

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presented the introduction of the research. This chapter is divided into five sections. They were as follows: research background, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Problem

A novel is a story long enough to fill a complete book in which the characters and events are usually imaginary (Oxford Dictionary, 2015). However, Eagleton (2013) describes the novel as “The truth is that the novel is a genre which resists exact definition.” This is due to the variety of novels with no restrictions when writing them. It typically tells a story through the perspective of a single protagonist or central character and is usually set in a specific time and place. Novels are a type of literature that originated in the early modern period and have since become a popular form of entertainment and storytelling worldwide. One key element of a novel is its characters. A well-written novel will have fully realized characters with their motivations, desires, and flaws, and the interactions and relationships between these characters can be an essential part of the story. Therefore, it can be said that the novel reflects authentic human life by interacting and establishing relationships with other humans. This can be seen by using language to communicate between characters in interacting and establishing relationships.

Likewise, in the novel entitled *The Song of Achilles* (2012), *The Song of Achilles* (2012) is a novel written by Madeline Miller which is a re-imagining of the Ancient Greek epic entitled *Iliad*, which tells of the ancient Greek hero, Achilles, in the Trojan War through the perspective of another person, namely Achilles’ own best friend, Patroclus. As stated by Brown (in *The Guardian*, 2012), the novel won the Orange Prize for Fiction, one of the United Kingdom’s most prestigious literary

awards given annually to the best novel written in English by a woman, in 2012. This novel also became a bestseller in the New York Times after about ten years after its release since its increasing popularity through *booktok* content, where enthusiastic readers share reading recommendations and indirectly introduce the book to the general public on social media *TikTok* and became a New York Times best-seller in 2022. Harris (Journalist in New York Times, 2022) stated that *The Song of Achilles* (2012)' publisher, Ecco Press, announced in July of 2022 the novel had sold two million copies across all formats (*e-books* and physical novels) and had been translated into over twenty-five languages including Dutch, Mandarin, Japanese, Turkish, Arabic and Greek.

In the novel, there are not only sentences in the form of narration, description, and explanation but also dialogues or direct conversations between characters that present the use of language, such as written, spoken language, as if there was a direct conversation between characters orally. This dialogue can be in the form of a statement or utterances 'spoken' in order to get someone to do something, including directives speech acts. Further, how directive speech acts are written in this novel, while speech acts themselves are widely known to analyze direct speech or spoken conversation, became part of the analysis of this study.

Speech acts serve as a fundamental concept in the study of language and communication. Yule (1996, p, 47) defines speech acts as "actions performance via utterances" and "an utterance that can be used to perform an act". That said, speech acts are a unit of language used to perform specific acts or functions in a conversation or discourse. This can include making a statement, asking a question, giving a command, or requesting. One of the critical insights of the study of speech acts is that language is a means of conveying information and a tool for achieving social goals. We can perform a wide range of social actions through speech acts, such as making promises, issuing invitations, or expressing apologies. It is also essential to study speech acts to avoid misinterpretation and understand utterances that expect action as feedback.

One branch of speech acts is directive speech acts. According to Searle (in Tsohatzidis, 2007, p. 22), the directive class of speech acts: requests, orders, commands, etc., are expressions of desires and have the world-to-word direction of fit. This speech act is used to get someone to do something or to direct the hearer to take a specific action. This is based on illocutionary force, the intended effect of the speech act on the hearer, such as committing to a particular activity. Examples of directive speech acts are commanding, requesting, ordering, advising, and suggesting.

There has been some research on directive speech acts that has been carried out using the main object in the form of direct dialogue from human lips or verbal language. However, research on directive speech acts that use the main object in the form of written dialogue or in the form of text, like in short stories or novels, has not been widely carried out because they are not direct dialogue. For that reason, this research focuses on analyzing the written language, specifically on directive speech acts in the dialogue of the characters in the novel entitled *The Song of Achilles* (2012) as the main object. Previous research related to directive speech acts in written dialogue as the main object are presented below.

One of the research on directive speech acts in novels is a journal entitled “Directive Speech Acts of the Count Dracula in *Dracula* Novel” by Siska Lestari in 2020. This research aims to examine directive speech acts only on the main character of *Dracula* novel. The main object of this research is *Dracula* novel. This research was established using the principles of directive speech acts by Levinson and Allan based on the descriptive qualitative research method.

The second research on directive speech acts in novels is a journal entitled “Directive Speech Acts and Educational Values in the Dialogue of the *Rentang Kisah* Novel” by Salsabilla Senja Safitri, Harun Joko Prayitno, Miftakhul Huda, and Laili Etika Rahmawati in 2022. This research examines the characters' directive speech acts in the novel and their educational values. The main object of this research is *Rentang Kisah* novel. This research was established using the basic

theory of Leech's directive speech acts with the standard classification of directive speech acts. The method of this research is the qualitative descriptive method.

Another research on directives using written dialogue or written language is using movie scripts and poems as the research objects. The third research on directive speech acts is a journal entitled "An Analysis of Directive Speech Acts by Searle Theory in "Sleeping Beauty" Movie Script" by Fara Della and Barnabas Sembiring in 2018. This research examines the characters' directive speech acts in the movie *Sleeping Beauty*. The main object of this research is the *Sleeping Beauty* movie script. This research was established using Searle's theory and using the quantitative descriptive method.

The fourth research on directive speech acts is a journal entitled "An Analysis of Directive Speech Acts in the "Fault in Our Stars" Movie Script" by Febi Rosella Wijaya and Jauhar Helmie in 2019. This research aims to examine the locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, perlocutionary acts and the directive speech acts from utterances of the characters in the *Fault in Our Stars* movie. The main object of this research is *Fault in Our Stars* movie and its script. This research was established using Searle's and Yule's theories and using qualitative descriptive methods as the research design.

The fifth research on directive speech acts is a journal entitled "Directive Speech Acts in the Poems of Lanang Setiawan, A local Poet of Tegal" by Mualimin Mualimin and Dwi Wulandari in 2019. This research examines directive speech acts from Tegal poetry anthologies by Lanang Setiawan entitled *Tegal Sumbu Pendek*, *Tegal Melawan* and *Ndoro Binyak* and the factors that influence the directive utterances. The main object of this research is Tegal poetry anthologies consisting of six poems from *Tegal Sumbu Pendek*, eleven poems from *Tegal Melawan* and nine poems from *Ndoro Binyak*. This research was established using base theory from Searle.

In response to the previous research on directive speech acts that use written dialogue or written language above, directive speech acts can be carried out in

analyzing novels and movie scripts. This research adapted the method of serving the results from the research “Directive Speech Acts and Educational Values in the Dialogue of the *Rentang Kisah* Novel” by Salsabilla Senja Safitri, Harun Joko Prayitno, Miftakhul Huda, and Laili Etika Rahmawati. There are some similarities and differences between the research above and this research. The similarities of this research are using a novel as the main object and using Searle’s theory as one of the theories used in this research. In contrast, this research uses different supporting theories that used by the three research above. The novel that is used as a research object is also different from the previous research, the novel entitled *The Song of Achilles* (2012). Based on the explanation above, the research takes the title **Directive Speech Acts in The Novel Entitled *The Song of Achilles* (2012).**

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of problem, can be formulated into the research question as follows:

1. What are the types of directive speech acts in *The Song of Achilles* (2012) novel?
2. How are the social functions of directive speech acts found in *The Song of Achilles* (2012) novel?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the formulation of the research question above, the research is intended:

1. To describe the types of directive speech acts in *The Song of Achilles* (2012) novel.
2. To analyze the social functions of directive speech acts found in *The Song of Achilles* (2012) novel.

1.4 Research Significance

By conducting this research, there is some significance divided into two: theoretical and practical.

1. Theoretical Significance

The purpose of this research is to reveal and analyze the directive speech acts based on their classification through the combination of Searle's and Bach's theories and the functions of the directive speech acts based on Leech's theory so that readers can more easily understand the directive speech acts contained in the novel *The Song of Achilles* (2012).

2. Practical Significance

This research is expected to add to the scientific literature regarding the directive speech acts in novels and directive speech acts in general. This research is expected to help the readers increase their knowledge about directive speech acts study in written language. Furthermore, this research is done so that it is expected to be a reference for further research about directive speech acts.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

This part explains the definition of key terms used in this research. This is done to avoid misunderstanding some of the terms used in this research. Some of the key terms used in this research are defined below:

1. Pragmatics: According to Yule (1996, p. 3), pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning, contextual meaning, and how more gets communicated than is said. Pragmatics goes beyond the utterances' words but also explores the speaker's intention, context, and meaning implied in the utterances.
2. Context: According to Leech (1983, p. 13), context is any background knowledge that is assumed to be shared by the speaker and the hearer and contributes to the hearer's interpretation of what the speaker means by a given utterance. Pragmatics and context are intertwined with each other.

This research focuses on one field of pragmatics study in which context plays a crucial role, namely speech acts.

3. **Speech Acts:** According to Searle (1969, p. 18), speech acts or acts performed in a sentence's utterance are generally a function of the sentence's meaning. In all cases, the meaning of a sentence does not uniquely determine what speech act is performed in a given utterance of that sentence, for a speaker may mean more than what he actually says. Still, it is always, in principle, possible for him to say precisely what he means. According to Searle (1979, p. 12-17), there are five categories of speech. They are representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. The category of speech acts that are the focus of this research is directive speech acts.
4. **Directive Speech Acts:** According to Searle (1979, p. 13), directive speech acts happen when the illocutionary point of these consists in the fact that they are attempts (of varying degrees, and hence, more precisely, they are determinates of the determinable which includes attempting) by the speaker to get the hearer to do something. In other words, directive speech acts that are aimed at making the hearer do something. There are six types of directive speech acts, according to Bach (1979, p. 47-49): requestives, questions, requirements, prohibitives, permissives, and advisories. Each type holds specific functions in social. According to Leech (1983, p. 104-105), directive speech acts have four social functions. They are competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive. This research examines the types of directive speech acts and their functions from the utterances. The main object of this research is a novel.
5. **Novel:** According to Taylor (1981, p. 46), a novel is usually a prose work of quite some length and complexity that attempts to reflect and express something of the equality or value of human experience or conduct. It is commonly a long and fictional narrative that describes the life and experiences of one or more characters. The novel used as the main object of this research is the novel entitled *The Song of Achilles* (2012).