CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general description of the study. It covers the background of the study, research questions, objectives, significance to knowledge, and framework of the theory.

1.1 Background to the Study

Today, internet slang phrases, such as *lol*, *imo*, *or tbh*, have become common and popular expression for communicating internet user's intention in social media, forum, and chat room. Internet slang phrases become popular because internet users use them to convey meaning quickly, to follow the pattern of language around internet, etc. Therefore, most internet user prefers to write "*LOL*" than writing "hahaha" or to write "*IMO*" than writing "in my opinion". Apart from that, internet slang phrases actually involve with two main items; they are structure and function.

Structurally, internet slang phrases are used in the sentence which consists of declarative, interrogative, and imperative structure. If there is no violation, declarative is used to make a statement, interrogative is used to make a question, and imperative is used to make an order or request.

Moreover, based on its function, internet slang phrases are used to convey certain intention such as to express a feeling, to make a statement, or to insult

other people. Those intentions are classified by Searle (1979: 12-20) into five categories: assertives, commissives, directives, expressives, and declarations.

Furthermore, the structure and function of the internet slang phrases make a kind of relation called direct and indirect speech acts. For instances, the expression *TBH* (to be honest) will be used in declarative sentence to make a personal statement (assertives), and the expression *STFU* (shut the fuck up) will be used in imperative sentence to order someone to stop talking (directives). This is what Searle called as direct speech acts because its function is the same as its structure.

However, the problem arises when internet users use internet slang phrases to convey intention differently from their structures. For instances, when there is a discussion in the internet forum, and there is member who starts to speak something weird or disgusting, someone will usually write, *"hey man, you give TMI"*. *TMI* is an acronym of *too much information*. Although it is stated in declarative, it is not a statement, but it is an order. Then, in this case, he does not use a declarative for making a statement, but it is used for ordering someone to stop talking (directives). This is what Searle called as indirect speech acts because its function is different from its structure.

Therefore, the writer is interested in analysing direct and indirect speech acts of internet slang phrases since they are used by the speaker to convey the intention in various ways. Thus, they have important role in the conversation, especially the conversation on the internet forum.

There is a previous research relating to this research, it is entitled *"An Analysis of Speech Act Types in George Orwell's Animal Farm"* written by Utami (2010). She analyses the speech acts in the novel Animal Farm. However, she only analyses all speech acts occurred in that novel without concerning the direct and indirect speech acts. In this research, the writer focused on direct and indirect speech acts of internet slang phrases.

Based on the explanation above, the writer decided to choose **"Direct and Indirect Speech Acts of Internet Slang in thestudentrom.com Forum"** as the title of this research.

1.2 Research Question

1. What speech acts' types may be identified on the basis of structure from the chosen data?
2. What speaker communicative intentions may be interpreted?

1.3 Objectives

1. To investigate the speech acts' types based on the structure from the chosen data
2. To investigate speaker communicative intention when using the internet slang phrases

1.4 Significance to Knowledge

This research is conducted to investigate the direct and indirect speech acts of internet slang phrases found in thesudentroom.com forum. Theoretically, this research is conducted to show that internet slang phrases can be used to convey various intentions in the same structure. Moreover, this research is expected to expand the readers' knowledge about the use of direct and indirect speech acts of internet slang phrases, so they can use internet slang phrases appropriately, and they also can understand what is conveyed by other when he uses internet slang phrases.

1.5 Framework of the Theory

Austin, as cited in Cutting (2002: 16) defined speech acts as the action performed in saying something. The intention of the speaker when saying something is defined as illocutionary acts. Searle (1979: 12) divided the illocutionary act into five types, and each type represents the intention of the speaker/writer when uttering the words. Assertive is kind of speech acts that state what the speaker believes to be the case or not. Expressive is kind of speech acts that state what the speaker feels. Directive is kind of speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something. Commisive is kind of speech acts that speakers use to commit themselves to some future actions. Declaration is kind of speech acts that change the world by their utterance.

Moreover, there is also a relation between structure and function of the illocutionary act. That relation is called as direct and indirect speech acts. Searle

stated that speaker using a direct speech act wants to communicate the literal meaning that the word conventionally express; there is a direct relationship between the structure and the function, and someone uses an indirect speech act wants to communicate a different meaning from the apparent surface meaning; the structure and the function are not directly related.