

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Language cannot be separated from human in their daily lives. All human beings can communicate with their respective speech communities using the language they speak. Besides the primary function of language, which is as a tool of communication, language also has other functions depending on the users, such as a means to express themselves, as a means to adapt in one area, as a social control, as a means to interact, inform, entertain, and so forth. As an example of using language in comedy, unconsciously, human beings have been using one of the functions of language, which is entertaining other people.

Comedy, as a popular meaning, is any humorous discourse or work generally intended to amuse by creating laughter, especially in television, film, and stand-up comedy. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comedy>)

Since a long time ago, comedy has become an important part in the civilization of humankind. It is proved by the discovery of the king's servant such Semar, Petruk, and Bagong in the tradition of wayang in Java. Historically, they act as ordinary people who hint at the political and governmental circles through satirical comedy. It can be said that comedy can also be more than just an invitation to laugh. But most people today equalize comedy with joke because generally nowadays, televisions broadcast stories about foolish witty people or silly jokes which are also called slap-stick. In fact, comedy can be a medium for

thinking outside the box about things that happen in everyday life. This is the point which attempted to be highlighted by stand-up comedy.

Stand-up comedy is a comedic art form. Here the comics, the performer of stand-up comedy deliver their comedy materials in stand-up state. Usually material that is delivered is concerning everyday life. The comic is usually recounted the experience which he considers strange and unusual and simultaneously include social criticism about an event. However, only certain people can catch their actions as criticism. Therefore, stand-up comedy is often called smart humor for demanding the viewers to think logically upon the words they utter. In this case illocutionary acts is importantly needed.

Illocutionary act is one type of speech acts covered in pragmatics. Just as people can perform physical acts, such as hitting a baseball, they can also perform mental acts, such as imagining hitting a baseball. People can also perform another kind of act simply by using language; these are called speech acts. (Jennedy, Polletto, Weldon, 1994: 229)

As stated by Peccei (1999: 44), Austin pointed out that in analyzing a speech act, we need to make a distinction between the locution and illocution. The locution is the actual form of words used by the speaker and their semantic meaning. The illocution is what the speaker is doing by uttering those words: commanding, offering, promising, threatening, thanking, etc. For example, the locution of the utterance "Give me some cash" would be "Hand some money over to me". Meanwhile the illocution of the same utterance is the speaker performed the act of requesting the addressee to give him some cash. Austin also

distinguished a third part of a speech acts namely the perlocution. This is the actual result of the locution. (Peccei, 1999: 44) For example, the former utterance could have any of the following perlocutions: ‘the speaker persuaded the addressee to give him the money’; ‘the addressee refused to give him the money’, etc. The perlocution is defined by the addressee’s reaction. Austin’s idea that it is possible to state the necessary conditions for a particular illocution to ‘count’ was developed further by John Searle (Peccei, 1999: 50)

Some say that illocutionary act is the real speech acts. One general classification system lists five types of general functions performed by speech acts: declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives. (Yule, 1996: 53) Speakers use commissive to commit themselves to do something in the future. One example from stand-up comedy, “*Gue tantang lu, buka Facebook, lu search aja ‘satu juta Facebooker...’*” is counted as commissive because the speaker guarantee that there will be the group such ‘*satu juta Facebooker...’* found on Facebook. Declarative is the kind of illocutionary acts that change the world via utterances. For example from one of the stand-up comedy shows: “*Gue mau menggunakan kesempatan ini untuk ngomong sesuatu.*” This sentence is counted as declarative because the speaker intends to change the world from the former of doing nothing to speak something via his utterances. Directive has the function of getting the listener to do something. For example, “*Gue ga minta ganja dilegalkan, gue minta untuk diturunkan kelasnya.*” This sentence is counted as directive because it is clearly seen that the speaker asks someone who has the authority in the circulation of marijuana to lower the

class of marijuana in Indonesia because it is included in the first class of drugs. Expressive is used when the speaker wants to express his feeling and attitudes about something. For example, the sentence *“Karena terus terang, gue ga ngerti sama orang yang kerjanya memburu tren, ga masuk akal.”* is counted as expressive because the speaker expresses his feeling towards the people who hunt trends. Representative is describing states or events in the world. For example, *“Ganja masuk narkotika kelas satu, dimana dia sama sekali tidak boleh dimanfaatkan.”* This sentence is counted as representative because the speaker knows for sure that his statement is true.

Many other studies analyze about illocutionary acts in some different media. Simamora (2010) analyzed the illocutionary acts used in political caricature utterances in newspaper. The writer of the study intended to avoid misunderstanding between the speaker and hearer, in this case, the reader, because she took the utterances from the written media. Pasaribu (2009) analyzed the illocutionary acts used in a talk show program on television. The writer of the study intended to find the common illocutionary acts used in the talk show without explaining further why some types of illocutionary acts are used more than other types of illocutionary acts.

Based on explanation above, this study will analyze the illocutionary acts in the stand-up comedy. This study will be useful to know how the comics perform illocutionary acts in their utterances when they performing stand-up comedy and how often they produce certain type of illocutionary acts. This study is also interesting because it will be much to be gained from the comics’

utterances in stand-up comedy because the words they generally produce are related to the pragmatics meaning and from this study the reader will know why one type of illocutionary acts is used frequently than other type of illocutionary acts.

### **B. Problem of the Study**

As related to the background of the study, the problems of the study are formulated as the following:

1. What types of illocutionary acts are used in stand-up comedy performances in Indonesia?
2. What is the dominant type of illocutionary acts used in stand-up comedy performances in Indonesia?
3. What is the implication of the dominant type of illocutionary acts which used in stand-up comedy performances in Indonesia?
4. Which utterances in stand-up comedy performances show the function of stand-up comedy?

### **C. Objective of the Study**

In relation to the problems of the study, the objectives of the study are:

1. to find out the types of illocutionary acts in stand-up comedy performances in Indonesia
2. to discover what type of illocutionary acts is dominant in stand-up comedy performances in Indonesia

3. to describe the implication of the dominant type of illocutionary acts which is used in stand-up comedy performances in Indonesia
4. to find out which utterances in stand-up comedy performances show the function of stand-up comedy

#### **D. Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study will be limited to the types of illocutionary acts as found in stand-up comedy performances in Indonesia, the implication of the using of illocutionary acts in stand-up comedy performances in Indonesia, and the function of stand-up comedy. The source of data is taken from the transcription of the comics' utterances in stand-up comedy performances in Indonesia.

#### **E. Significance of the Study**

The study is expected to be useful for:

1. the readers who want to have wider insight about illocutionary acts, especially in its application in stand-up comedy
2. the audiences of the stand-up comedy who want to know more about the application of illocutionary acts in everyday life
3. the fans of the stand-up comedy show who want to know more about the stand-up comedy show and what is behind the humor of the comics
4. other researchers who are interested in doing further research related to the use of illocutionary acts