

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the research background, research problems, research objectives, scope and limitation, research significance, and definition of key terms.

#### 1.1 Research Background

A speech act is a language that not only informs but also used to act as well. Khalifa (2011) defines speech acts as locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary act based on Austin classification. Locutionary act is the simple basic act related to the hearer. If the hearer does not understand what the speaker says, the speaker has failed to perform the locutionary act. Different from locutionary, illocutionary act refers to the speaker state according to what he or she speaks. While illocutionary act is the ability to act or say something, perlocutionary are acts that affect the hearer as a consequence the speaker say or intend should follow from his utterance.

In a novel, the conversation between characters to other characters is not very different from the utterances spoken by people in their daily lives. In understanding the conversation in the novel, the reader cannot be separated from the context of speech act because a deep understanding of conversation in novels cannot be obtained if the reader does not know the context in which speech is being spoken. Therefore, the utterances in the novel can be divided

into representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations based on John R. Searle's Classification.

In "The Lost Hero novel", Jason Grace is one of the main characters. His conversation with others gives him leadership and reliable characteristic for his group. Jason often makes critical decisions for his group when they are on the journey. There are many examples that Jason Grace's conversation reflected from the speech act. Based on those ideals, the researcher wants to investigate what actions of the illocutionary act being performed by Jason Grace in the novel "The Lost Hero" through language communication and the meaning behind each utterance.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

1.2.1 What types of illocutionary acts are used by Jason Grace in the novel "The Lost Hero"?

1.2.2 Which are the most dominant types of illocutionary acts frequently used by Jason Grace in the novel "The Lost Hero"?

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

1.3.1 To identify and described the types of illocutionary acts used by Jason Grace in the novel "The Lost Hero".

1.3.2 To identify the most dominant types of illocutionary act frequently used by the main character in the novel "The Lost Hero".

## **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

This study's scope is focused on the types of illocutionary acts used by Jason Grace in the novel "The Lost Hero". To avoid this study's broadness, the

researcher used John R. Searle's Classification, and those classifications are representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations.

### 1.5 Research Significance

This research is expected to give contributions to teachers, students, readers, and future researchers. For the teachers, this research can be a source for teaching material, especially about speech acts in the novel. For students, it might help them to deepen their understanding of speech acts. For the readers, this research expected to give an understanding of speech acts. This research also hopefully gives a contribution to future researchers interested in speech acts topic.

### 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. *Speech act* is an utterance that functions in communication. (Austin, 1962).
2. *Locutionary act* is the act of saying something and give hearer information. (Yule, 1996).
3. *Perlocutionary act* is the effect after the speaker saying something to the hearer. (Yule, 1996).
4. *Novel* is a piece of prose fiction of a reasonable length. (Eagleton, 2005).
5. *Illocutionary act* is the act performed in saying something. (Khalifa, 2011).
6. *Jason Grace* is one of the main characters in the novel "The Lost Hero".
7. "*The Lost Hero*" is a fictional fantasy adventure novel written by Rick Riordan and published by Disney Hyperion Books, New York.