

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Language is the most important thing in the society. Language enable people to communicate, cooperate, and get along with each other. Language is a tool to interact or tool to communicate, in a sense, means to convey thought, ideas, concepts or even feeling.<sup>1</sup>

Language becomes a communication tool in which language and communication have an inseparable relationship. In communication, language is used as a tool to convey information. In this case language becomes a very important factor in the delivery of information to the recipient. Good language will make it easier for information to be received well.<sup>2</sup> It means, a good communication should have a same comprehension of particular language between speaker and hearer. As for example, is when the government gave information to the public about the Corona pandemic that occurred at a recent time.

Lately, a pandemic is spreading that attacks many countries around the world called the Corona virus (COVID-19). Governments in many countries would make efforts to fight against it in various ways and try to

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<sup>1</sup>Sitti Raabiah "Language as a Tool for Communication and Cultural Reality Discloser." INA-Rxiv. (November, 2018). doi:10.31227/osf.io/nw94m.

<sup>2</sup>"Bahasa Sebagai Alat Komunikasi", retrieved July 2020 from <https://pakarkomunikasi.com/bahasa-sebagai-alat-komunikasi>

restore the situation becomes back to normal. The government of United Kingdom is no exception. As a leader of the UK government, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson informed citizens of the danger of the virus and hold lockdown system to prevent the spread of the virus. The lockdown statement made by Mr. Boris Johnson was broadcast on nation TV.

Furthermore, there is always a meaning behind the speech uttered by people. Then, what are the intentions or meanings conveyed in Mr. Boris's speech? This can be further studied in the branch of language that is Pragmatics which studies about meaning as communicated by speaker or writer and interpreted by listener or reader as defined by Yule (1996).<sup>3</sup> Pragmatic is concerned with the study of speaker meaning. The benefit of studying language through pragmatics is that allows people to discuss people's intended meanings, assumption, motives or aims, and the types of action (for example: request) that they perform while they speaks.<sup>4</sup>

Pragmatics has studies or specific study areas, there are deixis, presuppositions, speech acts, and conversational implicature. One of the study namely speech act is defined by Austin (1975) as something conveyed by individual that not only present information, but perform an action as

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<sup>3</sup>George Yule, *Pragmatics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), 3.

<sup>4</sup>George Yule, *Pragmatics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), 4.

well.<sup>5</sup> Speech act might be request, warnings, promises, apologies, greetings, or any number of declarations. Austin (1962) formulated three related acts in speech acts. They are locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts.<sup>6</sup> Locutionary act is the literal meaning of the utterance, illocutionary act is a statement that states as well as performs an action, perlocutionary act is an act which produce effect or result, that is the result of the expression of the listener, according to circumstance of spoken sentences.

According to Yule the most commonly discussed topic in pragmatics is Illocutionary act.<sup>7</sup> There are some kinds of Illocutionary act. There are five classification of illocutionary act proposed by Searle (1979); they are assertive/representative act, directive act, commissive act, expressive act and declarative act.<sup>8</sup> Illocutionary act is important to be discussed because illocutionary act studied the effectiveness of the speech acts received. In illocutionary acts an utterances is not only as a media of communication but also has an intention meaning to do an action. The researcher feels the importance to study illocutionary act is to influence the hearer in every communication. We may learn how to convey and understand the intention

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<sup>5</sup>J.L. Austin, J.O. Urmson, and Marina S. *How To Do Things With Words 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1975).

<sup>6</sup>J.L Austin, *How To Do Things With Words* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1962), 108.

<sup>7</sup>George Yule, *Pragmatics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), 49.

<sup>8</sup>J.R. Searle, *Expression and Meaning: Studies in The Theory of Speech Act* (USA: Cambridge University Press, 1979) , 12.

in someone' utterance or statement by studying illocutionary acts, thus allowing us to achieve communication goals.

In carrying out this study, the researcher needs to read some previous studies on the similar topic about illocutionary act that have been conducted by several previous researchers. Wardhono and Hadi (2015) conducted a study focusing on speech act in Barack Obama's speech over the conflict in Syria and looming federal government shutdown. This research aims to analyze and describe the phenomena of speech act theory used by Barack Obama on his speech in The White House on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2013. The researchers used descriptive qualitative to conduct the research. They concluded that in Barack Obama's speech, it can be found that most of his utterance is in the form of assertive (representative), the following ranks is commissive, directive and expressive, also they do not find any declarative. The different between this study and the previous study is in the object. Different objects in the study will produce new findings, which may leads to different result.

The reason why the researcher choose UK Prime Minister's speech as the data source is because in the topic that is become mainly discussed in 2020, namely COVID-19, Mr. Boris is very vocal in informing his citizen about news updates regarding the Covid-19 virus disease. Therefore, it is interesting to see the illocutionary act in UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's

statement of coronavirus lockdown plan on 10th of May 2020 in order to avoid the listener's misperception of the statement which will later affect the actions followed by the listener, the researcher interests to find what Mr. Boris Johnson intends to: does he wants to direct an order, express his feelings, declare something, or commit for some future actions. Since it is discovered that people or listeners are not actually aware of the intended meanings that a speaker has delivered, it will be interesting to analyze public speech spoken by someone, in this case UK Prime Minister Mr. Boris Johnson, more deeply through its speech acts. In this study, the researcher will investigate the types and function of illocutionary acts part occurred in United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson's statement of coronavirus lockdown plan on 10th May 2020. Illocutionary acts is necessary for the hearers or audiences to know and to be understand so they can divide the utterance into categories that makes it easier to recognize and identify the context of utterances in order to avoid misunderstandings.

## **B. Limitation of Problem**

This study aimed to identify the illocutionary act based on the theory of Searle, in which the illocutionary is included in pragmatic study. The focus of this research was the speech delivered by United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Furthermore, the researcher would like to focus on

Illocutionary acts expressed in the utterance of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's statement of coronavirus lockdown plan on 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.

### **C. Research Question**

The aim of this research is to classify the kinds of illocutionary act as the subject area of pragmatic in UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's speech. In particular, the research questions are:

1. What kinds of illocutionary act found in UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's statement of coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown plan?
2. What is the dominant illocutionary acts used in UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's statement of coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown plan?
3. What is the implication of the speech delivered by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in the statement of coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown plan?

### **D. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of this study are:

1. To identify more about illocutionary act used in UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in his statement of coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown plan.
2. To identify the dominant illocutionary act used by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in his statement of coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown plan.

3. To describe the implication of the speech uttered by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in his statement of coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown plan.

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

The results of this study are expected to provide benefits to the academic and readers. This research is proposed to give a contribution in the term of theoretical and practical contribution as follows:

##### 1. Theoretical Significance

The researcher hope that this research can be used as references for those who wants to conduct a research or study in identification of speech acts. It also can provide new insights into the emphasis in the theory of illocutionary act in UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's of coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown plan on 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.

##### 2. Practical Significance

###### a. For the Teacher

By this research, the researcher was expected to gain another information about speech act: illocutionary act theory. So that in teaching, the teacher will have enough information to tell the students when the lesson come to conversation material. Furthermore, the teacher can help students understand the material and engage in meaningful interaction with them to learn out more about their competences.

b. For the Reader

The researcher hopes that this study can be used as reference for the next researchers who would like to conduct or interest to the Illocutionary act studies.

c. For the Student

The researcher hopes this study can help students in better understanding about the classification types of Illocutionary acts in conversation, so that the student know the purpose and the meaning of an expression that occurs in a conversation. In addition, the researcher also hopes that this study can help the students to improve their ability to communicate with others without any misunderstanding.

## **F. Previous Studies**

In purpose to support and develop this study, the researcher collected some related studies that had been conducted by several previous researchers:

The first research is from Eko Prasetyo Nugroho Saputro (2015) from The Graduate Program in English Language Studies of Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta, under the title: “*The Analysis of Illocutionary Act of Jokowi’s Speeches*”. In this research, the investigated Illocutionary act based on John Searle’s theory. In this study he found four types of illocutionary act in Jokowi’s speeches. There are assertives, directives, commissives, and



expressives. From those four categories of illocutionary acts, it was found out that the assertives and commissives were mostly founded in Jokowi's speech. Their frequencies are 52,1% and 28,7% respectively.

The second research is from Agus Wardhono and Mukhlis Purnama Hadi (2015) from on journal DIDAKTA: Jurnal Pemikiran Pendidikan, under the title: "*An Analysis of Barack Obama's Speech Act over The Conflict in Syria and Looming Federal Government Shutdown*". In their research the researchers used Speech Act theory based on John Searle's theory. Based on the findings, it was found three locutionary act, those are declaratives, imperative, and interrogatives. The Illocutionary act that was found are imperative (representative) that become the most illocutionary act utterance in his speech, the following ranks belong to commissive, directive, and then expressive.

The third research is from Rahmat Adi Prasetyo (2017) from English Letters Department of Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University Malang, under the title: "*Illocutionary Act Found in Barack Obama's Speech in Baltimore*". In his research, the researcher decided to use Illocutionary based on J.L. Austin's theory. Based on the findings and discussion, it was found out on Barack Obama's speech in Baltimore the five illocutionary acts based on Austin's theory. The result of this study showed that Barack Obama in his speech in Baltimore uses all five types of illocutionary act proposed by

Austin. Those acts are 5 behavives acts, 5 excersitive acts, 2 verdictive acts, 4 commisive act, and 5 expostives act.

The comparison among these previous studies with the study the researcher conducted is that there is similarity in the theory of Illocutionary Act proposed by John Searle. On the other hand, the different among the previous studies with the recent study are the object of the analysis. The different object will produce the new findings which may lead to different result. The methodology used in the recent study will use content analysis research, while the previous studies used descriptive qualitative research. Also, the objectives of the study in this study will describe how is the implication of the speech uttered by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in his statement of corona virus lockdown plan for English as foreign language teaching and learning.

#### **E. Organization of Writing**

To make this research easy to be comprehended, the researcher divides this research into five chapters:

**Chapter 1: Introduction;** In this chapter the researcher puts some points: the background of study, the limitation of problem, the research questions, the objectives of study, the significances of study, and the writing organization.

**Chapter 2: Theoretical Review;** This chapter consists of the theories from experts about the theories of pragmatic, speech act, public speaking, and the short review of the statement of coronavirus lockdown plan stated by UK Prime Minister on 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.

**Chapter 3: Research Methodology;** This chapter consists of the research method, data sources, instrument of the research, technique of collecting data and analyzing the data, and the data trustworthiness.

**Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion;** This chapter consists of a descriptive data, the analyzing of data and data interpretation.

**Chapter 5: Conclusion and Suggestion.**