

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, and benefits of the study.

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

There are so many interesting movies in the world of cinema. One of them is the movie entitled *Mulan* (2020). *Mulan* movie is a very interesting movie. It talks about a young lady who never shows her weakness. She always tries to be strong. She fights like a warrior without showing her fear. Apart from that, *Mulan* is a film that has a lot of moral values. One of them like people have to be brave as long as they are true and honest. They should not be afraid while they know they are right. Something that makes this film more interesting is using direct command, which are typically used by individuals in a higher position than others or someone older than them. In this movie, the direct command is used by a soldier who commands people around him, including his friends and people that have higher position than him.

It can be seen in the scene where Hong Hui (a soldier) commands people around him to hold the formations. It is interesting to note that in that situation, a commander and a sergeant are present in the same location and do Hong Hui's commands, despite they having higher position than Hong Hui. It adds an interesting dynamic to the movie and warrants further observations. Beside of that, command is utterance yang commands are something very familiar to us. One of the closest examples is when we are at home, we frequently hear commanding utterances all the time, such as a mother telling her child to sweep the floor or wash the dishes. Besides at home, commands are also prevalent in schools, like a teacher instructing students to erase the whiteboard, fetch a book from the library, and so on.

Rahardi (2005:79) defines command that convey the intention of commanding or requesting the interlocutor to do something as desired by the speaker. The strategies used by the speaker in presenting imperative utterances cannot be separated from the surrounding context, including the context of place, situation, and time. The commands given by the speaker are related to something in their minds at that moment, making the context play a crucial role in the success of the utterances expressed by the speaker. Because of Commands are also constantly used in daily activities. Therefore, the use of commands is very diverse.

Commands are used by people of all ages, including old people, young people, students, etc. Therefore, commands cannot be used indiscriminately without any rules. These rules often revolve around the concept of politeness. A younger person cannot simply use direct commands when addressing someone older than them. They should use more polite language to convey their commands. For example, a child commanding their sibling to give them a cup of tea should do so politely, saying something like, "I feel thirsty. If you happen to go to the kitchen, would you mind bringing me a cup of tea?" Every command expressed, whether directly or indirectly, always carries a specific meaning based on its context. In producing a speech, it is usually accompanied by an action. This is included in a study called pragmatics.

Pragmatics is a study that has an important role in life. The larger area of pragmatics investigates how a sentence's context affects its meaning. According to Yule (1996) pragmatics is a science that examines the meaning of the speaker, meaning according to context, meaning communicated by the speakers, and forms of expression according to the social distance that limits participants in the conversation. Pragmatics is one of many things that the most important in society, because pragmatics is a study about the relation between language and the context that underlies an explanation of the meaning or understanding of language. Pure pragmatics would be concerned with the interrelationships between notions like belief, speech, and intention (Sefriana, 2019). Pragmatics has several topics, one of them is speech act.

According to Yule (1996) speech act is an action that carried out through speech. By saying something, the speaker will do something. According to Austin (1962) Speech act is defined in *How to Do Things with Word* as merely the act of stating something. When people make an utterance, in the same time they doing an action. According to reductive theories of meaning, the process of elucidating the meaning of a phrase involves reducing the multiple meanings represented by a sentence by a single criterion to something else (Hartley, 1983). According to Austin (in Thomas, 1995) there are three components of speech act: (1) locutionary act is speech act which performs in action to express something, (2) illocutionary act is a speech act which perform an action in declaring something, (3) perlocutionary act is a speech act which performs an action by say something. According to Searle (1979) there are five kinds of speech act, namely: (1) directive, (2) representative, (3) declarative, (4) commissive, (5) expressive.

In this paper, researcher discusses directive speaking performance in the *Mulan* movie. In *Mulan* movie there are many utterances which can be categorize as speech act like

expressive, directive, declarative, commissive, representative. But, in this study, researcher only want to analyse the directive speech act, especially in utterances that have meaning as a command. The phenomena that also be found in *Mulan* movie is when the war was happened. Bori Khan as a villain, command his troops to preparing the attribute like sword, Meriam, arrow, etc. Because they will be starting the war. Bori Khan said “Sharpen your sword!”. It means that Bori Khan wants his troops to do a war and starting with prepare the sword. From the sentence, it can be known that it is a command sentence.

To complete this research, researcher uses some previous research. For example Mustaka (2022) studied commanding in Qur’an Surah al-Mulk; Adelayanti (2021) studied commanding in Game of Thrones Season 7 Serial Movies; Syah et al., (2019) studied commanding in Despicable Me. Nevertheless, some of these studies did not particularly investigate about the types and the politeness strategies that used in *Mulan* movie especially on commanding utterance. Most of the investigate about the form of the sentence involve commanding. This study is meant to fill in the gab. Unlike the previous study, this study using movie as a subject of the research.

This research is important because with this research, people can be understanding the knowledge of language and they can catch and apply the words of the speaker. This research also can enrich knowledge in the field of linguistics, especially in speech acts. Given the strong relationship between speech act and context, how a speech act's setting is perceived affects what the speech act is intended to be, such as whether it is a true social activity and in what sense (Sbisa, 2010).

This study only analyses commanding utterance used by characters in *Mulan* movie. This study specifically focuses on the types of commanding utterance and the types of commanding utterance. The theory of Degand (in May, 2009) is used to analyse the types of commanding speech act, and the theory of Brown & Levinson (1987) is used to analyse the politeness strategies on commanding utterance.

## **B. Problem Statements**

Based on the title of the study above, two research questions are proposed as follows:

1. What are the types of commanding speech act uttered by the character in *Mulan* movie?
2. What are the politeness strategies on commanding speech act uttered by the character in *Mulan* movie?

## **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the statement of the problem above, the objectives of the study that can be formulated as follow:

1. To describe the types of commanding speech act uttered by the character in *Mulan* movie.
2. To describe the politeness strategies on commanding speech act uttered by the character in *Mulan* movie.

#### **D. Significance of the Study**

The benefits of this study can be seen from two aspects, namely theoretical benefits and practical benefits.

##### **1. Theoretical Significance**

This research is expected to help people have a good social relationship with other. It helps people to avoid miss-communication and miss understanding because of the different culture. This study is anticipated to deliver an understanding of speech acts that can be understood according to the context. Therefore, the result of the study is researcher's contribution on study development especially in commanding speech act.

##### **2. Practical Significance**

This research is expected to give some benefits for pragmatics lecturer and future researcher as follow:

###### **a. Lecturer of Pragmatics**

The researcher hopes that this research contributes for pragmatics study in lecture.

###### **b. Future Researcher**

This research should be beneficial and broaden the knowledge and insight of researcher and readers in terms of language. In addition, the researcher also anticipates that this study contributes to science, especially for majors related to English.