

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of Study

"Communication is one of the most important aspects for human beings in the world. It allows people to express their thoughts and ideas. Language serves as a tool for communication, enabling individuals to convey information and symbols in order to achieve their communication goals. Moreover, language helps convey the purpose of communication. While communication by common people may be unstructured, the most crucial aspect is that their speech can be understood and accepted by others." It is equally with the argument of Parker (1986:12) stated that what people have to do in communication is how they use language to communicate rather than the way of language is structured internally. Yule (1996:47) said that in the effort to express and asserting himself, people not only produce grammatical structure sentences but they also produce or show actions in that language. Language is not only reflected in oral communication, but also in writing, such as in magazines, newspapers, letters, and other forms including manuscripts found in documents, movies, or history.

Pragmatics is closely related terms in language study. pragmatics we study about the meaning of the context between the speaker and the hearer and also the meaning of their communication. (Leech 1983:6) stated that Pragmatics studies meaning in relation to speech situation. (Yule 1996:4), with pragmatics, people can talk people's intended meanings, their assumption, their purposes or goals, and the kinds of action that they are performing when they are speak. In everyday conversation, people speak something containing speech act. Speech act is one of

pragmatic focuses that characterize the performance of utterance in certain condition. Searle (1969: 115) stated that in a typical speech situation involving speaker, a hearer, and an utterance by the speaker, there are many kinds of act associated with the speaker's utterance. Thus, speech act is kind of stage, from a speaker speak his utterance, than the hearer catch the utterance and interpret, finally the hearer shows some act.

The use of language should be adaptable enough to meet a wide range of changing needs and interests. It offers a unique form of communication with important functions as it organizes human cognition. Many linguists, sociologists, and anthropologists are interested in understanding how language is used in areas such as social, scientific, and religious contexts In a courtroom, the use of language for social purposes is different from other situations. The language spoken by judges, prosecutors, lawyers, suspects, and witnesses can vary greatly. The conversations that take place among them are not typical everyday conversations, as they are more complex and deal with legal and political issues. Each participant speaks to support their case in court, and this is commonly known as legal language use. (Brouwer, 1981) stated A court is a form of tribunal or a governmental institution, with the authority to adjudicate legal disputes between parties and carry out the administration of justice in civil, criminal, and administrative matters in accordance with the rule of law. In both common law and civil law legal systems, courts are the central means for dispute resolution. It is generally understood that all persons can bring their claims before a court. Similarly, the rights of those accused of a crime include the right to present a defense before a court. The system of courts that interpret and apply the law is collectively known as the judiciary. The

room where court proceedings occur is known as a courtroom. Language in law, like all spheres of social activity, is a term used by linguists to refer a language variety particular to a specific group. It is included vocabulary, grammar and discourse, which are significant features of various political activities.

Based on the many differences of the use of language in courtroom, it is important to conduct a study on the speech acts and the courtroom. Some of the outstanding facts are: (1) this speech community is renowned for indirection in their linguistics behavior, especially when it comes to communicating about unfavorable things, (2) in the process of doing the court session, there will be a various use of language among of the participants who are involved in the court session such as judge, prosecutor, lawyer, defendant and witnesses and (3) The participants of the courtroom can be regarded from their habit while interacting with others in the court session. They appreciate really the people who have given valuable services to them. They use politeness speech acts in the court session. It is unavoidable, that speech acts is dominantly used by the courtroom participants.

Based on the explanation above, the writer will investigate the use of speech acts by judge and defendant in the courtroom by Searle's (2000) "speech acts" theory. According to Searle, speech acts are actions carried out by someone when speaking, which not only express information, but also do something, such as asking, ordering, stating, and so on.

Searle identified several basic types of speech acts, known as "illocutionary speech acts". She classified these speech acts into several categories, including: 1

**Representatives:** Actions that claim the truth of a statement. **2. Directives:** Actions that attempt to influence the listener's actions, such as ordering, requesting, or making a request. **3. Comissives:** Actions that bind the speaker to do something in the future, such as promising, promising, or swearing. **4. Expressives:** Actions that express the speaker's feelings or attitude towards a situation, such as congratulating, expressing gratitude, or expressing regret. **5. Declarations:** Actions that change the status or condition of the world directly just by saying them, such as declaring war, making an official announcement, or making someone husband and wife. According to Searle, when someone speaks, they not only convey information, but also carry out certain social actions that have consequences in the relevant situational context. The writer is interested in how participants in a courtroom use speech acts to support their cases. In the courtroom, the judge holds authority and is responsible for listening to witnesses and evidence, evaluating the credibility and arguments presented, and making a ruling based on their interpretation of the law. If the suspect is proven guilty, the judge will pass a sentence. On the other hand, the suspect aims to be acquitted and will try to persuade the judge of their innocence. These circumstances have led the researcher to conduct a study on speech acts used by courtroom participants, focusing on the types of speech acts used by the judge and the suspect. The study focuses on analyzing the types of speech acts and the realization of those speech acts in every utterance or sentence used by the judge and the suspect in the courtroom. It's very interesting to research the speech acts used by them in the courtroom as we can understand how they aim to settle the case through their speech acts.

This is a transcription taken from a video of the courtroom between the judge and the dependant taken from YouTube.

*"Today is Sunday, August 10th, 2023 and the time is 10:16 a.m. This is Detective with the St. Louis County Police Department, Bureau of Crimes Against Persons,"*

*(Representative - Informing, Direct - Literal).*

This statement is included in the *representative* category because the speaker conveys information about the day, date, time, and his identity as a detective with a particular police department. In this context, the speaker performs an illocutionary act by informing something he considers to be a fact or truth. It is an illocutionary act that represents the utterance of a fact or explanation of a particular situation or context.

So, the statement can be classified as a representative (informing) illocutionary act because it informs a situation or fact, and can also be considered a directive (literal) illocutionary act because it conveys implicit instructions or implicit requests through the communication context presented.

## **1.2 The problem of Study**

In relation to the background of the study, the problems are formulated as the following.

1. What types of the speech act are used by the Judge and Defendant at the Verdict delivery of courtroom issued in YouTube?
2. How are the speech act realised in the expressions of the Judge and Defendant at the Verdict delivery of courtroom issued in YouTube?
3. Why are the speech act used as they are?

### 1.3 The Objective of Study

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

1. To find out type by speech act are uttered by the Judge and Defendant at the Verdict delivery of courtroom issued in YouTube.
2. To describe the speech act realized in the expressions of the Judge and Defendant at the Verdict delivery of courtroom issued in YouTube.
3. To explain the speech act used as they are.

### 1.4 The Scope of Study

The study focused on analyzing the speech acts performed by both the judge and the defendant during the delivery of the courtroom verdict. Specifically, it examined the language used by these participants in a courtroom setting, as captured in videos available on YouTube. The study specifically concentrated on the speech acts carried out by the judge and the defendant at the time of the verdict. The data was taken from YouTube <https://youtu.be/EcYzT0OxqVA?si=0FIBZMneZW3R1iW2>. The link contains ten trials carried out alternately between the judge and the defendant.

### 1.5 The significances of Study

The study's findings are expected to be very relevant both in theoretical and practical terms. In theoretical terms, the research findings are expected to enhance the understanding of pragmatics and sociolinguistics theories, particularly speech acts in the spoken language within a specific community, such as those of judges and defendants in a courtroom setting. This information is valuable as it sheds light on the types of speech acts used during courtroom interactions, providing a deeper

understanding and new perspectives on how speech acts relate to the field of pragmatic study.



THE  
*Character Building*  
UNIVERSITY