

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an important part in communication. Language and communication are two things that cannot be separated. By using language, communication can be carried out easily. J. L. Austin states that “an act of communication succeeds if it is taken as intended”.

(<http://online.sfsu.edu/~kbach/spchacts.html>)

In daily interaction people need language to communicate with one another. Communication is the process when a message is given or received through talking, writing, or making gestures. It can be revealed through speaking, singing and sometimes tone of voice, and nonverbal, physical means, such as body language, sign language, touch, and eye contact. It is the act of passing information and the process by which meanings are exchanged so as to produce understanding. However, sometimes when people talk with others in some situations, they do not receive the same information conveyed by the speaker. This condition causes misinterpretation.

Kent Bach states that there are many things we can do with words. We can make requests, ask questions, give orders, make promises, give thanks, offer apologies, and so on. Moreover, speech acts are performed in several acts at the same time, distinguished by different aspects of the speaker's intention, such as: the act of saying something, what the speaker wants to say, for example requesting or promising. Another aspect is how the speaker is trying to affect the listener from what the speaker says. "In general, speech acts are acts of communication. To communicate is to express a certain attitude, and the type of speech act being performed corresponds to the type of attitude being expressed." (<http://online.sfsu.edu/~kbach/spchacts.html>)

The general theory which I use for my thesis is Pragmatics, specifically Speech Acts theory, which focuses on the theory of illocutions from the speech acts. In daily conversations, speech act is usually used, and speech act itself performs an action through what we say and showed our attitude (Yule 47). For example, if a referee says you're out! to a player in a game, it means the referee does not only say it but also implies the act of ending a game for the player.

The process of someone's utterance starts from the locutionary act and then followed by the illocutionary act. The illocutionary act consists of the meaning of the locutionary act. In some utterances which are uttered by a speaker can be misinterpreted by a hearer. Misinterpretation happens after the locutionary act. In this act, a speaker says something which is replied by a hearer through an utterance or an action (perlocutionary act).

Sometimes the hearer does not get the illocutionary act, which is the act that contains the intention of the speaker. For that reason the intention does not

appear directly. The subject of misunderstanding is interesting to discuss because it is something that commonly happens, regardless of time, place and participants of the conversation. In addition, it gives me such a big curiosity to find out some factors affecting misunderstanding and the various emotional effects on the participants appearing in a certain conversation. In addition, it gives me such a big curiosity to participants to find out some factors affecting misunderstanding and various emotional effects on the participants appearing in a certain conversation.

When someone requests something but the hearer does not understand the speaker's indirect request, it may cause misinterpretation because the hearer does not get what the speaker means. In addition, the misunderstanding can also happen because the hearer's characteristic, for example when someone has a short thinking or someone has to focus on another subject, emotion, surrounding situation and condition of a person.

The reason why I choose this topic is that in our daily life the misinterpretation usually happens and sometimes it makes us as the hearer who is misinterpret the speaker utterance feel offended. Beside that I want to find out how the characters in Friends movie series misinterpret other characters' utterances which create the funny atmosphere.

Words: 647

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. What is the illocutionary act of the characters' utterances in Friends?
2. How does the hearer misinterpret the speaker's utterance/illocutions?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In this thesis I would like to show:

1. To present the illocutionary act of the characters' utterances in Friends.
2. To explain how the hearer misinterprets the speaker's utterance.

1.4 Methods of Research

I observed a film entitled Friends and collected some conversation from the film. Then I wrote down the subtitles of the film. Afterwards, I chose the relevant data which belong to my topic. I analysed the data and wrote my 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 Study, Methods of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two provides Theoretical Framework. Chapter Three provides the analysis of misinterpretation of illocutions in Friends Movie Series. Chapter Four is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the Bibliography.