

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

Instant Messenger chat is about text and talk in context. Discourse analysis is fundamentally concerned with the relationship between language and context of its use, and it is not limited to spoken language only, but also involves written language, communication, and interaction (Dijk, 1991: 2).

After analyzing written dialogues of *Instant Messenger* chat spoken by the English Department students of Airlangga University based on speech acts theory, the writer found that the three kinds of acts, locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts are found in each data. Especially for perlocutionary act, the writer found that in some segments of the dialogues, the chatters failed to get the effect of what they said from their interlocutors. This is happen in some segments of chat 5, chat 6, chat 8, and chat 14. The perlocutionary act that failed to be performed in all of those segments has similarity, that is, all come from the act of requesting. The interlocutor who does not have something that is being asked, the interlocutor who does not willing to do the action, or the interlocutor who could not be able to the action being asked, become the main reasons why the effect as a result of the speaker's utterance does not exist.

Different from face to face interaction, in *Instant Messenger* chat the participants use different styles of language to perform speech acts. A complete and formal utterance is rarely found in the data. Usually, they use short utterance or acronyms to perform speech acts, for example, "wanna talk about sonnet?" or

“asl pls?” (age, sex, and location please?) which are used to make a request. Also, most of the utterances that contain speech acts are not explicitly performed. It means most of the utterances that contain performative sense donot have “ I + Sinpml Present Active Verb”. Therefore, in order to know that the utterances are performative, we should reconstruct the utterance by adding “I + Simple Present Active Verb”. For exapmle, the utterance “asl pls” can be reconstructed into become “ I ask you to tell me your age, sex, and location. So that, we get the performative pattern “I ask...” which indicates that the speaker is making a request.

The use of *emoticons* which show the chatters’ emotion and expression, also become one of unique features that exist in *Instant Messenger* chat. Concerning with speech acts, these *emoticons* are used to strengthen the illocutionary force in the utterance. For example, in saying the utterance “stop saying honey” which contain an order, there is an additional *emoticon* 🙄 means that the speaker is really angry and he or she is ordering the interlocutor not to say the word “honey”. The *emoticons* also help the interlocutors to interpret the addressers’ utterances, so there will be no misunderstanding between the participants. Especially in *Instant Messenger* chat, it is easier to interpret the expression of the *emoticons* because they appear in form of picture (🙄) not just signs like this =)). It is easier to make an interpretation that this *emoticon* 🙄 means rolling on the floor rather than this kind of *emoticon* =)).

When we talk about *Instant Messenger* chat, we deal with *cyberspace* communication in which the context and the interaction between the addressers

and the addressee cannot be seen directly. However, we can determine that the speaker is performing locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts by seeing the utterances that they made. The unique utterances that are made to stimulate voice, gestures, and tone, even the expression of the speaker have already enough to show the act performed by the addressers. In this case, the utterances that are made by the speakers can be used as indication that the speaker is performing speech acts.

Deal with the felicity condition or the parameter that should be met in performing speech acts, in *Instant Messenger* chat the felicity conditions, namely preparatory, sincerity, and essential conditions can be seen directly. We determine that the speaker has already fulfilled those three kinds of felicity conditions by considering the utterances that precede and follow the intended utterance. The utterance that follow and precede the intended utterance shape the context of the dialogue which then help us in determining whether the addresser has fulfilled the felicity conditions to perform speech acts. For example, when there is an utterance "ok" said by the addressee after the speaker made a request, it means that the hearer is able to the action (preparatory condition), the speaker really wants the hearer to do the action (sincerity condition), and the speaker intends that his or her utterance treated as a request and the hearer know this (essential condition).

The performative utterances that are found in each data, and also function as a base to determine the acts performed by the chatters containing request, promise, assertion, advice, and order. The act of requesting is the dominant one, the total number of the act is 24, and then followed by the act of promising

appears 9 times, ordering appears 5 times, asserting and advising, each of it appears once. Based on the taxonomies of acts, there is directive act (requesting and ordering) which the total number is 29, then followed by commissive (promising), the total number is 9, and representative (asserting and advising) which the total number is 2.

Most of the chatters are not known each other before. At that time, they just met in the chat room. Similar as face-to-face interaction, when we meet someone for the first time, there is a curiosity about our interlocutor's identity. Thus, we try to find out about who our interlocutor is by asking several questions. This phenomenon also happens in *Instant Messenger* chat conducted by the English Department students of Airlangga University and their interlocutors. Requesting or ordering for the information about the addressee's identity, the addressee's picture or to meet again next time becomes the main topic of their conversation. It seems that the purpose of their chat is to maintain friendship or to get friend. That is why the act of requesting and ordering become the dominant one.

The finding of Speech Acts in *Instant Messenger* chat spoken by the English Department students of Airlangga University explained above proves Searle's opinion, that is, all linguistic communication involves linguistic acts. Even, in cyberspace or chat room, in which the participants are separated by distance and wide areas, speech acts are exist even though appear in different styles of language.

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION