CHAPTER II
THEORITICAL REVIEW

2.1 The Understanding of Pragmatics

Pragmatics as a branch of linguistic is the study of meaning which relates to the context or the external meaning of language unit. Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning (Yule, 1996: 3). Within the theory of meaning, pragmatic is especially concerned with the implicit meaning, with the unsaid. It might be considered as the investigation of invisible meaning (Yule, 1996: 3). Definitions below may help for more understanding about what the pragmatics is.

Levinson (1985: 12) states “pragmatics is the study of language use in context.” Parker (1986: 11) as quoted in Wijana (2009:4) states, “Pragmatics is distinct from grammar, which is the study of the internal structure of language. Pragmatics is the study of how language is used to communicate.” Peccei (1999: 2) states “pragmatics concentrates on those aspects of meaning that cannot be predicted by linguistic knowledge alone and takes into account knowledge about the physical and social world.” Yule (1996: 3) states “pragmatic is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader).”

From the definitions above it be concluded that pragmatics is a branch of linguistics which concerns with language use in context and the study of meaning related to the context or situation. Pragmatics is focused on a person’s ability to derive meaning from the specific kind of speech situation, to recognize what the speaker is referring to. The interpretation of what meanings the speaker wanted to
convey using particular words is often influenced by factors such as the listeners’ assumption or the context. This is how the context becomes the most important factor in pragmatics.

2.2 The Goal of Pragmatics Theory

In discussing pragmatics, Akmajian (1797: 279) put some minimal requirements on an adequate pragmatics theory, they are as follow:

a) A pragmatics theory must contain a classification of speech acts

b) A pragmatics theory must contain analysis and definitions of various speech acts.

c) A pragmatics theory must contain a specification of various uses of expression, they must be as:

1) Expression \( e \) is standardly (literally and directly) used to do in \( X \) (in context \( C \))

2) Expression \( e \) has \( n \) different users.

3) Expression \( e \) and \( \hat{e} \) have the same use or uses.

d) A pragmatics theory must relate to literal and direct language use for such phenomena as:

1) Linguistic structure (semantic, syntax, phonology)

2) The structures of the communication situations, the course of conversations, and social institutions.

3) The speaker’s meaning, implication, presupposition and understanding.
According to Akmajian, some of the philosophers have been mainly concerned with categorizing the type of speech acts and defining each category. They have pursued goals (a) and (b). Linguists have been concerned mainly in specifying the expressions in language (goal c) which are the pragmatic analogues of meaning specification, such as ambiguity, and synonymy. Psychologist has been concerned mainly with the investigation of how information concerning language use in processed, store, and acquired. Finally, anthropologist and sociologist have been concerned with the regularities between language use and social role, as well as the structuring of speech acts into conversation-in short, goal d(3). Five disciplines are interested in pursuing these goals. They are philosophy, linguistics, psychology, sociology, and anthropology. Based on the above explanation, to get a success, pragmatics will require the cooperation of these five disciplines.

2.3 Speech Acts

In attempting to express themselves, people do not only produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words. The people perform actions via those utterances. Actions which are performed via utterances are generally called speech acts (Yule, 1996: 47). We use language to express the activities. We use it to convey information, request information, give orders, make requests, make threats, give warnings, etc.

In general, speech acts are the acts of communication. To communicate is to express a certain attitude, and the type of speech act being performed corresponds to the type of attitude being expressed. For example, a statement
expresses a belief, a request expresses a desire, and an apology expresses regret. As an act of communication, a speech acts will be success if the audience identifies the communication, in accordance with the speaker’s intention which the attitude is being expressed.

According to Austin, there are three levels of speech acts, they are:

1. **Locutionary Acts**

   The locution is the actual form of words used by the speaker and their semantic meaning (Peccei, 1994: 44). This kind of speech act is also called the utterance act or the act of saying something. It is an act of uttering something, syllable, word, and phrase or sentence forms of a language. Locutionary acts produce a meaningful linguistic expression. It is to produce an utterance with a particular form and more or less determinated meaning.

2. **Illocutionary Acts**

   Illocutionary act is what the speaker is doing. By uttering those words, such as commanding, offering, promising, threatening, thanking, etc (Peccei, 1999: 44). Illocutionary act is an act performed in saying something. When analyzing an utterance, it does not only deal with what do the sentence means, but also what kind of act does a speaker performs in uttering a sentence. For example, in saying “you can play outside for an hour” may perform an act of giving permission that is the speaker allows the listener to play outside.

   Akmajian et.al (1979) points out that there are some characteristics of illocutionary act:
• Illocutionary act can often be successfully performed simply by uttering the tight explicit performative sentence, with the right intention and beliefs, and under the right circumstances.

• Illocutionary acts are central to linguistic communication. The normal conversation is composed in the right part of statement, request, order, thank, ask and the like. The performed acts are governed by rules. When one does perform perlocutionary acts of persuading, one does so by performing illocutionary act of stating or informing.

• Most illocutionary act which are used to communicate have the feature that one performs them successfully, simply by getting one’s illocutionary intention recognized. For example, when someone says, “I’m thirsty”, which means that the speaker wants the listener to give him a glass of water. His illocutionary intention will be recognized if the listener responds it by giving a glass of water to the speaker. Then the speaker will successfully tell the listener his intention.

Types of Illocutionary Acts

a) Representative

Representative is an act of representing the statement of affairs. The speaker becomes committing to the truth of the propositional content. He or she represents external reality by making their words fit the world as they believe it to be. This type is also sometimes called assertive. The typical expression of act is a declarative structure. The subcategories of this category are:
1) Stating: to express something in spoken or written words, especially carefully, fully and clearly.

2) Asserting: to state something clearly and forcefully as the truth.

3) Informing: to give somebody facts or information about something.

4) Affirming: to state formally or confidently that something is true or correct.

5) Predicting: to say that something will happen.

6) Retelling: to tell a story, etc again in a different way.

7) Calling: to call somebody’s name.

8) Answering: to answer somebody’s called.

9) Concluding: to come to an end or bring something to an end.

Example:

- *I think it will rain today*  
  (predicting)

- *It was a warm sunny day*  
  (describing)

- *I demand my independence*  
  (asserting)

- *Andrew!*  
  (calling)

b) Declaratives

Declarative illocutionary act is a special type of illocutionary act that bring an extra linguistic statement of affairs into the existence, since it deals with a special authority or institution such as declaring war, naming, and the like. As we know that everyone cannot declare a war or give a name. In this act, the words of the speaker change the world and the speaker is responsible for this action. The
typical expression for this type is a declarative structure and a performative verb in simple present tense.

Example:

- *I name this ship Titanic* (naming)
- *I declare the war to be started* (declaring)

c) Commissives

Commissive illocutionary act is an act that commits the speaker to do something in the future. The relationship between the words and the world is identical to directives namely the world will fit the words, but the realization of the act is the speaker’s responsibility while in directives, it is the responsibility of the listener. The typical expression is declarative structure in which the speaker is the subject and the future time is expressed. Paradigm cases for this illocutionary are such as:

1) Promising: a written or spoken declaration that one will definitely give or do or not something.

2) Refusing: to say or show that one is unwilling to give, accept or do something.

3) Offering: to show or express willingness or the intention to do, give something.

4) Threatening: to make a threat or threats against somebody.

Examples:

- *I’ll come to your home tonight.* (promising)
- *Thank you, but I’ll do it by myself* (refusing)
• *I’ll make a cup of tea for you* (offering)

• *I’ll kill you if you tell her that secret* (threatening)

The examples show the act of promising are carried out by the speaker and he or she is responsible for it. Contrast to directives, commissive tend to the function as rather to be convivial than to be competitive. Thus, they involve more positive politeness, because commissive does not refer to the speaker’s importance but to the listener’s expectation. The speakers of commissive often tend to convince the hearer.

d) **Directive**

Directive is the kind of speech acts that the speaker uses to get someone else to do something. The speaker tries to get the listener to act in such a way or to do a future action according to the intention of the speaker. The relationship between the word and the world is the world will fit the word and the listener is responsible for realization of the changes. The typical expression of this type usually uses imperative structure; however, there are so many ways of expressing this type, they are not only imperative but also integrative and declarative structure are often used to perform directive illocutionary act. The typical examples of them as:

1) Ordering: to give an order or command to somebody to do something. Ordering is more polite than commanding.

2) Commanding: to tell somebody that they must do something.

3) Warning: a statement, an event that warns somebody about something.
4) Suggesting: to put an idea into somebody’s mind.

5) Request: an act of politely asking for something.

6) Forbidding: to order somebody not to do something.

7) Inviting: to ask somebody in a friendly way to go somewhere or do something.

Example:

- *Could you please turn on the light?* (requesting)
- *You had better take a rest.* (suggesting)
- *Clean the floor!* (commanding)
- *Watch your move!* (warning)

All of those utterances are in the form of imperative structure and functioned to give orders to the listener to do some actions.

e) Expressive

The act of expressive is to express a psychological statement of the speaker. It includes the notion of reaction to other people or the feeling of the speaker about the surroundings. In this act, the words of the speaker fit the psychological world and the speaker is also responsible for the action. The typical structure of expression is usually in declarative structure with the words referring to the feeling such as:

1) Apologizing: to say one is sorry, especially for having done something wrong.

2) Thanking: to express gratitude to somebody.

3) Greeting: an expression or act with which somebody is greeted.
4) Compliment: an expression of praise, admiration, approval, etc.

Examples:

- *I’m really sorry to hear that.* (apologizing)
- *Good morning* (greeting)
- *I thank you for coming to my party.* (thanking)
- *You are a beautiful woman* (compliment)

The examples represent the statement of the feeling of the speaker, which is called the psychological world.

f) Rogative

Rogative illocutionary act is not included in the classification of Searle’s theory, it is proposed by Leech to specify between a request for an action (in Searle’s theory) and a request for giving information. Searle grouped all requesting, action as well as information into directives. In rogatives, the listener rather than the speaker will make the words fit the world. In this category, the speaker must not already have the information requested. Rogative focuses the type of illocutionary act only on asking information from the hearer. Example:

- *Where did she go?*
- *Can you take the book for me?*

Both sentences are in form of interrogative, the first example is asking for information from the hearer while the second is to ask the hearer to do the act of taking the pen. The typical expression in this act is interrogative structure.
The table below will show the similarities and differences between the speech act category based on the relation between the ‘words’ and the ‘world’ (Peccei, 1999: 53).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speech Acts Category</th>
<th>Relation between ‘the words’ and ‘the world’</th>
<th>Who is responsible for the relation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Declaratives</td>
<td>The words change the world</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representatives</td>
<td>The words fit the world (outside world)</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressives</td>
<td>The words fit the world (psychological world)</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogatives</td>
<td>The words fit the world</td>
<td>Hearer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commisives</td>
<td>The world will fit the words</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directives</td>
<td>The world will fit the words</td>
<td>Hearer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another table will also describe how the direct interpretation comes from other linguistic features of the utterance which we recognize as typical for that speech act (Peccei, 1999:54).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speech Acts Category</th>
<th>Typical Expression</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Declaratives</td>
<td>Declarative structure with speaker as subject and a performative verb in simple present tense</td>
<td>I resign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representatives</td>
<td>Declarative structure</td>
<td>Billi was an accountant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressives</td>
<td>Declarative structure with words referring to feelings</td>
<td>This beer is disgusting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogatives</td>
<td>Interrogative structure</td>
<td>Is she leaving?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commisives</td>
<td>Declarative structure with speaker subject and future time expressed</td>
<td>We’re going to turn you in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directives</td>
<td>Imperative sentence</td>
<td>Fasten your seatbelt!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Perlocutionary Acts

Perlocutionary act is the third part of speech act which is distinctive from two other kinds of the speech act. It is an actual result or an effect of the illocution. It may or may not be what the speaker wants to happen but it is nevertheless caused by the illocution. It is defined by the listener’s reaction to the speaker utterance. When someone creates the utterances with a purpose or an intention, it means that he or she wants his or her locution/utterances to have an effort to the listener. The speaker will want the listener to recognize his or her
intention so the listener will act exactly as the speaker want. Like the illocutionary act, the perlocutionary act also have some characteristics, they are:

a. Perlocutionary acts which are not performed by uttering explicit performative sentences.

b. Perlocutionary acts which seem to involve the effects of utterance acts and illocutionary acts on the thoughts, feelings, and actions of the listener, whereas the illocutionary act does not. Thus, the perlocutionary acts can be represented as an illocutionary act of speaker (S) plus its effects on the listener (L). It can be illustrated as below:

1. S tells + L believes… = S persuades L that…
2. S tells + L intends… = S persuades L that…

Furthermore, considering the importance of getting understanding between locution, illocution, and perlocution, below is the example of these three acts:

“Could you please pass me the milk?”

Locution: The speaker uttered the words which semantically mean requesting the listener to give her the milk.

Illocution: The speaker performed an act of requesting the listener to give her the milk.

Perlocution: The speaker persuaded the hearer to give her the milk, and as the response, the listener gave her the milk as what she wishes.