

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This chapter presents the theories on which the writer bases her analysis. She uses speech acts theory that consists of the propositional meaning and the illocutionary act. She also uses context of the situation to describe the setting, the participants, the event and the topic.

#### **2.1 SPEECH ACTS**

Searle (1969:21) proposes that speech acts are the basic unit of communication. Speech acts theory basically concerns on what people do with language – with the functions of language (Deborah Schiffrin. 1994. p.54). It means that when people produce a sentence in the course of normal communication activity, they do two things at the same time: they express the propositional meaning and the illocutionary act.

In speech act utterances, the propositional meaning and the illocutionary act are determined by context of the situation as described by Hymes. It is a way of describing how the speaker associates the utterances with components of the context (see 2.2).

Searle establishes five-part classification of speech acts as below:

1. Commissive.

**A** speech act that commits the speaker to do something in the future such as a promise or a threat. For example :

- If you don't stop fighting I'll call the police (threat).
- I'll take you to the movies tomorrow (promise).

2. Declarative.

**A** speech act which changes the state of affairs in the world.

For example, during the wedding ceremony the act **of** marriage is performed when the phrase *I now pronounce you husband and wife* **is** uttered.

3. Directive.

**A** speech act that has the function of getting the listener to do something such as a suggestion, a request, **or** a command. For example :

- Please sit down!
- Why don't you close the window.

4. Expressive.

**A** speech act in which the speaker expresses feelings and attitudes about something such as an apology, a complaint, to thank someone, to congratulate someone. For example :

- The meal was delicious

## 5. Representative.

A speech act that describes states or events in the world such as assertion, a claim, a report. For example :

- This is a German car (assertion).

(For further explanation see 2.1.2).

### 2.1.1 PROPOSITIONAL MEANING

According to Searle (1969), propositional meaning is the basic literal meaning of the utterance conveyed by particular words and structures that the utterance contains. Propositional meaning consists of something that **is** named or talked about (known as referring) and something **is** characterized (known as predicating). For example :

- In utterance *I am thirsty*, the propositional meaning is that what the utterance says about the speaker's physical state that he or she feels thirsty.
- In utterance *Feri is tired*, the propositional meaning is that the speaker asserts that the particular person (Feri) would like to sleep or rest.

However, not all illocutionary acts have a propositional meaning. Hurford and Heasley state the expressions like *hello*, *goodbye*, and *hey* belong to a tiny set which categorized as non – propositional meaning **or** primary illocution indicators. Even though the word *hello*, *goodbye*, and *hey* are not propositional meaning but those words belong to illocutionary act because there is a force in uttering those words as *greeting*, *leave taking* and *calling* (1983, p.276).

### 2.1.2 ILLOCUTIONARY ACT

According to Searle (1969), the illocutionary act is an act performed in saying something. On other words, illocutionary act can be defined as using a sentence to perform a function. When a speaker says something, he or she may perform some functions of act through the utterances such as request, complain, complimenting, etc.

For example :

- *He urged me to shoot her.*

In saying that utterance, the speaker performs an illocutionary act of *advise or order*.

- *I am very grateful to you for all you have done for me.*

In saying that utterance the speaker performs an illocutionary act of thanking.

- *Would you like a cup of coffee ?*

In saying that utterance, the speaker performs an illocutionary act of offering.

Hurford and Heasley equip Searle's speech act classifications in detail into a number of illocutionary acts such as accusing, accepting, admitting, advising, apologizing, assuring, challenging, complaining, condoling, congratulating, complimenting, giving permission, deploring, greeting, leave – taking, mocking, offering, promising, protesting, refusing and thanking (1983. p.244).

The characteristics **of** those illocutionary acts are described based on Oxford Dictionary, 1989 as below :

#### **2.1.2.1 Accusing**

Accusing is an illocutionary act **of** saying that somebody has done something wrong. It is guilty **of** something. Somebody has broken the law is also accusing. For example: accuse somebody in cheating **or** stealing. The characteristics of accusing can be described are :

1. The owner knows directly that his possession is stolen and make direct accusing to recover his possession back.
2. The owner does not realize that somebody has stolen his possession but the thing is gone. He makes accused that someone steals his possession.
3. The owner makes accused based **on** the information about the missing thing.
4. The owner is able to accuse someone because there are evidences and witnesses who have seen the incident.
5. The owner is able to accuse someone because there are trusted informants who investigate the incident.

#### **2.1.2.2 Accepting**

Accepting **is** an illocutionary act **of** taking something offered willingly. Someone willingly to agree **or** to believe in something. Someone receives any consequences with an open heart. Someone says yes to an offer or invitation.

Treat somebody **or** something as welcome is also accepting. The characteristics**of** accepting can be described are :

1. The person is really eager to join something offered.
2. The person has to accept the fact whether he likes it or not.
3. The person has known the consequences and he is willing to accept the risk.
4. The person accepts an offer or invitation.

### **2.1.2.3 Admitting**

Admitting is an illocutionary act of doing something recognize. Someone acknowledges something as true **or** confess something. In admitting something, the speaker also requires to speak honestly or fairly. The characteristics of admitting can be described are :

1. The person must be honest in stating it; the atmosphere in uttering it, is in a serious way.
2. The person really acknowledges what he states.
3. The person is not trying to crack a joke with what he says. It is based on a honest confession.

### **2.1.2.4 Advising**

Advising is an illocutionary act of giving advice to somebody. Advising is to give someone a solution or to give input to somebody about something so that he can decide what is the best thing to do. The characteristics of advising are:

1. The person knows what is supposed to do.
2. The person is willing **to** help by giving the solution to the problem.

#### **2.1.2.5 Apologizing**

Apologizing is an illocutionary act **of** making an apology. Someone says **sorry** to the particular person. Someone says that he regrets it truly after breaking a promise or an appointment or something else. Apologizing is also an expression of sorry for what he or she has done something wrong. Here are the characteristics **of** apologizing:

1. The person has a sense **of** regret in stating it.
2. The person realizes that what his doing is wrong **or** it caused trouble.
3. The person sincerely states it.
4. The person must be responsible for the thing apologized **for**.

#### **2.1.2.6 Assuring**

Assuring is an illocutionary act of causing somebody to be sure **or** feel certain about something. Perhaps someone tries to make somebody to be confident at something is also assuring. The characteristics of assuring are presented below:

1. The person is quite certain with what might happen.
2. The person knows exactly how to handle it.

### **2.1.2.7 Challenging**

Challenging is an illocutionary act of offering problems that test somebody's ability. In challenging, someone may ask somebody to compete with him/her to prove who is better. The following are the characteristics of challenging:

1. There are at least two persons; both of them agree with what they are going to challenge.
2. Both of them keep their deal.
3. Both of them must be consequent with what they deal with.
4. Both of them will be there at the place where they both agree.

### **2.1.2.8 Complaining**

Complaining is an illocutionary act of saying that one is dissatisfied, unhappy, etc. In complaining, someone might tell about dissatisfaction about someone's treatment or telling about her or his unhappy situation that she or he deals with. Complaining is also an expression that she or he is fed up with something. The writer describes the characteristics of complaining as below:

1. The speaker is really fed up with it.
2. The speaker cannot help to keep it himself because he is angry with the person or something else.
3. The speaker is dissatisfied with the service or the result of something.



### **2.1.2.9 Condoling**

Condoling is an illocutionary act **of** expressing sympathy to someone for misfortune, **or** bereavement. Condoling is showing our sympathy toward somebody who lost someone close to her **or** his. It is kind of feeling that we also have the same feeling as the person has at the moment **of** sorrow or misfortune.

The characteristics **of** condoling are:

1. The speaker is serious in uttering it, he is not grinning or joking.
2. The speaker really feels **sorry** for what happens to the person.
3. The person shows sympathy to the person who has lost someone whom **he** or she loves.

### **2.1.2.10 Congratulating**

Congratulating is an illocutionary act of telling him/her that one is pleased about his/her good fortune or achievement. Congratulating is an expression that we are happy about one's achievement or progress and express it to the person. It is an expression that one has the same happiness about the success or the fortune that he/she has at that time. The characteristic **of** congratulating is just saying, "congratulation!"

### **2.1.2.11 Complimenting**

Complimenting is an illocutionary act of expressing of praise, admiration, approval, etc. someone expresses something good and satisfies to something or

someone. It is also an expression of admiration for one's ability to do something well. The writer describes the characteristics of complimenting as following:

1. The person really has done something well.
2. The person **is** really an expert in it *so* that his work brings satisfaction.
3. The thing is very beautiful *so* everyone who sees it might adore it.
4. The person gives praise or admiration to someone's achievement.

#### **2.1.2.12 Giving Permission**

Giving permission is an illocutionary act of allowing someone to **do** something. Giving permission **is** letting someone to do something which is not belonging to the person. It **is** kind of giving the person allowance to do something.

The characteristics of giving permission are:

1. The person has an authority to give permission.
2. The person really does not mind someone doing it *so*.

#### **2.1.2.13 Deploring**

Deploring is an illocutionary act of being shocked or offended **by** something. Someone feels sorrow or regret about something is also deploring. The writer presents the characteristics of deploring as:

1. The person feels that he or she deserves a better treatment.
2. The person feels being underestimated with someone's action.

#### **2.1.2.14 Greeting**

Greeting is an illocutionary act of expressing friendly recognition or courteous respect to someone as upon meeting. Greeting is also defined as first word used on seeing somebody. Someone gives an expression word of welcome or pleasure when meeting somebody **or** receiving a guest. The characteristics **of** greeting : hello, hi, and how are you !

#### **2.1.2.15 Leave-Taking**

Leave-taking is an illocutionary act of saying good-bye to someone. It **is** said to a person who has come to see someone and then prepares to go. The characteristic of utterance in leave ~ taking is *good-bye*. In informal situation, the person just says *bye* before he or she leaves.

#### **2.1.2.16 Mocking**

Mocking is an illocutionary act of making fun at something or somebody. Mocking is ridiculing someone or something, usually by mimicking or by saying something rude. The writer dedicates the characteristics of mocking as following:

1. The person is making fun on something or someone.
2. The person is doing that in order to make a joke **or** sometimes to ridicule someone.
3. The person is doing it on purpose.
4. The person is doing it to get attention.

### **2.1.2.17 Offering**

Offering is an illocutionary act of giving opportunity for someone to join or to give help. Offering is sometimes can also give help, asking someone to join or something else depend on the situation. Besides, the speaker expresses the willingness or intention to do or give something is also offering. The writer presents the characteristics of offering are :

1. The person wants to help someone.
2. The person really wants to give someone something.
3. The person feels that it is good to share with someone because of the quantity of the goods are too much.

### **2.1.2.18 Promising**

Promising is an illocutionary act of assuring somebody that one will give or do or not to do something. Promising is the speaker commits to do something for someone. The writer gives the characteristics of promising as presenting below:

1. The person is willing to keep the promise.
2. The person is really meant what he says.
3. The person is able to fulfill his promise.

### **2.1.2.19 Protesting**

Protesting is an illocutionary act of stating or showing one's disapproval or strong disagreement. Someone protests because he has been treated improperly or unjustly. The writer tries to describe the characteristics of protesting as below :

1. The person is dissatisfied with what has happen to him.
2. The person disagrees with something and feels that it is necessary to state it.
3. The person feels that he deserves something better than that

### **2.1.2.20 Refusing**

Refusing is an illocutionary act of saying or showing that one is unwilling to give, accept, grant or do something. Refusing is rejecting something or rejecting one's offer or help. The characteristics of refusing are :

1. The person is unwilling to do something.
2. The person is not interested in doing it.
3. The person does not need the thing of the person.

### **2.1.2.21 Thanking**

Thanking is an illocutionary act of expressing gratitude to somebody. Thanking is an expression of appreciation for what someone has done. The characteristic of utterance in thanking is *thank you* but in informal way, there is a type of thanking such as *thanks*.

## 2.2 CONTEXT OF THE SITUATION

Context of the situation is a way of describing how the speaker produces the utterances and associates the utterances with components of the context proposed by Hymes (1964): the setting, the participants, the event, and the topic. Context is also important to interpret the utterances produced by the speakers.

Setting refers to all speech events occurring of necessity in time and space. Participant refers to a speaker who transmits a message and a listener who receive it. Topic refers to what is being talked about. Then, the event refers to in what situation, the utterance happens (Brown and Yule, 1983, p.38).

The writer applies the theory of the context of the situation to facilitate her in determining the propositional meaning and the illocutionary act produced by the speakers. The way to apply these theories on Dawson's Creek serial will be discussed in the following chapter.