

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the present study. It consists of background, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, and classification of terms. This chapter is also completed with organization of the paper as the general description of the research report.

1.1 Background of the Study

People maintain social interaction through communication. People communicate through a talk and body behaviors accompanying that talk. Talking to each other is known as verbal communication, while the body behavior is known as non-verbal communication for a linguistic concomitant (Mikoluk, 2012). By using verbal communication, people can perform speech acts in order to ask for request, give command, ask for information, tell information, etc.

Austin (1962, as cited in Thomas, 1995) defines speech act as “words which are used for actions”. This is because when we speak, we perform certain acts within a speech event in a situation. People do not only use words to say something, but also to do something. For example, when a lecturer asks a student by saying, “Could you close the door?”, this is not only the question from the lecturer to the student, but there is an intention of the lecturer which wants the student to close the door. From the example, it can be said that speech acts are acts of communication. To express a certain attitude, people need to communicate, and the type of speech act performed indicates the type of attitude which is being expressed.

In daily communication, people use speech act in the form of requesting, commanding, ordering, inviting, etc. According to Austin (1962), speech act is classified into five types. The classification is based on the performative verb, i.e. verdictives, exercitives, commissives, expositives, and behabitives. Austin’s classification of speech act was then developed by Searle (1976) and classified

into five types based the illocutionary force, i.e Representatives, Directives, Commissives, Expressives, and Declarations.

Specifically, Representatives, according to Searle (1976), shows the speaker's belief of something. It makes Representatives characterized as true or false. Directives; on the other hands, shows the utterance that makes the hearer to do something. For example, when the speaker says "Buy me some foods!" to the hearer, the hearer will buy some foods for the speaker. For Commissives, it occurs when the speaker indicates future action. Promising is one example of Commissives. Meanwhile, Expressives shows the speaker's psychological expression on particular content in sincerity condition. Apology, congratulation, and welcoming expression belongs to Expressives. Finally, Declarations indicates the declaration of something based on the reality. It means that declaration can change the status or condition of something. For example, when an employer utters, "you are fired", to the employee, the utterance changes the status of the employee to become unemployed.

However, Moon (2002) has observed that the same utterances are not always used in the same situation for the same functions. For example, when a student talks to her friend in the classroom, "It is getting colder here". The sentence does not only contain the intention of the speaker which wants her friend to turn off the air conditioner, but it can also show the comment of the speaker about the temperature of the classroom. Therefore, participants in speech acts should be aware of this to maintain successful communication. Knowing the fact that different speech acts can be used variously in a certain context, some studies on speech acts have been conducted. Stapleton (2004), for instance, investigated speech act variation, especially in apologies and requests in Peninsular Spanish. In their research, they found that there are four types of speech acts used in apologies and requests in Peninsular Spanish; Representatives, Directives, Commissives, and Expressives. In Indonesia, Marpuah (2009) focused on investigating the speech act types based on Searle's theory in the cosmetics and cell-phone advertisements. The study by Marpuah (2009) discovered four types of speech act based on Searle's (1976) theory which were are Representatives, Directives,

Commissives, Expressives, and Declarations. Then, another study on speech act came from Sestiana (2012) who discovered the variations of speech act realizations in the Jakarta Post readers' forum using Bach and Harnish' (1979) theory. In 2011, Qadir and Rilof (2011) investigated the speech act types in message board forum in the domain of veterinary medicine and found that there are four types of speech act based on Searle's classification; Representatives, Directives, Commissives, and Expressives. In addition, Muttaqin (2013) discovered the speech act types uttered by a character in *The Message* movie. His study reveals that there are four types of speech act found in the utterances uttered by a character in the movie such as Representatives, Directives, Commissives, and Declarations.

Among those five studies, none of them investigated the speech act types in the discourses of terminating contract. Hence to fill the gap, the present study is conducted to discover the speech act types in the discourse of terminating contract uttered by college students based on Searle's (1976) theory. College students may have some contracts of relationship in their daily life with several people, such as business contract, working contract, scholarship contract, etc. However, sometimes the contracts are not going well due to some possible reasons among others misunderstanding, uncomfortable feeling, and problems, and cannot be fixed. Thus, the contracts need to be terminated. In terminating contract, it is realized that someone may use more than a sentence to perform the speech act to terminate the contract. Consequently, it can be more than one speech act types appeared in the discourse to terminate contract. Therefore, by conducting the present study, it is expected to discover the types of speech act used by the college students in terminating contract and in what ways contexts influence the students' use of speech act.

1.2 Research Questions

The research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What types of speech act do the speakers use to terminate a contract of relationship?
2. In what ways do the contexts influence the speech act used by the speakers to terminate a contract of relationship?

1.3 Aims of the Study

Based on the research questions above, the study aims to:

1. Examine the types of speech act in the discourse to terminate a contract of a relationship.
2. Investigate how the contexts influence the speech act used by the speakers to terminate a contract of a relationship.

1.4 Scope of The Study

The study is focused on the types of speech act uttered by 15 male and 15 female students of English Education Department in one university in Bandung in terminating a contract of relationship.

1.5 Significance of The Study

The present study is expected to be useful for the developmental of speech act studies for English Language and Literature program at English Education Department, especially for Linguistics student. Also, the present study is expected to be a helpful resource for everyone who is interested in this subject. Moreover, the present study can give the readers the knowledge about performing speech act in daily communication. More specifically, the knowledge can contribute to the readers in terminating contract of relationship in more various ways.

1.6 Clarification of Related Term

The main term used in the study which needs to be clarified in order to avoid some misunderstanding is speech act. Speech act is “words which are used for actions” (Thomas, 1995, p. 31). In a simple way, speech act is when people do not only use words to say something, but also to do something. According to Searle (1976), speech act is classified into five types based on the illocutionary forces which are Representatives, Directives, Commissive, Expressives, and Declaration. The explanation of each speech act types will be explained in the next chapter.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

This research is organized into five chapters. The first chapter focuses on the introduction of the research, including the background of the research, research purposes, research questions, the scope of the study, the significant of the study, the classification of special terms, and organization of the paper. The second chapter focuses on the theoretical frameworks and the literature reviews as the foundation of the research. The third chapter discusses about the research methodology. The research methodology describes the steps and the procedures that are used for analyzing the data of the study. The fourth chapter presents the findings and discussion of the study. The last chapter is the conclusion of the research and the suggestion for further research.