

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

The topic of my thesis is *the analysis of the unexpected reactions on speaker's illocutionary acts in television series: Friends*.

Many people express their intention through their utterance. Sometimes they express it in a direct way, for example if someone wants to have some water, they will say it directly by saying "Can I have some water, please?". Other people might express their intention in an indirect way. For example, if someone is in a very hot room and wants to have some fresh air, they would probably say "It's hot, isn't it?". The second utterance means that the person wants somebody to open the window. The previous illustrations show that utterances do not only stay as words but could be a performance of action. This is called speech act.

Speech act, based on Searle's theory in Schiffrin's book, is performing actions via utterances. The content of what is said (a locutionary act) is not always determined by what is meant by the sentence being uttered (Schiffrin 51). On top of that, Austin says speech act consists of three acts: Locutionary Act,

Illocutionary Act, and Perlocutionary Act (Yule 48). It is also stated in the explanation of speech act that “We perform speech acts when we offer an apology, greeting, request, complaint, invitation, compliment, or refusal. A speech act is an utterance that serves a function in communication.” (Bach).

In this thesis, I will use films as my source of data. I choose films because I could easily get the information I need such as the dialogue, intonation, context, situation, events, and characters. When watching a film, the audience does not need to use as much imagination as they do when they read a book or novel. Besides, films are interesting to watch and we can directly see the characters’ facial expression.

The film that I am going to analyze is a television series entitled Friends. The film consists of ten seasons. Each season has their own different themes and titles. The film itself is produced by Todd Stevens has six major characters, namely Ross (David Schwimmer), Joey (Matt Le Blanc), Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow), Rachel (Jennifer Anniston), Monica (Courteney Cox), and Chandler (Matthew Perry). This film is about the relationships between a group of young adults in America in 1990’s. The dialogues in this film are easy to understand, because they use colloquial language. The setting of Friends is in 1990’s and it shows the everyday life of ordinary people. Each character in Friends has their own ways of expressing their intentions to others, which is one of the things that make Friends special.

From the conversations among the characters, I will analyze the use of speech act. Another thing that I would like to analyze is the factors that cause the utterances have different interpretations and the effect of the different

interpretations. The speech act which appears in the data will be analyzed by using Pragmatics.

The significance of analyzing of this topic is to discover the effect of the different interpretations of speaker's illocutionary acts and to discover how the different interpretations happen. The reaction caused by the different interpretations may result in humor. Sometimes, the hearer takes it as something insulting.

This kind of study also involves the study of pragmatics. Pragmatics is concerned about how people understand and produce a communicative act or speech act in a concrete speech situation which is usually a conversation. Below are the quotations explaining more about pragmatics.

This kind of study necessarily involves the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how the context influences what is said. It needs a concern of how speakers arrange what they want to say in accordance with who they are talking to, where, when, and under what situation. The advantage and disadvantage of studying language via pragmatics is that one can talk about people's intended meaning, their assumptions, their purposes or goals, and the kinds of action that they are performing when they speak. The big disadvantage is that all these very human concepts are extremely difficult to analyze in a consistent and objective way. (Bach).

Statement of the Problems

The problem in this study are formulated as follows:

1. What is the hearer's reaction which is not in accordance with the expected speaker's illocutionary act?
2. What makes the hearer's reaction different from the speaker's illocutionary act?
3. What is the effect of the different interpretation towards the surrounding?

Purpose of the Study

Following the statement of the problems, the purposes of this study are:

1. To find out hearer's reaction which is not in accordance with the speaker's illocutionary act.
2. To know the factor that leads to the unexpected reaction of the hearer.
3. To know the effect of the different interpretation towards the surrounding.

Method of Research

First, I watch the television series: Friends and then I will select the sentences which contain speech acts. Second, I analyze the factors that make the utterances have different interpretation. Finally, I analyze the effect of the different interpretation in the film.

Organization of the Thesis

The thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which contains the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problems, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. In Chapter Two, the Theoretical Framework of the study is presented. The data analysis and the discussion are displayed in Chapter Three. The following Chapter Four, states the Conclusion, in which what has been analyzed and discussed in the previous chapter is concluded. At the end of the thesis, there are Bibliography in which the list of references is presented and Appendices, in which the whole data are listed.