

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is an important aspect of our life. Communication is a process that allows people to exchange information by several methods, in this case, language. Communication is the process when a message is given or received through talking, writing, or making gestures. It can be verbal, such as speaking and singing. It can also include tone of voice, and nonverbal aspects, such as body language, sign language, touch, eye contact, or the use of writing. It is the act of passing on information and the process by which meanings are exchanged so as to produce understanding.

Kent Bach, a professor of Philosophy at San Francisco State University, says that there are many things we can do with words, such as making requests, asking questions, giving orders, making promises, giving thanks, offering apologies. Usually more than one act is performed in a Speech Act. The acts are distinguished by different elements of the speaker's intention, in which there is the act of saying something, what the speaker intends by saying those utterances (such as requesting or promising) and, finally, how the speaker tries to make an effect

on the listener (Bach). In general, Speech Acts are acts of communication. “To communicate is to express a certain attitude, and the type of Speech Acts being performed corresponds to the type of attitude being expressed” (Bach).

Misunderstandings sometimes happen in conversation. They happen because the listener does not fully receive or understand what the speaker means. "Different people have different ways of telling each other how they feel about one another, ways that are perhaps so fundamentally different that misunderstanding is almost inevitable" (Villard & Whipple 162). Unexpected uptakes in a conversation can change the atmosphere in which the conversation takes place. What is more, it can make the listener confused.

In attempting to express themselves, people not only use utterances, but those utterances are also used to carry out actions. A Speech Act is performing action using an utterance. For example, when the boss says “*You’re fired!*” this boss’ utterance is more than just a statement. The utterance shows that someone’s career is about to be ended. As Yule states in Pragmatics, “An utterance may indicate apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise or threat” (Yule 47).

For my thesis, I choose the topic about *the occurrence of humour due to unexpected uptakes in Joey TV series*. I choose this topic because Joey TV Series is comedy, in which many unexpected uptakes occur. Unexpected uptakes that occur in conversation can result in good humor, especially in comedy situations. The audience laughs because of the confusion which is caused by unexpected uptakes.

I observe these unexpected uptakes using the theory of *Speech Acts*, which belongs to pragmatics. The theories I use are taken from Pragmatics by George

Yule, in particular about Speech Acts, and An Introduction to Linguistics by Janet Holmes.

In this thesis, I want to know the significance of the theory of Speech Acts in locution, illocution, uptake, and perlocution in reference to the situation or atmosphere which is shown in the movie. I also want to know what type of Speech Acts is used, why the hearer gives an unexpected uptake, and the effect of that unexpected uptake. The speaker's locution and illocution can be misinterpreted by the listener which causes a different uptake, which leads to a different perlocution. This is caused by the different opinion or beliefs between the speaker and the listener. In comedy situations, different uptakes or unexpected uptakes which are made by the listener can lead to funny situations.

Illocutionary and perlocutionary acts have two levels of success. As an illocutionary act, a request, for example, is considered a success if a listener is able to do what the speaker intends, but as a perlocutionary act it succeeds only if he/she actually does it. According to Michael Devitt and Richard Hanley, "You can express your desire without getting realization from the listener, but your utterance is the performance of an act of both types." (Devitt)

By reading this thesis, the readers will know what type of Speech Acts are frequently used that can cause unexpected uptakes to happen. Other researchers could use this writing as a reference for comparison with their research so they can expand their research by finding more types of Speech Acts that are used that can cause unexpected uptakes.

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1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. What is the illocution of the speaker's utterance?
2. Why does the hearer give an unexpected uptake?
3. What is the effect of the unexpected uptake?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In this thesis I would like to show:

1. The illocution of the speaker's utterance.
2. The reason why the hearer gives an unexpected uptake.
3. The effect of the unexpected uptake.

1.4 Method of Research

I take the following steps for this study. First, I watched Joey (TV series) seasons 1 and 2. Second, I collected some data which contains Speech Acts from the dialogues. Third, I chose significant data which are suitable to analyze. Fourth, I analyzed the data based on the theory. Fifth, I wrote the thesis.

1.5 Organization of Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter one is the Introduction. It contains Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two provides a theoretical framework of the study. The data analysis is presented in Chapter Three. Chapter Four, is the conclusion to what has been analyzed and

discussed in the previous chapter. At the end of the thesis is the Bibliography, in which the sources are listed, and also the Appendices, in which the whole data are presented.