

CHAPTER II

FRAMEWORK OF THEORIES

A. Speech Act Dealing with Standup Comedy

Communicative success is achieved if the speaker can deliver the message to the receiver and it is understood by the counterpart. If we accidentally hit on someone and say "Oops" in the right way, our utterance will be understood as an apology. This discourse is effectively delivered by the speaker. Speech acts theories obviously have strong relation with communication, utterance and finally jokes. The way of the speaker delivers the message will indicate whether the speaker communicates representatively, defectively, commissively, expressively, or declaratively. These speech act's categories can be applied when the speaker delivers the message in communication process. In this research describes the way of deliver materials in the standup performance. The sender as the speaker has authority if he or she knows knowledge about speech acts in communication. Here the speech acts theories are developed by John. L. Austin and J. R. Searle.

Speech acts are a staple of everyday communicative life. In general, speech acts make action performed via utterance. Performing an action via utterances are commonly given more specific labels, such as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, and promise or request. These descriptive terms for different kinds of speech acts apply to the speaker's communicative intention in producing an utterance. The speakers normally expect that his or her communicative intention will be recognized by the hearer. Both speaker and hearer are usually helped in this process by the circumstances surrounding the utterance. At present, the vast majority of theories on speech acts views acts as unanalysed simple entities. They are part of a larger ontology of human action, and play certain roles in this ontological domain. We do not want to challenge the fruitfulness, usefulness, or appropriateness of such approaches. However, we feel puzzled by the fact that these theories never need to refer to the underlying level of compositional semantics at all (Krifka, 2001). According to Yule (1996: 47), actions performed via utterances are generally called speech acts and, in English, are commonly given more specific labels,

such as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise, or request.

There are so many pressures on our daily lives, especially in the big city. Go to work in the morning and go home in the evening. This kind of condition triggers stress. In order to decrease their stress levels, they need entertainment. One of the most favorite entertainments is comedy. *Comedy is a story treating a various habits and customs of public and private affairs, from which one may learn what is of use in life, on the one hand, and what must be avoided, on the other* (Evanthius in Palmer 1984). Comedy can make people laugh and refresh. We can get comedy entertainment directly on the stage, but we have to spend our money to buy the ticket. Beside directly in front of the stage, we can get this entertainment in free way. One of the most favorite place to get this entertainment is to stay at home by watching the comedy show in television. There are so many categories and choices to enjoy the comedy entertainment. One of the categories is standup comedy. Standup comedy is a comedic art form. Usually, a comedian performs in front of a live audience, speaks directly to them. Their performances are sometimes filmed for later released through DVD, the internet, and television. The performer is commonly known as a comic, standup comic, standup comedian or simply a standup. Standup comedy material contents usually based on comic's experience that reflects evidence also phenomenal accident. It retells and renews back as a story with combining the relation between a comic and the audience. The lucky comic who gets passed on is often hired to be an "emcee." The emcee introduces the main acts of the show. Most regular comedy club shows consist of three acts. The first act is the emcee, who does 10 to 15 minutes of material. Then there's the feature act, who does 30 minutes, and finally, the headliner, who does 45 minutes to an hour. Comic is one of potential professional to earn much money. Comedy clubs are where most amateur comics get their first crack at becoming working comics. Most comedy clubs videotape the amateur comics performing their short sets. Later on, somebody who works for the club watches the tape to find potential comics to "pass on." When we are "passed on," we have performed well enough as an amateur for the club to promote us to be a working comic. It helps if the manager who works at the night we perform likes our act. He or she will tip off the person watching the tapes to consider us first.

The writer believes that speech acts theories are applied not just only on the utterances but also the way of comics deliver the material content in order to be funny. The context also can be analyzed by using the speech acts theories. Most jokes are based on the setup and punch line formula. First, the setup explains what the joke is about and then the punch line delivers the laugh.

Example:

Setup : *"That person is wearing a magic ring..."*

Punch line : *"...He rises his hand then a taxi stops in front of him."*

The writer finds that everybody can learn to make jokes by exercise some primary joke formats. The following is a list of the primary joke formats:

1. Lists

The magic number in comedy is 3 because the first two are alike, but the third is the opposite of the first two

2. Comparisons

Pointing out vast differences.

3. Simile

Describing something by likening it to something else.

4. Observations

Pointing out how absurd everyday life is.

5. Mimicking

Making fun of someone by acting like him or her.

6. Callback

A joke with a punch line that refers to a joke you did earlier.

There must be any certain reasons of sentence when somebody speaks up. To get a clear message, the speaker has to consider about how the utterance can be received by the counterpart. After that, the process continues on how the counterpart develops the utterance then gives answer based on the stimulus given by the speaker. So we can make dialogue even in hours because the conversation is working. It is very interesting

to be analyzed by the writer.

Speech acts are not only linguistic expressions, but also linguistic actions that carry out communicative purposes. Speech act can be used to make the utterance clear, so the speaker can deliver the message to the listener and the purpose is reached. In utter, people must have purposes, even when we are chatting with no intention. The purpose is to give information to the listener. For example we can learn from this discourse:

Michelle is in Japan with her family.

As the listener, we will get the meaning of the utterance but we will not do anything. We will just keep the information in our memory. We can give this information to the person that asks about *Michelle*. *It is an utterance considered as an action, particularly with regard to its intention, purpose, or effect. Actions performed via utterances are commonly included as speech act* (Yule 1996: 47).

B. Speech Act Part of Pragmatic Linguistic Theory

Pragmatic thrives in linguistic field on 1970s. The reason of pragmatic presence is because of the dissatisfaction to the structuralist's community that only reviews language just from the form. The reason is also because the structuralists do not consider the units of linguistic that actually are present in context which is lingual or extra lingual. Utterance context ignored causes the structuralists fail to explain the linguistic problem like the anomaly utterances. The context here is different with the co-text. The co-text is something written, but the context is the meaning inside the sentences especially something uttered. So pragmatic discipline is very important to analyze the meaning of a discourse. The discourse analysis is also important as a theory to analyze the form and function of sentences or utterances.

Pragmatics is a discipline about meaning delivered by the speaker or writer and interpreted by the listener or reader. Analyze the purpose of language uses with the utterances rather than separate meanings from words or phrase used in the utterance itself (Yule, 2006). Based on this definition, the writer concludes that pragmatics is a study reviewing the meaning in used and interpreted by the listener or the reader. Therefore pragmatics analyze purposes and aspects of information like the message

itself.

Speech acts are parts of this branch which allow the speaker to organize what they want to say in accordance with who is talking to, where, when, and under which circumstances. Therefore, this chapter will tackle first pragmatics as sub field of linguistics then the notion of pragmatic competence, then finally the speech acts theories. Analyzing speech acts as the part of pragmatics theories can help us as the reader or the hearer of some sentences to understand the meanings and purposes of the sentences.

Related with this research in standup comedy present, the performance is not only telling or delivering the information, but a comic also presents a problem that is delivered to the audience and wrapped in humor. The audience is indirectly asked to think and find out the solution of the problem described by the standup comedian. So the speech acts pragmatics here has functions to support the disclosure of humor itself.

C. Speech Act Theory by John. L. Austin (1955)

Speech acts concepts start being considered by the Professor from Oxford University. John L. Austin is the first linguist who introduces the idea of speech acts. Analyze the relationship between utterances and actions. On his lecture in Harvard University in 1955 he talks about this theory, then this lecture material is published into a book titled “*How to Do Things With Words*” in 1962 after he dies. Austin presents a new picture to analyze meaning. Meaning is described in a relation among linguistic conventions correlate with words or sentences, the situation where the speaker actually says something to the hearer, and associates intentions of the speaker. All expressions of language must be viewed as acts. The magic of speech acts seems to consist of the fact that the speaker can change the world’s course by a mere utterance (Austin: 1955). Say “*Sesamy, open!*” and the mountain moves. Of course, true magic speech acts reside in fictitious worlds, but even in our own world, ritual declaratives can irrevocably change the state of the world. “*I hereby declare you husband and wife*”, uttered under the correct circumstances by the right person, brings about changes that, at times, were almost impossible to undo. Similarly, the magic spell “*You are hereby fired*” can change the economic situation of the addressee dramatically. Interestingly, we expect that speech

acts should be part of communicative exchange. The following kind of effect, caused by an utterance, does not intuitively qualify as a speech act. Austin convinces that we do not just use language to say things or make statements, but also to do things or perform actions. He believes that a single speech act actually contains of three separate categories but relates to speech acts in pragmatically as: Locutionary, Illocutionary and Perlocutionary. John L. Austin identifies these three distinct levels of action beyond the act of utterance itself. He distinguishes the act of saying something, what one does *in* saying it, and what one does *by* saying it (Austin : 1955), John. L. Austin describes the levels as:

1. Locutionary

The actual words uttered means the physical acts of producing an utterance or the production of the utterance. In locutionary acts, the function and purpose of the speech which are spoken and undisputed. As the utterance:

My hand is hurt.

This utterance is solely intended to inform the listener that the speech is used when the hand of the speaker is in a state of hurt. This kind of speech act may be cited as the act of saying something. In locutionary act, there is no problematic about the meanings and functions of the utterances itself, the writer means the utterance which is said by the speaker here does not have any purposes to ask a help to cure the hurt. The speaker just gives information about his or her hand.

So, the locutionary act is an utterance that the meanings are appropriate to the utterance itself which is appropriate with meanings on the dictionary. It is without making relation with any certain purposes:

Example:

They looked so happy.

The cat is so lazy.

2. Illocutionary

The illocutionary act is committed by producing an utterance. The intentions behind the words are uttered and depend on the situation. The illocution could be a promising, ordering, greeting, warning, inviting, or congratulating. This kind of speech act can be

cited as the act of doing something. The utterance:

My hand is dirty; could you please do something for me?

The example above is not solely intended to inform the listener that the hand of the speaker is dirty. But moreover that the speaker wants the listener does certain action relates to the dirty hand. Maybe the speaker asks for a wet tissue or maybe the speaker wants the hearer handles something for a while so the speaker can wash and clean his or her hand. It depends on the context and the story's situation. *Whenever a speaker utters a sentence in an appropriate context with certain intentions, he or she performs one or more illocutionary acts* (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). This kind of speech act may be determined as the achievement of the speech act's levels. This assumption appears because the utterance is followed by the listener's actions or answered based on the speaker's utterance purposes. *Cruse states that there is no communication that without illocution potency, in communication the speaker delivers his message purpose by certain illocution utterance* (Rahyono, 2012: 213).

A speech act that has function to tell or give information about something also can used to do something, if this happened; the speech act formed is illocutionary speech act (Wijana, 1996:18). Illocutionary act is used to tell or give information about something that is considered carefully on purpose. The expert's statements justifies that locutionary speech act is different with illocutionary speech act. *Illocutionary speech act is an utterance that has purpose, function, or certain utterances power* (Rustono, 2000: 75). This kind of utterance can be identified by a question "What for is the utterance expressed? "

So, an illocutionary utterance constitutes a speech act to give information about something with certain purposes.

Example:

"You must go to the office tomorrow morning! "

The example above describes an order from the speaker to the listener. The speaker asks the listener to go to the office tomorrow morning. Here actually we still need more information about the purpose of the sentence uttered. But according to the theory, this footage is already containing of speech act category.

3. Perlocutionary

Perlocutionary act is the production of an effect through locution and illocution. It means that the influence of the word on the listener, for example the execution of an order by the addressee. We find that the classical approaches to speech acts offer useful terms to describe and differentiate various kinds of acts, to separate the utterance, the meaning of the utterance, the coming-about of the act, and further consecutive effects. Perlocutionary acts are ways of the addressee to react to the speech act. For instance, if a speaker issues a command "*get me the hammer*" the addressee might go and fetch the hammer. This is a perlocutionary act intended by the speech act. However, the addressee might additionally get nervous because the speaker never does well with hammers. Hence, the command has the extra perlocutionary effect of frightening the hearer. Perlocutionary acts are particularly interesting, however, when they are intended by the speaker as a side effect of a speech act. Effects like *annoying*, *amusing*, *boring* are usually side effects of assertions. I might assert "*You are an idiot.*" with the intention that this information is suited to annoy you. I might tell you a funny story about my boss in order to amuse you. It's important to observe that such acts don't have corresponding explicit performatives. It is not possible to state *I hereby annoy you* and hope to cause anger. It is not possible to state *I hereby bore you* in order to bore someone even though the intended perlocutionary effect will most likely be achieved, if you reiterate "*I hereby bore you*" long enough. *The perlocution of an utterance is the causing of a change to be brought about, perhaps unintentionally, though, or by means of the utterance* (Hurford and Heasley, 1983: 22). It can be cited that perlocutionary utterance is the kind of speech act that causes certain effect on the hearer when the speaker is saying something. For example from the utterance "*My hand is dirty*" can cause some responses on the hearer. The hearer can think about what is the cause of the speaker's dirty hand. Then the hearer will ask the cause of the speaker's dirt. The hearer has a willing to help cleaning the speaker's hand, or perhaps the hearer will give a cleaner for the dirty hand. These kinds of effects on the hearer fulfill the aspect of perlocutionary speech act category based on the sentence from the speaker.

The effect or influence of perlocutionary speech act appears by purposeful speaks but sometimes it also appears by inadvertent. The writer is also interested in some opinions by Rustono (2000), he states that perlocutionary speech acts are: persuade, deceive, push, make, ruffle, scare, please, relieve, embarrass, draw attention, impress, etc.

Example:

There is a skipper.

You can do this job.

In the first example "*There is a skipper*", the speaker's utterance will give effects to the hearers that will give some reactions based on the utterance. The hearers will ask the detail of the event or the hearers will give some certain actions.

In the second example "*You can do this job*", can be a motivation from the speaker to the hearer. The hearer can give some reactions too based on the sentence uttered.

D. Speech Act Theory of J. R. Searle (1969)

J. R. Searle develops theory of speech acts. He does not satisfy with Austin's theory of speech act that has given more details about the categories. One of his contributions is the sharp distinction between a particular speech act. J. R. Searle continues his teacher John. L. Austin initiatives to develop speech acts and gives his contribution of this development by publishing his book entitled "Speech Act" in 1969. Searle's work differs from Austin's work in several respects. Austin distinguishes between locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts, whereas J. R. Searle is somewhat skeptical about this distinction. Searle uses approaches to the description of illocutionary acts. J. R. Searle notes that because of the limitations set by conditions of satisfaction there seems to be a restricted number of things that we can do by the ways of performing illocutionary acts (Searle, 1999:148). So the centerpiece of this general theory is the notion of illocutionary force. It can be used to express an action based on the utterances before from the early speaker. So it appears that every single speech act category can be expressed in many ways depending on the purposes of the speaker himself. Searle categorizes speech acts into 5 categories (Searle 1969: 1051; Mey 2002: 92):

1. Assertives or representatives
2. Directives
3. Commissive
4. Expressive
5. Declaratives

His theory of speech acts focuses on the illocution acts as listener's reactions to the utterance's productions. The following kinds of effects, are caused by an utterance, does not intuitively qualify as a speech act. Every category has its own functions based on the functions we can get examples of the applications. And here is the explanation of each category:

1. Representatives

This category is also known as assertive speech act. Assertive speech act is a belief that expresses; it means statement about a situation or to describe state of affairs in the world. If we see from the speaker side, what is uttered is the truth. So if the speaker says:

"This book belongs to my brother."

In this sentence, the speaker says a right proposition, because assertive utterance is just a statement about something. So all we need is collect the content of proposition and understand which one is the old information and which one is the new information. In collecting the content of this proposition we find where the argument and where the predication. Who is the doer and who is the patient, who is modified by who (long trip or trip long, etc). Then we also find which one is the old one and which one is the new one.

Example:

Monic sings "Thinking Out Loud."

When we hear this sentence, first we will determine what kind of speech act that states in that sentence. From the syntactic act, it is clear that this sentence is an assertive utterance. After we consider to the proposition content, we can divide this sentence into two information groups:

Example:

Monic sings "Thinking Out Loud."

- a. Old information : Monic sings *Thinking Out Loud* song.
- b. New information : Monic

From this sentence and scheme, it is clear that we can understand someone is singing "*Thinking Out Loud*" song. This is the old information that is assumed known by the hearer. Meanwhile, there is information which is the additional content from old information that is the person who sings the song names Monic. This old information and new information will save in our memory.

People do not always speak in explicit way continuously. Sometimes speaker does not give information completely and explicitly.

Example:

- a. *Charlie was recorded. A photo lay nearby.*
- b. *Charlie was recorded. The photo lay nearby.*

Word '*photo*' in sentence (a) above shows that the speaker does not think or is curious that the photo is the evident of the event. The speaker just states that Charlie captures in the photo, no more. But in the second sentence (b), the speaker has curiosity to the photo which is becoming an evident of an event by involving Charlie as the suspect. That is why the speaker uses phrase '*the photo*', not '*a photo*'. Obscure information includes into an utterance called implicature. So in the sentence "*Charlie was recorded. A photo lay nearby*" there is an implicature that states the photo is not suspected as the evident of the event. But in the sentence "*Charlie was recorded. The photo lay nearby*" is the implicature that the photo is the evident of the event.

2. Directives

According to Yule (1996: 54), directives speech acts are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something. They express what the speaker wants. Speaker utters with some purposes and the partner or the hearer will give some actions or answers based on the information delivered by the speaker. The most prominent context in directive speech act is about the hearer, and the relationship between speaker

and hearer. Relationship between speaker and hearer can be an indicator that makes speaker use different way to ask hearer do something for them. This is the logically reason why directive speech act divided is into four specific aspects. They are: commands, orders, requests, and suggestions. In daily conversation, command properly use to friend or younger hearer, but request, order, and suggestion can be used for any age of hearer. The form of the utterances could be such as:

a.) A question

Example:

Do you smoking?

b.) Soft request

Example:

If you go to my town don't hesitate to stopping by.

c.) Bit sent

Example:

Come on, drink the coke.

d.) Direct and rough

Example:

Get out of here!

Directives utterances actually can be divided into three smaller categories:

e.) Question with yes / no / yet / not answers.

Example:

Is Monic eating the bread?

f.) Question that uses what / who / why / when / which / where.

Example:

Who is our former President?

g.) Order to do something.

Example:

Get in to the car guys!

So, the function of directives speech act is to push hearer to do something such as: Purpose, ask, push, against, order, and the kinds of it. The hearer will take some actions or answers the speaker's utterances depends on the context and the purpose of the sentences uttered by the speaker.

Directives is a kind of speech act that often used by speakers in daily conversation. In using directive, the speaker attempts to make the world fit the word via the hearer. Directive speech act also show a strong relationship between speaker and hearer. Directive show a strong relationship between speaker and hearer. Through directive speech act the speaker utterances make hearer do something. In conversation, directive is often used by speaker but they say in different way. The speaker has to concern about situation and context to make the hearer do as they want. Situation in conversation can be seen in some aspects, such as who is the hearer, what things speaker wants to say, and time of conversation. The most prominent context in directive speech act is about the hearer, and the relationship between speaker and hearer. Relationship between speaker and hearer can be an indicator that makes speaker use different way to ask hearer do something for them. This is the logically reason why directive speech act divided is into four specific aspects. They are: commands, orders, requests, and suggestions. In daily conversation, command properly use to friend or younger hearer, but request, order, and suggestion can be used for any age of hearer.

3. Commisives

Actually could be considered same with directives utterance, but with different direction. In directives utterance, the hearer is the person who is expected to do something based on the information received. In commisives utterance "order" directs to the speaker himself. *So, there are advocated that these both utterances made in to be obligative* (Mey 2002: 121). Generally people still confuse to determine these two categories. The utterances are like promising, swearing, determining include in commisives category such as in these examples:

- a. *I promise will always be with you forever.*
- b. *I swear to get revenge.*
- c. *We determined to demand justice.*

Because commissives utterances are not questioning or ordering something, there are no actions have to do after the utterance uttered by the speaker. Like assertive utterance, the implementation of this category is just saving the information in our memory. *The aim of commissives act is to commit the speaker to some future course of action* (Searle: 1979: 14). This category of speech act also can be cited as motivational words, because this form can make the speaker do something committed.

4. Expressive

Expressive utterance is used by the speaker if he or she wants to state some kinds of his or her psychological condition about something. It can be a statement of pleasure, pain, like, dislike, joy, or sorrow such as an apology, a complaint, thank to something, condolence, congrats, and also cursing (Searle 1983). Fraser (1978) mentions that expressive speech acts with term evaluative. Here are some of the examples:

- a. *Thank you for your attention to my study.*
- b. *Sorry ma'am, we cannot help this matter.*
- c. *Congratulations, hope your son become success in the future.*
- d. *Damn, this is crazy!*

Because expressive utterance states someone's psychological condition, the implementation is not an action, or especially physical action. *Fraser states that expressive speech act by the form evaluative. Praise, thank, criticize, complain, blame, congratulate, and laud are included to expressive speech act category* (Ruston, 1999: 39). So, expressive utterance is a speech act which means that the utterance means as evaluation about the matter uttered.

Example:

Everyday just eat tempe and crackers.

In the case of standup comedy, it means that the comic shows his feelings through his utterances. It could be a complaint from the speaker because of the speaker's condition. The interpretations of this footage can be clear after the speaker gives more information about the condition.

5. Declaratives

Declaratives utterance states about some new conditions that appear because of that utterance.

Example:

I hereby pronounce you husband and wife.

This sentence states that both of them already become husband and wife. It means that this Pastor officially declares the new condition of someone's life. One thing to be notified is that the person who states the utterance must have authority to do it. For example in the sentence above, only a Pastor or someone who has the authority who can declare the statement. Uttered under the correct circumstances by the right person, brings changes that at anytime are almost impossible to undo. Without authority, the statement has no value or worth officially. This circumstance is known as a felicity condition.

Example:

You are hereby fired.

In the sentence above, the utterance can change the economic situation of the addressee dramatically. Interestingly, we expect that speech acts should be part of communicative exchange. Based on the definition from each type of illocutionary acts, it is concluded that there will be some implications of declaratives utterance. It affects the character in the stand up comedy's material performance.

If the dominant type of the illocutionary acts is declaratives, in the case of standup comedy that as the media to use the speech acts categories. It means that the comic is declaring something through his words, which brings a new state of affairs to the character played, therefore changing the state of the world by his very own utterances. But in real life, the standup comedian cannot change the condition of someone's life because it is just a performance on stage to entertain the audience. The declaration is just to support the material performance no more.

These speech act categories differ in who takes responsibility for these changes to come about as:

a. Speaker responsibility

The speaker can take responsibility, like in *offers, promises, threats*, to do certain things in the future.

b. Hearer responsibility

The speaker can express that the hearer should be responsible for these changes. Typical examples are *commands, requests, begging* and the like.

c. Bilateral responsibilities

The change in future plans might be a joint responsibility. This is the case in bilateral acts that commit both speaker and hearer to act according to a given plan. Economic transactions might come to mind first. When speaker and hearer agree that speaker hereby sells something to hearer at the price of we can say 'X', they have embarked on a joint enterprise in the course of which money and goods will be exchanged. Similar agreements are *betting, lending* where both speaker and hearer promise to comply to certain plans. However, many more speech acts might involve responsibilities on both, hearer and speaker side.

d. Societal responsibilities

Finally, it can be the entire society's responsibility to function differently as a society *after* the speech act in comparison to *before*. If a person gets sacked from his job then that person is no longer obliged to work for the company the company is no longer obliged to pay. The state may be obliged to pay the dole and the person may be obliged to call in at the job center regularly in order to earn that payment. Hence, the successful speech act '*I hereby fire you!*' involves changes in a far reaching network of obligations. Similar cases can be made for all acts which change the social or legal status of people: *Married* persons are treated differently from *singles*, *naming* changes the most likely linguistic behaviour towards a person or thing, *opening* a building causes that access to that building will no longer be prosecuted as illegal trespassing, etc.

Claire states that humor works well to make laugh if the material and the way of delivering the material can be full of the one or more the elements such as: surprise, resulting in shame, obscurantism, enlarges big deal (Rustono, 2000). Utterance resulting in shame is stated by the standup comedian to the audience or someone can create joke which results laugh impacted to the comic itself or the audience. The utterance of Obscurantism appears because usually if the speaker says something that does not make sense then the hearer does not directly believe in the speaker's utterance which does not make any sense, it will become humor. If comic enlarges big deal, it also can be a humor. These four elements can materialize through verbal stimulus in words deliberated by the speaker (Rustono, 2000).

