

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Speech act is a concept in pragmatics that refers to acts of communication performed through the use of language. Basically, when speaking or using language we not only convey information literally but also perform a certain action. The term speech acts was first introduced by a philosopher and logician named J.L Austin in his famous book entitled "How to Do Things These Words" in 1962. Austin found that oral speech is not only a form of expression of words, but also has the power to perform real actions. In line with Austin's opinion, Bach (1979) explains that an action in verbal communication has a message in it so that communication is not only about language but also about action. Yule (1996) also states that speech acts are actions performed through speech. With this, people can perform an action by saying something.

Speech acts are very important in communication because it is related to a person's speech that contains intent or meaning such as giving orders, giving requests, or invitations to others to do something. It can also involve a promise or commitment to do something in the future. Likewise with statements, apologies, rejections, praise, and so on. There are various situations where people use speech acts. One of the situations or conditions where people use speech acts is in the process of performing the Joka Ju ritual. Speech acts in the Joka Ju ritual are communicative acts performed by the local community through speech as well as mantras in the ritual. This action has a certain meaning and purpose in the ceremony. Speech acts in Joka Ju are very important because this is done as a means to convey messages to ancestors or spirits who are believed to be present during the ceremony by expressing respect, asking for blessings, prayers, promises, and comfort. In Joka Ju speech acts are used to establish relationships with ancestors as well as communicate intentions and expectations.

The word Joka Ju is a compound word that comes from two words, namely the word Joka which means reject and Ju which means bad luck or evil spirits. The Joka Ju ritual itself is a traditional ceremony that is closely related to human life and is carried out to build community welfare. The Joka Ju ritual is carried out by traditional elders or Mosalaki together with the community to ward off bad luck, disease, or pests that often disturb the community.

This topic is consulted, the read various studies conducted on speech acts. From these results, the researcher concluded that there are more studies on speech acts used in movies or novels. There is also research on speech acts in traditional rituals, but there is no in-depth research on Joka Ju. One example of previous study used as a reference by researcher is research by Ermina Nurjaya, I Wayan Rasna and Sang Ayu Putu Sriasih. They examined the speech acts of marriage ceremony in Golo Ndeweng village. The results of the study show that the types of speech acts at the wedding ceremony include illocutionary acts, locutionary acts and perlocutionary acts. The speech acts have macro functions consisting of directive functions, assertive functions, commissive functions and expressive functions while micro functions consist of requesting functions, proposing functions, advising functions, thanking functions, and promising functions. While the meaning contained is cultural meaning which includes the meaning of life and family life as well as symbolizing real brotherhood.

The study by Nurjaya “Tindak Tutur Upacara Pernikahan di Desa Golo Ndeweng” and the title of the proposal submitted by researcher “Speech Acts in Joka Ju a Traditional Ceremony of Lio Ethnic”. The similarity is that this research and the previous research will discuss the types of speech acts, and the difference is in the ceremony or speech to be used and the meaning to be studied. In this study, the previous study explained about rituals in marriage by examining the types of speech acts, speech acts functions and cultural meanings of speech acts. In this study, it is more focused on the Joka Ju traditional ritual, discussing the types of speech acts and the meaning contained in the speech acts performed by Mosalaki in the Joka Ju traditional

ceremony. The purpose is to describe the types and meanings of speech acts used in the Joka Ju traditional ceremony of the Lio ethnic, in accordance with the findings made by Searle (1969), which classifies illocutionary speech acts based on the following criteria: assertive, directive, compressive, expressive, and declarative.

Based on this description, the researcher wants to conduct a study with the title "Speech Acts in Joka Ju a Traditional Ceremony of Lio Ethnic" and in this study will be studied using qualitative descriptive methods.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

The research problem to be examined in this study can be formulated in the form of questions as follows:

1. What are the types of speech acts used in the Joka Ju traditional ceremony of the Lio ethnic?
2. What are the meanings of speech acts used in the Joka Ju traditional ceremony of the Lio ethnic?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problems that have been stated above, the objectives of the study:

1. To describe the type of speech acts that are used in the Joka Ju traditional ceremony of Lio ethnic.
2. To describe the meaning of speech acts in the Joka Ju traditional ceremony of Lio ethnic.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to provide theoretical, practical, and pedagogical meaning. Theoretically, this study aims to discuss about speech acts in Joka Ju a traditional ceremony of Lio ethnic. Practically and pedagogically, this study aims to add new knowledge for readers to know about speech acts in Joka Ju at traditional ceremony of Lio ethnic. In addition, readers

can also find out what types and meanings are contained in the speech acts of the Lio ethnic. This research is also expected to be useful for future researcher who are interested in the same field in determining the purpose and meaning of a speech acts in Joka Ju traditional ceremony.