

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of The Study

Pragmatics is the branch of linguistics dealing with language in use and the contexts in which it is used, including such matters as deixis, taking turns in conversation, text organization, presupposition, speech act and implicature. The meaning of the phrase language in use is the way people use the language in order to make it more communicative in every situation which is known as the context and must consider the types of sentences that is used. The meaning of sentences is not always based on the meaning itself, but sometimes it depends on the context. For example interrogative sentence is not always about question like asking or something. The meaning can be different if it is affected by the context. It may be changed to the kind of command or something else. Yule stated that pragmatics is the study of the relationship between linguistic forms and the users of those forms. Pragmatics is the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker and interpreted by a listener (Yule, 1996). Pragmatics is a little bit different with semantics even though they are the branch of linguistics. Pragmatics understands the language meaning but keeping the context in mind. On the other hand, semantics deals with the study of meaning of word without the context. In this study, the researcher prefers pragmatics area in order to analyze the data because the researcher analyzes the meaning of utterances based on the context.

Speech act is a subfield of pragmatics concerned with the ways in which words can be used not only to present information but also to carry out actions. Speech act is an utterance considered as an action, particularly with regard to its intention, purpose, or effect. The basic concept of Speech Act is introduced for the first time by Oxford philosopher J.L. Austin in his book *How to Do Things With Words*, 1962. It is when the speakers make an utterance to the hearer in order to make the speakers perform. Then it is further developed by American philosopher J.R. Searle. He states that speech-act theory considers the levels of action at which utterances are said to perform. It is categorized into three parts; locutionary acts is the act of saying something, illocutionary acts is the acts of doing something, and perlocutionary acts is the acts of affecting someone.

There are five types of illocutionary acts based on the Searle's theory. They are assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declaration (Searle, 1979: 187).

Searle give some specific meaning for every type when illocutionary acts used. It means that the types of illocutionary acts has a systematic correlation with the types of sentences.

The researcher analyze two types of illocutionary acts which are assertives and directives. The meaning in each types can be found by the context. For example “I feel very uncomfortable with the door closed” is kind of assertives because the speaker says about the fact, but if it is seen from the context, this sentence has another meaning. The meaning can be a command which is kind of imperative sentence. And also there is an example of directives, “have you closed the door?” it is kind of interrogative sentence, but it may not literally just a question. The meaning can be a command which is known as directive utterances in illocutionary acts. The context is also important which is used to find the meaning of the sentences. This is the interesting part why the researcher interests to analyze the types of illocutionary acts. The utterances can have various functions which are different from the form and have the opposite meaning of the message that the speaker wants to say which can be seen from the context.

The topic of study is about illocutionary act in a novel *Skinny* by Donna Cooner as the dialogs of the main character in the novel can be speech acts. The researcher chooses the main character, Ever Davies because the main character is the most character that produces the utterances in the novel. The interesting part from the novel is that the characteristic of the main character affects the utterances that are produced. Most of the utterances are just included in the two types of illocutionary which are assertive and directive.

*Skinny* tells about Ever Davies is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Davies, but Mrs. Davies has died in her ninth birthday. After her mother’s death, there is vicious voice that lives inside her. She names it as Skinny. Ever also eats much before bedtime to help her dream about her mother. Ever is an obesity girl that is about 302 pounds. Mr. Davies has married again and now she has a stepmother and two stepsisters, Lindsey and Briella. Lindsey is a perfect and famous girl who has tiny hips and beautiful eyes. She is a head cheerleader in her school. Briella is same with Lindsey who has a perfect body. Ever always cannot be accepted in social life because of her obesity. She does not have friends in the school. They ignore her, especially Whitney. She is a famous and perfect girl in the school and also a member of cheerleader. However, her close friend Rat always accepts the way she is. Then, she decides to do a surgery to lose weight. After the surgery, her life actually has

changed. She has accepted in her social life and being a normal person. Her life builds her characteristics which are being hopeless, shy and lack of confidence.

There are some reviews of previous studies about Illocutionary Acts as well. For the first is “Illocutionary Acts Produced by The Main Character in Khaled Hosseini’s *A Thousand Splendid Suns*” that is written by Sarah Sumponoganti in 2015 from University of Stikubank Semarang. Secondly, “A Study of Illocutionary Acts Found In Television Advertisement of *Mie Sedaap*” by Istiqomah in 2014 from University of Brawijaya. And then “An Analysis on Illocutionary Acts in Novel *A Splendid Suns*” that is written by Ismi Adinda in 2011 from Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta. The fourth is “The Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in The President Joko Widodo’s Speech” that is written by Anin Listya K. in 2015 from Abdurachman Saleh University. The next previous study is “Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in *The Prince and The Pauper* Movie” by Suci Almuslimah in 2012 from Andalas University. The last study is “An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in *Sherlock Homes* Movie” is written by Agung Suryo Nugroho in 2011 from UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta.

There are two things which make this study is different with the previous studies. Firstly, this study uses different text types as the source of the data which is a novel *Skinny* by Donna Cooner, while another study use advertisements, speech, and also novel with different title. Secondly, this study just uses two types of illocutionary acts, while the previous studies use all of the types of illocutionary acts which is based on the Searle’s theory. The title of the study is “The Analysis of Ever’s Illocutionary Acts in Donna Cooner’s *Skinny*”.

## **1.2. Research Problems**

1. What context that can be found in Donna Cooner’s *Skinny* ?
2. What types of Illocutionary Acts that can be found in Donna Cooner’s *Skinny*?
3. What is the types of sentences which is used in Donna Cooner’s *Skinny* ?

## **1.3. Objective of The Study**

1. To know the context of the data that can be found in Donna Cooner’s *Skinny*
2. To find the types of Illocutionary Acts in Donna Cooner’s *Skinny*
3. To know the types of sentences which is used in Donna Cooner’s *Skinny*

#### **1.4. Significance of The Study**

This study will give some benefits for the reader especially students who want to take and increase their knowledge about the illocutionary acts in pragmatics. As we know that many people always communicate by producing some utterances that can make the hearer interpret what is the meaning. Thus, this study will give some information about context of the data, types of illocutionary acts and also the types of sentences based on purpose. In addition, the meaning of utterances which is produced can have various purpose based on the cocontext between the speaker and the hearer.

#### **1.5. Scope and Limitation**

The scope is actually about speech act. The limitation is that the problem statements about context of the data, the types of illocutionary acts which are assertive and directive and the types of sentences which are declarative, interrogative and imperative.