CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In trying to express themselves, a speakers do not only produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words, but also perform actions by making use of those utterances. Actions which are performed by making use of utterances are generally called speech acts. In the speech act, utterances can be interpreted by the listener with different ways. Sometimes, what the listener understood is different from what the speaker wants and it causes that the message sent can not be caught well by the listener. The message which can not be caught well can cause misunderstanding/misinterpretation.

In order that the aims of the speaker can be caught well by the listener, there is an important aspect that must be seen. The listener must understand the meanings of all utterances, not only from literal meaning but also from pragmatic side (context). When understanding the sentences or utterances, someone must consider the context. George Yule (1985: 99) says that someone’s understanding of what they have read and hear is tied to the time and place in which they encounter linguistic expressions.

By doing speech acts, speakers try to convey intention and purpose of the communication by the hope that it is understandable by hearers. Speech act are not just acts such as making a word, but also having more meaning behind the words uttered, as suggested by Austin’s theory in How to Do Things with Words. Speech act considers some ways in which it can interpret sentences in terms of
what the speaker of those sentences intended to convey. What we have not yet explored is the fact that we also usually know how speakers intend us to take (or interpret the function of) what they say. In general, the type of act as well as its function can be recognized by a speaker when uttering sentences.

When people are saying something, they perform three kinds of acts namely locutionary act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary act (Austin, 1962: 98-99; Searle, 1985: 11; Geoffrey Leech, 1983: 199; George Yule, 1996: 48; Joan Cutting, 2002: 16; Mey, 1993: 95-96; and Levinson, 1983: 236). From these types, illocutionary act is more suitable case on how the listener will do something with word or the people’s ways to interpret the invisible meaning from the speaker or written information. Illocutionary acts are utterances which are performed with the intention of producing a further effect. According to Victoria Fromkin (2003: 215), illocutionary acts are the acts which are committed by producing an utterance; a promise is made by uttering a promise, a threat is made by uttering a threat, by uttering a warn and by uttering a reminder. For example, in saying, "I will try my best to be at home for dinner", the speaker performs the speech act of promising to be at home in time.

According to Austin’s preliminary informal description, the idea of “illocutionary acts” can be captured by emphasizing that “in saying something, we do something”, for example, “I sentence you to ten years imprisonment”. This sentence becomes an action because the speaker says a word to decide the punishment to the prisoner.
Illocutionary act is sometime very difficult to be determined by the listener, especially in written language. There are many people, especially the students of University still feel difficult to establish the suitable categories that must be chosen for every sentence in a script, such as speech text, magazine news, newspaper, an article, and so on. Actually, if they want to know the solution to solve this problem, they can do it by themselves. In this case, the student must comprehend the type and the function of every sentence which will be found in the text from illocutionary act side. However, how to determine the type and the function, they still get confused.

It is predicated that most of the hearers only know the literal meanings of the sentences uttered by the speakers. Pragmatically, sometimes, they do not understand what are really meant by the speakers in their speech. Hence, this becomes a problem that result in the hearers’ misunderstanding. For instance, the sentence “Many observers and our friendly nations were truly worried that we would slide into an even deeper anarchy”(quoted from Ban Ki Moon’s “Lecture at the Indonesia Peace and Security Centre” Text) is not only a simple statement but also an order to the world. People not to do anarchy and do war between one country to another, vice versa, they must make this world to be more prosperous and peaceful through the security center in this world.

The above explanation become the background why this research is conducted. In other words, there are various types and functions of illocutionary acts found in united nations spokesman Ban Ki Moon’s “Lecture at the Indonesia Peace and Security Centre” Text which need to be exposed here and known by the
readers of this thesis in order that they can become good hearers in any forms of conversation.

1.2 Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, this research is conducted to answer the questions below.

1. What types of illocutionary acts are found in the United Nations Spokesman Ban Ki Moon’s “Lecture at the Indonesia Peace and Security Centre” Text?
2. What functions of illocutionary acts are found in the United Nations Spokesman Ban Ki Moon’s “Lecture at the Indonesia Peace and Security Centre” Text?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In line with the problems stated above, the research objectives of this study are formulated through the points below.

1. To reveal the types of illocutionary acts found in the United Nations Spokesman Ban Ki Moon’s “Lecture at the Indonesia Peace and Security Centre” Text.
2. To find out the functions of illocutionary acts used in the United Nations Spokesman Ban Ki Moon’s “Lecture at the Indonesia Peace and Security Centre” Text.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This research, will only be focussed on illocutionary acts including its types and the functions of illocutionary acts found in the United Nations Spokesman Ban Ki Moon’s “Lecture at the Indonesia Peace and Security Centre” Text. In order the functions of illocutionary act can be answered, it must know about the type of illocutionary act such as; assertive, directive, commissive,
expressive, and declarative, while the functions of illocutionary act analyzed are competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result obtained from this research is expected to be useful for lecturers or teachers as additional materials in teaching speech acts in general and illocutionary acts in particular. Besides, this research will give benefits to the readers who are interested in this field to obtain deeper understanding in the types and functions speech act especially illocutionary acts expressed in a certain speech. Finally, the findings of this study hoped to be a useful reference for other writers who are doing the same kind of study. It is added that this research will also be useful for students who study pragmatics as additional reference at the time they discuss or analyze matters concerning pragmatic itself, especially those concerning speech acts.