

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report reveals the findings of the study about an analysis of illocutionary in Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life novel. This chapter provides overall introduction to the study. It consists of six sections, i.e. the background of the study as well as its problems, objectives, scope and limitation, significances, and definition of the key terms.

### **A. Background of the Study**

Language is a part of life. It has an important role in life. We use language to communicate with other people. In this society, human being cannot live alone. They need to cooperate with other people around them. So that, they need language to communicate each other in order to share, support their own identity, build social contact, and influence others to feel, think, and have an action as they want. And also, we can offer something, refuse something, and show what in our mind in spoken and written forms. Grundy states (2000) that a proper understanding of verbal in verbal communication requires an understanding of certain characteristics of language. So, the focus of language itself is an instrument with which objectives can be achieved. This instrument cannot be looked at separating from speakers and listeners, writers and readers.

Speech Act is one of the methods that studies about language. Moreover, speech act studies about utterance in communication. It is a minimal unit of communication. We use the term speech act to describe actions such as requesting, commanding, questioning, or informing. We can define a speech act as the action performed by a speaker with an utterance. For instance, A: *I'll be there at six*, it means that you are not just speaking, you seem to be performing the speech act of promising. Searle states that in a typical speech situation involving a speaker, a hearer, and an utterance by the speaker, there are many kinds of acts associated with the speaker's utterance (as cited by Hutchby, 2008).

Illocutionary Act is one of Speech Act types. Illocutionary acts are considered the core of the theory of speech acts. Illocutionary Act studies about how a speaker delivers an utterance to the hearer. As Yule claims (1996), the illocutionary act is thus performed via the communicative force of an utterance which is also generally known as illocutionary force of the utterance. Basically, the illocutionary act indicates how the whole utterance is to be taken in the conversation. It is usually studied in our daily directive communication. It means that Illocutionary Act is usually studied in oral domain. However, Illocutionary Act is also can be studied in written domain.

Novel is one of communication instruments which reflected in written form. Novel writers usually deliver a message on their novel. In other words, the aim of the writer in writing the novel is to give a message to the reader. It can be moral message, religious message, social message, and many more. As a one of media communication, novel also has an utterance in delivering a message. As describe

above, utterance usually is studied in Speech Act. Because of that reason, people can learn an utterance, especially Illocutionary Act, in reading a novel. Ismi Adinda (2012) did her study in the title *An Analysis on Illocutionary acts in the novel A thousand splendid suns*. Her result of the study found that illocutionary act is used in the novel.

There are many genres of novel, such as romance, horror, fiction, non-fiction, and many others. But in this study, fiction novel was selected because fiction is very interesting to read. The story made in fiction usually related to the real-life story but also with the great imagination. There is a moral and motivating message from that kind of novel. In this study, the writer chooses “Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life” because the language used is easy to understand and it has many aspects of illocutionary acts types. Besides, from “Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life” novel we also found the moral message as well as the motivating message.

Moreover, the story appeared in the novel consisted of Illocutionary Act. Illocutionary Act is the theory that the writer was going to study. The writer chose that kind of speech acts type because the types of illocutionary acts are often happens in daily life. Besides, illocutionary acts theory is often appear in the fiction novel. In short, based on the explanation above, the writer analyzed the illocutionary acts used in “Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life” novel.

## **B. Problems of the Study**

Based on the previous background above, the problems proposed as follows:

1. What kinds of illocutionary acts are used in the text “Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life” novel?
2. What is most dominant type used in “Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life” novel?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

1. To identify the illocutionary acts types used in the text “Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life” novel.
2. To find out the most dominant type of illocutionary acts found in “Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life” novel.

## **D. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

The study only focused on analyzing the five types of illocutionary acts based on Searle’s classification of illocutionary acts theory, which were used on the novel “Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life”. Besides, it was only from chapter 1 to chapter 10 and mostly was conversation text.

### **E. Significances of the Study**

This study was expected to give both theoretical and practical contributions on the area of discourse analysis, particularly on analyzing the illocutionary acts in written language.

Theoretically, the findings of this study were expected to contribute the development of discourse study, especially, the illocutionary used in written language. Practically, the result of this study is hoped to give valuable contributions to the teachers or the students of linguistics in comprehending a written language and the illocutionary acts expressed by giving examples on how to analyze, understand and interpret the utterances using theory of illocutionary acts.

### **F. Definition of the Key Terms**

1. Illocutionary acts refers to the type of function speaker intends to accomplish in the course of producing an utterance.
2. Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life is a novel written by Wendy Mass in 2006. It is published by Little, Brown and Company, New York, Boston.