

# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

## A. The Background of the Study

People often deliver their purpose in many ways and language is as a tool to communicate. This communication will be effective if the purpose of the communication can be gained well, both speaker and hearer have the same perception of the thing they are talking about. Here, an understanding is more than lexical meaning but it is closer to meaning based on context.

Being a student in Applied Linguistics made the writer combine two fields, first from Linguistics which was concerned on illocutionary acts and the second from Literature about the main character in a play. In a play, people also can find the main character by seeing what the characters tell and show, they mostly give more important information to the audience or reader.

In analyzing a movie, a dialogue cannot be separated from the topic of speech acts. Through dialogue people can understand what happened in the movie and the meaning of the speaker. To make it easier, transcription is also available, by this transcription, the utterances can be analyzed. In the movie many utterances are performed by particular kinds of action such as stating, promising, warning and so on.

In discussing speech acts, it is important to distinguish between three sorts of things that one is doing in the course producing utterances. These are usually distinguished by the terms locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary.

Searle (1975) divided illocutionary acts into five types of general functions, they are declarations, representatives, expressives, directives and commissives.

The reason of choosing illocutionary acts in the movie *Les Misérables* is because this movie is based on true story before the revolution in France so it has historical value, moral teaching about social misery, injustice and to see the phenomenon how the people in France used language in the interaction at the time. This movie is also adapted by Tom Hooper from the novel by Victor Hugo. It has been shown on the stage musical began in 1980 and this play is very popular for the people who love literature but the writer thinks there are many Applied Linguistics students have not known this play, so the writer will introduce one of Victor Hugo's masterpiece through this study.

It will be interesting to analyze the five types of illocutionary acts by the main character in this movie to get the goal of his speech. The usage of illocutionary acts in the movie is actually a representation of real conversation in natural society. In addition, it is important to get meaning of illocutionary acts found in the movie *Les Misérables* to know how the language is used by the speaker to deliver his goal and the hearer to comprehend. It will be interesting to analyze the five types of illocutionary acts by the main character in this movie to find out whether the utterances have all the five types of illocutionary acts or not. The main characters are Jean Valjean, Javert, Cossette and Marius. In this case, this research is limited in analyzing illocutionary acts that said by Jean Valjean because he has more important information and takes the most part during the

movie. Beside it, there were linguists who paid attention in language use like Austin, the developer of the theory of speech acts and Searle was the student of Austin who categorized illocutionary acts to be more specific.

There are some studies also support the research on illocutionary acts, like McGowan wrote in her journal '*A Partial Defense of Illocutionary Silencing (2011)*' and the result of her research is dominantly women who got traumatic they used expressive. The second journal, Shalev wrote '*Illocutionary clauses accompanying questions in Greek drama and in Platonic dialogue (2001)*' and the result is she found that questions can be Directive purpose. Third, Corrigan in his journal '*Speech acts, generic differences, and the curious case of 'Cymbeline' (2002)*'. The result in his research is he found mixed between the five types of illocutionary acts by Searle's theory in Cymbeline which is one of the most unwieldly of Shakespeare's play.

*Les Misérables* is one of the best movies in 2012, released in December 2012. This movie is a true story that sets against the backdrop of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century France. *Les Misérables* tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. There is an ex-prisoner named Jean Valjean, hunted for years by the ruthless policemen Javert after he breaks parole. One day, Valjean meets someone who changes his live to be better. He meets Fantine's daughter who needs his help. With his generosity, he takes care for Cossette and their lives change forever.

*Les Misérables* won 2013 Golden Globe Award for best motion picture, best actor, best supporting actress. Nominated on 2013 Academy Awards

for best achievement costume design, best achievement in music written for motion pictures, best achievement in production design, best motion picture of the year, best performance by leading actor role and best performance by an actresses in a supporting role.

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

The problems of study were formulated as following.

1. What types of illocutionary acts are used by the main character in *Les Misérables*?
2. What illocutionary acts is dominantly used by the main character in *Les Misérables*?
3. What are the interpretations of the use of illocutionary acts to the main character in *Les Misérables*?

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

Related to the problem of the study, the objectives of the study were

1. to describe the types of illocutionary acts by the main character of *Les Misérables*,
2. to derive the most dominant type of illocutionary acts by the main character of *Les Misérables*, and
3. to explain the interpretations from each type of illocutionary acts by the main character in *Les Misérables*.

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

This study was focused on types of illocutionary acts by the main character, Jaen Valjean in the movie *Les Misérables* based on Searle's theory, such as (1) declarations (2) representatives, (3) expressives, (4) directives (5) commissives. Further the study was concerned with the dominant type used and the interpretations of the speech acts.

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

Findings of the study were expected to be useful for

1. Applied linguistics students to make them easier to analyze the types of illocutionary acts,
2. readers who wanted to make a study on the same topic, this study might be references, and
3. those who wanted to know the application of illocutionary acts could be done by using movie.