

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Language plays an important role in the process of communication since human needs language to communicate with each other. Language as a means of communication can be transferred written or spoken (Austin, 1962). People can share their opinions, feelings, or thought by saying them directly in oral communication. On the other hand, written communication shares the information with a message or text on a paper; it can be handwritten or typed.

There are some ways to learn more about what people do with language in oral and written communication. The writer focuses on using speech acts in this study which is about the performative function in language developed by John Austin. There are three kinds of speech acts that can be found in communication: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. Locutionary acts mean the message that is delivered in a conversation. Illocutionary acts explain the purpose of the word or sentence mentioned by the speaker. Meanwhile perlocutionary acts are the effect of the utterance on the listener (Austin, 1962).

According to Cutting (2002), illocutionary acts is the most important from the three kinds of speech acts because illocution is the first step for an analysis in

pragmatic comprehension, which refers to the comprehension of oral language in a logical and reasonable way. In other words, understanding what the speakers have in mind first will broaden the meaning of the message in a conversation or locutionary acts and will make the effect of the utterances or perlocutionary acts more specific. That is why in this study the writer wants to focus in using illocutionary acts.

Since songs are one of the communication methods which are really powerful, learning the explanation or the illocution behind the lyrics is interesting. Brazilian Music Therapists Maria Regina Esmeraldo Brandão and Ronaldo Pomponet Millecco (1992: 8) as cited by Brandalise (2009) say that since very early, human organization has been using the song and, in general, vocal expression, creating new dimensions and expanding its communication ability. According to Woolfe (1984: 227), songs are the early forms of poetry. They often use language which goes beyond ordinary speech. For that reason, the writer becomes more interested in analyzing songs instead of other literary works to know the message beyond those lyrics.

Most people like songs because they express how the singers and the hearers feel. A song is a short musical composition made up of several dependent words and music which together produce a unique aesthetic response (Babcock, 1986). In this study, the writer chooses Linkin Park's songs because Linkin Park is declared as The

Biggest Rock Band in the World Right Now (Kerrang, 2014). The writer chooses Linkin Park because the writer thinks that Linkin Park often gives good moral lessons in their songs and their popularity can be seen from the total number of albums that were sold throughout the world. For example, their second album, *Meteora*, earned “The most successful album in the history” of the Alternative Songs chart (Live Earth, 2012). *Meteora* is also certified six times with platinum award by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), which means that *Meteora* album has sold more than 1 million copies six times (Billboard, 2012).

## **1.2. Research Questions**

For the research, the writer wants to analyze: “What types of illocutionary acts can be found in the lyrics of Linkin Park’s *Meteora* Album?” and “What were the reasons underlying Linkin Park to compose *Meteora* Album?”

## **1.3. Research Objectives**

With the questions stated, the objectives of this study are to find out the kinds of illocutionary acts found in the lyrics of Linkin Park’s songs in *Meteora* album and the reason Linkin Park composed *Meteora* Album.

#### **1.4. Theoretical Framework**

This study uses the theory of discourse analysis and speech acts which consists of locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. According to Cook (1989), discourse analysis is a study of spoken and written language in their social and psychological context that can provide important insights for the language teacher. Discourse explains the relevant theory and applies it to classroom activities designed to improve students' discourse skills. The teacher is then shown how these activities may be further developed in specific teaching situations. Harris (1952) says that discourse analysis study focuses in finding the elements within an utterance. The objects of discourse analysis can be conversations, writings, linguistic texts, and literature works.

Discourse type of study involves the interpretation of what people mean in particular context and how the context influences the situation. It requires a consideration of how the speakers organize what they want to say in accordance with whom they are talking to, where, when, and under what circumstances (Yule, 1996).

Speech acts were introduced by Austin (1962) as acts of communication. Bach (1979) states that 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 a regret. As an act of communication, a speech act succeeds if the audience identifies, in accordance with the speaker's intention, the attitude being expressed.

Speech acts based on Searle (1969) can be analyzed on three levels; locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Locutionary act is the act of making a meaningful utterance. Illocutionary act is the speaker's intention in delivering an utterance. And perlocutionary act is an action or state of mind brought about by, or as a consequence of saying something.

### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

The writer of this research expects that this study will help readers who are having difficulty or are interested in learning speech acts in discourse analysis, especially for illocutionary acts.

### **1.6. Limitation and Scope**

According to the background of the study above, This study is limited to analyze the illocutionary act in Linkin Park's album. The writer chooses Meteora album from Linkin Park for the writer has known this album better than others. The writer chooses to analyze 11 out of 13 songs in Meteora album because 2 of the songs do not have any lyrics that can be analyzed. The writer also limits this study only to analyze the lyrics of the songs.

### 1.7. Definition of Key Terms

**Illocutionary act:** It refers to the functional type of action that the speaker intends to achieve in the course of producing an utterance (Huang, 2012).

**Linkin Park:** It is an American rock band formed in 1996 which consists of 6 persons. Linkin Park was founded by three high school students of Agoura High School: Mike Shinoda, Rob Bourdon, and Brad Delson (Askmen, 2007).

**Album:** It is a long musical recording on a record, CD, etc., that usually includes a set of songs (Album, n.d.).

**Meteora:** It is the second music album released by Linkin Park. Linkin Park named the album Meteora after a Greek city where a series of monasteries sit atop of a jagged mountain peak (MTV, 2003).

### 1.8. Organization of the Study

This study is organized in five chapters. Chapter one deals with the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, theoretical framework, significance of the study, limitation and scope, and definition of key terms. Chapter two is the review of related literature which consists of related literatures and previous studies. Research methodology is presented in the third chapter. The fourth chapter deals with data analysis, findings and discussion. For the last chapter, the writer gives conclusions and gives some suggestions for further studies.