CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

The study of pragmatics, a sub-field of linguistics, focuses on the reasons behind how and why people use language. In pragmatics, we pay attention to spoken language, conversations, or the ways in which people express themselves verbally or non-verbally when they interact with others. According to Yule (1996), pragmatics has more to do with analyzing the meaning of what people say than the meaning of words or phrases in those utterances. People are social beings, therefore, people need skills in interpersonal communication. Communication is becoming a process that happens all around us. Communication is also the way to interact with others, whether individually or in groups. Human relationships would never work properly if there was no effective communication. For example, when a listener does not understand what the speaker said because what the speaker said is not always the same as what the speaker meant. Pragmatics is the term used to describe this phenomenon. One of the effective theories that will be used to analyze this phenomenon is the speech act theory.

Austin (1962) identified three types of speech acts in his book *How to Do Things with Words*, such as locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Illocutionary act is the core of the three theories of speech acts. On other hands, according to Searle (1979), illocutionary acts are divided into five different types. There are assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. In reality,

Illocutionary acts occur throughout social engagement and conversation. There are always intentions behind what people say while communicating with others. Different communication will show a different pattern of illocutionary acts. It can be inferred from the definition above, that speech acts are crucial components of communication. In addition, in creating grammatical and word utterances, people also use their utterances to produce actions. These kinds of speech acts are typically found in literary works but also mostly in daily life, and also in the utterances of talent show activities.

Recently, several television stations are working actively on a talent show program that highlights each contestant's significant advantages and characteristics. A talent show is a talent competition or talent contest to show where ordinary people perform an act on stage, usually in order to try to win a prize for the best performance. Participants expressed themselves and other speech acts during the unexpected events that happened during the initial selection, including laughing, being amazed, surprised, and other expressions related to speech acts. There are various kinds of talent shows, but America's Got Talent is the only talent show selected as the topic of this thesis. The audition for America's Got Talent involves an interaction between the judges, contestants, and hosts through their utterances. Meanwhile, as the conversation is going on, many meanings of messages are conveyed that can be analyzed. Illocutionary acts can be used in real-life situations other than movies, music, and talk shows, such as America's Got Talent.

America's Got Talent (often abbreviated as AGT), is an American talent competition that is aired on television and is a part of Simon Cowell's Got Talent

brand internationally. The program draws a diverse group of individuals from both within and outside of the United States to participate in and perform acts that include a variety of shows including comedy, magic, stunts, singing, dancing, and other genres. The comments made by the judges convey a message, and the other judges have different perspectives about the contestants. One episode of America's Got Talent audition season sixteen was published to YouTube as a data source. This study is interesting to be conducted because the speech act indirectly implies a lot of meaning or message. There are also several speech acts that serve a variety of functions. This is becoming an example of a speech act, and the study's findings also can find out the speech acts on America's Got Talent and also this show has many illocutionary acts expressed in many utterances.

1.2 Problem of the Study

Based on the background above, the following are mentioned as the research's problems:

1. What are the types of illocutionary acts found in the utterances of the judges of America's Got Talent 2021?

2. What are the functions of the illocutionary acts performed by the judges of America's Got Talent 2021?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem of the study above, the objectives of the study were focused on:

1. To identify the types of illocutionary acts found in the judges of America's Got Talent 2021.

2. To describe the functions of illocutionary acts performed by the judges of America's Got Talent 2021.

1.4   Limitation of the Study

This study is focused on analyzing the type of illocutionary acts and the functions of illocutionary acts found in America's Got Talent. To avoid the overgeneralized discussion, this research is to discuss the types and to identify the function of the illocutionary act only in the data source. Each problem is discussed in a separate part. However, each discussion relates because the two problems are related to each other.

1.5   Significance of the Study

There are two significances of the study, there are theoretical significance and practical significance.

1.5.1   Theoretical Significance

This study is expected to provide a better comprehension and improve the knowledge about speech acts, especially the theory of speech acts used in the talent show, and how the judges manage their language in front of public. Future research on speech acts may relate to this study as a reference point.

1.5.2   Practical Significance

This study findings are resource for people who want to analyze or identify

illocutionary acts. For those that are interested in a similar topic, their understanding of the Illocutionary Act to increase as a result of this research. For those learning English language, this s and speaker to study how the native expresses their judgement in public.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, AND THEORIES

This chapter contains of a review of the literature, related concepts, and theories. Two thesis and three articles on speech acts are included in the review of related literature, especially the types of illocutionary acts by students graduating from the English Study Program. The concept presents several concepts about speech act, illocutionary act, and America's Got Talent (AGT). Meanwhile, theories present the theory that was applied to the data analysis.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

The first thesis was written by Wiarta (2018) entitled A*n Analysis of Illocutionary Acts Found in Pitch Perfect 1 Movie*. The objective of this research was to classify the different kinds of illocutionary acts and to analyze their significance in the movie *Pitch Perfect 1*. The theory from Yule's (1996) and Halliday's (1989) theories were the focus of the study. The findings of this study, there are five different forms of illocutionary acts in the film Pitch Perfect 1. Representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declaration are some of the terms used. In this study, the following illocutionary acts were discovered: three representative, fourteen directives, six commissives, twenty-eight expressive, three declarations.

This related literature has some similarities and some differences with this

research. The similarities between this research and Wiarta's previous research are that both use the same method to present the study's findings. He presented the nine results of analyzing the data using the informal method of description and the formal method of percentage presentation. The theory and the research object are the main distinctions between this study and the previous one. This research uses theory proposed by Searle (1979) to analyze the types of illocutionary acts and a theory proposed by Leech (1983) to find the function of the illocutionary act and the object of this research is the YouTube Channel of America's Got Talent performances of one contestant names Victory Branker. On the other hand, the previous research by Wiarta used the theory proposed by Yule (1996) and the object of his research is Pitch Perfect 1 movie.

The second thesis was conducted by Sipayung (2021), with the title *Illocutionary Speech Act in American Idol 2019*. This study aims to identify the categories of illocutionary acts and the function of illocutionary acts performed by participants in the 2019 season of American Idol, including contestants, judges, and hosts. The research method used in completing this research is a qualitative descriptive method. In analyzing the data, the writer used Yule's (1996) theory. The findings show that there are five types of illocutionary acts found in this study: five declarations, eleven representatives, forty nine expressive, ten directives, and one commissive.

The similarities between this study and the previous study written by Sipayung is, the problem of the study section, both focusing on the types of illocutionary act and functions of illocutionary act. The differences between this

research and the previous research are in the data source, the previous research use the data from American Idol 2019, meanwhile this research use the data from America's Got Talent 2021.

Another research written by Wiliastini et al., (2021) is entitled *Directive Illocutionary Act in Moana Movie*. The types of directive illocutionary act discussed in this research are followed by their functions in the Moana movie. The forty directives illocutionary act that was found in this study included those with directive function, such as competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive. This related literature has some similarities and some differences with this research. The similarities between this research and Wiliastini, Suastini, and Juniartha previous research are that both use the same method to present the study's findings, using descriptive qualitative method. The difference between this research and the previous research is that this research focuses on Illocutionary act in the conversation between the judges and contestants of America's Got Talent 2021, while the previous research by Wiliastini, Suastini, and Juniartha focused on Directive Illocutionary Act in Moana Movie.

The fourth related research had been conducted by Ayomi et al., (2022) entitled *The Illocutionary Act of Food Product Endorsement by Indonesian Influencers on Instagram*. This study explores how influencers on Instagram persuade their audience to try food products by analyzing the pragmatic aspects of their Instagram posts, especially illocutionary acts. Six food product endorsements from six well-known influencers on Instagram Indonesia were selected as data sources. The data were analyzed descriptively by examining the

types of illocutionary acts and the illocutionary function in Instagram captions.

The similarities between this research and this previous study are, that it discusses about speech acts, especially illocutionary acts and both use descriptive qualitative method. The difference between this research and the research written by Ayomi, Candra and Putri is that in their research use the data source from food product endorsements on Instagram, while the data sources in this study are YouTube Channel of America's Got Talent performances of one contestant names Victory Branker.

The last research was done by Sari and Putri (2022) with the title *An Analysis of Illocutionary Act Found in Wolfwalkers Movie*. The goal of this study is to identify utterance of illocutionary act in speech. The descriptive qualitative approach was used by the researcher to explain the data and respond to the research question. According to the study's findings, there are 47 different categories of illocutionary act data.

The similarities between this study and the previous study that written by Sari and Putri is, that it discusses about speech acts, especially illocutionary acts and uses Searle's theory to identify the types of illocutionary acts. The difference between this research and the thesis written by Sari and Putri is that in their research use the data source from *Wolfwalkers Movie*, while the data sources in this study are YouTube Channel of America's Got Talent performances of one contestant names Victory Branker.

2.2 Concepts

The concept is composed of some definitions that are relevant to the research topic. This research is based on three concepts. They are speech act, illocutionary act, and America's Got Talent.

2.2.1 Speech Act

According to Yule (1996) "The action of making an utterance is known as a speech act". When people are communicating, there are not only utterances that connect those people but also their actions. There are three main types that divide speech acts. The three types of them are locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary.

2.2.2 Illocutionary Acts

Illocutionary act learns about what the speaker wants to do when they make an utterance, or the sort of activity they want to carry out. According to Searle (1979), illocutionary act can be divided into five general classifications. There is directive, assertive, expressive, commissive, and declaration.

2.2.3 America's Got Talent

According to agt.fandom.com (August,17 2006) America's Got Talent (often abbreviated as AGT), is an American talent competition that airs on television and is a part of Simon Cowell's Got Talent brand internationally. The program draws a diverse group of individuals from both within and outside of the United States and abroad.

2.3 Theories

A conceptual model that provides a concept of organization and serves as the theoretical framework for this research. The theory that explains how and why this study's research problem exists is introduced and defined in the theoretical framework. The details of theoretical frameworks are described in the following sections.

In this study, two theories are used in this study. The first is the theory proposed by Searle (1979) as the main theory in his book entitled *Expression and Meaning* to describe the types of illocutionary acts and the second theory is the theory of function of illocutionary by Leech (1983) in a book entitled *Principles of Pragmatic.* Additionally, Austin's theory is used to explain how speech act theory is generally categorized.

2.3.1 Types of Speech Acts

When expressing speech, it is not uncommon for it to transmit both knowledge and action at the same time. Speech acts are actions that are carried out through sentences or utterances. According to Austin (1962: 94), speech acts are actions that occur or are performed as a result of phrases or utterances. There are three types of speech acts: locutionary act (an action of what the speaker literally says). The second is illocutionary act (an action by saying something). The last type is perlocutionary act (an action by the listener effected by utterance).
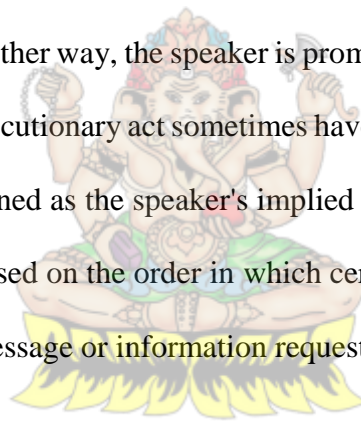
2.3.1.1 Locutionary Act

A locutionary act is an activity in which the speaker says exactly what he or

she means, implying that the phrases or utterances have no hidden meaning or intention. In other words, the genuine meaning of the utterances that the speaker performs and produces explicitly is referred to as locutionary act.

2.3.1.2 Illocutionary Act

Every utterance has to serve a function. According to Austin (1962: 94), illocutionary act is defined as the function or meaning found in the speech. "I promise to offer you flowers," for example, is a remark that also binds the speaker to what she or he has just said. Because the speaker's goal is to do anything, this is the case. To put it another way, the speaker is promising something in the future. The utterances of an illocutionary act sometimes have a hidden motive or meaning. Illocutionary act is defined as the speaker's implied intention or meaning. It has a specific force that is based on the order in which certain pieces are presented: the illocutionary goal -a message or information request.

1.3.1.3 Perlocutionary Act

Perlocutionary act refers to the speaker's speech's impact on the listener. Perlocutionary acts, in conclusion, are activities made by listeners who are influenced by the speaker's speech. Simply put, the speaker's and listener's elocutionary behaviors are influenced by the speaker's utterances.

2.3.2 Types of Illocutionary Acts

The forms of illocutionary acts will be examined using Searle's theory. Searle (1979:10) claims that illocutionary acts fall into five kinds. The first is directives (orders or requests), the second is assertive (actions of speech that

express the speaker's beliefs), and the third is commissive (speech acts in which the speaker expresses what he means, such as threats, refusal, pledged, or promise), and for the fourth is expressive (which the speaker expresses his feelings and thoughts about a topic), and the last is declarative (speech acts that change reality according to the circumstances proposition of declaration). The following is a more detailed explanation of the five types of illocutionary acts:

2.3.2.1 Assertive

Assertive's goal or intent is to connect the speaker to a fact, as the proportions stated. The true or false dimension of the exam can be used to evaluate the assertive class. The speaker will be represented by the world as he believes in this type of illocutionary deed. Making words match the world is the goal of assertive Searle (1979) such as: informing, claiming, reporting, recommending, denying, debating, describing, and swearing are some of the types.

Example: *It was a cold rainy day.* (Yule, 1996:53)

It was cold on a wet day, as the speaker stated in the utterance above, which is true. The previous statement serves as a representative speech act since it serves the purpose of making a true statement.

2.3.2.2 Directive

When a speaker uses a directive, they want the audience to act in a certain way. It can be a minor "effort," such as when the speaker asks or suggests something to the listener. The listener may attempt to be as ferocious as the

speaker who is also the listener. This type of illocutionary speech aims to make the world match the words. Searle (1979) are asking, commanding, imploring, inviting, recommending, asking, advising, and permitting are some of the sorts.

Example: *Could you lend me a bag, please?* (Yule, 1996)

The statement used above when the speaker wants to lend a bag indicates what the speaker wants and instructs the listener to take action. Because the statement above is about requesting something, it might be classified as a directive speech act.

2.3.2.3 Commissive

A commissive is a speech that expresses a commitment or an offer. The direction that fits in this kind of illocutionary act Searle (1979) such as promising, offering, refusing, promising, threatening, and swearing are some of the types.

Example: *I'm going to get it fixed next time.* (Yule, 1996)

In the above example, it is clear that the speaker made a promise when she said, "I'm going to get it fixed next time," as this is a commissive act function. As a result, the example fits under the commisive type.

2.3.2.4 Expressive

Expressive is illocutionary that conveys the speaker's psychological reaction to the event. The directions of fit in this kind of illocutionary act Searle (1979) are thanking, apologizing, congratulating, greeting, and wishing are some of the varieties as well as attitude.

Example: *I'm really sorry.* (Yule, 1996:53)

The speaker is apologizing to the hearer, as can be seen from the previous example. Because expressive speech acts serve to represent what the speaker feels, the previous utterance is classified as an expressive speech act because it conveys the speaker's sorrow.

2.3.2.5 Declarative

A declaration is a type of speech that relates facts to content. The idea behind this act is that words may change the world, such as blessing, approving, betting, declaring, and disapproving some of the types.

Example: *Priest: I now pronounce you as the new queen.* (Yule, 1996:53)

The above statement can be classed as a declaration because when a priest blesses a girl as the new queen, the girl's entire universe is changed. The example demonstrates how the priest's words alter their perception of the world.
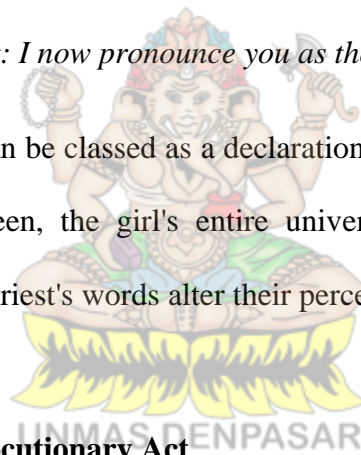
2.3.3 Functions of Illocutionary Act

According to Leech (1983;104), there are four different categories of illocutionary act functions, they are :

2.3.3.1 Competitive

The competitive function is the one where the social purpose and the illocutionary goal conflict. Politeness has a negative meaning in this role, and it is sent to reduce disharmony. The most important component of this act is that it reduces the contradiction between what the speaker wants and what is considered proper behavior. The following is an example of requesting, demanding, begging,

and ordering.

2.3.3.2 Convivial

The conversion function occurs when the social goal and the illocutionary intention are on the same track. The convivial function is effective politeness and goals to find possibilities for social existence, as an example: inviting, greeting, thanking, offering, and congratulating.

2.3.3.3 Collaborative

The collaborative function is a situation in which the illocutionary goal is more important than the social goal. Politeness does not exist in collaborative illocutionary functions, such as: asserting, reporting, informing, announcing, and instructing.

2.3.3.4 Conflictive

Conflictive occurs when the social objective and the illocutionary goal conflict. This role is largely intended to incite fury; it does not include components of etiquette, such as accusing, cursing, threatening, or reprimanding.

Illocutionary goals and social goals are used to describe the purpose of the speech. The speaker's intention or meaning when speaking is known as their illocutionary goal, whereas their social goal is the reaction they hope to elicit from their audience.