



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the most important part of human life, without language humans cannot interact with others. Walija in Nuralita (2023) defining language as a complex and effective communication tool to convey messages, ideas, intentions, feelings, opinions to others. This is based on humans being social creatures, meaning that humans cannot live alone without the help of others, so language is an important aspect of socializing. Meanwhile, according to Zanetti (2013) defining language is the main tool in communication, and communication always occurs in a social environment. That is why communication requires an understanding of language with the people who use it. Therefore, it can be concluded that language is a communication tool used by humans to convey a meaning so that a good understanding is needed so that the intent and purpose are conveyed correctly.

The science of language studied is linguistics. One of the fields of linguistics is pragmatics. Horn (2004) says pragmatics is the study of the meaning of language that depends on context and is arranged in a logical form. Meanwhile, Rahardi (2018) defined pragmatics or in other words contextual meaning. That the meaning of language is strongly influenced by context and non-language elements that play a role in communication. In simple terms, pragmatics is defined as the study of how context affects the meaning of a language in an utterances. Thus, pragmatics not only studies the meaning of words but also how a context also affects the meaning of utterances

Speech acts are the most basic thing in pragmatics. Pragmatics basically examines the use of language in speech acts. Speech acts are something that is conveyed not only to provide information but also to give the intention that the listener performs an action related to the intent and purpose. Actions through speech that are commonly referred to as speech acts can generally be in the form of apologies, complaints, praise, invitations, approval, or requests. with the

existence of speech acts it is expected that listeners understand what is intended by the speaker (Yule, 1996). Meanwhile, according to Austin in Horn (2004) speech acts are how words can give the impact of someone doing something. that saying something also means doing something. It can be concluded that speech acts are how speech influences someone to perform social actions. Austin in Horn (2004) divides speech acts into 3 types: Locution acts, Illocutions acts, Perlocutions acts.

This analysis focuses on illocutionary acts in the movie *The Little Mermaid* (2023). Searle (1979) says illocutionary acts is the most basic unit in linguistic communication. Illocutionary acts are related to the purpose to be achieved contained in an utterance in a particular context. The basic forms of action in speech can be thanking, congratulating, commanding, asking, stating. (Searle, 1979) specifically classifies illocutionary acts into several types, namely: Assertive is an utterance with the intention of explaining to others about something. Directive is an utterance with the intention of influencing others to do something. Commissive is an utterance that contains the speaker's commitment to do something. Expressive is the speaker's utterance in expressing his feelings and behavior. Declarative is the speaker's utterance creating change in the world.

This study focuses on the film directed by Rob Marshall entitled *The Little Mermaid* (2023) and analyzes the illocutionary acts because the intensity of the conflict experienced by each character can be seen from their utterances. The characters in this movie build interactions with each other in expressing expressions and achieving goals through their speech. Disney makes this movie became the highest grossing movie watched in 2023 (Tommy, 2023). This movie can also provide more relevant insights in language use.

Thus, this analysis focuses on the utterances of Ariel and Eric. Ariel is a mermaid who lives in the sea, while Eric is a human who lives on land. Ariel's great desire to know the world led her to meet Eric, from there the story of Ariel and Eric began. From curiosity to growing love in Ariel's heart, as well as Eric. Ariel's innocent behavior makes Eric always interested and tries to make Ariel happy. Although they come from different worlds they are together fighting for their love. Apart from the fact that Ariel and Eric are the main characters, this



movie also highlights their lives and struggles in order to live together. Thus, it provides enough material for this analysis. In addition, this analysis uses Searle's 1979 theory because Searle is one of the expert figures who has a fairly clear framework in the field of pragmatics and speech acts, besides this theory is also relevant to this study.

The Little Mermaid (2023) is American movie adapted from the 1989 movie of the same name. It tells the story of the main character Ariel and Eric, a beautiful mermaid who loves adventure. She is interested in the human world and wants to explore it but her father Triton forbids it on safety grounds. At the instigation of the sea witch Ursula, Ariel defies her father not to explore the human world and pursue her true love, a human named Eric.

Minutes 12.42 – 12.50



picture 1. 1 *Data Example*

Contex : Because of Sebastian's shout, Ariel accidentally dropped the object under the seabed and hit Sebastian's head. Because of the mistake she made, Ariel apologized to Sebastian for the actions she had taken.

Ariel : “**Sorry** About that!”

Sebastian : “Ariel! What are doin' up there?”

The speech used by Ariel “Sorry” in the dialogue above shows that he uses Expressive Speech acts. Ariel tells the listener that he apologizes to his interlocutor for the mistakes he has made. the apologetic speech makes the author able to know that what Ariel says is a behaitives speech act (saying sorry).

Previous study is useful for knowing how research is done and the results. it is also used as a benchmark for writers to write and analyze new study. The purpose of previous study itself is to find out whether the actions taken by the author are correct or not. Here are some examples of previous study on illocutionary acts, as the author mentions below. *An analysis of illocutionary acts*



in the "sing" movie. Darumas Sukmawati, Senowarsito, and Tarcisia Sri Suwarti, in 2022. Using the theory of Searle 1979, the authors found 5 kinds of illocutionary acts on Buster Moon's character. The results of their study are 118 kinds of assertive, 166 kinds of directive, 18 kinds of commissive, 108 expressive, 8 declarative. Hence, based on the results they have found directives speech acts are the most speech acts found. Based on existing preview studies, Darumas et al used a movie with the title *Sing* (2016) while this study uses the movie *The Little mermaid* (2023).

Previous study with the title *The Illocutionary Speech Acts in Students' Public Speaking* written by Pipit Rahayu and Eripuddin in 2023. This writing uses Austin's theory, the purpose of the writing is to determine the types of illocutionary speech acts in a formative speech using descriptive qualitative methods. This study is an analysis of illocutionary acts used by the speaker. so that the object of study of this study is the speech made by the sixth semester of the English language education study program.

Another previous study used is *Analysis of Directive Speech in the Novel The Village Boy by Damien Dimatra*. Elvina has been written in 2022. He has found 7 types of speech acts namely allowing, begging, demanding, requesting, prohibiting, suggesting, and commanding. The seven speech acts are directive speech acts. Directive speech acts are the most dominant in this novel. This study focuses on directive speech acts in novels while this analysis uses the analysis of illocutionary acts with the object of film research.

The fourth previous research with the title *An Analysis Of Expressive Illocutionary Acts on Miguel's Utterances in Coco Movie (Pragmatics Approach)* which was written in 2019 by Ainun Ni'mah. In her research she analyzed the types of expressive illocutionary acts in the coco film with a total of 60 types of directive speech acts divided into five categories which include; pleasure, pain, like, dislike, and joy or sadness. Ni,mah used Yule's theory (1996) in doing her analysis. The expressive act of pain category is the most used utterance by the main character because it expresses the main character's feelings in the movie when he opposes and feels disappointed that his family does not allow him to become a musician.



The difference from these previous studies is that the first previous study lies in the film used in the study. Two of the four previous studies although using film as the object of study but the selection of films used is different. Two of the four previous studies have differences in the theory used, namely in the second previous study using Austin's theory and in the fourth previous study using Yule's theory. Therefore, of the four previous studies with this analysis writing has differences in each of the studies mentioned. Both from the research focus, the theory used, the research method, and the selection of the object of study.

1.2 Statement of Problem

1. What illocutionary acts are used by Ariel and Eric in the movie “The Little Mermaid” (2023)?
2. In what way do Ariel and Eric apply illocutionary acts in “The Little Mermaid” (2023) movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is in accordance with the statement in the problem formulation, as follows:

1. To identify illocutionary acts are used by Ariel and Eric in the movie “The Little Mermaid” (2023).
2. To explain how illocutionary acts are applied by Ariel and Eric in “The Little Mermaid” (2023) movie.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This study focus on the illocutionary acts of Ariel and Eric in *The Little Mermaid* (2023). This study not explore the illocutionary acts of other characters or linguistic aspects outside Ariel and Eric's speech. This study limits the utterances that are not listed in the research questions so as not to expand.

1.5 Significance of the Study

a. Theoretical Significances

The author hopes that this writing be a good example that focuses on pragmatics, especially the analysis of illocutionary acts. In addition, this writing can also be a reference for other researchers in the future.



b. Pragtical Significances

The results of this writing are expected to provide knowledge in the use of illocutionary acts in films, contribute to writers or other students related to illocutionary acts, enable increased communication skills, and as a form of appreciation for audiovisual literary works, especially "*The Little Mermaid*" (2023).

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

The following are some key terms that need to be explained to avoid any misunderstanding in interpretation, as follows:

1. Pragmatics : Pragmatics is a field of linguistics that studies the function of language in a social or situational setting, and how the purpose of communication, cultural context, and relationships between speakers affect the meaning of language. (Rahardi, 2018).
2. Illocutionary Acts : Illocutionary act is one type of speech act that studies the actions taken through an utterance so that it has an impact in the real world. (Austin in Horn & Ward, 2004).
3. Movie : Movies are a means of audiovisual communication to convey messages to people gathered in a place. Movies are considered a powerful means of mass communication for certain audiences because they can convey many things in a short time due to their audiovisual nature (Asri, 2020).

