CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the introduction of the research. It consists of research background, problem statements, research purpose, research significance, scope and limitation, conceptual framework, and previous research.

1.1   Research Background

Communication is a social process and a human dynamic activity of receiving, sharing, and understanding meaning. According to Pearson et al. (2011, p. 11), communication is the relationship that involves interaction between participants and their messages in the form of languages; the process changes according to how life goes. In order to keep their human life, communication and languages are needed. Humans always transmit information immediately through language concerning their thoughts, views, aspirations, opinions, sentiments, and feelings with other creatures in all kinds of communication.

Language has been reserved as a social interaction tool, spoken and written, sounds and/or symbols, signs, posture, and gestures that convey certain meaning. Chaer and Agustina (2010, p. 73) state that language employed in this communication must take the shape of a code or symbol that is understood by the listener and the speaker, specifically easy for spoken and written form. Furthermore, language involves meaning in itself in consequence. Thus, there must be a need for numerous studies on these fields.

Linguistics study is a systematic investigation of the properties of particular languages as well as the characteristics of language in general and specific. The branch of linguistics that observes specific scope in the meaning of language within context is known as pragmatic study. Yule (2010, p. 3-4) mentions there are four main discussions studied in pragmatics. The first

topic, pragmatics, is related to the meaning of the speaker's utterance, which will be interpreted by the listener. Thus, communication will run perfectly if the speaker can convey his message and the listener understands it without any misunderstanding.

The second topic, pragmatics, is related to the contextual meaning of the speaker's utterance. The conditions between the speaker and the listener shaped the meaning of the utterances. Paying more attention to the speaker's context and demonstrating how the meaning is created by those relationships. The third topic, pragmatics, is closely related to how to communicate and conceive messages beyond what was uttered. Pragmatics serves to foster meaningful conversation, facilitate transmission of messages, and grant comprehension and understanding.

Pragmatics recognises how important context plays a big role when interpreting the meaning of utterances. The most familiar theory in pragmatics is a speech act, which is a subfield of pragmatics that focusses on observing utterance meaning within context that constructs action.

When uttering a language, somebody is actually performing a speech act. Searle in Cutting (2002, p. 15) declares that uttering a language akin to performing speech acts, making statements, giving commands, asking questions or making promises, and so forth. Searle in Leech (2015, p. 11) also states that all forms of linguistic communication entail speech acts.

Speech acts look beyond the literal and lexical meaning of words and utterances and focus on how meaning is constructed within context, which is to produce an action or influence someone's behaviour. Austin (1962, p. 3) defines speech act as the action made when an utterance is produced; it can be analysed on three different levels, which are locution, illocution, and perlocution.

According to Austin in Cutting (2002, p. 15), a locutionary act is the act of shaping a basic and simple meaningful utterance, also known as a locution or a regular utterance act such as an utterance to express something. It can refer to the act of saying something. Locution is closely associated

merely with the lexical and literal meaning within an utterance.

Searle (1969) states that locutionary acts are acts in which something is said (what is said or what a sound is made) that may have any meaning. As opposed to the locution act of just saying something. An illocutionary act is an utterance to do something with the intention. An illocutionary act refers to the use of a word or sentence to carry a certain urgency and appeal to the meaning and direction of the speaker with a certain function in saying something specific.

In order for the illocutionary act to be effective, the speaker must use language that the audience will understand as intended. There are five illocutionary forms that the speaker or listener can achieve in an utterance, namely: declarative, representative, commissive, directive, and expressive.

Meanwhile, perlocutionary acts are speech acts that have an effect on the feelings, thoughts, or actions of either the speaker or the listener. Particularly seek to change minds. Unlike locutionary acts, perlocutionary acts are external to the influence; for instance, they are inspiring, persuading, or deterring.

Communication experience has shown that speech acts or individual activities are the way language manifests itself. In the same way as a communication experience, which is granting people a lot of valuable insight, the internet has been serving some version to enjoy its informational purposes. One of them is a talk show program.

Timberg and Erler (2010, p. 3-4) argue talk show, also known as chat show in British English, is a television or radio program structured by the act of spontaneous conversation, where one person (or group of people) discusses to exchange information with one another about multiple issues put forth by a talk show host. This discussion can be in the form of an interview or a simple conversation about important social, political, or religious issues and viral events. The personality of the host shapes the tone and style of the show. In other words, dialogue is the premier of this program.

In short, the talk show is all about letting other people know what

we are thinking and feeling. In communication, people will show different actions in utterance; from utterance, each person is able to interpret a different meaning and then behave like what they have uttered. Sometimes there is a meaning that is not clear, thus making people confused about what they are going to do and what they are supposed to respond to for one issue.

Those problems can generate misperception and blunder in communication. In consequence, people cannot achieve comprehensive information that will engage and educate them. Hence, the utterances must be interpreted based on a clear meaning as their true intention.

In recent events, on October 7, 2023, the world faced a very extraordinary commotion. Hamas launched a military operation that was named *Tufan Al Aqsa*, or Operation Al Aqsa Flood. Hamas initiated a surprise attack on Israel from the Gaza Strip at the Supernova Sukkot Gathering, an open-air music festival during the Jewish holiday of Shemini Atzeret near Kibbutz Re'im. Later, the Hamas attack was a justification for multiple air strikes carried out by Israel on Gaza.

The world is drowning in doubts over a million circulations of narratives scattered in the media and even in social media. In fact, before the Hamas attack, the conflict has been going on for more than 75 years and it has been quite successful in confusing people all over the world about which side of their humanity should be given, Israel or Hamas. The conflict is a confusion of history, politics, and religion.

The Israel-Hamas discourse has exposed many of them in social media nowadays. However, people are still unnerved to take a side, and even they do not know how to think morally about the Israel-Hamas war. Now, the world has been faced with moral and ethical dilemmas about the essence of humanity and their human side.

Even Indonesia itself, a majority Muslim country in the world, has always consistently defended and supported Palestine. Yet, in fact, not a single leader from Indonesia who is still actively holding leadership has ever set foot in Gaza to politically or diplomatically give support for the resistance

of the people of Gaza, which is Hamas.

If many countries support the resistance of the people of Gaza, which is Hamas, it might be the international world will recognise Hamas as a group of resistance, not a militia nor even a terrorist group. Then, the power will meet in balance and equally. But, without hesitation, we all hope that the war can be ended soon and the world fills in peace.

Many academics, professors, journalists, media personalities, and public figures have attempted to find clear ethical and moral positions to these conflicts but, again, ended up with shades of grey. That is what Piers Morgan is trying to do as a media personality who is trying to answer the doubts of a lot of people.

Piers is inviting a public figure, an Egyptian comedian, Bassem Youssef, who is at least qualified to talk about what happened in Gaza and who is being vocal using his dark humour and satire in standing for humanity for the Palestinian people in Gaza since it began.

As a matter of fact, many platforms and similar media have raised this issue. Nevertheless, it seems there is a weird syndrome; the researcher named it a linguistic pathology. In the midst of the rampant information circulating, many people are talking about it, but some people still find it complicated to pick up the line and put their hands on the truth and humanity for these problems.

These linguistic pathologies reflect an inability to confront the conflict as it actually is, a lack of understanding in linguistic units, and a lack of skill in linking up the words, the sentences, and the utterances with their actual meaning. In fact, the most language used is abstract and divorced from practical consequence because engaging with reality, with hard, cold human suffering, and then covering it full of bias. It would disrupt the neat factual picture that allows one to unnerve, take a position, or even bask in one's own moral righteousness.

These linguistic pathologies must be treated immediately and examined with a study of language and meaning to find proper and sincere

intention behind what they have been told to us. For those reasons, it is necessary to study meaning so that the messages and intentions of the speaker to the listener can be understood completely, because speaking something is the same as doing something.

Since language is not only speech but also action, and that is what is called a speech act. We can find and examine speech acts around us easily through the media or online platforms, but only a few know what the forms, functions, and types of speech acts are. Understanding the meaning of speech correctly makes us act or behave appropriately.

In this thesis, the researcher will investigate two main focuses. The first one is to figure out the forms of assertive illocutionary acts within utterances by Bassem Youssef in Piers Morgan Uncensored Talk Show using the theory of Searle (1979, p. 12). The second one is to examine the functions of assertive illocutionary acts that were uttered by Bassem Youssef in his interview with Piers Morgan employing the same theory by Searle.

1.2   Problem Statements

Based on the research background above, the researcher concludes there are two questions that will be the primary focus of this thesis:

1. What kind of forms of assertive illocutionary acts are uttered by Bassem Youssef in his interview with Piers Morgan regarding Israel-Hamas War 2023?

2. How does the function of assertive illocutionary acts shape the meaning and intention of Bassem Youssef's utterance in Piers Morgan Uncensored Talk Show regarding Israel-Hamas War 2023?

1.3   Research Purposes

Based on the formulation of the research questions above, the researcher is intriguing to dive deep into these as follow :

1. To distinguish the kind of forms of assertive illocutionary acts are

uttered by Bassem Youssef in his interview with Piers Morgan regarding Israel-Hamas War 2023?

2. To examine the functions of assertive illocutionary acts in Bassem Youssef's utterance in Piers Morgan Uncensored Talk Show?

1.4   Research Significance

With eagerness to worthwhile results, this research could be valuable to intensifying people's understanding of meaning and context in a language, whether in spoken or written form. Particularly making people with the nerve to pick up the line based upon what they have received through linguistic units, words, sentences, and utterances in almost their daily lives and to stand by what they believe in regarding the Israel-Hamas issue.

Therefore, society is able to assume the same meaning and intention; thus, the same action will be seen as soon. The researcher hopes that this research will make a priceless contribution to linguistic studies in the significance of two ways: theoretically and practically.

In theoretical, the findings of the research should be valuable as (1) an enrichment of linguistic research, particularly in the pragmatics field; (2) a bibliographical variation for readers; and (3) a resource for the next relevant kind of research.

In practice, this research is expected to: (1) provide an authentic source of research on speech acts, illocutionary acts, the kinds of forms, and their functions; (2) serve readers with a comprehend understanding of analysing utterances based on linguistic aspects; (3) motivate other researchers to conduct and advance other research in the same scope on various objects; (4) enhance understanding meaning and context in language, whether in spoken or written form; and also (5) avoid misconceptions as few as possible amidst the ease situation in which society gets information spontaneously.

1.5   Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is to examine merely the forms and functions of assertive illocutionary acts that are endowed in Bassem Youssef's utterances. This research only uses one theory; it is from Searle (1979) regarding forms and their functions, as well as Searle mentioned prior. The forms of illocutionary acts divested by Searle are stating, explaining, asserting, giving opinion, claiming, and complaining.

1.6   Conceptual Framework

This research was conducted to observe the kind of forms of assertive illocutionary acts and their functions, where a language creates and performs meaning to manifest itself through Bassem Youssef's utterances in a two-hour special interview with Piers Morgan at the talk show program, Piers Morgan Uncensored.

Furthermore, this research requires a pragmatic approach in order to investigate meaning and intention in utterances, and as pragmatic becomes a more suitable method to examine meaning in utterance form. Besides the semantic branch, pragmatic is one of the other linguistic branches that discusses language and meaning, yet in a different shape of language form.

Semantic has the main focus on mere lexical and literal meaning; otherwise, pragmatic observes meaning at another level, particularly in spoken or utterance mode, and it leads to analysis of context. Yule (2010, p. 17) claims that pragmatics is closely associated with contextual meaning in itself. In parallel with that, a subfield of pragmatics is speech act, which explores utterance and its contextual meaning.

According to Austin in Cutting (2002, p. 15), speech acts as an utterance that expresses action. Austin classifies into three levels: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. Illocutionary acts are utterances that are endowed by the speaker as it performs an action. It means something uttered, the same as something performed. This research will investigate the utterance of Bassem Youssef, which indicates an illocutionary

act on it. Bassem Youssef and Piers Morgan discussed an interesting and complicated issue in the Piers Morgan Uncensored Talk Show, and it was about the Israel-Hamas War. Not only explaining the recent situation in Gaza, Bassem endeavours to convince people all over the world that there is nothing complicated to understand about the Palestinian issue; everything we have been told about those conflicts can actually be refuted.

Bassem tried to wake people up that *"from river to sea, Palestine will be free,"* that is something that can be achieved together. Yet, in fact, a few people think those are not in parallel with what Bassem believes, even though thousands of words, phrases, and sentences have clearly exposed the conflict. Therefore, researchers named those phenomena as linguistic pathologies. Where a few people still do not understand the message and its intention on it, which is uttered by someone in a certain language. Exploring the meaning of Bassem Youssef's utterances helps the society conceive the Palestinian conflict as reality is. Apart from that, understanding Bassem's utterances and his speech acts makes people more fair-minded enough as human beings.

The researcher uses theory as stated by Searle (1979) to analyse the forms of assertive illocutionary acts that are uttered by Bassem Youssef in the Piers Morgan Uncensored Talk Show. Searle in Cutting (2002, p. 15) demonstrates illocutionary acts are the speaker's natural things produced by humans as a social mechanism to communicate with each other. In a specific way, illocutionary acts are not only concerned as the way to give information but for various conditions also state as commanding, claiming, declaring, expressing feeling, asking, insulting, insisting, urging, so forth.

Further, there is something else that is attributed to the speaker's utterances that is willing to be conveyed to the listener so that the listener may be doing what the speaker's intended. Along with it, Searle in Cutting (2002, p. 15) argues the function of an illocutionary act is divided into five forms: assertive, directive, declarative, commissive, and expressive.

Assertive illocutionary act demonstrates a state of true event or

anything with truth values and facts; it is always used for delivering information. According to Searle (1979, p. 12) assertive illocutionary act classified into stating, explaining, claiming, asserting, reporting, predicting, insisting, boasting, giving opinion, complaining, suggesting.

The researcher chose Searle's theory (1979) to fulfil the questions related to the forms of assertive illocutionary acts and their function that are contained in Bassem Youssef's utterance in Piers Morgan Uncensored Talk Show. The researcher used this theory to figure out the meaning and intention behind the Israel-Hamas War 2023 issue, which Bassem Youssef as a comedian trying to reveal, and he has been trying to engage whole people to do some action for it, at least to clarify which side they are on.
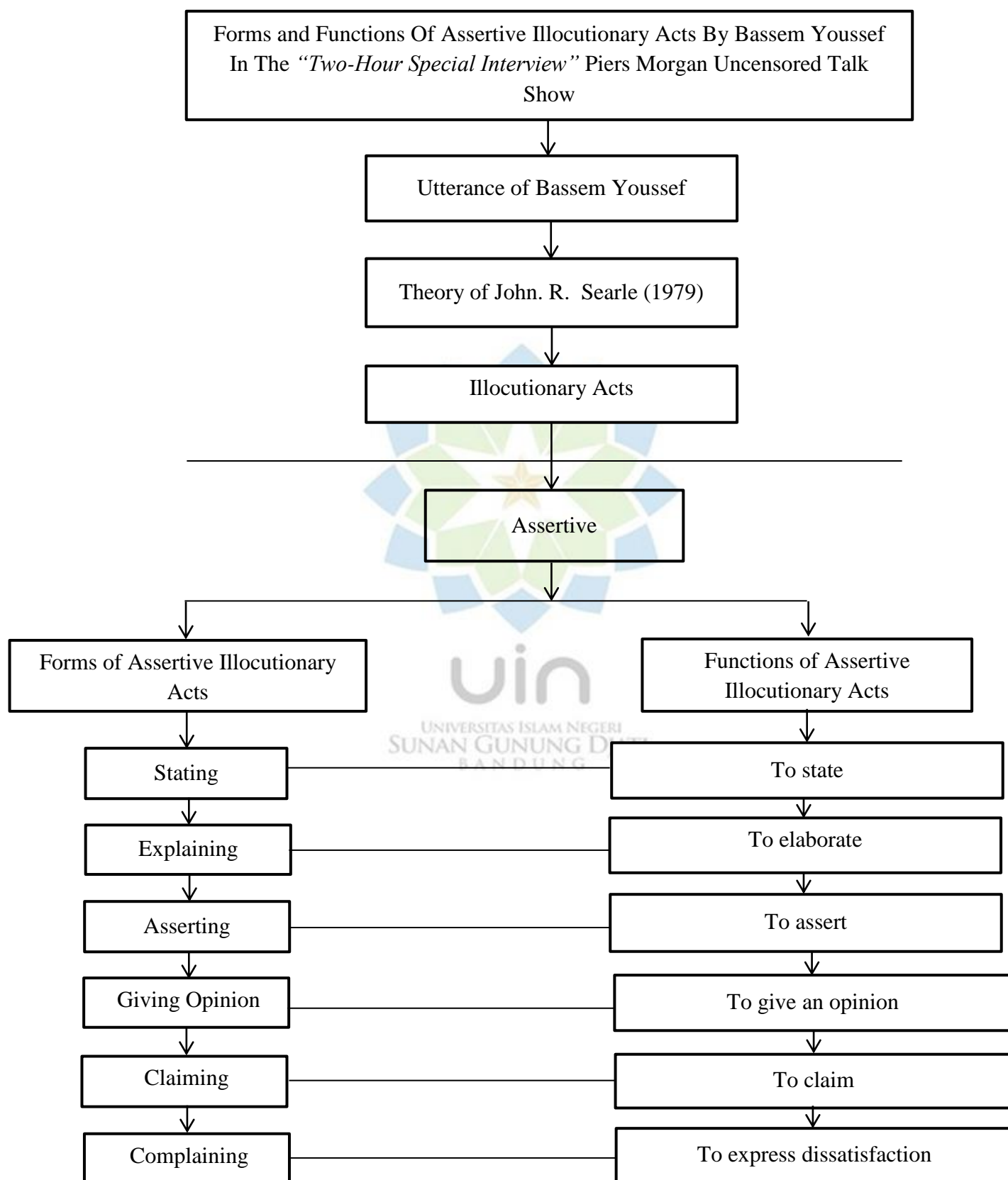
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Figure 1.1 Conceptual Framework

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1.7   Previous Research

In addition, there are many researchers who conducted research about assertive illocutionary acts, especially in analysing, categorising, and defining their functions. The first research was done by Akbar Ghifari Abdullah Muhammad entitled *"Assertive Illocutionary Acts Study Of British and Korean in Korean Englishman Youtube Channel"*. This research was released by Journal of English Language Teaching and Applied Lingu istics, Volume 7, N o. 2, August 2021.

The aims of this research is to discover the types and differences of assertive illocutionary acts used by the British, represented by Beckham, and Korean, represented by Heung-Min. The researcher found the differences pattern of assertive illocutionary acts in British Culture and Korean Culture. British tend to use assertive acts more directive. Korean mostly use assertive acts in the manner of thinking about other people's pride.

The second research is the research by Kartika Dina Ashfira and Tofan Dwi Harjanto. The title of this paper is *"Assertive Speech Acts in Donald Trump's Presidential Speeches"*. This research aimed to investigates assertive speech acts in Donald Trump's presidential speeches. It classifies the assertive speech acts based on their illocutionary forces according to Bach and Harnish (1979). Assertive speech acts found in the research are affirming, alleging, asserting, avowing, claiming, declaring, denying, maintaining, propounding, saying, and stating. According to the findings of the data, the act of stating is the most commonly used (44%).

Meanwhile, the next research will be organised using a different object from the previous one, which is a talk show regarding the Israel-Hamas war on the news channel Piers Morgan Unscensored.

This research will discuss the assertive illocutionary form and their function that appeared in the conversation between Bassem Youssef and Piers Morgan in the Piers Morgan Uncencored program on his official YouTube account.

This research aims to examine the form of assertive illocutionary act

performed by Bassem Youssef as well as analyse the function of illocutionary act in understanding meaning and intention by both of them in their talk show video regarding *Tufan Al-Aqsa* events and the Israel-Hamas War 2023 issue.