

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. The Background of the Study

Communicating is a very important language activity in human life and through communication; a person may disclose or convey meaning, feelings, advice, ideas and so on. Communication can be done orally or in written form by means of language. In order to what is delivered by a speaker can be understood by listeners, the language that is used; either the structure or the word choice, should be arranged in such a way.

Communication which is done orally is different with communication which is done in written form. The structure of oral communication is usually irregular and very simple and if the listener did not understand the message or the meaning of what is the speaker try to disclose or convey, then the listener can ask question directly to the speaker. While in written communication, the structure of it should be complete because if the reader cannot understand the message, the reader could not directly ask the author.

However, it does not mean that the speaker can use language that is not particularly well structured in monologue communication. In monologue communication, the frequently ask and question (FAQ) is not expected to occur during the speaker delivered his speech. If there is interaction from the listener, it is only as a sense of awe, agree, sympathetic and so forth that is expressed through applause, screams and laughter. Therefore the speaker

will attempt to convey meaning by using aspects of the language in such a way, for example the use of phoneme, morpheme, grammar, metaphor and modal verbs.

Modal verbs operate like other aspects of language, they can be analyzed from pragmatic and semantic perspective, they are used to indicate different meaning or acts like request, obligation, order, permit, etc. Modal verbs in English regarded as small class of auxiliary verbs. They distinguish from other verbs because they have not participle or infinitive forms. According to Jabber and Jinguan (2012) “The modal verbs characterized by some feature like: they do not use (s) in the third person singular, they are not used as infinitives or participles, they function like auxiliary verbs do and they can undergo the subject auxiliary version”.

Seonoaid (2013) states that “The modal verbs that often used are *Can, Could, May, Might, Must, Ought to, Shall, Should, Will and Would*”. These modal verbs is often used to express ability, possibility, permission, request, offer, suggestion, necessity, advice, obligation, demand, order, prediction, assumption, wish, promise and habit in declarative and interrogative sentences. Modal verbs occur in daily conversation, whether written or spoken. It is spoken by entire people such as teacher, lecturer, parents, students, doctors, lawyers, politicians, presidents, etc.

Barack Obama for example, as an elected president of The United States in his speech tries to satisfied and pleased his people and supporters who trust him as president of The United States. It can be seen from the use

of modal verbs as one of Barrak Obama's efforts to convince his people and supporters.

Examples below show us some of his modal verbs used in his speech on Manassas, Prince William County, Virginia at November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008. The night before the election:

- “Tomorrow you can turn the page on policies that put greed and irresponsibility before hard work and sacrifice.” Modal verbs can in his speech occurs to expres ability function in declarative sentences.
- “We tried to communicate for these last two years that we can't afford the same political games, the same tactics that pit us against one another, that make us afraid of each other.” Modal verbs cannot in his speech occurs to expres prohibition function in declarative sentences.
- “I'd see my staff and I would say "Are you fired up?" and they would say "We are fired up, boss, are you ready to go?" And I'd say "I'm ready to go."” Modal verbs would in his speech occurs to expres habits function in declarative sentences.

All of above examples show the modal verbs that express ability, prohibition and habits function in Barack Obama speech to persuade the audience.

Speech is a power in itself, it is means that through speech, the speakers can persuade the listeners. The most significant thing in the speech is the message that the speaker wants to convey to the listener. When the

listener understands the message in the speech, he will respond or behave positively. According to Mulyana (1995) "Speech is an utterance with a good arrangement to be submitted to the crowd". It means beside the message, good arrangement of words and grammar from the speaker speech is also important in delivered a speech in order that the listener interpreted the speaker message well.

In Barack Obama's leadership, there are not only pro which arise but also the contrary of him. There are his supporters but there are his haters, but it did not become his obstacle to lead the United States not only for once but twice in a row. It is become an interesting phenomenon why and how he, with his background as an African American, can be a president of the United States defeated his entire opponent and takes the people's trust in him. Especially in linguistic area which is related to the use of modal verbs in his speeches.

Language and politics are related, language is a tool by which the politicians can command, request, persuade, declare, etc. Due of this, politicians tend to use special forms of language to give their speech discourse charm which enable them to send different messages to different people of different orientations and levels at one time and within one piece of discourse. According to Jabber and Jinguan (2012), "To achieve these functions they use language in a subtle, manipulative and convincing way because language has a power in itself".

Based on the research about “The Modals Verbs: A Speech Act of Request in The Speech of The President of The United States Barack Obama” Jabber and Jinguan (2012), their resulted that the modal verbs as a general used as auxiliary verbs can be occurring in declarative, imperative sentences and also can be used to create interrogative sentences. Three modal verbs namely “*can*”, “*Will*” and “*Must*” are used by the speaker in the speech chosen, they frequented many times and the study showed that the speaker in his speech focus on them as a tool to interact with his interlocutors. It is mean that modal verbs occurs by the speaker in the speech that they use and the speaker in his speech focus on them as a tool to interact with his listeners.

Another previous research about “Modal verbs and politeness strategies in political discourse” Ruxandra Boicu (2007), conclude that the use of the modal verbs in Ashley Mote’s speech enhances the illocutionary force of FTAs (Face-Threatening Acts), as by definition. Considering the extremist character of nationalist ideology that he promotes, his discourse might be expected to be more radical and more illocutionarily forceful. Ashley Mote’s status of an independent politician who is not an MP in the national parliament cannot enable him to utter commissive speech acts or stronger directive ones. It is mean that modal verbs spoken by Ashley Mote enhances the illocutionary force but he enable to utter commissive speech acts or stronger directive ones due to his status of an independent politician who is not an MP in the national parliament.

From all of those interested discusses, the researcher attempted to research Modal Verbs in Barack Obama's Victory Speeches. The researcher interested to know what modal verbs are used in Barack Obama's victory speeches, which modal verbs are frequently used in Barack Obama's victory speeches and in what meaning does the frequently modal verbs on the overall message conveyed by Barack Obama's in his first and the second election 2012 victory speeches.

### **1.2.The Problem of the Study**

The problem of this study is on to the use of modal verbs in Barack Obama's victory speeches in the first election on 2008 and the second election on 2012. The problems formulated as in the following.

1. What modal verbs are used in Barack Obama's victory speeches in the first election in 2008 and the second election in 2012?
2. Which modal verbs are frequently used in Barack Obama's victory speeches in the first election in 2008 and the second election in 2012?
3. What meaning does the frequently modal verbs on the overall message conveyed by Barack Obama's in his first election in 2008 and the second election in 2012 victory speeches?

### **1.3.The Objectives of the Study**

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

1. the modal verbs are used in Barack Obama's victory speeches in the first election in 2008 and the second election in 2012,
2. the frequent modal verbs are used in Barack Obama's victory speeches in the first election in 2008 and the second election in 2012, and
3. the explanation of what meaning does the frequent modal verbs on the overall message conveyed by Barack Obama's in his first election in 2008 and the second election in 2012 victory speeches.

#### **1.4.The Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study is focused on the modal verbs and the use of modal verbs which are found in Barack Obama's victory speeches in the first election in 2008 and the second election in 2012. Further, the analysis of the study intends to find the objective and explanative of the modal verbs used in Barack Obama's victory speeches in the first election in 2008 and the second election in 2012.

#### **1.5.The Significance of the Study**

Finding of the study are expected to be significantly relevant theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, the researcher expect that the research finding will be useful for:

1. describing the modal verbs used in Barack Obama's victory speeches in the first election in 2008 and the second election in 2012,

2. understanding the modal verbs used in Barack Obama's victory speeches in the first election in 2008 and the second election in 2012,
3. teaching to improve the ability to teach English and enlarges their knowledge about the modal verbs that is used in speech, and
4. identifying the speakers' intentions of the modal verbs in speech, especially in Barack Obama's victory speeches in the first election in 2008 and the second election in 2012.

Practically finding of this research will be useful for:

1. other researcher who will conduct the relevance study, this research will be very a useful aid,
2. politicians can use the findings of this research to give a new point of view of modal verbs that use in political discourse, and
3. authentic material can be used in the teaching of modal verbs.