

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Humans are social beings who need socialization with other humans in living their daily lives. This socialization process ultimately encourages the creation of communication between humans. Related to this, humans are able to use two types of communication such as verbal and non-verbal. One of the most widely chosen and used types of verbal communication since it is considered more compelling and efficient is through a conversation. Conversations between humans involve the use of words, phrases, and sentences that ultimately form an utterance. This utterance has several purposes and goals, primarily from humans who act as speakers to other humans who become listeners. It is also in line with the statement by Ahmed, Amir and & Ahmad (2020), to represent themselves, humans assemble certain utterances that consist of words and grammatical structures that present specific actions through those utterances, known as speech acts.

In linguistics, a speech act is associated and examined with the speaker's purpose and it is detailed impacts on the listener. The speech act has been discovered in the communication language and is used in several disciplines to convey the utterance and intend to convey what is behind it. As stated by Lanigan (2012), speech act as communication is the objectiveness adhered to by the individual as the emergence of objectiveness applicable to the other individual. It can be said that the speech act is considered as the specified entity of former living

knowledge of speaking. Obviously, it also resulted in the speech act, which is related to the selection of the words used to deliver and give the speakers' ideas, thoughts, and emotions. Speech acts also express several current social issues, such as violence, racism, and gender inequality. The issue of gender inequality, especially for women, is still an issue that continues to happen in today's society.

The issue of gender inequality against women still happened to date. Thus, women still have to struggle against social stigma that despises women's roles in the household and social context. In fact, many women have knowledge and capability beyond men but cannot apply it properly since there is a lack and limited opportunities (Litosseliti 2014). Because of this, the writer is interested in finding out about utterances that can be used to discuss the issue of gender inequality towards women and how these women convey their ideas about it. Especially in the choice of words used and the selected type and function of illocutionary act that speakers often use to emphasize the meaning of their words regarding the issue of gender inequality. According to Sutedjo (2021), women's voices have become one of the instruments to perform experiences. In addition, Furthermore, the study of pragmatics, especially speech acts, can be used to discover the relationship between power through specific perspectives, especially the illocutionary acts, which are able to find the direct and indirect meaning of the performative utterances conveyed by the speakers and their effect towards the audiences (Veridiana and Jensen 2021).

According to Kullu (2022), documentary films portray real life, and the story in the film describes the real story of people, which can record facts presently with minimal human intervention. Moreover, the documentary film considers social

issue campaigns' fundamental aspects and reminders. It was also revealed that many writers often use documentary films as research objects because they can expose the latest, more detailed facts related to issues that occur in society. Moreover, Guba and Lincoln in Jati (2021) stated that some criteria should be fulfilled regarding the validity of data taken from a documentary film, such as credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability. Regarding this issue, it can be seen that, nowadays, people can watch and enjoy documentary films through several media platforms. One example is Netflix.

Netflix is a streaming service platform that provides numerous TV shows, drama series, movies, and documentaries. Some programs are also for education and information, not only for entertainment. One interesting documentary film entitled *Feminists: What Were They Thinking?* it discusses the experience of feminists during the women's movement defending women's equal rights in the USA. According to Bucciferro (2019), *Feminist: What Were They Thinking?* It presents women's reports of their participation in the women's movement. For additional information, Netflix documentary entitled *Feminist: What Were They Thinking?* is partly funded by the International Documentary Association, an organization founded to increase public awareness of related issues.

From Netflix documentary film entitled *Feminists: What Were They Thinking?* it involves responding to a global issue from the point of view of experts in the related field. Although not the only Netflix documentary that carries the theme of gender inequality, *Feminist: What Were They Thinking?* is a different documentary because it involves several feminist figures who participated in the

women's movements in the United States in the 1970s. Among all the feminist figures involved, the writer chose only three to study in more depth because they were considered dominant and the most active in expressing their opinions, such as Jane Fonda, Judy Chicago, and Phyllis Chesler. The three female speakers are chosen to come from different occupations.

The first is Jane Fonda, an actress, former fashion model, and well-known activist whose work in the 1970s confirmed her as one of the most radical, contentious figures of the New Hollywood movement. Fonda also co-founded the Women's Media Center, which aims to guarantee that women are strongly and visibly portrayed in the media and transform the media in its content and references so that the stories of women and girls' perspectives are more precisely depicted. The second is Judy Chicago, an artist, art educator, and writer known for her work, which primarily concerns criticizing the gender construct of masculinity and exploring how prevailing definitions of power have affected the world, especially men. She also contributed to the 1970s women's movement by founding the first feminist art program at Fresno State College, USA. The last is Phyllis Chesler, a writer, psychotherapist, and professor emerita of psychology and women's studies at CUNY. She was also the co-founder of the Association for Women in Psychology in 1969. Later on, in 1972, through her thesis, she was concerned about the issue of double standards of mental health and illness and that women are often punitive labeled as a function of gender, ethnicity, class, or sexual preference.

In Netflix documentary film entitled *Feminists: What Were They Thinking?* The speakers have their opinion on the gender inequality issue occurring in the USA. In

presenting their opinions, it was revealed that female speakers used various speech acts. Although this film contains various speech acts, all the female speakers' most frequently used part of speech acts are called illocutionary acts. Of course, it drove the writer interested in analyzing and examining more about the types of illocutionary acts based on Searle (1979) theory that is widely used and to understand the function of each type of illocutionary act uttered by female speakers used the theory from Leech (1983). In addition, it also uses supporting theory from Litosseliti (2014) to represent the issue of gender inequality experienced by the female speakers in the film, *Feminist: What Were They Thinking?*

There have been many studies on illocutionary acts in the past few years. It started with Basyah, Pulungan, and Dirgeyasa (2018) wrote "Illocutionary Act in Acehese Women's Gossip" which examined speech acts in Acehese women's gossip. Next, Rimbing, Maru, and Tuna (2018) entitled "Illocutionary Acts of Minahasans Men and Women in the Family Conversation (A Sociopragmatic Study)." They found four types of illocutionary used by husband and wife. Then, a study from Firdaus (2018) entitled "Illocutionary Acts in Michelle Obama's Interview at the United States of Women Summit." The result of the study showed that the most dominant types of illocutionary acts performed in Michelle Obama's speech were representatives. The next study from Putri and Marnita (2019) entitled "Illocutionary Acts from different genders from the movie entitled *Hidden Figures*." She analyzes illocutionary acts performed by women and men in the movie. Another study by Savira (2019) who wrote "Illocutionary Acts Found in Meghan Markle's Gender Equality Speech at UN Women." She found that

representative is the most common type of illocutionary act used to deliver information about gender equality around the world. The last is from Saputra (2020) entitled "Illocutionary Act Used by Muniba Mazari in Inspirational and Motivational Video on YouTube" which revealed a Pakistani artist and motivational speaker maximized her speech through illocutionary acts.

Based on the explanation of the previous studies, among six studies, four of the studies used females as participants for their studies, while two of the studies used men and women as participants. In addition, research using subjects with gender inequality issues in 1970 is still limited and must be studied more profoundly. It leads the writer to study more profoundly the phenomenon of gender inequality by analyzing the utterances conveyed by female speakers in *Feminists: What Were They Thinking?* based on the theory classification of illocutionary act by Searle (1979). Moreover, by using the illocutionary act, the writer feels sure that this can reveal and understand the intention or objective conveyed by the female speakers involved precisely, making the communication's goal accomplished.

The current study identifies the types of illocutionary acts from Netflix documentary film entitled *Feminists: What Were They Thinking?* performed by different female speakers. This documentary film was selected because it is about the experiences of feminists during the women's movement in the USA. Those feminists played an essential role in the women's movement in the USA. Regarding this, it is believed that this documentary film will have a global impact on the women's movement globally, including in Indonesia. It is also agreed by Roces (2010), who stated that the second wave of feminism that occurred in the Atlantic

World (including America), as well as the rise of UN protocols such as CEDAW, has provided and revitalized the women's movement in Asia, including Indonesia. Moreover, as is well known, the UN is currently headquartered in the USA. UN Women, one of the UN organizations, is an international organization tasked with dealing with women's empowerment and gender equality throughout the world, including Indonesia. Of course, the perspective of the feminist activists in the USA will influence the decisions of experts and related parties at the UN Women's Center and other related organizations. Furthermore, researching female speakers from various backgrounds in the workplace helps readers discover what works and contributions female speakers have made related to feminist and women's movement issues can inspire readers to do the same. Additionally, it can help the readers to be able to express their opinions on issues related to the appropriate and effective application of illocutionary acts later.

This research conducted using a qualitative approach. According to Creswell (2013), qualitative research explores a social or human issue that focuses on developing a comprehensive, holistic picture through words, providing specific ideas of participants, and conducting research in an actual context. Therefore, a qualitative approach is associated with words, language, and experiences. The data was collected from Netflix documentary film entitled *Feminists: What Were They Thinking?* by downloading through Chrome Development tool and transcribing into the written form. After that, the data is ready to be examined through Searle (1979), Leech (1983), and Litosseliti (2014) theory. Thus, the data is expected to identify types and functions of illocutionary act in relation with gender inequality.

1.2 Statement of The Problems

1. What types of illocutionary acts are used by female speakers in Netflix documentary entitled *Feminists: What Were They Thinking?* in discussing their experience during the women's movement in 1970?
2. What are the functions of each type of illocutionary act used by female speakers in Netflix documentary entitled *Feminists: What Were They Thinking?* in discussing their experience during the women's movement in 1970?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

In accordance with the statements of the problem above, this study will attempt to:

1. To identify the types of illocutionary acts used by female speakers in Netflix documentary film entitled *Feminists: What Were They Thinking?* in discussing their experience during the women's movement in 1970
2. To examine the functions of each type of illocutionary acts used by female speakers in Netflix documentary film entitled *Feminists: What Were They Thinking?* in discussing their experience during the women's movement in 1970

1.4 Significance of The Study

This study provides both theoretical and practical significance. From a theoretical point of view, it is expected that this study can enrich studies on pragmatics, especially illocutionary acts analysis from diverse female speakers.

This study also illustrates the types of illocutionary acts present in Netflix documentary entitled *Feminists: What Were They Thinking?* that portrays gender inequality during the women's movement in 1970. Thus, it gives new insight about the reason women should be treated equally in every aspect. From a practical point of view, the writer hopes this study can help the readers increase their understanding of illocutionary acts in an actual situation and can be used as a reference for similar studies in the future.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Speech Act	: an action that persuades the hearer and is conveyed along with the utterance (Austin 1962)
Illocutionary Act	: a type of speech act that aims to say something and make the hearer perform specific actions (Searle 1979)
Function of Illocutionary Act	: it is determined by the relationship between illocutionary acts and the social objectives or aims of constructing and establishing in a polite manner (Leech 1983)
Representative	: an act that aims the speaker to execute something as the issue, especially considering the fact of the spoken request (Searle 1979)

Collaborative : the illocutionary act that functions indicated to ignore the social purpose. This function does not involve politeness. It is performed by the speaker to show the truth of the proposition (Leech 1983)