

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Besides an individual creature, human is also a social being. They cannot live alone in this world, so they need someone else in their life. Consequently, they should be able to interact with others in order to fulfil their nature as a social being. When there are two or more people communicate each other in speech, it is called a social interaction. One of the ways to interact with others is communication. Gumperz in Wardhaugh (1992:15) states that communication is a social activity which requires coordinated efforts of two more individuals. Communication deals with social activity which involves more than one person. It usually occurs between the speaker and the hearer (receiver).

In communicating with others, people usually use a language as a means of communication. Language is one of the most fundamental aspects of human behavior and a defined instrument of expression and communication. There are many kinds of language that can be used to convey our intentions and thoughts. In Merriam and Webster Dictionary (2001:653), it is stated that language is a systemic means of communication ideas of feelings by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures, and marks having understood meanings. By language, communication can be made much easier and understandable. According to Oxford Advanced Learning Dictionary (2003:204), language is a sound and word systems used by human to express their thoughts and feelings.

Language can be presented in many ways, whether by sounds, signs or gestures. Language can also be in the form of spoken, written and sign language.

In communication, people 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). Speech acts is one of pragmatic fields. It shows a human activity in a language and pragmatics studies the way people act through their speech. Speech act theory puts stress on the use of language. As language is the act of doing something, the study of speech act studies how someone expresses something like promising, thanking, requesting, apologizing. It means that when someone tells something, she also does something.

According to Austin (1962: 94), speech act is everything which we do at the time of conversing or set of discussion verbal owning function. Austin first introduced the idea of speech act, analyzing the relationships between utterances and performances. Speech acts usually appears 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. Speech act is the action performed by language to modify the state of the object on which the action performed.

There are two general types of speech act: direct speech act and indirect speech act (Yule, 1996:54). Direct speech act, whenever there is direct relationship between structure and function (the structure and the function is

congruent) or it means when we speak we do mean exactly the same as the literal meaning of what we say.

Indirect speech act happens whenever there is an indirect relationship between structure and function. It is also used when we intend something which is quite different from the literal meaning of what we say. Indirect speech acts are generally associated with greater politeness in English than direct speech acts.

Indirect speech act can be realized on the daily life. It is used by people in producing utterances to communicate each other. Hence, the researcher interested in studying indirect speech acts because of she wants to explore about realization of those which happened in society. In specific reason, the researcher wants to show that the important of using indirect speech acts in communication. Indirect speech is more politely than direct speech in producing language because it can be politeness strategies of communication. It can save the hearer's face. It means that the hearer gets appreciation from the speaker. Therefore, both of them get more communicated than they are said.

For this study, the researcher choose movie as the data to prove that indirect speech act are used in society. The researcher used "THE HELP" film. Beside the film is interesting, it has utterances indicating indirect speech acts. It can be showed by the utterances that are categorized on declarative, and, the function does not only give information but also gives command or request. For example, the researcher found the utterance in the movie:

(PHELAN HOME- DAY)

Situation : Stuart and Skeeter sit on the bench beneath the willow tree of the back yard.

(16) Stuart : *yeah, I'll bet you do. You make me laugh... and smile. Would you a... **would you like to come have dinner with me?** We could talk. I could actually listen to you this time.*

(17) Skeeter : *I can't think of anything worse.*

(18) Stuart : *(stuart looks down) well, I understand and I,m sorry. That's what I came to say and... I said it.*

(19) Skeeter : *just give me a minute. Let me get my sweater.*

It is classified as an indirect speech act as the requesting act is realized by interrogative sentence. Based on the Searle's categories, it is called directive because this utterance is to make someone do something. The utterance means that Stuart request Skeeter to come have dinner with him. Hence the utterance indicates a request.

Based on the examples above, the researcher wants to study indirect speech acts in "The Help" film by Tate Taylor. The film is categorized as comedy drama movie. The story of the movie is about a white woman who told the story of the suffering of black woman. The movie uses many indirect utterances so that the researcher wants to understand the story of the movie by analyzing the indirect utterances which are used by the characters. Indeed, the researcher wants to show about realization of indirect speech of language is used in society life.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The problems in this study are:

1. What types of indirect speech acts are used in “The Help” film?
2. Why do the characters use indirect speech acts in “The Help” film?

## **1.3 Scope of the Study**

The researcher makes certain limitation in order that this research goes precisely. In this study, the researcher focuses on indirect speech acts of conversation which is used by the characters in the film “The Help” by Tate Taylor. This study used George Yule’s theories of indirect speech acts.

## **1.4 Objective of the Study**

Objectives of the study can be stated as follows:

1. To find out the types of indirect speech act used in “The Help” film by Tate Taylor.
2. To explain why the characters use indirect speech acts in “The Help” film by Tate Taylor.

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

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

1. It can be reference to study pragmatics term especially indirect speech act found in film.

2. To help the reader understand the film “The Help” by Tate Taylor.
3. To give more information for learner who are interested in improving this study.

## **1.6 Thesis Organization**

The discussion of this thesis is divided into chapters and subchapters:

Chapter I is introduction, which consist of background of the study, statement of the problem, scope of the study, objective of the study, significant of the study, thesis organization.

Chapter II deals with the review of the related literature. The chapter consist of definition linguistics in language, pragmatics, speech acts : three kind of acts, speech acts classification, speech function, direct speech acts and indirect speech acts, and previous research.

Chapter III presents research method. It contains of research design, unit of analysis, source of data, technique of data collection, technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV presents data analysis which covers the analysis of the problem.

Chapter V presents Conclusion and Suggestion which consist of conclusion and suggestion.