

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated information by speaker and interpreted by listener (Yule, 1996). It is a subfield of linguistics developed in the late 1970s, which studies how people comprehend and produce a communicative act or speech acts in a concrete speech situation. The ability to comprehend and produce a communicative act is referred as pragmatic competence.

Speech has important role in human life. People that want to propose their self to become the leader of an organization can transfer knowledge or at least share much information when there is no ways to write. Not only the people who want to become a leader of an organization but also all the people who want to give important information and the students who study about speech acts but they do not know or understand about it.

Speech refers to a succession of ideas expressed bit by bit in words, phrases, and clauses (Herbert and Eve, 1997:10). Speech does not only produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words but also perform actions via those utterances, even when the president or prime minister invites their guest for having dinner together. They have to give their welcoming speech before having dinner with their guests. Such as 'Prime Minister Julia Gillard's Speech at the Parliamentary Dinner for Barrack Obama in Canberra'. Commonly, speech

is given for specific intention, such as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise, or request (Yule, 1996:47).

Actions performed via utterances are generally called speech acts. Usually some people such as teacher, president, mayor, governor, lawyer and others give their speeches in front of the people. Especially the president always gives speech in the form of campaign before or after becoming a president. The audience should understand what the speaker means before they believe and vote. The speaker normally expects that the audience or the hearers can understand the utterances that the speaker already produced

Based on the explanation above, the acts which are formed in the utterances in campaign speech need more concerned to analyze the contents of the speech better than the grammatical structures of the speech itself. It is interesting to describe the acts that performed, so the readers could possible comprehend their understanding about the acts that performed in the utterances. However, it might be different for women who are in the certain position such as high rank government officials, scientists, successful business women, political leaders, etc. The women who are in these positions should talk directly in their speeches. So that, the listeners or audience know what the purposes of those speeches are. Then the listeners do what the speakers ask to do. One of them is Julia Gillard, the first woman takes the position of the prime minister of Australia.

In this case, there are 5 (five) types of general functions performed by speech acts (Yule, 1996: 53):

1. Declarations that changes the world via utterance.
2. Representatives that state what the speaker believes to be the case or not.
3. Expressives that state what the speaker feels.
4. Directives, that speakers use to get someone else to do something.
5. Commissives, that speakers use to commit themselves to some future action. They express what the speaker intends.

#### **B. The Problems of The Study**

Relating to the explanation above, the writer attempts to analyze Julia Gillard's speech based on speech acts approach. Three problems found in this research:

1. What are types of speech acts used by Julia Gillard?
2. What is the dominant type of the speech acts used by Julia Gillard?
3. What makes the dominant type of speech acts occurs the way it is?

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

In relation to the problem of the study, the objectives are to find out:

1. The types of speech acts used by Julia Gillard.
2. The most dominant type of speech acts used Julia Gillard.
3. The reason of what makes the dominant type of speech acts occurs the way it is.

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

The scope of the study is necessary to lead readers in recognizing the speech acts occurrence. This study will be limited to 4 (four) texts of Julia Gillard's speeches. Two texts are taken from speeches addressed to her citizens and two others are addressed to presidents of other countries particularly Barack Obama and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The speeches will be analyzed based on Yule's theory.

#### **E. The significance of the Study**

The significance of this study is hopefully to be beneficial theoretically and practically.

Theoretically:

1. The finding of this study is expected to be used as a reference for the university students and those who would like to understand more about the speech acts.
2. The researchers who plan to analyze speech acts from the similar sources.

Practically:

1. Someone who wants to prepare his or her own speech in English. The writer can help the readers to write their speech draft.
2. The teachers who want to teach about the speech acts. In this case, the readers can take some additional materials from this study.