

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

People can fulfill their needs to survive by receiving and sending language. They spend a large part of their lives interacting with each other; in a small group, in informal conversations with friends, in meeting with co-workers, and in many other contexts. Language is primarily spoken, although it can be transferred to another way, such as written. In other words, language is a communication system; therefore, it as a means of communication plays important roles in human's life.

In any relationship, no matter the type, communication is central and therefore unavoidable. Human beings are constantly involved in communication processes with others. In every interaction that happens in society, of course, communication is the basis of formation of successful human societies. It means that communication is the bridge between people. It is through communication that collaboration and cooperation occur. The ability to make the appropriate communicative choices in a certain context is a part of a person's communicative competence. Different kinds or style of communicative competence can occur and humans use their communicative strategies slightly differently for various reasons.

In doing communication, people may not realize that spoken or written sentences also carry a function. As an example, if a man says, "*Close the windows!*", actually this sentence carries a function; directive function which is used to show our command or asking someone to do something. From the

sentence above, people can see clearly that the sentence is directive because the man asks the hearer to close the windows.

However, the hearer may get confused if people speak without a purpose.

Halliday (1997:7) states that:

“A functional approach to language means, first of all, investigating how language is used; try to find out what the purpose that language serves for us, and how people are able to achieve these purpose through speaking and listening, reading and writing. But it also means more than this. It means seeking to explain the nature of language in functional terms: seeing whether language itself has been shaped by use, and if so, in what ways – how the form of language has been determined by the functions it has evolved to serve.”

It means that the language function refers to the purpose itself. The language function leads the hearers to achieve the purpose of someone’s speech. As a proof, from the example of the utterance “*Open the book!*”. This sentence carries a function reflects clearly the purpose what the man’s speech. The purpose of the function is asking the hearer to open the book.

Language itself consists of some functions which are to give information, deliver message, express feelings, persuade people, entertain people, and share opinion. The functions of language have also received scholarly attention in functional diachronic. According to Roman Jakobson in Holmes (2001), language functions include the expressive function (communicating the inner states and emotions of the addresser), the directive function (using vocatives and imperatives to call the attention of another or requiring them to carry out some action), the phatic function (opening the channel and checking that it is working for social reasons), the poetic function (choosing a particular form as the essence of message), the referential function (giving information as the communication

essentially) and metalinguistic function (focusing attention on the code itself, to clarify it or negotiate it).

Several studies on language functions have been done previously. Erwan (2011) looks at “Language Functions Used in Andrie Wongso’s Book”. He analyzed every utterance in Andrie Wongso’s book to find the most dominant type of language function which is referential. It means that Andrie Wongso is mostly giving information in his book to influence the readers.

Utami (2007) investigated language functions on SMS Broadcast on Flexi between the company and the customer. After analyzing the data, the writer found that the dominant speech function used in SMS Broadcast on Flexi is directive function. It means the language has a function to get someone to do something.

Tania (2010) analyzed language function used in Advertising Texts. The writer focuses that aim to change the human thinking about advertisement is not only promote the product but also give information. After analyzing the data, the writer found that the dominant language function is referential.

Other conducted by Kinanta (2008) who researched “A Study on Language Functions Used by the Main Character in Detective Conan Movie” and found out the main character in “Detective Conan” used metalinguistic function as the dominant function. It means that the language has a function to reveal and convey the truth to people in that movie.

In this research, the writer would like to analyze language functions used by the main character in *Sherlock Holmes II: A Game of Shadows* movie. It is the popular action-mystery movie based on the titular character created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle where Sherlock Holmes as the main character. Although Holmes is

not the original fictional detective (he was influenced by Edgar Allan Poe's C. Auguste Dupin and Émile Gaboriau's Monsieur Lecoq), his name has become a byword for the part in literature (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherlock_Holmes). The investigating detective became a popular genre with many authors such as Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers after the demise of Holmes, with characters such as Hercule Poirot and Lord Peter Wimsey.

The writer chooses the film to be observed because it is one of box office movie which deals with a detective's way and choice to use language as a function to investigate someone, find out the clues along his investigation, and also solve the crimes that are assigned to him. It is also considered as an interesting discussion data to analyze how language is used by a detective and relate it to the implication of the language functionally.

This research investigates language functions used by the main character in *Sherlock Holmes II: A Game of Shadows* movie. The transcription which has been taken from the first forty minutes dialogue of conversation expressed by the main character in that movie as a consideration that in the beginning of a movie particularly with an action-mystery genre, the main character mostly appears and takes role in order to introduce how the story is. These data then are analyzed by using language function proposed by Jakobson (1960).

B. The Identification of the Problem

People may convey their message in communicating by knowing the function of language itself. The writer formulates the questions of the research to be answered as follow:

1. What are the types of language functions used by the main character in *Sherlock Holmes II: A Game of Shadows* movie?
2. What is dominant kind of language function used by the main character in *Sherlock Holmes II: A Game of Shadows* movie?
3. What is the implication of the dominant type of language functions used by the main character in *Sherlock Holmes II: A Game of Shadows* movie?

C. The Objective of the Study

1. To find out the types of language function in communication used by the main character in *Sherlock Holmes II: A Game of Shadow* movie.
2. To find out the dominant kind of language function used by the main character in *Sherlock Holmes II: A Game of Shadow* movie.
3. To describe the implication of the most dominant type of language function that is used by the main character in *Sherlock Holmes II: A Game of Shadow* movie.

D. The Scope of the Study

This research is related to Sociolinguistics, focusing in language functions particularly. The writer utilizes a theory which was proposed by Roman Jakobson (1960). According to him, there are six major language functions; emotive, conative, poetic, metalinguistic, referential, and phatic function. Specifically, the writer takes a chunk of 40 minutes dialogues used by the main character in *Sherlock Holmes II: A Game of Shadow* movie. Hence, by Jakobson's theory, the dialogues in that movie will be analyzed rightly based on the aspects in the theory.

E. The Significance of the Study

The results of this research will be useful:

1. For English Department students, this research is expected that the students may obtain more information about language function in particular used in a movie with an action-mystery genre such as in a *Sherlock Holmes II: A Game of Shadows* movie.
2. For readers, it will give the benefits to them who are interested in this field to obtain deeper understanding in language function.
3. For further researchers, this study will become a useful reference in doing the same kind of study.