

ABSTRACT

Winarti, Anik. The Study of Speech acts in *Instant Messenger* Chat Spoken by the English Department Students of Airlangga University. A thesis submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana degree of the English Department, Faculty of Letters Airlangga University, 2005.

The increasing innovations in communication technology have led us into the world where space and distance no longer becomes a barrier. There are numerous kinds of communication instruments that exist today. However, Internet seems to be the most widely used. One of the most popular and interactive services in the Internet is called *Instant Messenger* chat. It allows the users or the chatters to quickly exchange messages with their online friends.

The way the chatters successfully handle this kind of conversation is interesting to be analyzed. During chat session chatters are able to talk and give feedback to their interlocutor by typing messages. In this case, some expressive characters, such as *emoticons* and alteration of spelling, shape the context of *Instant Messenger* chat.

Because *Instant Messenger* chat is about text and talk in context, it can be regarded as discourse and can be the object of discourse analysis. Therefore, in this qualitative study, the writer would like to apply a theory, namely speech acts theory. The problem that will be solved in this study are what kinds of acts that are performed through speech acts, and how the speech acts are performed in *Instant Messenger* chat spoken by the English Department students of Airlangga University. As the source of data analysis, the writer used written dialogues of chatting spoken by the students of the English Department Airlangga University. In this case, the data are taken from one *Instant Messenger* chat service, that is, *Yahoo! Messenger* chat. From thirty respondents, the writer took fifteen data to be analyzed.

The analysis is done by analyzing the context of the dialogues and by finding performative verb in the performative utterances as a base to determine the acts performed by the chatters, namely locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary act.

Based on the data analysis, the writer finds that performative utterances that are found in each data contain request, promise, assert, advice, and order. Finally, this thesis is ended with a conclusion that locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts are found in each data. Especially for perlocutionary act, in some segments of the dialogues, this act does not exist. It means that sometimes the speakers failed to get the effect of what they said from their interlocutors. Also, in performing speech acts the addressers use unique styles of linguistic devices, such as, the use of acronyms, *emoticons*, and phonetic spelling.

Keywords: *Instant Messenger*, Speech Acts theory, performative utterances.

CHAPTE I

INTRODUCTION