

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Research

Compliment is an expression of praise or admiration given by someone to someone else if he/she feels surprised or feels someone has something extraordinary, has a good thing, beautiful or doing something that is considered beyond normal ability (Herbert, 1990). This expression is the kind of expressive speech act.

Speech act is a branch of pragmatics which involved with the ways of words can be used not only to give information but also to carry out actions. Austin (1962) states that speech act is defined as the action which is done by speaker via utterances. According to Yule (1996, pp. 53-55) speech act consist of five types of general function which are performed in speech act, there are: declaration, representatives, expressive, directives, commissive. The kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker feels is expressive (Yule, 1996). Expressive speech acts have a function to express an expression that the speaker wants to convey to his/her listener based on the predicted situation, and the purpose of the speaker is largely determined by the context, namely time, place, event, process, and addressee. There are many kinds of expressions which include into expressive in speech act, there are apologies, request, thanking, refusals, complaint, compliment, etc. In accordance with the initial discussion, expressive speech act which express or give praise to someone else is called compliment.

Lewandowska-Tomaszcky (1989, p. 75) states that compliments are typically performed to make the addressee feel good by saying something nice to him or her. This expression can make the people who receive the compliment feel happy, proud, keep spirit, be motivated, be valued etc. In

such cases, they possibly satisfy the addressee's expectations rather than express a positive judgment for a referential or informative reason, as may be the case with other types of positive assessment sequences. In fact, there is a whole range of functions that compliments perform. Generally, a compliment means that someone is giving a positive evaluation about the addressee's appearance, skill, talent, etc.

The positive evaluation as the compliment expression will be uttered by looking at the object or action which will be complimented by the addresser. Thus, the object or action is also known as the type of compliment. According to Wolfson (1983, pp. 90-91) and supported by Herbert (1990), there are four basic categories of the types of compliments: appearance, possession, ability or performances, and personality.

Furthermore, according to Brown and Levinson (1987) state that compliment is an act of speech act that could be utilized as a tool of positive politeness, such as to keep the relationship in society. It means, with a compliment someone can make a good conversation to keep the relationship with the other in society. Wolfson (1983, p. 88) similarly defines compliments as speech acts "to establish/confirm/maintain solidarity". Wolfson (1983, p. 88) says that compliments are speech acts that have functions of their own: therefore they can be used to open and sustain conversation, can create or maintain rapport, compliment as encouragement, as a spontaneous expression of admiration or approval, express the positive evaluation, can strengthen or even replace other speech-act formulas, may also be used to soften criticism, and to modify sarcasm.

Not only in real social interaction yet nowadays, people can find out how the compliment is given to others in television programs or television shows, one of them is "Britain's Got Talent". It is a televised British talent show competition, broadcast on ITV. Surely, in this show there are many utterances which are uttered especially for the judges and the contestant. Each contestant from auditions into semi-finals and final seasons will be given the comment either as good or bad by the judges. By all means, there are compliment comments given by the judges to the contestants who have great

performance. In fact, the compliment is a positive word and there is an object or action which becomes a material to be complimented. It is very important for people to know on what cases people could deliver compliment and to use the compliment as an evaluation to other people.

Based on the explanation above, this research focuses in studying expressive speech acts that are uttered by the judges. In specifically, the focus is on expressive of the judge's compliment utterances that performed in semi-final seasons of *Britain's Got Talent* show 2018. This is become the object of study because it is in accordance with the data needed in which to examine the pure conversations rather than artificial conversation like in the movie. This study tries to analyze what the types and the functions of compliment used by the judges in semi-final seasons of *Britain's Got Talent* show 2018. To analyze this research, this study employs Wolfson's theory and to get the accuracy of the data, the writer takes the data from YouTube channel of *Britain's Got Talent* show 2018.

To support this research, some previous studies are identified to show similar research. The first previous research has been taken by Zandstra Merel (2017) entitled *The Influence of Compliments on Performance* which investigate the effects of cultural background, compliment type and compliment reaction on task performance. This research suggests that compliment reaction influence task performance. Participants who accepted the compliment, scored higher on performance than participants who did not accept the compliment.

The second previous research has been done by Mustapha A.S. (2012) entitled *A Functional Approach to Identifying Compliment Data* which focuses on the functional characteristic of compliment. Then, the other previous research has taken by Muplihah D. (2014) entitled *The Analysis of Compliments and Response Delivered by the Characters in Jonathan Aibel and Glen Berger's Kung Fu Panda Film Script* which focuses on face to face interaction containing compliments.

The last previous research from Hudustiah (2016) entitled *Compliment and Its Response Used by The Characters of You Again Movie* which focuses

on the compliments and its responses used by the characters of *You Again* movie, to know what types of compliment applied by the characters, the functions of each types of compliment, and to describe the compliment responses expressed by the addressees of the movie.

Previous researchers above mostly focused on compliment and its response used by the characters in the movies. However, this research tries to understand deeply how the judges in the talent competition using the compliments to give an evaluation to the contestants in semi-final seasons of *Britain's Got Talent* show 2018.

1.2 Statement of Problems

There are many kinds of speech act used by the judges in semi final-seasons of *Britain's Got Talent* show 2018. However, this research is only focused on the compliment expressions as the part of expressive in speech act. Compliments are also speech act that have functions of their own. Based on the research background, the research questions are:

1. What are the types of compliment used by the judges in semi-final seasons of *Britain's Got Talent* show 2018?
2. What are the functions of compliment used by the judges in semi-final seasons of *Britain's Got Talent* show 2018?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the problem statements above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To identify the types of compliment used by the judges in term of contestant's appearance, ability, possession, and personality in semi-final seasons of *Britain's Got Talent* show 2018.
2. To identify the functions of compliment used by the judges in semi-final seasons of *Britain's Got Talent* show 2018.

1.4 Research Significance

The result of this research are expected to give contribution to the theoretical and practical uses of language.

1. Theoritically, the research findings are expected to enrich the comprehension and understanding of pragmatics study, especially on speech act of compliment research.

2. Practically, the research findings will be useful for,

1) The students of the English Departement

It is epected that this research gives more input and understanding in studying compliment expression and its functions.

2) The other researcher

It is expected that this research can be used as reference for those who are interested in analyzing further analysis on compliment expression and its functions.

1.5 Definition Operational

There are some key terms in this study:

1. Pragmatics: is the using of a particular language which means related to the intent of the speaker, context, and circumstances.
2. Speech Act: is a variety of forms of action that can be performed by speakers in using their language.
3. Compliment: is an assessment that contains positive words that can provide an evaluation of a work or action, it can make the person who receives the compliments feel happy and more motivated to remain the best.
4. The Judge: is a respected figure in the implementation of a competition, who gives an evaluation to the participants, and who determines a winner in a competition.
5. Britain's Got Talent: is a Britain talent show competition that is broadcast on television.