion. The last is bibliography and appendix to enclose the study.