

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Human interaction in daily life is carried out using language, whether it is verbal or non-verbal. Because language is the most reliable and powerful communication tool in social life. As a result, language becomes extremely crucial in human life. When language is comprehended in alignment with the speaker's goal and purpose, it effectively fulfils its role in transmitting messages and facilitating communication. In addition to various types of language, there are also other important things in language, namely language styles, which also vary. Language style is a distinct way of presenting thoughts that reflects the essence or character of the researcher. Quoting from the book "Knowing Language Styles and Proverbs" (Oktavia, 2017), language style is also defined as the utilization of the richness of language by someone in speaking or writing. In another quote, Missikova (2003) defines language style as a deliberate and intentional choice characterized by systematic organization and application of linguistic and extralinguistic elements, contingent upon the topic, context, purpose, author's aim, and content of the discourse.

Dkhar (2020) defines language as an instrument for education and communication. Furthermore, Sari et al. (2019) think that students mastered languages, particularly English, while in school. Language, particularly English, plays a crucial role in communicating our actions. Language allows us to convey information to our interlocutors, including where we wish to place things. To

accomplish language, we shall make an utterance while communicating. Utterances refer to our actions, which may be both dramatic and unpleasant. When communicating with others, it's possible for them to misinterpret our words or interpret our thoughts in several ways.

Numerous languages exist globally. Every nation possesses a national language, alongside regional languages that are spoken and comprehended in various areas. Certain languages possess millions of speakers, whereas others have perhaps a few thousand. English is the most widely used language in the world, highlighting its significance. Many people can speak and comprehend English even when they are not in the United States or the United Kingdom. Approximately 1 billion people worldwide speak English, including those who speak it as a second language.

Speech act is anything said by a person that not only delivers information but also performs an action. According to Yule (1996), speech actions are a study of language usage between speakers and listeners. According to Bach (1979), verbal communication involves both language and action, as actions convey messages. So a speech act is a form of expression that includes not only information in the form of words but also actions. There are three types of speech acts, namely: Locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. These three are interconnected. Locutionary is the sentence spoken by the speaker, illocutionary implies the intended meaning of the speaker, and perlocutionary is the action behavior of the hearer after hearing the speaker. An example is as follows. Someone says "It's hot here", the locutionary act of the sentence is the speaker feels the heat of the room, the illocutionary act of the

sentence is that there are two possible meanings of the sentence, namely; an indirect request for someone to raise the temperature of the air conditioner or either an indirect refusal to lower the room temperature. So the perlocutionary act of this sentence is the action of the hearer who will lower the temperature in the room. In the perlocutionary part, the literal sentence spoken, we can find moral values. Moral value is a principle for humans, social creatures, in determining whether something is good or bad.

We can also find this speech act theory in the Qur'an, one of which is in Surah Ali Imran verses 190-191.

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ لآيَاتٍ لِّأُولَى الْأَلْبَابِ ۝ ١٩٠ الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَمًا وَفُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَٰذَا بَاطِلًا سُبْحَانَكَ وَفَنَاءَ عَذَابِ النَّارِ ۝ ١٩١

The verse explains that there are many signs of Allah's existence and greatness from the things around humans, namely the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of day and night, but all of that is only intended for those who are reasonable. Then again, the definition of the word "reasonable" is explained as people who remember Allah in any situation and think about the creation of the heavens and the earth so that they come to the conclusion that the creation of the universe is not in vain and they believe in Allah. Entering the explanation of the three types of speech acts, the sound of the verse is the locutionary act, the illocutionary act part is Allah ordering His servants to pay attention to the surroundings (the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of day and night), and the perlocutionary part is humans carrying out the

verse. The concept of moral value is concerned with practice, or what one should do. Of course, this is related to speech acts, in which perlocutionary refers to the perceived effect of the utterance. As a result, every speech act must contain a moral value.

This topic was selected because Robert Waldinger's analysis of the speech acts in TED Talk videos can shed some insight into the various ways that speech acts are employed to influence audiences and deliver messages. The applicability of J.L. Austin and John Searle's speech acts theory to public presentations can be tested through this research. Ted Talk is short enough to keep the audience interested and to the point because they provide an in-depth examination of a particular topic, regardless of how much or how little the audience already knows about it. It also can be accessed worldwide, that makes more people can watch the video. After that this speech provides a meaningful topic about life material discussed scientifically is the reason why the author chose this topic to discuss. Therefore, since this topic has not been discussed much in the department and then by adding the moral value contained, this research is titled "Analysis of speech acts in a TED Talk video; Robert Wilgard: What Makes A Good Life? Lessons From The Longest Study On Happiness".

## **B. Definition of Key Terms**

### **1. Analysis**

In this context, analyzing entails a methodical investigation and interpretation of the components and patterns found in the TED Talk video

speech acts. This approach seeks to identify the speaker's speech in the video and categorize them into types of speech acts and the moral values contained therein.

## 2. Speech Act

Speech acts are actions conducted through language in which utterances not only provide information but also serve a variety of roles such as making promises, offering directions, or expressing opinions. Speech actions in the context of studying a TED Talk video entail comprehending the speaker's objectives and consequences through linguistic expression.

## 3. Moral Value

Moral value denotes the ideas, norms, or criteria that direct individuals and society in distinguishing right from wrong, good from evil, and acceptable from unacceptable actions. These values are influenced by cultural, social, and ethical conventions and provide a basis for assessing human behaviour.

## 4. Ted Talk

A TED Talk is a brief, interesting lecture given at a TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) conference. These speeches span a wide range of topics and are distinguished by their emphasis on narrative, creativity, and effective transmission of ideas to a varied audience. The video taken in this research is one of TED Talk episodes entitled Robert Waldinger: What makes a good life? Lessons from the longest study on happiness?

### **C. Research Question**

Based on the background above, the researcher choose two research questions to be discussed:

1. What types of speech acts that appears in the Robert Waldinger: What makes a good life? Lessons from the longest study on happiness?
2. What moral values consisted the speech acts in the Robert Waldinger: What makes a good life? Lessons from the longest study on happiness?

### **D. Objectives of Study**

Based on the research question above, the objectives of study to achieve are:

1. To analyze and figure out the types of speech acts in the Robert Waldinger: What makes a good life? Lessons from the longest study on happiness?
2. To analyze and figure out moral values consisted the speech acts in the Robert Waldinger: What makes a good life? Lessons from the longest study on happiness.

### **E. Significance of Study**

The outcomes of this research are intended to give theoretical and practical benefits, as detailed in the section below.

1. Theoritically

This study would assist anyone who is interested in Speech Act and wants to understand more about its function. This study's findings can be used to inform future research or classroom discussions on the issue. Thus, throughout the

study, the researcher analyzed Robert Wilgard's *What Makes a Good Life. Lessons From the Longest Study On Happiness*

## 2. Practically

The researcher notices that the topic of speech act has not been widely discussed by students in the English department, therefore by producing this research, the researcher hope to assist other researchers who want to more knowledgeable about speech act. Furthermore, it may provide input for future linguistics courses.