

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some aspects related to the topic being studied. It consists of background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, the existence of language basically cannot be separated from human life, especially in social life that requires humans to relate and cooperate with other people. Therefore to fulfill their desires as social beings that need to interact with other, humans need tools that called languages. It has an important role in human life, with human language which can convey the kind of ideas, thoughts, and feelings. The element of pragmatic is speech act that involves the speaker, listener or writer of the reader as well as those discussed. Speech act is inseparable part of our life. Everyday people deliver speech acts in their communication such as making statements, giving commands, asking questions and making requests. That is strengthened by what Searle states (2006:6) that all linguistic communication includes speech act. Thus, the basic unit of linguistic communication is speech acts.

Speech act is a part of verbal communications. The words speech acts are from two words those are speech and act. Speech is the utterance from the speaker and act means the action. Searle in Rahardi (2005: 35-36) in the Searle's book *Speech acts: An essay in the philosophy of language*, stating that in practice the use of language there are at three kinds of speech acts. Those are locutionary,

illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. Locutionary act is literal meaning of the utterances, illocutionary act is the action behind the utterances and perlocutionary act is the effect of utterances to hearer.

Yule (1996:47) defines the performed of action by utterances are generally called speech act, Yule (1996:47) defines. It means utterance to do an action is used in speech acts, when people want to suppose doing an action is not only using physical movement but also they can use utterances to do an action. According to Aitchison (2003: 106) describes speech act as a number of utterance behave somewhat like actions. He also states that when a person utters a sequence of words the speaker is often trying to achieve some effects with those words; an effect which might in some cases has been accomplished by an alternative action.

Some people don't understand about speech and don't understand the parts of the speech act. There are also many people who cannot distinguish what type of speech acts from the utterances. Speech acts that occur will vary in each speech situation, depending on that the speaker is, the interlocutor, the topic, the time, and the place where the speech takes place. Likewise what happens when someone makes a speech at the certain event, the speech acts used can be seen. Based on this, the writer is interested in examining more deeply about speech acts in speech. This study discusses generally speech act study, including locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary.

The reason of the study to choose Vice Kamala Harris' speech about history of victory is because she is the first female, black and South Asian Vice Presidents – elect. Before becoming as the vice, Kamala Harris is a United States senator from 2017 to 2021. She delivered her first national address after American

voters chose her running mate Joe Biden as the country's 46th president. She really motivates us as women we can take the important part in our country. From her speech, there is one of good quote for us "I may be the first woman in this office. I will not be the last, because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities. And to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: Dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see yourselves in a way that others may not, simply because they've never seen it before, but know that we will applaud you every step of the way". Kamala Harris has simple style and when she delivers her speech is to the point and it makes the people interested.

There are several previous studies related to speech acts have been conducted, like the first previous study is conducted by Dewi (2014), in her thesis with the title "Speech Act in the Great Gatsby Movie script". The aims of the research were to know the illocutionary act based on Searle categories and strategy of speech act in a movie script. This research is library research with the qualitative approach. The second study is conducted by Panjaitan (2013), in his thesis with the title "Speech Act in Wedding Ceremony of the Angkola Culture". The aim of this study was to find out speech act in the wedding ceremony of the Angkola culture.

Therefore, based on the previous studies above, the researcher is interested in conducting a research with use Searle's Theory entitled "Speech Acts Analysis on Kamala Harris' Speech about History of Victory".

B. Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the researcher would like to formulate the problems above as follow:

1. What types of speech acts are presented in Kamala Harris' speech about historic victory?
2. What are the functions of speech acts in Kamala Harris' speech about historic victory?

C. Objective of the Study

Based discussion in the background of the study, the objective of this research as follow:

1. To analyze the types of speech act that presented in Kamala Harris' about historic victory.
2. To analyze the function of speech act in Kamala Harris' speech about historic victory.

D. Significance of the Study

The finding of this research was expected to be useful for:

1. Theoretically

The significance of this research is to encourage other researchers of speech act to create discourse analysis such as Kamala Harris' speech about History of Victory.

2. Practically

- (a) For the researcher, it can increase the knowledge in speech act and can share to the people who want to research in this field.

- (b) For the readers, to know kinds of speech acts.
- (c) For the students, it can add and increase their knowledge about speech act and can help them in comprehending the text.
- (d) For the teachers, it can help them to further research as reference in it.

E. Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on analyzing the types of speech and the function of speech act presented in Kamala Harris' speech about historic victory. To avoid a broader discussion and makes this research manageable, the researcher gives the limit in this research only on the analysis of Vice President Kamala Harris' speech. The researcher focuses on her speech about historic victory. In this research, the researcher can find the types of speech and the function in speech act in a speech and find the effects or reactions from the audiences after a speech by Vice President Kamala Harris by using speech act theory.

F. Definition of Key Terms

There are some key terms in this research. The following terms are the definition of key terms.

1. Speech Acts

Speech act was originally by philosopher J. L. Austin and developed by John R. Searle. Austin (1955:12) stated in his book, in which by saying or saying something we are doing something. It indicates that in utterances that is stated, there is an action that performed. According to Searle (1979) a language is performing speech acts such as making request, statements, giving comments, etc.

All the utterance shows speech acts, consist of a locutionary act (the production of sounds and words with meaning), an illocutionary act (the issuing of an utterance with conventional communicative force achieved „in saying“), and a perlocutionary act (the actual effect achieved „by saying“).

Speech act is the basic analysis in pragmatics. This opinion has relation with the objects of pragmatics which most of them are speech acts in communication. Speech acts term appears as a result of uttering something, the speaker solely do not just uttering something, and there is a meaning behind it. So, it can be concluded that speech act is the activity done by uttering something.

2. Kamala Harris' speech History of Victory

Kamala Harris delivers her first speech on Saturday 7th of November 2020 in Wilmington, Delaware. She is the first female vice president in United States. Harris begins her speech with a tribute to the legacy of the late congressman and civil rights activist John Lewis. From the Chase Center stage on Riverfront Wilmington, Harris quoted Lewis as saying that protecting democracy requires struggle and sacrifice. In her victory speech, Harris also promises the country that she would not be the last woman to work in the United States government office. “I won't be the last, because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country full of opportunities”, this is one of the quote of her speech that get a lot of applause from the audience.