

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

To communicate with other people we use a mediator that we called “language”. Language has been a substantial part of society for human to communicate to one another. Language is very rich that we can use it to express our ideas, thoughts, and feelings. “*Language* is a body of knowledge, stored in the brain, about sounds, forms, structures, and ways to use them, whereas *speech* is the vocalizing (or gesturing) performance of that stored knowledge” (Heatherington, 1980). Austin (1962) stated that as a means of communication, language can also be transferred written or spoken. The time when we receive a written message, we put more attention to the language contained on it. Then, when we receive the spoken message, we can notice the voice of the speaker; how the intonation of the speaker while saying the message to us, the accent, and their words (Cook, 1989).

Discourse and language are somehow related in some ways. Schiffirin (1994) stated that discourse itself is often defined in two ways. The first is that discourse is a particular unit of language (above the sentence) while the second is discourse is a particular focus (on language use). Those definitions reflect on how difference the discourse in formalist and functionalist paradigms. The formalist paradigm, or usually called as structural paradigm, is more about grammar and

structure of language. The functionalist paradigm is more about the structure of speech (act, event) as ways of speaking (Schiffrin, 1994). Discourse is used to consider the message intends to achieve from the sender to the receiver and to try to understand its function (Cook, 1989). There are two kinds of discourse such as: written discourse and spoken discourse. The written discourse is more about language which is written on the text while the spoken discourse is about the language which is expressed in oral way.

In discourse, we also have pragmatics which is the study of speaker meaning. According to Yule (1996), pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning which is communicated by a speaker or a writer and interpreted by a listener or a reader. The consideration of how speakers organize what they want to say according to whom they are talking to, where, when, and the circumstances are the requirements of the study since pragmatics is the study of how more gets communicated than is said (Yule, 1996). “The advantage of studying language via pragmatics is that one can talk about people’s intended meanings, their assumptions, their purposes or goals, and the kinds of actions (for example, requests) that they are performing when they speak” (Yule, 1996). In aiming to express themselves, not only producing utterances containing grammatical structures and words, but also people perform actions via those utterances which we called speech acts (Yule, 1996). While the circumstances surrounding the utterance that help the hearer to understand the communicative intention of the speaker is called speech event.

“Inferring the function of what is said by considering its form and context is an ability which is essential for the creation and reception of coherent discourse and thus for successful communication” (Cook, 1989). The speech act theory is an approach to make assumptions about the knowledge of the people with whom we are communicating. The speech act theory was developed by Austin (1962) and Searle (1969) from the basic belief that language is used to perform actions. The speech act theory also lead to discourse analysis which can also determines the interpretation of an utterance in performing a particular speech act (Yule, 1996).

According to Austin (1962), there are three kinds of speech act: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts and perlocutionary acts. As quoted from Saaed (1997) using the Speech Act theory of John Austin the act of saying something that makes sense in a language is called locutionary act. Then, the intention of the speaker is saying is called illocutionary act. Perlocutionary act is the effect of the speaker’s intention. The illocutionary act is often used to interpret the meaning of the speaker’s intention to the hearer which is Austin and his successors put concerns on the uses of which language can be put in society (Saaed, 1997).

Song, as one of spoken discourse type, have elements in common with speech and poetry. Songs also have their own identity and function that makes them different from speech and poetry. However, both songs and poetry also use words to convey meaning and written down before publication. Songs and poetry can also be listened to (Griffiee, 1992). Song, which is a work of music and sung by people, uses distinct and fixed pitches also have patterns in using the sound. The lyrics of the song are in the form of written words. Song can be sung by a

solo singer, a duet, a trio, a larger group which involves more voices in the harmony of the songs, or a lead singer with the background singers support. Through songs, the senders wants to speak to the listeners about their own experiences. Songs can also affect people's emotions. "Many people can be moved to tears or other strong emotions by music, and songs can acquire strong emotional associations with people, events and places" (Griffiee, 1992). As a reflection of time and place that produced it, music can be different from one time to another time. Songs can be used to compare from one culture to another since it is also can be made from many places. Songs reflect the feelings happen at that time. "Every song is a culture capsule containing within itself a significant piece of social information" (Griffiee, 1992).

In songs, there are also the genres within it. A music genre is a typical category which identifies the music as belonging to some shared tradition or conventions. The genres can be differentiate into different genres in many ways. Peter van der Merwe (1989) states that genre should be defined as pieces of music which share a certain style or "basic musical language". The music genre may also be defined according to its musical style, techniques, content, cultural context, and the spirit of the themes. The axiomatic triangle of Tagg (1982) has made the musciologists classified music according to a trichotomic distinction that consisting of art, folk, and popular music. The three genres then were developed into subgenres. New genres were also raised by the development of new forms and styles of music. The concept of popular music in the 20th century has also led to over 1,200 definable subgenres of music (Fitzpatrick, 2014).

In this study, the writer chose song as the subject since it is one of literature products which can be considered as a means of communication. Music and language are actually related since people can also learn language through songs. A poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said that music is the universal language of all mankind. People can express their feelings and emotions through songs. However, sometimes not all people understand the meaning of the songs that they listen to. The lyrics may be too broad to be described. For those reasons, the writer is interested in analyzing the songs to know the message and the intentions of the songs made by the singer. Besides, song is easier to access since it can be taken from cassettes, television, radio, even internet.

The writer will focus on the types of illocutionary acts that can be found in the lyrics of The Script's #3 album since the illocutionary acts are suitable to use to analyse the messages and intentions containing on the songs. There are six types of general classification system of illocutionary acts by Geoffrey Leech: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, declarations and rogative. Each classification also has illocutionary verbs.

The writer chooses The Script's songs because The Script's music has been featured in popular television programs, such as Waterloo Road, The Hills, 90210, Ghost Whisperer, etc. The Script is an Irish pop-rock band which formed in 2001 and has sold 20 million records. The band has also won three awards of Meteor Ireland Awards, two World Music Awards, and received two Brit Award nominations. The "#3" album was cracking the Top Ten in Netherlands. Besides, the album has also reached number 13 in the United States. The single of the

album entitled “Hall of Fame” become the most successful to date and reach the Top Ten in no fewer than 21 countries. The single was also a Worldwide Number One, with over five million sales, 100 million Youtube views, and over 100 million Spotify plays (Sony Music Entertainment, 2016). The band members are Danny O’Donoghue, the lead vocalist and keyboardist of the band, Mark Sheehan, the guitarist, and Glen Power, the drummer.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

For this study, the writer had a statement of problem which is: “what types of illocutionary acts are found in the lyrics of The Script’s “#3” album?”

## **1.3 The Objective of the Thesis**

Based on the problem stated, the objective of the thesis is to find out the types of illocutionary acts found in the lyrics of The Script’s “#3” album.

## **1.4 Theoretical Framework**

Since this study is about finding the illocutionary acts in the lyrics of the Irish band called The Script, the writer chose the theory of speech acts which cover locutionary act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary act.

Austin (1962) began the theory of speech acts which then expanded by Searle (1969). Speech act is an approach to make assumptions about the knowledge of the people with whom we are communicating. Yule (1996) stated that the speaker normally expects that his or her communicative intention will be recognized by the hearer. The circumstances surrounding the utterance are usually

help both the speaker and the hearer which are called the speech event. “A speech event is an activity in which participants interact via language in some conventional way to arrive at some outcome” (Yule, 1996).

Speech act concerns with the functional meaning of individual utterances. The speakers who performed the utterances will also concern with three kinds of actions which Austin (1962) explained as the following paragraphs.

- Locutionary Act: the act of saying something that makes sense in a language. It contains the phonetic, syntactic, semantic aspects to have a meaningful utterance.
- Illocutionary Act: the intention of the speaker is saying and often used to interpret the meaning of the speaker’s intention to the hearer.
- Perlocutionary Act: the effect of the speaker’s intention on the receiver’s behaviors.

This study put more focus on the illocutionary acts which were found in the lyrics of the songs. According to Leech (1983), the illocutionary act is divided into six types such as representative, directive, commissive, expressive, declarations and rogative. Each type also has its function that differentiate from one another. The representative function has a purpose to state what the speaker believes to be the case or not. It is also known as assertive. The directive function has a purpose to state what the speaker uses to commit themselves to some future actions. The directive function has a purpose to state what the speaker uses to get someone else to do something. The expressive function has a purpose to state

what the speaker feels. The rogative function has a purpose to state what the speaker asks for information. The declaration function has a purpose to state what is the change that made by the speaker via their utterances.

Although there are some theories of Illocutionary Act, the writer chose the theory of Illocutionary Act presented by Leech (1983) as the base theory to classify the illocutionary acts found in the lyrics of the songs since Leech's theory has more details of illocutionary acts than Austin's and Searle's.

### **1.5 The Significance of the Study**

The writer of the research hopes that this study will help the readers who are having difficulty in interpreting the message contains in the songs and those who are interested in learning discourse analysis, in this context is the illocutionary acts.

### **1.6 Assumption**

Song as one of spoken discourse types has two speech acts which are locution and illocution. The locution of song is shown in the language while the illocution is shown in the meaning of the song. Thus, the writer assumed that the songs in The Script's "#3" album have meanings and the lyrics can be categorized based on the types of illocutionary acts.

### **1.7 Limitation and Scope**

The writer would only classify the lyrics that has the verb phrase. She analyzed and categorized the lyrics of the songs of The Script's "#3" album using



the types of illocutionary acts and verbs presented by Geoffrey Leech (1983). The writer limited the study by taking only 3 out of 10 songs in the album to be analyzed.

### **1.8 Definition of Key Terms**

1. Speech Act: utterances that performed by the people in aiming to express themselves (Yule, 1996).
2. Speech Event: the activity in which the participants (the speaker and the hearer) communicate via language in some conventional ways to arrive at some outcomes (Yule, 1996).
3. Speech Situation: a condition of communication which requires a speaker, an utterance and a hearer who interprets the utterance (Austin, 1962).
4. Illocutionary Act: the speaker's intention in delivering an utterance so the addressee could get the interpretation (Cook, 1989).
5. Illocutionary Verb: the verb which shows the illocutionary act being performed explicitly (Yule, 1996).
6. Song: a short musical composition of words and music (Merriam-Webster).
7. Lyrics: written words created specifically for music or for which music is specifically created (Merriam-Webster).

8. The Script: an Irish pop-rock band which formed in 2001 and has three members, Danny O'Donoghue as the lead vocalist and keyboardist of the band, Mark Sheehan as the guitarist and Glen Power as the drummer (Allmusic, 2016).
9. Album: one or more recordings (as on tape or disc) produced as a single unit (Merriam-Webster).

## **1.9 Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis is organized in five chapters. The first chapter covers the background of the study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, theoretical framework, significance of the study, assumptions, limitation and scope, and definition of key terms. The second chapter covers the review of related literature and previous studies. The third chapter covers the research methodology. The fourth chapter covers the data analysis, findings and discussion. The fifth chapter covers the conclusion and suggestions for further studies.