

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Television programs play essential roles in various aspects of life. They are important for us because we can obtain a lot of up-to-date information there. Television programs entertain the audience and educate the audience by sharing information and knowledge through the various programs aired on television. The information shared through television is interesting because audio-visual features of TV programs make the audience quickly receive the information. Television programs are attractively made to catch the audience's attention. Recently, there are many television programs, such as news programs, stand-up comedy, cooking competitions, and talk shows, and many more.

Nowadays, one of the popular television programs is talk show. It is popular because almost every country has a talk show on their television programs. A talk show is a show where there are famous people who play roles as a host and a guest star who discuss particular-topics or issues. According to Morissan (2008), a talk show is a program that shows one or more people as guest stars to discuss a particular topic and this program is guided by a host. Talk show is categorized as soft news, which is a kind of news that discusses particular-topics and delivered in-depth talk by the host. Furthermore, Timberg (2002) states that the talk show usually shares and addresses current issues such as politics, economics, fashion, entertainment, and many other subjects focused on the idea of the talk show itself.

One of the new talk show programs in 2020 is “Oprah’s 2020 Vision: Your Life in Focus Talk Show”. It was the new talk show program published on WW’s YouTube channel. This talk show began in January 2020 and often presented a unique theme because Oprah as the host was going on a cross-country arena tour and stopping in nine cities to meet nine partners like celebrities and changemakers. This talk show was impressive because it contained an emotional and insightful conversation. It talked about 2020 action plans, life stories, lifestyles, entertainments, and wellness featuring nine inspiring speakers such as Lady Gaga, Tina Fey, Amy Schumer, Dwayne Johnson, Tracee Ellis Ross, Kate Hudson, Jennifer Lopez, Gayle King, and Michelle Obama. These themes made the talk show becomes fresh and exciting.

The host of this show, Oprah Winfrey, is an obviously famous talk show host. The talk show's host plays a vital role because they are the guide and the key to direct the talk show. Meanwhile, the guest stars have direct experience or expertise in the topic discussion of the talk show. For this research, the writer takes one episode to be analysed. It is entitled *"Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour Visionaries: Michelle Obama Interview"* (February 8th, 2020). Michelle Obama is the former first lady in the United States and the writer of the best-seller book entitled *Becoming*. Michelle Obama's life after living at the White House, her confidence, and how to go high when others go low are all discussed on this talk program. This talk show was chosen as the object in this study because on YouTube it was viewed by about 2.712.237 viewers on July 03, 2021. The higher number of viewers indicated that this episode was the strongly preferred by the audiences.

Besides the interesting topics discussed by inspiring women in this talk show, another exciting thing to be analyzed is the speech act. Usually, the speech act is found in conversation. The talk show's conversation can be an excellent case of a speech act because it provides a complex conversation. One of the essential parts of the talk show is the utterances among the speakers. Therefore, the study of speech acts is significant for everyone. The speech act is used to comprehend what message discovered in every utterance. Hutajulu (2019) states that speech act is the action performed via utterances. People perform various activities by using words, and when the data is collected, a specific action is carried out called a speech act. According to Reiter (2002), a person produces sentences and carries out an activity. The speech act divides into three parts: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts (Austin, 1962). From the three types, Yule (2014) states that illocutionary acts are discussed regularly in pragmatics. The speech act concept is also broken down to the illocutionary acts and their goals based on their functions. It is determined by the relationship between illocutionary acts and the social purposes of developing and maintaining respect. Illocutionary acts are defined as the act of uttering words in sentences in a specific context, under a particular circumstance, and with a certain specific goal (Searle, 2005).s

It is important to know what the speakers' conversational purposes are. Understanding the meaning of conversation is important to avoid misunderstanding. This fact becomes the writer's curiosity to examine the possible hidden meaning of speakers' utterances in the talk show. This talk show is a complex conversation, so that the writer assumed there are many illocutionary acts

inside the conversation of the speakers. The writer analysed the illocutionary acts that occur in the conversation to get a good understanding of the whole speakers' utterances and explain the relation between the theory of illocutionary acts with its practice in the talk show conversation by two speakers. For example:

OPRAH: *I like that you so freely speak the number 56.*

MICHELLE: *Yeah, for me. Yeah. (Laughter.)*

OPRAH: *I love that. You have been around women—we all have—and men, too, like I'm not gonna say the number. And oh, my gosh, I'm turning 40. Oh, my gosh, I'm turning 50. You never had any of that?*

Based on the example, it is a kind of illocutionary act that is expressive. In identifying utterances performed in the talk show, the writer applies illocutionary acts explained by Searle (2005). It consists of five types which are representatives, directives, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

In undertaking the study, the writer found previous studies conducted by several researchers. There are Setiani and Utami (2018) and Ramayanti and Marlina (2018) focused on the movie as the object. These researchers concerned to discuss the illocutionary acts produced by main characters in the movie. On the other hand, Wardana et al. (2019) and Ramadhani et al. (2019) conducted the research about illocutionary acts in speech. Wardana et al. (2019) identified types of illocutionary acts in President Rodrigo Duterte's speech, meanwhile, Ramadhani et al. (2019) analysed the categories of assertive illocutionary acts in Donald Trump's political speech. Next, last study conducted by Haucsa et al. (2020) which analysed the type and the most dominant of illocutionary acts performed in Tom Cruise's interview. Meanwhile, this study investigated the utterances performed by Oprah and Michelle Obama on the talk show. Nevertheless, none of those studies presented deeper analysis by examining the goals behind the speakers' utterances because

illocutionary acts are related to the context that provide the hidden meaning or goals behind the utterances. These distinctions may result in new findings that lead to different conclusions.

Based on the discussions above, the writer did the research entitled *"Illocutionary Act Used by Oprah and Michelle Obama in Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour Visionaries Talk Show"*. This study identified the illocutionary acts of the speaker's utterances in this talk show. Hopefully, this study can reveal the meaning behind the utterances of Oprah and Michelle Obama as the speakers in this talk show. However, this study and the previous studies are the same research study that focuses on the speech act. This study is different because it uses the talk show as the object. Meanwhile, most of the previous studies use film and speech as an object. This study analyses the host and the guest star's utterances separately to look for the differences between the dominant illocutionary acts used.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates two problems about illocutionary acts. Those are:

1. What are the illocutionary acts found in "Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour Visionaries" talk show?
2. What is the dominant type of the illocutionary acts performed in "Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour Visionaries" talk show?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

According to the statement of the problems, there are two objectives of the study in this research. Those are:

1. To identify the illocutionary acts in “Oprah’s 2020 Vision Tour Visionaries” talk show.
2. To find out the dominant types of illocutionary acts in “Oprah’s 2020 Vision Tour Visionaries” talk show.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, the goal of this study is to convey academic knowledge with the readers. The writer hopes to contribute to the development of the research in linguistics field, especially in area of pragmatics in the context of a TV program named talk show. Practically, the writer expects that this study will become a reference and guide for other researchers who plan to study pragmatics and conduct research about speech acts, and the illocutionary acts in particulars.

1.5 Definitions of Key Terms

The writer gives definition of key words associated with the research’ title in this part.

- *Speech Act*: The study of how speakers and hearers use words and the action performed by utterances is known as a speech act (Yule, 1996).
- *Illocutionary Acts*: the illocutionary act is one of sublevel of speech act. It is the central of speech act theory framework which uses to analysing the use of language in communication. There are five types of

illocutionary acts which consist of representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative (Searle, 2005).

- *Talk Show*: Television program where there are the host and guest star which discuss about particular-theme or topic. Talk show is television program kind of soft news which review a particular problem delivered by the host and guest star (Morissan, 2008).