

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background of the Study**

Recently the world is being horrified by the presence of a new virus called Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) which has spread almost all over the world. This virus attacks the human respiratory system. According to Hageman (2020) COVID-19 has the same ribonucleic acid (RNA) with the viruses that caused severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). The case of Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is first notifying at Wuhan on 31 December 2019 (Cheng et al., 2020). Wuhan is the capital of Hubei Province, China. There are 79,394 confirming COVID-19 cases in china and 2,838 people died. From these cases, 48,557 cases originated from Wuhan, Hubei, and 2,169 died. The data was taken on February 29, 2020 (Wu et al., 2020)

The majority of COVID-19 cases in China originated from Wuhan. It is caused the provincial government of Hubei, the capital of Wuhan to lockdown its territory so the virus does not spread to the other areas. Lockdown of territory are carried out by limiting the travel to and from Wuhan. This has done to ensure that Wuhan residents obey to stay at home. They also implement social distancing by canceling events and meetings, working from home, and also school from home (Lau et al., 2020)

Wuhan's way of preventing COVID-19 councilors with lockdown territories was widely reported and written by many reporters, and they made the news both of newspapers and on social media about Wuhan lockdown. News is something that tells about social life, news is social resource news is a source of knowledge news is a source power and news are the window to the world (Palczewski, 2018).

In the digital era, more people prefer reading online news that is spread across social media rather than newspaper. Besides being cheaper, it is easier for people to access the news anytime and anywhere. People use social media as a means of

communicating with others. Social media uses web-based or cellular technology to create platforms that are highly interactive and allow users to communicate, share, collaborate and modify the content they create to provide a platform that can interact in real time (Power, 2014).

The spread of news on social media was very fast. Social media users can also access news around the world easily, as well as news about Wuhan lockdown. People read news of Wuhan lockdown from social media. In news of Wuhan lockdown found on social media, the users are given the opportunity to give a response in the comments column that has been provided. In responding to this news, the users comment to each other and give their opinions. So that, conversations on social media occur. In responding, the users have the intention to convey to other readers but not all responses have the same intention. They certainly have different intentions to convey.

For example, in sad news such as COVID-19 that caused of Wuhan lockdown, the response of the readers not only provides support and prayer but also blame and curse them. The intention of social media users is based on the context from news that they read. Context is a term that cover many things, not only the situation but also the participant's identity, beliefs, knowledge, as well as the speaker's intention in the speech situation (Levinson, 1983).

Speech events are activities that are directly regulated in the rules used in speech (Hymes, 1974). Conversation is made up of utterances. Everyone gives response differently to the Wuhan Lockdown news. They express what they think or what they feel and write in the comment column. The social media users have the intention behind their expression.

Research about intention and speech event has been widely raised by previous researchers as an interesting research. This includes Lampos, Preot, and Cohn (2013) who analyzed a user-centric model of voting intention from Social Media. Zhang and Yang (2014) who analyzed the classification the intention and the social support type

in online healthcare social media. Cohan-Sujay & Madhulika (2012) who analyze the intention in business function in social media.

The responses given by social media users including speech event and intention is very interesting to analyze. Even though there were many previous studies about speech event and intention, but there are not research about speech event and intention based on the response of social media users on news of Wuhan Lockdown. The researcher wants to complete the previous research about the responses given by social media users by using different objects. The researcher using the theory from Searle (1979) and Fishman (1984) to analyze the data. The researcher chooses the news of Wuhan lockdown because this is the latest topic and the entire social media user read about it. From this news, the users of social media or the reader give the response based on the news. The response has the meaning or the intention deliver by the reader. Therefore, the researcher conducts the research entitled “**RESPONSE GIVEN BY THE SOCIAL MEDIA USERS ON NEWS OF WUHAN LOCKDOWN: A SOCIOPRAGMATIC ANALYSIS**”

## **B. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher collects the data by searching the data on one of the social media platforms, Facebook. The researcher searches the news that the topic is Wuhan Lockdown. This research is focused on the responses given by social media users which include speech event and the intentions from the responses.

## **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the phenomena which are found in the response given by the social media users of the news of Wuhan Lockdown, the researcher intends to propose problem statements below:

1. What are the intentions of the comment given by social media users on news of Wuhan Lockdown?
2. What are the speech events of the comment given by social media users on news of Wuhan Lockdown?

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

Based on the problem statement, the objectives of this research as follows:

1. To clarify the intentions of the comment given by social media users on news of Wuhan Lockdown.
2. To describe the speech events of the comment given by social media users on news of Wuhan Lockdown.

#### **E. Benefits of the Study**

The researcher hopes this research result can be benefits for all the readers of this research:

1. Theoretical

This research result gives the benefit as references about the pragmatic analysis of speech event and intention, especially from the response given by social media users on news.

2. Practical

- a. For the students

The research gives the knowledge for the student in learning intention and speech event.

- b. For the teachers

The research uses as an authentic material of the teacher to analyze speech event and intention using socio pragmatic analysis.

- c. For the next researchers

The research uses as a reference and comparison for the research about socio pragmatic analysis of intention and speech event so the next researcher gets the better research.