CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Illocutionary act (Austin (1975:5, 116, 121, 139) is an utterance which has "performative" just in case it is issued in the course of the "doing of an action". Furthermore he said that illocutionary act is an act (1) for the performance of which the speaker must make it clear to some other person that the act is performed, and (2) the performance of which involves the production of what he calls 'conventional consequences' such as rights, commitments, and obligations. Thus, for example, in order to successfully perform a promise the speaker must make clear to speaker’s audience that the act of the speaker is performing a promise and in the performance of the act, speaker will be undertaking an obligation to do the promised thing; therefore promising is an illocutionary act in the present sense. For example, “I promise to attend your party tonight”. Without using the word “promise”, actually the speaker has made a promise to the hearer that speaker will do future action that is the speaker attends hearer’s party.

Bach and Harnish in Devitt & Hanley, (2003:http://www.google.co.id.speechacttheory&source) stated that an illocutionary act is an attempt to communicate, which they again analyze as the expressing of an attitude. It means that to show the illocutionary act, the speaker should make a communication to the hearer by language. As we know that language is a means of communication that cannot be separated from human’s life since it is used to interact each other. As Hartley (1982:11) emphasizes that language is a means of communication. To communicate by speaking is not a
gratuitous act; it is purposeful, and thus language has an instrument aspect. Communication can take place successfully if the means of language in communication is agreed by it users, and thus language has a conventional aspect.

A conventional meaning which leads to an understanding in communication, the speakers and hearers must mutually catch the meaning of speech, so that the communication runs cooperatively and there is no misunderstanding. In communication, cooperative communication not only requires the linguistic knowledge of the speakers and hearers, but also the contextual knowledge whose role is very significant to fully understand the meaning of the speech that being uttered.

An illocutionary act is a complete speech act, made in a typical utterance, that consists of the delivery of the propositional content of the utterance (including references and a predicate), and a particular illocutionary force, whereby the speaker asserts, suggests, demands, promises, or vows.

The concept of an illocutionary act is central to the concept of a speech act. In every speech act (Austin in Saeed (1997:212)), we can distinguish three things. They are (1) what is said, the utterance, can be called the locution, (2) what the speaker intends to communicate to the addressee is the illocution, and (3) the message that the addressee gets, his/her interpretation of what the speaker says, is the perlocution. If communication is successful, the illocution and the perlocution are alike or nearly alike.

Locutionary act is the performance of an utterance: the actual utterance and its ostensible meaning, comprising phonetic, phatic and rhetic acts.
corresponding to the verbal, syntactic and semantic aspects of any meaningful utterance.

Illocutionary act as a part of speech acts are an analysis of Pragmatic study. In this field, Pragmatics plays its role as a branch of linguistics to concentrate on the meaning of language and its relation to the context in which it is uttered. Pragmatics not only concerns on the meaning of language lexically, but also the meaning which is related to the contextual meaning. Jannedy (1994:227) says,

“To fully understand the meaning of a sentence, we must understand the context in which it is uttered. Pragmatics concerns itself with how people use language within a context and why they use language in particular ways. This unit examines how speaker and hearer affect the ways language is used to perform various functions.”

Perlocutionary act is speech act that has an effect on the feelings, thoughts or actions of either the speaker or the listener. In other words, they seek to change minds. Unlike locutionary acts, perlocutionary acts are external to the performance. For example, inspiring, persuading or deterring.

We use language for many purposes. We tell others what we know or think we know, we express our feelings, make requests, protest, criticize, insult, apologize, promise, thank, say hello, and say goodbye. Language seems to have as many different functions since there are goals for using language, but for of all the apparent diversity the basic uses of language are rather limited.

Some linguists have attempted to classify illocutionary acts into a number of categories or types. Searle (1976:10-16) in Saeed (1997:212) categorizes them into five main categories, they are: representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations.
Sometimes, an utterance can potentially have quite different illocutionary forces. How can speakers assume that intended illocutionary force will be recognized by the hearer? Illocutionary force can be found through the verb that is used in utterance to show the illocutionary act. Illocutionary Force Indicating Devices (IFID) is indication in the speaker’s utterance of the communicative force of that utterance. It is an expression of the type where there is a slot for a verb that explicitly names the illocutionary acts being performed. Such a verb can be called a performative verb \((Vp)\) (Yule, 1996:51).

Performative verb which is intended as indicating devise of illocutionary force is a verb that explicitly names the speech act. Commonly, speakers do not always ‘perform’ their speech acts so explicitly, but they sometimes describe the speech act being performed.

Austin in Saeed (1997:209-210) continued that performative utterance can be classified into (1) explicit performative and (2) implicit performative. Moreover, in an utterance, illocutionary acts can be performed by two ways: (1) direct illocution is the illocution most directly indicated by a literal reading of the grammatical form and vocabulary of the sentence uttered, and (2) indirect illocution is any further illocution the utterance may have (Hurford & Heasley, 1983:259). For example, direct illocutionary of ‘May I ask what you are knitting?’ (Dickens 1979:53) is an asking permission for getting information about what the hearer is knitting. The indirect illocutionary act of that utterance is asking the hearer to tell what the hearer is knitting to the speaker.

Illocutionary acts are often found in our daily conversation, whether spoken or written. Illocutionary act is used for certain purpose and it can be found
in every utterance which the speaker and hearer do in conversation. It becomes interesting to analyze conversational utterance because it deals with how we classify all utterances into categories of illocutionary acts and the context in which the utterance spoken, so we can determine the real meaning of those utterances by paying attention to the indicating device that is used such as performative verb, and that is why Pragmatics concentrates on the spoken language rather than written language.

Illocutionary acts also can be found in literary works such as play, novel, film, and short story. The source of data of this research is taken from a novel by Charles Dickens entitled *A Tale of Two Cities*. Illocutionary acts found in that novel is unique, an utterance may have more than one non-literal meaning as the result of using performative verb implicitly, and an utterance may be included into more than one category. For examples: (1) direct illocutionary act of “I ask you to do not come closer” is an explicit performative directive of warning to do not come closer, while ‘Please, gentlemen,’ she said, ‘do not come near us, do not speak, do not move!’ (Dickens, 1979:16) is an implicit performative verb utterance of indirect illocutionary act. The utterance performs directive illocutionary act of warning or begging, (2) ‘Do not believe, ‘he said, ‘that I would separate you from her. If Lucie became my wife one happy day, I would never separate you from her. It would be a bad thing to do, and it would be hopeless.’ (Dickens, 1979:44) is an explicit performative utterance of direct illocutionary act. The utterance performs representative illocutionary act of believing and commissive illocutionary act of promising non-literally.
Based on the above explanation, this research is meant to analyze the speech acts in a Charles Dickens’ novel (simplify) entitled *A Tale of Two Cities*. The purposes of this research are discussing speech acts among the two main characters’ utterances, named Miss Lucie Manette and Charles Darnay and finding out how the theory of speech act can be applied in this novel such as in our daily utterances.

1.2 Problems of the Study

After determining the scope of the analysis, it is important to make the systemic step by arising the problems to be solved, since without problems, a researcher will get lost in what topic that should be discussed. Based on the background stated previously that illocutionary act occurs in conversation or utterance something. The problems that appear in this research are:

1. What category of illocutionary act is used by the two main characters in *A Tale of Two Cities*?

2. How is the performative verb used in each utterances uttered by the two main characters in *A Tale of Two Cities*?

3. How is the illocutionary act performed by the two main characters in *A Tale of Two Cities*?

4. How is the perlocutionary act performed by the hearer toward the utterances uttered by the two main characters in *A Tale of Two Cities*?
1.3 Objectives of the Study

As stated at the problems above, the writer will achieve some objectives to answer the problems of the analysis, they are:

1. To find out the category of illocutionary act used by the two main characters found in *A Tale of Two Cities*.
2. To describe the use of performative verb in each utterance uttered by the two main characters found in *A Tale of Two Cities*.
3. To describe the way of performing of illocutionary act of the two main characters found in *A Tale of Two Cities*.
4. To describe the perlocutionary act done by the hearer toward the utterances uttered by the two main characters found in *A Tale of Two Cities*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The analysis of this research is limited only on locutionary act, illocutionary act which consists of declarative, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive, determining the meaning of each utterance by performative verb used explicitly or implicitly, and the direct or indirect illocutionary act in utterances and perlocutionary act of the two main characters’ utterance, named Miss Lucie Manette and Charles Darnay in the novel.

1.5 Significances of the Study

Theoretically, this thesis is made in order to enrich the study of pragmatics. Practically, this thesis can be used as a reference for the students who want to discuss the related topic on speech acts.