

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Language is the basic need of human being to carry out their activities in every aspects of life. It is use to communicate to each other. 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 play important roles in human's life.

Communication means when people use language, they need not only to interact with others but also to get other persons to understand their thought and feeling. In general, communication can be divided into two forms; spoken and written communication. Spoken communication means the process of expressing ideas and feelings or giving information, which is done orally. Whereas, written communication is done in written form, such as; magazine, newspaper, brochure, letter, internet, etc.

In doing spoken or written communication, human, as socialized individuals, spend much of their live interacting to other people to make communication. Interacting is a process of making meaning. It is known as performing interpersonal meaning which studies the clause that concerns the speaker's role in the speech function. Speech function is a way someone delivers ideas in communication to make the listener understand the ideas well. Speech function itself divided into four types, statement, question, offer, and command. These four kinds of interaction give important roles in communication either

spoken or written. Speaker may be giving something to listener or demanding something of him. Giving means inviting to receive and demanding means inviting to give. Realizing or not, people may be giving or demanding something in their interaction. Something here means commodity being exchanged; either information or goods and services.

Several studies on speech function have been done previously. Wanda (2010) looks at “Speech Function in Facebook Users’ Status”. He analyzed every clauses in Facebook users’ status to find the most dominant type of speech function which is statement. It means that Facebook users is mostly giving information through their status.

Sulistiyowati (2011) analyzed the speech function in the conversations between the fourth semester English Department students of Muria Kudus University and some foreigners, the writer found that the opening speech functions are produced mostly by the students; it indicates that the students play as initiators. The foreigners show their respect and appreciation to the students as the respond to the student initiations b producing more responding and continuing moves. The number of turns and moves produced by the students and foreigners are quite similar; it indicates that both of the participants get the same chance to take their roles. The foreigners a s tourist show they interest to some tourism objects by describing to the students some objects they have visited and by comparing to their own country. Learning language cannot be separated from its culture, therefore speech functions and cultural understanding should be taught in the classroom as part of language discourse.

Tri (2011) analyzed speech function used in reality show “Uya Emang Kuya” on SCTV, the writer found that the dominant speech function used in reality show “Uya Emang Kuya” on SCTV is question. It means hypnosis utterances in that reality show tend to use question because the hypnotist asked some question to the person to get some information and questions deals with demanding information.

In this research, the writer would like to analysis speech function in ‘*Yeah Mahasiswa*’ tweets. It is the most popular twitter account through the Indonesian students. @*yeahmahasiswa* is the most funny and famous twitter account that mostly tweets about the other side of University-student’s life while getting in trouble because of assignment from lecture, out of meal, and the loneliness caused by having no boy/girlfriend.

The writer choose twitter to be observed because twitter is a relatively recent phenomenon. According to its website, it is “a real time information network powered by people all around the world that lets you share and discover what’s happening now”. It is also an Internet based – messaging services (although users are able to text their messages, or ‘tweets’, to their profiles), with each messages displayed publicly rather than privately. Users then choose which other member of the Twitter community they wish to follow, and the website displays the messages posted by those people in an automatically updated chronological timeline. People do make the interaction in using this kind of medium to communicate. They also can give and demand information or goods and services in their interaction. It cannot be limited by time and space. In Twitter,

the speech functions; statement, question, offer and command are commonly used by the users to interact.

In order to have an understandable research, the writer use an underlying theory that explains the types of speech function based on what is proposed by Halliday (1994).

B. The Problems of the Study

The problems of study are formulated as the following.

1. What types of speech function are used in '*Yeah Mahasiswa*' tweets?
2. What type of speech function is dominantly used in '*Yeah Mahasiswa*' tweets?
3. In what context does the dominant type of speech function occur?

C. The Objectives of the Study

In line with the problem, the objectives of the study are

1. to derive the types of speech functions used in '*Yeah Mahasiswa*' tweets,
2. to determine the most dominant type of speech functions used in '*Yeah Mahasiswa*' tweets, and
3. to reason for the dominant type of speech functions (findings) used in '*Yeah Mahasiswa*' tweets.

D. The Scope of the Study

The subject matter of the study is focused on the types of speech function in @yeahmahasiswa's tweets. There are four primary speech functions; statement, question, command and offer which are realized in mood; declarative; interrogative and imperative. This study will analyze the speech functions that are found in @yeahmahasiswa's tweets.

E. The Significance of the Study

Finding of the study are expected to be useful for

1. students of the English Department particularly to improve their knowledge and develop their understanding of how speech function works in texts or online texts,
2. to help people to understand the theory of speech function easier, so that readers can have deeper understanding about speech function, and
3. other researchers who want to make further research of speech function on more types, especially in texts or online texts.