

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

For more than one year, the world has experienced an epidemic of diseases for which a cure has not yet been found. Starting from Wuhan, China, at the end of December 2019, the first patient of Covid-19 was found. This is very surprising to the world because this new virus has hit almost all countries in the world. COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease 2019) is a new type of disease caused by a virus from the coronavirus class, namely SARS-CoV-2 which is also often referred to as the Coronavirus. COVID-19 is a disease caused by the Corona 2 virus (SARS-CoV-2) severe acute respiratory syndrome. COVID-19 can cause respiratory system disorders, from mild flu-like symptoms to lung infections, such as pneumonia. Viruses spread rapidly and cannot be detected. Based on data released by the Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling COVID-19 of the Republic of Indonesia, the number of confirmed positive cases until March 25, 2021, was 1,476,452 people with 39,983 deaths. The level of danger of this disease causes almost all countries in the world to apply social restrictions to lockdown. Forces some economic, educational, corporate, and even religious activities to be practiced virtually.

No wonder most people use their gadgets more aggressively, this has led to an increasing number of social media users such as WhatsApp, YouTube, especially

Instagram. Instagram (abbreviated as IG or Insta) is a photo and video-sharing application that allows users to take photos, take videos, apply digital filters, and share them on various social networking services, including on Instagram. Not only for sharing photos and videos but Instagram also shares important information contained in a photo or video captions. Even now, many people have uploaded notification posters uploaded as photos on Instagram. One of them is photos, videos, and posters containing information about developments pf Covid19. Many Instagram accounts have uploaded about Covid-19. One of them is an organization that is responsible for educating the public about the dangers of Covid-19.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is also using Instagram to socialize health protocols that everyone in the world must follow. This official WHO account is followed by more than 9 million followers on Instagram. WHO often uploads videos about how we can avoid the Covid-19 virus, such as videos on how to wash hands properly according to WHO recommendations, photos of the development of Covid-19-19 research, to the process of finding a vaccine for this virus. Several WHO Instagram followers provide feedback on WHO posts on Instagram. Some were grateful for the information provided, some did not agree with the posts, some protested, complained, some left emoticons. From the comments on WHO's Instagram posts, it can be seen that the speech acts are used by WHO followers.

Discussion of speech acts is part of pragmatics. The interesting thing about studying pragmatics is that we can talk about the meanings that relate to the

person whose purpose or purpose someone does something, and the types of actions they take while speaking. Communicating, of course, involves two people talking to each other with a specific purpose and purpose. A conversation, of course, contains information and purpose. So that pragmatic science is needed for everyday life. According to Yule, "pragmatics is the study of the speaker's meaning, contextual meaning, and how much more is communicated by what the speaker is saying, and the study of relative distance relationships" (1996: 1). Pragmatically discusses speech acts.

Speech acts are words that contain a request, question, or claim for something. Speech acts relate to descriptions of actions such as 'asking', 'ordering', 'questioning', or 'informing' (Yule 2006: 118). Speech acts were introduced in 1962 by the Oxford philosopher J.L. Austin in "How to Do Things With Word" and further developed by the American philosopher J.R. Searle. Austin distinguishes speech acts into three types, namely local speech acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocution acts. Then developed by Searle (1969) by publishing the book *Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*. Searle redeveloped Austin's theory into a certain type of illocutionary action. Searle divides the illocution into 5 parts, directive, representative, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Speech acts that are more frequently encountered in everyday life are expressive speech acts. Where every human being must express apologies, thanking, complain and agree to something. However, Austin (1975) called it "behavitives", namely all actions related to social behavior and attitudes. Slightly different from Austin, Searle (1976, p12), defines Expressive as a speech act that

expresses a psychological state which is defined as a condition of sincerity about a state in propositional content. Searle changed the name "behavitives" to "expressive". In this study, researchers found many speech acts given by WHO Instagram followers on every upload regarding COVID-19. The comments on the WHO Instagram are a reaction or feedback given by followers regarding the information provided by WHO about COVID-19. These various expressive speech acts become data for researchers to find out the types and functions of the speech acts used. This issue regarding COVID-19 is very interesting because of the many different reactions and opinions of various people regarding this outbreak. The writer is interested in researching the Covid-19 issue which is currently being discussed, especially on social media. The writer also saw the many uses of linguistics on social media such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, and even Instagram. Posts related to Covid-19 have attracted the attention of Instagram users. The comments given by WHO Instagram followers in the comments column in this post are analyzed by the writer to get 5 types of expressive speech acts used by WHO Instagram followers. From the five types of expressive speech acts, many functions are found that are adapted to the context of the followers. This study also found the functions that were used the most by WHO Instagram followers. The use of symbols, emoticons, and swear words are also widely found, but the author only focuses on analyzing the types and functions of expressive speech acts.

1.2. Limitation of the Research

Speech acts as an action taken in saying something. Speech acts are divided into three namely illocutionary, locutionary and perlocutionary. Illocutionary speech acts are divided into 5, namely representative, commissive, declarative, directive, and expressive. The writer focuses on analyzing the expressive speech act used by WHO Instagram followers. The Write also limits the data used. In this study, the writer used comments from WHO Instagram followers from 2 different posts that got a lot of responses.

1.3. Research Questions

In this research, the writer wants to study the problem of the research as follows:

1. What are the types of expressive speech acts used in WHO's Instagram comments?
2. What are the Functions of the expressive speech acts used in the WHO's Instagram comments?
3. Which Function is mostly used by WHO's Instagram Followers? Why?

1.4. Purpose of the Research

There are 3 goals of this research as follows:

1. To find the types of expressive speech acts used in WHO's Instagram comments.
2. To find the functions of each expressive speech act in WHO's Instagram comments.
3. To find types and functions that are often used by WHO's Instagram followers.

1.5. Significance of the Research

Theoretically, the results of this study can be useful for readers to increase knowledge in the field of speech acts, especially expressive speech acts used by WHO Instagram followers.

Practically, this research can be applied in life to observe and know the function of speech acts used by someone. This makes it easier to communicate. For the next researcher who is interested in this topic, this research can be used as a reference to examine expressive speech acts on other objects.