CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

This chapter discusses theories related to the research questions. It provides description about speech acts including the types of speech acts and the direct and indirect speech acts.

2.0 Speech Acts

Utterances, which in this research are represented by internet slangs, are not only produced to express people mind, but they are also used to perform actions called speech acts. Austin, as cited in Cutting (2002: 16), defined speech acts as the action performed in saying something. There are three related acts when speech acts is occurred; they are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Those acts can be identified through circumstances surrounding the utterance called speech events. In this research, locutionary act and illocutionary act will be the focus since they convey the expression and the intention of the speaker.

Locutionary act is the basic act of utterance; it is the act of producing a meaningful linguistic expression. In the written context, it can be identified through sentence structure. Thus, in this research, locutionary act is represented by internet slang.

Furthermore, the speaker also has intention when uttering a sentence. That intention is called illocutionary act. Thus, with utterance, the speaker can make a statement, an offer, etc.

2.1 Types of Speech Acts

As mentioned above, there are two types of speech acts which are the focus of this research; they are locutionary act and illocutionary act. Locutionary act has a relation with the structure of the sentence, and illocutionary act has a relation with the intention of the speaker.

2.1.1 Types of speech acts based on structure

As stated in the previous discussion, locutionary act can be identified through sentence structure. It means that locutionary act may be defined into declarative, interrogative, and imperative as follow:

1. Declarative is sentence used to make a statement.

   Example: *"the sky is blue"*
2. Interrogative is sentence used to ask questions.

   Example: *"are you sleepy?"*
3. Imperative is sentence used to indicate command or request.

   Example: *"close the door!"*

Therefore, locutionary act may occur as declarative, interrogative, and imperative if it is identified through sentence structure.

2.1.2 Types of speech acts based on function representing intention

Illocutionary act, in the other hand, is the intention or purpose of the speaker when uttering a sentence. According to Searle (1979: 12-20), there are five general categories that represent the intention of the speaker as follow:

1. Assertives

   The purpose of the assertive class is to commit the speaker to something is being the case, to the truth of the expressed proposition. The paradigms of verbs belong to this type are asserting, concluding, deducing, etc.

   Example: “The earth is flat”

2. Expressives

   The purpose of this class is to express the psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about a state of affairs specified in the propositional content. The paradigms of expressive verbs are thank, congratulate, apologize, condole, deplore, welcome, etc.

   Example: “Thanks for paying me the money”

3. Directives

   The purpose of the directives class is to get the hearer to do something. The paradigms of verbs belong to this type are ordering, requesting, questioning, excusing, etc.

   Example: “Gimme a cup of coffee”

4. Commissives

   The purpose of this class is to committ the speaker to some future course of action. The paradigms of commissive verbs are promising, threatening, offering, etc.

   Example: “I will be back”

5. Declarations

   The purpose of declarations class is to change the world via utterance. It is the defining characteristic of this class that the successful performance of one of its members brings about the correspondence between the propositional content and reality; successful performance guarantees that the propositional content corresponds to the world.

   Example: “I now pronounce you husband and wife”

Therefore, the intention of the speaker when uttering a sentence may be identified as assertives, expressives, directives, commissives, and declarations.

Moreover, speaking about intention, Halliday (1985: 44-49) relates it to the mood. Mood is the element that realizes the selection of mood in the clause. Since Halliday looks mood as a functional grammar, mood has a certain structure. In this research, the thing that will be discussed is the other element of mood structure called conjunctive adjunct. In the clause, conjunctive adjunct can occurs at some points of clause such as clause initial, clause final, between theme and rheme, and between mood and residue. There are some functions of conjunctive adjunct, such as for hedging and as a theme of sentence.

2.2 Types of relationship: Direct-Indirect Speech Acts

In the previous explanation, it stated that locutionary act relates to structure and illocutionary act relates to intention. There is a kind of relationship made by structure and intention of speech acts called direct and indirect speech acts. However, before explaining about them, literal and non-literal meaning should be explained first to give more understanding clearly.

2.2.1 Literal and non-Literal Meaning

Sentences have literal and non-literal meaning. Searle (1979: 117) defines literal meaning as sentence meaning and non-literal meaning as utterance meaning. Utterance meaning is what a speaker means by the sentence when he utters it to perform speech acts. There are some possibilities that may be occurred between literal meaning and non-literal meaning. Here are the cases when locutionary act, "*this room is very hot*", defined different intentions.

Literal meaning of locutionary act "*this room is very hot*" is identified when the speaker mean exactly same as what the sentence means, as in the following case: *It was afternoon in the summer, and the weather was hot. Billy was in the room with his friend, and then he said, "This room is very hot".*

In the context of metaphor, non-literal meaning appears because the speaker means something different from what the sentence means. In the following case, the expression 'very hot' does not mean that the room is hot, but it means that the debate is very aggressive: *In the meeting room, there was a long*

and everlasting debate between the participants of meeting. Everyone was giving his argument aggressively. Then someone said, "This room is very hot".

Furthermore, non-literal meaning also appears in the context of irony because the speaker means the opposite of what the sentence means. In the following case, the expression "*this room is very hot*" is used by the speaker when the room is cold: *It was a winter and the temperature was below zero degree. Two boys were chilled in the living room. Then one of them turned the AC on. Angrily, the other boy said, "Good job, this room is very hot".*

In the last example, non-literal meaning also appears in the context of indirect speech acts because the speaker means what the sentence means but mean something more as well. In the following case, the speaker does not only state that the room is hot, but he also asks his friend to open the window: *Billy was sitting in the room where the weather is very hot. Then he saw his friend standing near the closed window, and he said, "This room is very hot".*

Therefore, it can be known that in the case of direct speech acts, the speaker means exactly same as literal meaning; whereas indirect speech acts is when speaker means same as literal meaning, but he also means something more.

2.2.2 Direct and Indirect Speech Acts

Direct and indirect speech acts are kinds of relationship made by the structure and intention of speech acts. As discussed previously, speech acts consist of declarative, interrogative, and imperative if they are identified based on sentence structure. Furthermore, based on intention, speech acts are used to make

a statement (assertive, expressive, commissive, and declaration), question (directive), and command (directive). The directness of relationship between them is the main foundation of direct and indirect speech acts.

Searle, as cited in Cutting (2002: 19) states that direct speech acts are used by the speaker to communicate the literal meaning that the word conventionally express; there is a direct relationship between the three structural forms (declarative, interrogative, imperative) and the three general communicative functions (statement, question, command). For example:

a) Declarative is used as statement: *You wear a seat belt.*
b) Interrogative is used as question: *Do you wear a seat belt?*
c) Imperative is used as command: *Wear a seat belt!*

Furthermore, an indirect speech acts are used to communicate a same meaning as literal meaning, but he also means something more as well; the structure and the function are not directly related. Thus, the speaker uses declarative as command, imperative as statement, interrogative as command, etc. For example, when there is a storm and the window is open, so someone says to his friend *"can you close the window?"* That interrogative sentence is not just a question whether the hearer can open the window or not, but it is also a command for the hearer to close the windows. Thus, in that case, interrogative sentence is used for commanding.