

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter, the researcher presents background of study, statement of problems, purpose of study, and limitation of study which covers the main characters on novel *Bridge to Terabithia*. The researcher also presents significant of study and definition of key terms, and the last is organization of study.

### **A. Background of Study**

Humans use language as a means of communication, both orally and in writing. Communication established among people is basically in order to convey information. The function of the language in communication is not only giving the information but also expressing feeling of the speaker. Relating to these explanations Lyons in George Yule (1996: 32) says that the notion of communication can easily be used for feelings, moods, and attitudes, but suggests that it will mainly be interested in the delivery of factual information or deliberate proportional.

Kent Batch in his book said that People commonly think of communicating, linguistically or otherwise, as acts of expressing oneself. This rather vague idea can be made more precise if we get more specific about what is expressed (2003:153). In communication, decency is an important aspect of life for creating a good communication between speaker and the hearer. Language choice in communication is based on various considerations, namely the condition of the speakers and said the opposite conditions, as well as the messages contained in the communication media.

According to Yule's statements, "actions performed via utterances are generally called speech act" (1996:47), as part of language, speech acts concerns with what people say through the language. When people say the words through the language, it is not only about the meaning from the utterances but also some acts which are performed behind those utterances. So, when people do communicating with others, they produce speech act. The other kind of case is connected to another Yule's book about speech acts. He said:

In very general terms, we can usually recognize the type of 'action' performed by a speaker with the utterance. We use the term speech act to describe actions such as 'requesting', 'commanding', 'questioning' or 'informing'. We can define a speech act as the action performed by a speaker with an utterance (2006:118).

From the descriptive above, show that speech acts play an important role in human interaction, because when people say something, they do not only deliver the meaning of the utterances but also intended meaning beyond it. As the action between the speaker and the hearer, speech acts can be divided into three acts. This is explained by Cruse in his book, these are acts which crucially involve the production of language. "It is usual to recognize three basic types: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts and perlocutionary acts" (2006:167). "Locutionary act is basic act of utterance, or producing a meaningful linguistic expression" (Yule:1996:48). In other words, locutionary act is the act saying something. It is about grammatical form that is used to perform speech acts utterances. While illocutionary act is the act doing something or accomplishing some communicative purpose in performing speech acts s utterances. According to Yule "illocutionary act is performed via the communicative force on an utterance" (1996:48). Perlocutionary act, according to Cruse "... is a speech act which

depends on the production of a specific effect” (2006:167). It means the act of someone by saying.

Back to communication, communication also involves someone gives and receives information which is given and received by conversation.” In a dialogue or conversation, each speech act creates a space of possibilities of appropriate response of speech act” (Searle,2002:181). In a conversation, speakers use a wide variety of speech acts. Utterances if the speakers in communicating have to be understood correctly by the hearer. Message from a speaker against hearer can be delivered properly if both mutually understand the meaning and of their utterances.

Readers assume that in literature complications of language ultimately have a communicative purpose and, instead of imagining that the speaker or writer is being uncooperative, as they might in other speech contexts, they struggle to interpret elements that flout principles of efficient communication in the interests of some further communicative goal. (Culler,199:33).

That is why in having a conversation with others someone should understand the meaning that the speaker really wants to say.

Basically, speech act can be found in every conversation in any occasion, such as novels, movies, and comics. *Bridge to Terabithia* deals with conversation. *Bridge to Terabithia* is a work of children's literature about two lonely children who build a magical forest kingdom. “It was written by Katherine Paterson and was published in 1977 by Harper Collins. In 1978, it won the Newbery Medal. P. Developed a strong personal voice in three contemporary books set in the United States: *Bridge to Terabithia* (1977 ALA NEWBERY MEDAL)” (Cullinan&Person, 2005:611). “The mere fact that the Newbery Award winners are studied, critized, argued about, and assigned to children suggest that the medal

is highly regarded by all who care about children and children's book" (NN,2001:15). So, winning the Newbery Medal is the greatest thrill and honor for an author of middle grade or young adult literature. It means that the chosen book has been read and enjoyed by experts in the field of children's literature, and that the book has lasting value.

As one of literary of fiction, Novel has some important elements to describe the story of the novel. "The terms plot, time, character, setting, narrative perspective, and style emerge not only in the definitions and characterizations of the genre of the novel, but also function as the most important areas of inquiry in film and drama" (Klarer ,2004:14). One of the important elements of novel that will be discussed and analyzed by the researcher is character. And for this analyzing, she collected some utterances which contain as illocutionary act to identify the some characters. "The image of a person is "shown" solely through his or her actions and utterances without interfering commentary, thereby suggesting an "objective" perception which leaves interpretation and evaluation solely to the judgment of the reader"(Klarer,2004: 19).

The researcher chooses to analyze the locutionary, the illocutionary, and perlocutionary on this novel because she wants to draw attention to the speech acts occurring in the conversation of the daily communication in family and to know how the illocutionary acts that appear on the locutionary acts and the perlocutionary act performed. And from analyzing the locutionary, the illocutionary, and perlocutionary on this novel, the researcher can identify the description of the characters then make the reader helped to more understand the messages of the novel.

## **B. Statements of the Problems**

Based on the background above the formulation of the problem in this research can be described the illocutionary acts as expressed in the utterance spoken the characters in the novel *The Bridge to Terabithia*. For the analysis, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are context of situation given according the utterances in the novel *The Bridge to Terabithia* ?
2. What are the locutionary, illocutionary, and pelucotinary acts used in the novel *The Bridge to Terabithia*?
3. How do the speech acts and the contexts influence the characters in the novel *The Bridge to Terabithia*?

#### **C. The Purpose of the Study**

By carrying this research, the writer formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To describe context of situation given according the utterances in the novel *The Bridge to Terabithia*.
2. To mention the locutionary, illocutionary, and pelucotinary acts used in the novel *The Bridge to Terabithia*.
3. To reveal the speech acts and the contexts influence the characters in the novel *The Bridge to Terabithia*.

#### **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this study, the researcher concentrates her study only on conversation produce by the main characters in novel *The Bridge to Terabithia* – Jess and Leslie, through the speech acts theory. Then, the researcher analyzes the data from conversation between the characters with others. The kinds of illocutionary which

used to give understanding the speech acts, which happen in conversation on *The Bridge to Terabithia*, the subject of the study are conversation on the novel.

### **E Significance of the Study**

With the discussion, the researcher can increase her knowledge of speech act of novel *The Bridge to Terabithia* especially for the locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. By understanding the speech acts that someone utters to others, hopefully it can reduce misunderstanding and make communication run well between each other, and also we can understand the personality of the characters.

### **F Definition of Key terms**

To help the readers understand about what the researcher wants to talk about on her study, the researcher would like to give the definition of key terms.

1. Locutionary act: the production of an utterance, with a particular intended structure, meaning, and reference (Cruse,2006:167).
2. Illocutionary act: an act performed by a speaker in saying something (Cruse,2006:167).
3. Perlocutionary act: a speech act which depends on the production of a specific effect.( Cruse,2006:168).
4. Utterance : is any stretch of talk, by one person, before and after which there is a silence on the part of that person (Soekemi,2000:7).

### **G Organization of the Study**

The writer divides this paper into five chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, limitation of the study, significance of the study, definition

of key terms and organization of the study. Chapter two is the review of related literature consists of stylistic form, production of sound, music in film and the film background. Chapter three is research method. Chapter four is the finding analysis of speech acts and characterization of the two main characters from the novel. Chapter five is conclusion and suggestion.