

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides information about background of the research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, conceptual framework and previous study.

A. Background of the Research

People express ideas and expose their purposes by means of talking or speaking. Some of the most interesting questions arise is in connection with the way language is used rather than the components are. The questions are concerned with how the language users interpret what other language users intend to convey. Thus, learning a language includes learning the meaning of the sentences. However, to understand the language, the hearer cannot know only the meaning that speaker says or sentence meaning, but they must also know what the speaker utters or utterance meaning. Or, both sentence meaning and utterance meaning determine the understanding of one's communicative intention. The above case is studied in pragmatics as a field of linguistics. Yule (1996: 3) says, "Pragmatics is a study of what people mean by their utterances than the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves."

Actions performed by the utterances are generally called speech acts. Searle (1965: 221) states that it is not, as has generally been supposed, the symbol or word or sentences, or even the taken of the symbol or word or sentence, which is the unit of linguistics communication. It means that language comes into existence only because someone performs an act of speaking or writing. Austin who awoke us the fact that, in every utterance, performs an act such as stating a fact or opinion, confirming or denying something, making a prediction or a request, issuing an

order, giving advice or permission, making an offer or a promising greeting, thanking, condoling, effecting a baptism, or declaring an umpire's decision, and so forth. Austin called these acts illocutionary acts, and the utterances used in performing them were said to have the 'illocutionary force' or illocutionary point of e.g. a greeting, a statement, a prediction, a promise, a prohibition, or whatever.

The most influential system currently available for categorizing speech acts, especially illocutionary acts, is that of proposed by Searle (1975), who distinguishes five kinds of illocutionary acts, they are representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. In this case, the researcher has general idea about five kinds of illocutionary acts. Representatives represent some state of affairs. The typical examples of this class are stating, asserting, predicting, classifying, and planning. Directives are acts where the speaker attempts to get the hearer to do something as in requesting, ordering, commanding instructing, and pledging. Commissives are the acts which commit the speaker to do something, the typical of this acts are promising, offering, threatening, and betting. Expressives are acts that express a psychological state of the speaker. Declarations is the last kind of an act in illocutionary acts which bring extra linguistic state of affairs into existence, as when we declare war, appoint, veto and so forth. It is difficult to hear the clarification of illocutionary act when a sentence is uttered, it may represent two ideas of a speaker. Searle (1969) states that behind the word, there is a hidden meaning one wants to convey. He states that utterance has two kinds of meaning in speech theory. They are propositional meaning and illocutionary meaning. Speech acts are commonly given more specific labels, such as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise, and request.

The phenomena of speech acts do not only occur in real life situation but also in the novel since they are a reflection of human's real life. The characters dialogues reflect human communication which consists of speech act. They apply speech acts in their utterances to deliver their intended purposes such as when the characters ask someone to do something or when the characters express their feeling.

Request is an expression or act of asking an addressee to do something for the hearer. Trosborg (1995:187) defines a request as an illocutionary act whereby a speaker (requester) conveys to a hearer (requestee) that he/she wants the requestee to perform an act which is very beneficial for him/her. The act may be a request for non-verbal activity, i.e a request for good and services, and a request for an object, an action or some kind of services, i.e. a request for information. A request is somehow more polite than an order since a request is believed as asking somebody to do something than telling somebody to do something.

In their daily life, people always make request which shows that they need people's help. People often make the request both directly and indirectly to ask something from other people such as asking for help, asking for permission, asking for direction and so forth. In this case, people need to use some strategies in order to make their request successfully delivered to their addressee.

The novel that will be analyzed is Khaled Hosseini's novel "The Kite Runner" in English version. This novel has 25 chapters 374 pages. According to Library Guides (2016), this novel was published in 2003 to great critical and popular acclaim, and it is considered as a contemporary classic work and this novel also chosen as one of the titles for 1st World Book Day held in the U.S. (2012), Book Sense Bestseller List Sensation, Boeke Prize, Barnes and, Noble Discover Great New Writers Award, ALA Notable Book, Alex Award, Borders Original Voices Award in 2003, Entertainment Weekly's Best Book in 2003, San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of the Year in 2003, Literature to Life Award, Paperback – on the bestseller list for over 240 weeks (1 for 4 of those weeks). "The Kite Runner" is a novel set in Afghanistan and the United States, tells the story of both fathers and sons and friends and brothers, and it is a novel about right and wrong and the nature of evil. In this novel, almost all aspect of this life is found, beginning with the family, friendship, love, faith, politic, history, social, culture, war and, the other aspect. Besides, the characters in "The Kite Runner" frequently use speech act of request in their dialogues so that the utterances can be analyzed easily. For this reason, it can provide a good example of the occurrence of speech act of request in society. The researcher use qualitative approach for conduct the research. In this

research the researcher will investigate about request of illocutionary act which used in the novel “The Kite Runner” divide the request illocutionary act into four types and eight strategies of request speech which used theory by Trosborg.

In literary works, especially in the novel, there are narration and dialogue or direct speech which has a different function. According to Clark and Gerrig (1990), an important function of direct speech is to provide a vivid demonstration of former speech, whereas indirect speech delivers a description of what was said. It can be concluded that Narration is for telling the story and scene, dialogue or direct speech is for tell the direct speech adds life, length, content, and realism to a story. Direct speech helps the reader perceive the situation in his imagination and relate to the story and it also helps in character building because it is not necessary to always describe the character in a sentence, sometimes the reader has own perceptions to each character and it adds a pinch of mystery to the story. Therefore, in direct speech, there is implicit meaning such as characterization, ideology, and message because dialogue will go on with the plot, the setting, and the conflict. The language of direct speech, commonly free because it depends on the character and the situation in the novel, it can be informal or formal. Hence researcher analyzed the directive speech in the novel especially in request speech act.

B. Statement of Problem

This research discusses the types and strategies of request speech acts in the novel of Khaled Hosseini “The Kite Runner”. There are so many characters in the novel are using request speech act in their conversation.

Based on the background of researches can be formulation into the research questions as follows :

1. What types of request speech act are found in the Novel “The Kite Runner”?

2. What are the strategies applied by the characters in the Novel “The Kite Runner” when making a request?

C. Research Objective

In accordance with the main problem above, the aim of this research will be directed:

1. To analyze the types of request speech act in the Novel “The Kite Runner”.
2. To describe the strategies applied by the characters in the Novel “The Kite Runner” when making a request.

D. Research Significance

It is expected that the result of this analysis can help readers to be familiar with pragmatic analysis, particularly about request of illocutionary acts. It is also expected that this study can be an instrument for linguists and environmental reviewers to examine certain language characteristic found in speeches of public figures, that could be a model of speech act categories analysis for pragmatics learners. Finally, this study aims to increase the understanding of this speech and to grow readers caring attitude towards their environment.

This research is expected to give advantages to these following parties:

1. Theoretically, the research findings are expected to enrich understanding of speech act mainly illocutionary act under pragmatic study. They are also expected to be an additional reference to other researchers who are interested in analyzing request speech acts.
2. Practically, the research findings are expected to be beneficial for
 - a. English Department Students

For English department students especially majoring in linguistics program, the study is expected to provide more comprehension of speech acts. In

addition, as linguistic students, they are expected to be more mindful in using language and be more conscious of what other people say to them.

b. General Readers

The research is expected to give a new insight into pragmatic study.

c. Other researchers.

E. Conceptual Framework

The research aims to investigate two important points of the objectives i.e types of request and strategies of making request uttered by the characters in novel “The Kite Runner”. The research employs pragmatic approach because the characters in the novel often employ speech act of request in their conversation. To answer the first question, the researcher employs Trosborg’s theory of request to find out the types of request uttered by the characters in “The Kite Runner”. There are four types of request namely unconventionally indirect request, conventionally indirect request (hearer-based condition), conventionally indirect request (speaker-based condition), and direct request. Meanwhile, in order to know the strategies used by the characters in the novel, the researcher also uses Trosborg’s theory. There are eight strategies of request such as hints, questioning hearer’s ability and willingness, suggestory formulae, statements of speaker’s wishes and desires, statements of speaker’s need and demand, statement of obligations and necessities, performatives, and imperatives.

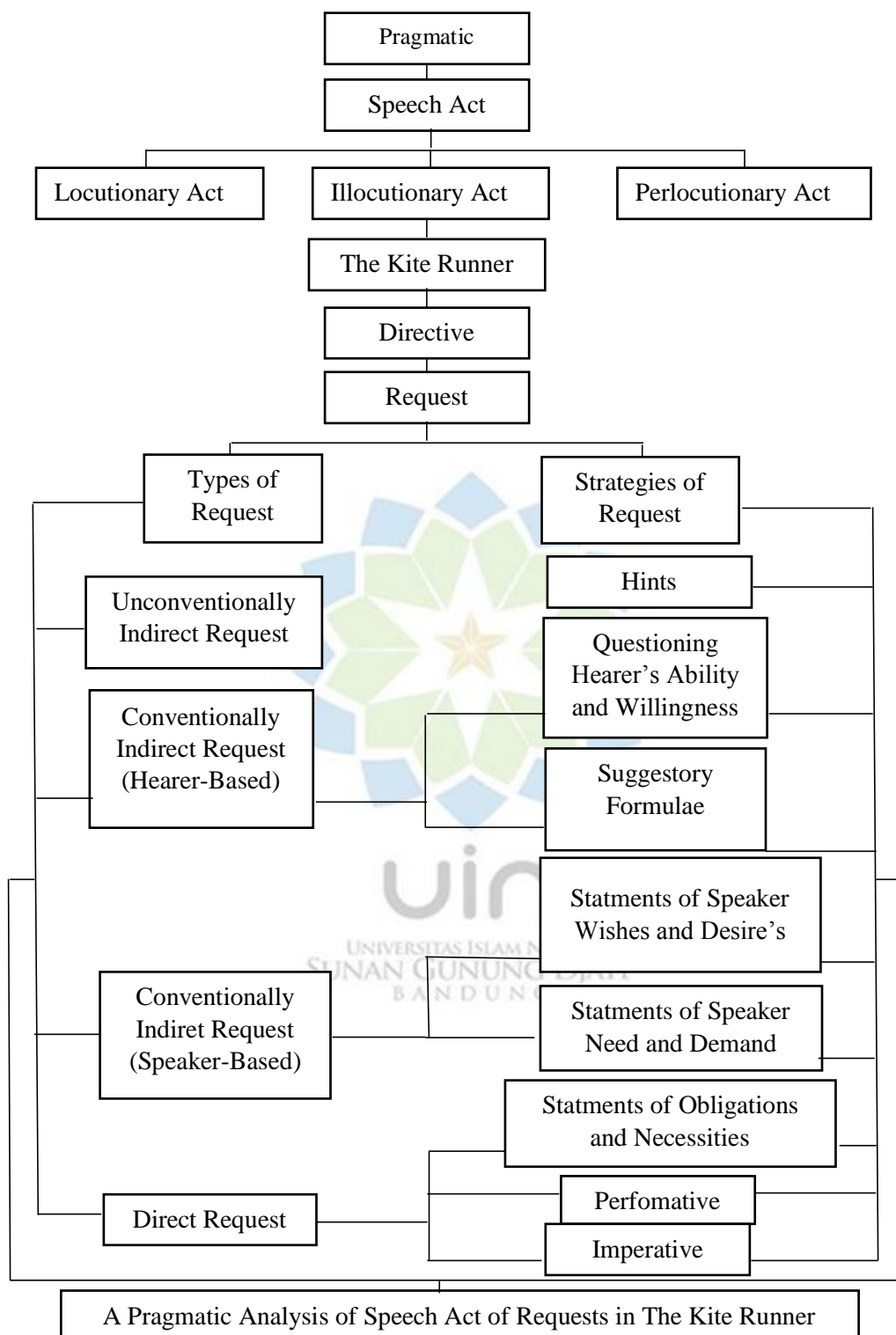


Figure 1.1 Analytical Construct

In this research, the researcher wants to identify the types of request. To analyze the types of request, the second theory commonly used by many researchers is proposed by Trosborg (1995: 192). She suggests that there are four types of requests based on the direction levels. They are unconventionally indirect request, conventionally indirect request (hearer-based), conventionally indirect request (speaker-based), and direct request.

Trosborg adds the term “unconventionally” and “conventionally” to indicate the directness level of a request. “Unconventionally indirect” means that the request is not in the form of utterance. Therefore, it is expected that the hearer pay more attention to the situation i.e. the speech event. In conventionally indirect request, the request is in the form of question or statement based on preparatory condition (hearer-condition) and sincerity condition (speaker-based). Sometimes, the requests are explained in modal verbs, such as *can, could, will, would, may* and wants-statement like *I need.* and *I want.* Meanwhile, performative verbs conveying requestive intents such as *ask, request, demand, command*; obligation containing modal verbs such as such as *must, have to, should, ought to*, and imperative statements are formed with infinitive verb.

F. Previous Study

In this section the researcher will present several previous studies or previous studies that have relevance to this research. The purpose of the presentation of this previous study was to determine the position of the study and explain the differences. The analysis of request speech act frequently has been conducted by some researchers.

The first researcher is Sri Sulasi. A student of Sebelas Maret University Surakarta in 2009 with the title *The Use of Request Expressions in The Film Entitled “Princess Diaries” (A Socio-pragmatics Approach)*. The research conducted by Sri Sulasi focused on classifying the types of request expressions,

uses Tsui's Theory. Tsui (1994) classifies the types of request into five types namely request for action, request for permission, offer, invitation, and proposal. The result of the research shows that there are five types of request expression employed by the characters in the film entitled "Princess Diaries" namely: request for action, request for permission, offer, invitation, and proposal. The factors influencing the use of request expression are social status; situation including time, place and feeling; and the relationship between the participants. The responses toward the request are verbal, non-verbal responses, and no acknowledgement. The verbal responses include direct answer and question. The non-verbal responses include action and expression. Meanwhile, some requestees don't give any response toward the request.

The second researcher is Karana Lintang Cahya. A student of Sanata Dharma University in 2016 with the title *An Analysis Requesting Speech Act in The Movie Frozen by Walt Disney*. The research conducted by Karana Lintang Cahya focus on request theory by Trosborg then classified based on speaker-based condition and hearer-oriented condition. Then the researcher determined the politeness strategies of each datum based on speaker-based condition and hearer-oriented used Brown and Levinson's theory.