CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Analysis

Language is one of the most important aspects in human daily life. It is used as a means to communicate with other people. Language, both spoken and written is used by human being to express his thought, ideas and emotion by using sounds, gestures and signals in various purposes and reasons. Language is so essential for everyone, it cannot be separated from human’s life because it is used to interact to each other.

Hartley (1982: 11) states:

“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 only take place successfully of the means of communication is agreed by its users, and thus language has a conventional aspect. Society as we know would not exist without language, and indeed for some it is a defining characteristic of human race itself, for exceeding in sophistication of any animal communication.”

Pei (1996) as quoted in Yasin (2008: 6) states that language is a system of communication by sound operating through the organ of speech and hearing, among members a given community, and using vocal symbols possessing arbitrary conventional meaning.

Those definitions above show how language is useful in human’s life, it is emphasized that there is a conventional meaning which leads to an understanding in a communication, that the speaker and the listener must mutually catch the meaning of the speech so that the communication runs cooperatively and there is
no misunderstanding towards the delivered messages. A cooperative communication does not require only the linguistic knowledge of the speaker and the listener but it also requires the contextual knowledge, in which role is very important to understand the meaning of the speech that being uttered.

Stefanie Jannedy et. al (1994: 227) state “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 in which language is used to perform various function.”

Austin (1962) in Fasold (2006: 162) points out that when people use language, they are performing a kind of action that is called speech acts. The use of the term speech act covers ‘actions’ such as requesting, commanding, questioning, and informing. In studying pragmatics, we concern on how to utter a speech so that the listener can interpret the meaning that is conveyed by the speaker.

According to Austin utterance can be analyzed as a speech act. There are two kinds of utterances, performative utterance and constative utterance. A performative utterance is one that actually describes the act that it performs, i.e it performs some acts and simultaneously describes that act. For example “I promise to be there tomorrow” is performative because in saying it the speaker actually does what the utterance describes, i.e. he promises to the listener to be there the next day. That is, the utterance both a description and a promise. While a constative utterance is one which makes an assertion (it is often the utterance of a
declarative sentence) but it is not a performative. For example “I think I was wrong” is a constative utterance because it is only describes the mental state.

Austin (1962) proposed three levels of speech acts: locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Locutionary act is the content of the utterance itself, while the illocutionary act is the meaning intended by the speaker, and perlocutionary act is the interpretation of the message by the listener.

The source of the data in this thesis is the script of film, entitled *The Proposal*, which has been taken from the internet. *The Proposal* is a 2009 American romantic comedy film directed by Anne Fletcher and starred by Sandra Bullock (Margaret Tate) and Ryan Reynolds (Andrew Paxton). The screenplay was written by Pete Chiarelli. This film was released on June 19, 2009 in North America by Touchstone Pictures.

The writer wants to discuss about the speech act among the main characters of *The Proposal* and to find out whether the theory of pragmatics can be analyzed in this film script such as in our daily utterances. The writer chooses the movie as the object of the research because the conversation of the main characters represents our daily conversation. In each conversation contains the three categories of speech act, it is why the writer wants to analyze the conversation and then classify each utterance to the categories of speech acts and to find the types of illocutionary act and the perlocutionary act in the film script of *The Proposal*. 
1.2 Problem of Analysis

Based on the background above, this thesis is meant to analyze the speech act in Touchstone film script entitled *The Proposal*. This thesis discusses the following problems, they are:

1. What types of illocutionary act are found in *The Proposal*?
2. Are there any perlocutionary acts within the illocutionary acts in *The Proposal*?

1.3 Objective of Analysis

The objectives of the thesis are not much different from the problems and they are:

1. To find out the types of illocutionary act in *The Proposal*.
2. To find out if there are the perlocutionary act within the illocutionary act in *The Proposal*.

1.4 Scope of the Analysis

This analysis is based on pragmatics that is to discuss the speech act on the Touchstone Film’s *The Proposal*. There are three important categories of speech acts, namely; locution, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. In this analysis, the writer would like to focus on the illocutionary act and perlocutionary act, since the whole of the script are included the locutionary act. The writer limits the analysis on the types of illocutionary act which consists of declarative, representative, expressive, rogative, commissive, and directive, and also the perlocutionary act among the main characters. The object of the analysis of this thesis is only the
dialogue of the two main characters in *The Proposal*, Margareth Tate and Andrew Paxton.

1.5 Method of Analysis

In doing this thesis, the writer applies library research method. This method is carried out by reading, collecting and observing the data and information from textbooks, articles, thesis and other sources related to the topic. The data is collected from the dialogues of the main characters of the film *The Proposal*. Firstly, the film is watched. Then, the transcript of the film is taken from the internet, and at last, the dialogue is analyzed and classified into the types of illocutionary act and then found out whether there is perlocutionary act among the dialogues.

1.6 Review of Related Literature

In analyzing the speech acts in this thesis, some related literatures are reviewed to support the analysis, they are:

Yule (1996: 48) says that the action performed by producing an utterance will consists of three related acts. They are locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary effect. He also says that speech acts can be classified into five general functions, they are: declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commisives.

Peccei (1999: 44) says that speech acts can be divided into three parts. They are locution, illocution, and perlocution. The illocutionary acts has six
categories; representatives, commisives, directives, expressive, rogatives, and declaratives.

Siregar, Tesen (2010:96) in his thesis “An Analysis of Illocutionary Act in *A Walk to Remember*” which discusses about the types of illocutionary act in the film, found out that the dominant illocutionary acts occur during the character’s dialogue is representative (41.56%) followed by rogative (24.75 %), directive (18.43 %), expressive (12.5 %), commissive (3.12 %) and found no declarative illocution.

Maria, Eva (2009) in her thesis “An Analysis of Speech Acts in Batak Toba Wedding Ceremony: A Pragmatic Analysis” also discussed about the types of illocutionary act in Batak Toba Wedding Ceremony found out that the dominant illocutionary act is directive 46 times (52.27%), expressive 24 times (27.27%), representative 9 times (10.22%), commissive 3 times (3.40%), declarative 3 times (3.40%), and rogative 3 times (3.40%)