

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a universal human activity. It is needed in the most casual to the most formal situations. People use language in order to be able to communicate with one another in everyday life. Therefore, language is said to be a means of communication. People can express their feelings, emotions, and thought to others by using language. To fulfill their needs to communicate and interact with other people, man makes use of language because language is the means which enables human beings to play their roles in society, to express their needs, to give and get information, and to learn about the people and their surroundings (Lehman says (1983:1). In short, through language, human beings are able to live effectively, to expand their horizon and to know about the world. ✓

The essence of language is human activity -- activity on the part of one individual to make himself understood by another, and actually on the part of the recipient to understand what is in the mind of the speaker. These two individuals, the producer and the recipient of language, or as we may more conveniently call them the speaker and the hearer, and their relationship to one another, should maintain the relationship if we want to understand the nature of language and of that part of language which is dealt with in grammar (Jespersen, 1942:17).

In the society, people may speak different languages to express their ideas ✓ depending on the contexts in which they are involved. Karl Butler (1934) also says

that language is a two-way interaction between speaker and listener. So language is a signal that there is a life, there is a society. A person cannot be separated from other people because a man is both an individual and a social being. Therefore, language is a means of communication among the people of a society (Keraf, 1984).

Before stepping out a little further, it would be a good idea to see what is meant by communication as a system. Effendi (1981:67) defines it as a process of transmitting messages between men. Finocchiaro (1974:3) views communication as the passing of human thought, ideas and experience of the world they live in. The product of communication takes both forms, oral and written productions. Since people may speak many languages differently in different social context we need to understand the pattern of communication. One way to understand the pattern of communication is by analyzing what is called, Speech Acts.

In Speech Acts, language is seen as a form of acting. John Austin (1976) concluded that all expressions of language must be viewed as acts. John Austin and John Searle developed speech act theory from the basic belief that language is used to perform actions; thus, its fundamental insight focuses on how meaning and action are related to the language. Speech acts themselves can be categorized into three parts: locution, illocution, and perlocution.

In this thesis the writer discusses Speech Acts in literary works. As we know, literature has been connected with the teaching and learning of language. Little (1966:1) says that there is an interrelation between education and study of literature. One would not be present without the existence of the other. He believes that literature explains people's values, their thoughts and problems as well as their

conflicts. In short, literature reflects the whole way of life of a society. Because in literature there exists the explanation of thoughts of one society which is presented in a written form, it can then be considered as one of many forms of communication, both as a system and product. Since literature is considered to be a communication system, then the product is the literary piece itself. It can be a written piece of literature -- poems, prose, or play -- or an oral narrative literature such as story telling and fables.

Despite being form of communication, the language which is used in literature is different from everyday language or scientific language. The language in literature is focusing on the effects and impressions to the readers. From the author's point of view she or he is projecting her self-expression through her literary work. One could safely generalize that the language style that is chosen in literary works tend to convey the beauty of words and language. In short, we can say that the language in literature focuses more on aesthetic factor.

The literary work which is discussed in this study is a play. The main reason for choosing a play is that analyzing a play is different from analyzing other literary works. When she begins analyzing a play, she gets many challenging experiences of it. The challenges are first, in reading a play, the writer has to be a creative reader to understand the dialogue between the characters. By being creative, she will be able to dig up the content of the play to get as much information as she can. The second, it is not enough to read a play as simply as sequence of statements made by newspaper in the hot-line or statement in the cover of magazines. The reader has to imagine what the dialogue between the characters look like on the stage.

A play also consists of several elements, such as: exposition, conflict, suspense-conflict, a climax, and solution. Exposition is the introduction to the characters, their relationship with one another, and so on. Conflict is the essence of all stories. It may be one man against nature, man against man, or even man against himself. Suspense-conflict sets up at least two opposing forces. Suspense arises from the reader's growing concern about which force will win, and how concerned, wondered, he reads on. A climax is a major crises or turning point in the whole action of a plot. The last one is resolution. Resolution means suspense continues from the point of climax to the end of the plot.

The play which is being discussed here is *Ile*. *Ile* is considered by some critics as one of the most powerful tragedies yet written in the one-act form. This one-act play was about the journey of Captain Keeney, his wife, and his crew in searching for whale's oil. During his journey, some conflicts happened, conflict between Captain Keeney against nature, Captain Keeney against himself as internal conflict, also conflict between Captain Keeney and his wife and Captain Keeney against his crew. The tragedy happened at the end of this story when his wife lost her mind. Even though he or Captain Keeney succeeded in searching for oil, he failed in his relationship with his wife. Although *Ile* is only one-act play, it has all element's of a drama and also it is well-performed and became O'Neil's first successful play.

The author, Eugene O'Neil, is chosen in this study because he is one of the American greatest playwrights who takes care much about human being problems. He writes a play which always contains people's sorrow and their sorrows are caused by themselves or by the pressure of forces around them. Through his expressionistic setting, O'Neil is really successful in bringing his readers into the imagination (High,

1986:224). He is clearly the leader insisting on his work to be considered as an act. By his imagination and boldness and by his uncompromising sense of the value of his writing, he plays a major role in bringing that theatre into existence (Bogars, 1972:XIV).

O'Neil wrote many plays and most of them were successful, many people like his plays. He wrote many plays and most of his plays were about sea. Rees (1951: 270) adds that O'Neil's attraction to the sea emerges in his many plays. He also defines O'Neil first successful plays as a series about the life of ordinary seamen on tramp steamers and one of his plays was 'ILE'.

Based on the above reasons, the writer wants to analyze Eugene O'Neil successful play 'Ile' in order to find out the speech act elements which are used there. The writer would like to show the usefulness of using the speech act theory in literature from the aspects of the forms, functions, and the effect to the conversation. Speech act does not contain an utterance and its meaning, a message which underlies the statement in the form of behavior and Ile contains all of this. In other words, Ile contains not only locutionary acts and illocutionary acts but also perlocutionary act

## 1.2 Statements of the Problem

In line with the background of the study the problems investigated are formulated as follows:

What kinds of speech acts are found in Ile? More specifically, are locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts found in Ile ?

This question can be divided into two:

- a) What kinds of illocutionary acts are found in Ile?
- b) What kinds of perlocutionary acts are found in Ile?

### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the statements of the problem above, the objectives of this study are to find out:

1. the kinds of speech acts which are used in 'Ile'
  - a) the kinds of illocution which are manifested in the speech acts used in 'Ile'.
  - b) the kinds of perlocution which are manifested in the speech acts used in 'Ile'.

### 1.4 Significance of the Study

Hopefully this study can give contribution to the students who learn discourse analysis, especially about Speech Act. The writer wants to show the usefulness of using the speech acts theory in analyzing literary works.

### 1.5 Theoretical Framework

The theories underlying this study are discourse analysis and especially Speech Act.

Discourse analysis studies the disciplines devoted to the investigation of the relationship between form and function in verbal communication (Renkema, 1998:1). Discourse is used for communication, people use utterances to convey information and to lead each other toward an interpretation of meaning and intentions. In society, people use different languages in different contexts and in order to understand it, we need to understand the pattern of communication. One way to understand the pattern of the communication is analyzing Speech Acts. John Austin (1976) concludes that all expressions of language must be viewed as acts. Speech Acts themselves can be

Speech Acts themselves can be categorized into three parts: locution, illocution, and perlocution. Since literature can also be considered as a system of communication that explains the thoughts of one society which is presented in a written form, the writer of this thesis analyzes the pattern of communication in literature based on Speech Acts theory especially by Elizabeth Trogott and Mary Pratt's theory.

### **1.6 Scope and Limitation**

Related to the statements of the problem and objective of the study mentioned in section 1.2 and 1.3, the focus of the study is on discourse analysis especially the speech acts. The writer wants to limit the discussion in literary works. The literary work which is discussed in this study is Eugene O'Neil's 'ILE', one-act play, in the form of dialogues. Through the dialogue, the writer wants to find out kinds of illocutionary and perlocutionary acts

### **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity, the writer would like to give the definitions of some key terms used in this thesis. Those key terms are:

1. Speech Acts are acts characteristically performed by uttering expressions in accordance with constitutive rules (Searle, 1969:37). Another definition of Speech Act is the acts of speaking which see language as a form of acting (Austin, 1976).

According to Austin, there are three kinds of Speech Act; they are locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. Locutionary acts are the physical acts of producing utterance or the production of the utterances or the acts themselves (Austin, 1976). Illocutionary acts mean the acts which are committed by producing



utterances, by uttering a promise, a promise is made, by uttering a threat, a threat is made. In short, it is the function of the utterance (Austin, 1976). Perlocutionary acts are the production of effects through locution and illocution or the effects on the receiver (Austin, 1976).

2. There are seven categories of illocutionary acts according to Elizabeth Trogott and Mary Pratt. They are representatives, expressives, verdictives, directives, commissives, declarations and phatic functions

3. Literature is a kind of art, usually written, that offers pleasure and illumination (Graham, 1983).

4. Drama is a composition in verse or prose intended to portray life or character or to tell a story usually involving conflicts and emotion to action, dialogue in typically designed for theatrical performance (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 1949:435). Kennedy (1979:834) says that drama is a series of events that elicit high excitement which implies suspense, tension or conflict.

## 1.8 Organization of this Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I, the introduction discusses background of the study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, theoretical framework, scope and limitation, definition of key terms and organization of this thesis. Chapter II presents a review of related literature and related studies. Chapter III illustrates the research method which focuses on research design, data collection procedure, research instrument and technique of analysis. Chapter IV presents the background of Eugene O'Neill and His Plays. Chapter V discusses data analysis, the findings and interpretation of the finding. Chapter VI is the conclusion of the study.