AN ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ACT ON FACEBOOK STATUS UPDATES

(A Case Study of English Department Group at STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa)

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ABSTRACT

Speech act is a pragmatic element that involves the speaker, listener, reader or writer discussed. The speakers do not only express emotions through language, but also show that emotion when conveying it. This study is mainly aimed to describe the speech acts form of the utterances on facebook status updates. The data collected from status updates which posted by participants on English Department Group account. The participants comprised 26 members of English Department Group. A total of 137 status updates were collected for a week. The research design applied in this research is descriptive qualitative to classify and analyze the utterances. After investigating the utterances, the researcher found several findings on it. First, the utterances on facebook status updates analyzed based on kinds of illocutionary act in speech act types are 70 representatives, 44 directives, 21 expressives and 2 commisives. Second, the categories illocutionary act that are more frequently used are 27 status updates full into stating, 24 status updates full into questioning, 21 status updates full into informing, 13 status updates full into claiming, 7 status updates full into praising, 5 status updates full into requesting, 5 status updates full into suggesting, 4 status updates full into reporting, 4 status updates full into greeting, 4 status updates full into ordering, 3 status updates full into boasting, 3 status updates full into warning, 3 status updates full into thanking, 2 status updates full into complaining, 2 status updates full into inviting, 2 status updates full into apologizing, 2 status updates full into congratulating, 1 status updates full into recommending, 1 status updates full into blaming, 1 status updates full into accusing, 1 condoling, 1 status updates full into promising, and 1 status updates full into planning. The main reason people study about speech acts is to understand what the people mean when they make utterances and to decrease miss understanding about the meaning.

Key words: Speech act, facebook, status updates, meaning.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Speech act is a pragmatic element that involves the speaker, listener, reader or writer discussed. Linguists (language expert) look at the idea of speech act theory as a theory that can be applied to various problems in the sentences (syntax), semantics, second language learners, and others. In linguistic pragmatics of speech acts remains a presumption with special implicate. Viewed from the angle of the speaker, the language has personal or private functions (emotive function). That is the speakers expressed the attitude towards what is saying by themselves.

The speakers do not only express emotions through language, but also show that emotion when conveying it. In this case, the listener or reader can also assumed that the speaker was sad, angry or excited. In terms of the listener or the speaker, the language has the directive function. It is directing of listener's behavior. In this case, the language not only makes the listener to do something, but also do activities as desired by the speaker.

Language is a media in communication. Communication is one of activities that always done by human every time in our life. In communication activity uses language because language has differences between human being and other mortal in this world. The people can show their purposes and objectives through language. People can show their expression as happiness, sadness,

sorrowful and other. Hence from that language function is very important for human being.

Yule states that language function is a thing to interact or communicate to show idea, expression, concept or feeling. To express the idea, people do not only produce utterances consisting grammatical structures, but also they do an action via their utterances.[1] Language is also identified as a representation of action. We realize that we are doing something with words when we talk. For example, when somebody says "I will pick you up at eight", it means that the speaker has done the action of promising through his or her utterance. Something is not only being said but also being done. An action is being made in the form of utterance.

Generally, speech act is the act 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 act succeeds if the audiences identify the attitude being expressed by the speaker. The use of language can happen everywhere and anytime. It can be oral or written. Here, the researcher is interested to do a research toward language functions in written form. It can use through analyzing speech act which made by students of STAIN ZCK LANGSA on facebook status updated.

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[1] George Yule, *Pragmatics*, (England: Oxford University Press, 1996), 47

Facebook is a very popular social networking website. There are about 600 million peoples on facebook and more people are joining it every day. Indonesian is also not far behind in the facebook race with the rest of the world. There are many groups in social media especially on facebook. A group aimed to get easier communication among member of group. On a group, every member is free to express their ideas through language. Language and its dynamics on the internet is an area of great interest to many scholars from the field of linguistics, media sciences, psychology and sociology. Crystal contends that as the focus shifts from technology to people and purpose, the role of language becomes central. 'If the internet is a revolution then there is likely to be a linguistic revolution'.[2]

Social media is interactive in the sense of giving people power to choose what they do, what information they want to communicate and how they would do it.[3] Analysis of media content has an important bearing on our understanding of media technology once we accept that 'media is the message.' Examining media content helps in understanding what and why of communicative mediums. So in the current research the 'medium' that will be explored is the Facebook status updates.

Through status updates people achieve a variety of functions. They can serve as a personal journal in which people record their everyday activities, events and experiences. The way of expression depends on the person how they want to

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[2] D Crystal, *Language and the internet* , (UK: CUP, 2000), 23

[3] D Matheson, *Media discourses: Analyzing media texts. Issues in cultural and media studies,* (New York: Open University Press, 2005), 27

express themselves. It can be through jokes, quotations or poetry. The present study aimed to identify kinds of illocutionary act in speech act on facebook status updates and to know categories of illocutionary act that are more frequently used on facebook status updates. Moreover, how identity is established and represented through language are also examined based on speech act theory. Understanding speech act is very important in order to have the real meaningful communication.

From the problem above, the researcher is interested to do a research to discover the reason how identities are established and represented through language are also examined. The researcher chooses the title "**An Analysis of Speech Act on Facebook Status Updates (A Case Study of English Department Group at STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa)**"

B. Problems of the study

From the background above, the researcher states the questions as follows:

1. What kinds of illocutionary act in speech act that are found on facebook status updates?
2. What categories of illocutionary act that are more frequently used on facebook status updates?

C. Purpose of the study

1. To identify kinds of illocutionary act in speech acts on facebook status updates

2. To know categories of illocutionary act that are more frequently used on facebook status updates

D. Significance of the study

This study confers theoretically and practically significance. It is expected that the final result of this research is useful:

1. Theoretically
   a. For enriching the research in linguistic field, especially in pragmatics study, and particularly in terms of speech act
   b. As bibliographical variation to the readers in order to give more knowledge in Speech Act as pragmatic study
   c. It is an authentic source of study in pragmatic
2. Practically
   a. To give contribution to the students of English department for increasing their understanding about Speech Act.
   b. It is hoped that the result of this research would be useful for English lecturers, especially for the lecturers who concern about speech acts to give additional empirical data about speech acts.
   c. The researcher can add the knowledge about analysis Speech Act on facebook status updated
   d. It is expected that this research can give significant contribution for future researchers who are interested on speech acts.

This research becomes a foundation for further research to indicate areas of speech acts that have not been investigated yet.

E. Limitation of the study

There are many aspects of linguistic phenomena that can be found in the status updated. In the research entitle *An Analysis of Speech Act on Facebook Status Updates*. The researcher only concerns on analyzing the speech act on facebook status updated made by students of English Department Group which is updated on week four in November 2014. The researcher not only analyze status in English form but also analyze status in Indonesian form that updated by participants.

She focuses to analyze the kinds of illocutionary act in speech acts and categories of illocutionary acts. It is will be done because knowing the meaning on utterances. To know kinds and categories of illocutionary acts through analyzing it. On the other hand, the researcher is impossible to analyze all of the kinds of speech acts that has limitation of study is very large. Therefore, this research focuses on analyzing kinds of illocutionary act and categories of illocutionary acts that built on status updates.

F. Terminology

There are some terms that will be explained by the writer, they are Speech act and facebook.

1. Speech act

Speech act is a minimal functional unit in human communication. Just as a word *(refusal)* is the smallest free form found in language and a morpheme is the smallest unit of language that carries information about meaning (*-al in refuse-al* makes it a noun*)*, the basic unit of communication is a speech act (*the speech act of refusal)).* [4] Speech act theory attempts to explain how speakers use language to accomplish intended actions and how hearers infer intended meaning form what is said. Although speech act studies are now considered a sub-discipline of cross-cultural pragmatics, they actually take their origin in the philosophy of language.

2. Facebook

Facebook is a social networking website created in February 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg. On Facebook, most people have peer group relations among people they know, or sometimes there are friends who are online, on that forum people share different interests. Sharing status updates is a way of letting other people know how one feels or what is going on in one's life.[5] So the context for the status updates is the social networking forum and the updates would be the social action which employs language for performing an action[6].

English department group STAIN ZCK Langsa is name of facebook account owned by English Department Tarbiyah faculty STAIN ZCK Langsa.

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[4] J Searle, *What is a speech act? In Giglioli (Ed.), Language and social context Harmondsworth,* (England: Penguin Books, 1965), 136–154

[5] S.K. Gunter, *SAM'S Teach yourself Facebook in 10 minuites* , (USA: Pearson Education, 1965) , 5

[6] T.M Holtgraves, *Language as social action: social psychology and language,* (London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2002), 34

The researcher joined this group since March 2013. This group always used to share information about the world of education or learning process in this faculty. Therefore, this group always seen updates new status.