

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Background of the Study**

Communication is an interaction between two or more people to exchange ideas or information. It refers to the exchange of information, ideas, emotions, and attitudes through verbal or non-verbal means between two or more two participants (Ahmad, 2020). In communicating we must understand what other people convey to us because language has meaning and meaning in every word. Language is an arrangement of words that are formed and have meaning (Hasan et al, 2022). Communication is not only language as a means of communication, it can be done with body gestures, facial expressions, and songs. The song is a communication system with other people using sounds and songs to express a feeling, sense, idea, emotion, or thought (Thao and Herman, 2020; Herman and Silalahi, 2020). Songs can also be taken from current events such as the song “We Will Not Go Down” This song describes the atrocities of the Israeli army against Palestinian citizens.

We Will Not Go Down (Gaza Tonight) is a song created by American singer Michael Heart, whose real name is Annas Allaf, released in 2008. This song is appealing because of its high social values, such as sympathy and empathy, gratitude, and helping each other. This song is also still very trending because the war between Palestine and Israel is not over. Michael Heart wants to provide information on the condition of Gaza at the time of the attack by the Israeli army at night. The Israeli army sent missiles that lit up the Gaza sky at that time (YOA, 2023). This song, created by Michael Heart, has a touching moral message in every lyric. The message that we can take away. War or a solution using violence will not be beneficial, on the contrary, it will cause more harm than the benefits obtained. It would be better, to diplomacy, or to talk things through without violence, and that would usually result in a more favorable outcome, namely a peaceful resolution.

A song is an idea, thought, and message expressed in lyrics. The song is a common medium used to convey ideas, ideas, or expressions of feeling (Rahmadhanti et al, 2022). Every songwriter must have different thoughts and emotions; therefore, every song must have a different meaning and diction, which makes listeners interested in the meaning of the words. As mentioned by other researchers, this shows that lyrical and emotional words can affect and invite listeners to understand their communication content and songs (Rahmadhanti et al, 2022). Therefore, an analysis tool is needed to analyze the meaning of a song, namely using speech act analysis.

Speech acts are an appropriate method that can be used to analyze the meaning and message contained in a song because in a song the author wants to convey an idea or message to the listener and the listener can interpret the message through the words written by the songwriter and need to interpret it. Altikriti (2011), says that speech acts are related to how speakers use language to carry out intended actions and how listeners understand the intended meaning. Speech acts are words that come out of a person's mind in a condition as a form of social interaction to build communication. Hickey (2014) states that speech acts are speeches that function in communication. The act of talking itself is a kind of verbal communication. The word action means action. That is the reason why most people interpret the meaning of communication or language through speech acts.

On any occasion, speech acts, usually actions performed, produce an utterance. According to Austin (1962), Speech Acts are divided into three classes, which are locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. 1) Locutionary act, which is the basic act of utterance, or producing a meaningful linguistic expression. A locutionary act is an act of saying something, that is the act of producing an utterance. 2) An illocutionary act is performed via the communicative force of an utterance. 3) Perlocutionary act is the effect or influence on the feelings, thoughts, or actions of the listener/hearer, unlike \ illocutionary acts. Perlocutionary acts could be inspiring, persuading, consoling, promising, encouraging, etc. Searle (1969) enhances Austin's speech

act theory by recognizing two kinds of discourse acts: direct and indirect speech acts. Searle puts illocutionary demonstration into five classes: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. In communication, illocutionary acts play a very important role. When illocutionary acts are no longer understood by the listener then perlocutionary acts will not occur. As Sari et al. (2022) explain that Illocutionary act is a very important part of speech act because illocutionary act becomes the main central of communication. Illocutionary acts in songs relate to the types of speech contained in song lyrics, such as explanations, requests, or calls to understand the informative message. In addition, music plays a role in guiding the expression of illocutionary acts. Therefore, this research can help reveal the impact of songs on listeners and how lyrics and music interact to create deeper meaning.

In connection with the importance of reflecting on the analysis of speech acts in songs, the researcher intends to explore the analysis of speech acts in the song "We Will Not Go Down". The first similar research was also carried out by Wijaya et al. (2021). In this research the authors used a Seringai album song lyric this study aims to (1) identify the forms of perlocutionary speech acts in the song lyrics of the Seringai band, (2) identify the purpose of the perlocutionary speech acts in the song lyrics of the Seringai band, and (3) Identifying the relevance of the perlocutionary speech acts in the song lyrics of the Seringai band to critical character education. This study found 30 types of sentence examples can be categorized as perlocutionary speech acts which cover: 8 angry or upset with persons and circumstances; 6 informing/informing about social conditions, 4 advising everyone and irresponsible individuals, 4 satires on irresponsible individuals, 3 complaining because the situation is deteriorating, 2 ordering to fight, 2 praising someone, and 1 calling for individual freedom. The Song lyrics from the album Seringai have relevance to the value of critical characters. Therefore, researchers intensively studied it using the same theory but with different media and analytical tools.

This study aims to analyze the meaning contained in a song entitled "We Will Not Go Down" sung by Michael Hearts. The benefits that can be taken

from this research are that songs can be used as an interesting learning medium for students, they can also be used in grammar lessons. Researchers are interested in analyzing this song because this song is taken from a true story that happened in the war between the Palestinian state and Israel, where Israel did not stop giving bombs like the rain was pouring. Therefore, based on this background, the researcher tries to investigate illocutionary acts based on Searle's theory (1969) of a song entitled "We Will Not Go Down"

### **1.2. Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates a question, "What kind of illocutionary acts are contained in the song We Will Not Go Down"?

### **1.3. Operational Definitions**

The researcher provides two definitions related to this study to avoid misunderstanding about the terms set out in this study as follows;

#### **1.3.1 Illocutionary acts**

An illocutionary act is an analytical tool used in this research to examine the meaning contained in the lyrics of the song "We Will Not Go Down"

#### **1.3.2 Song lyric**

In this research, the song lyrics "We Will Not Go Down" by Michael Heart were used as a medium for analysis by the researcher

### **1.4. Aim of the Study**

This research looks for the illocutionary acts contained in the song "We Will Not Go Down".

### **1.5. Significances of the Study**

This research is expected to provide benefits in the field of language, including theoretical, practical, and empirical benefits.

### **1.5.1. Theoretical Significance**

Theoretically, this research is expected to provide benefits of knowledge in linguistics and can add references to studies in the field of pragmatics, especially speech types.

### **1.5.2. Practical Significance**

Teachers can use this song as teaching media. Students can use this song to learn about English independently.

### **1.5.3. Empirical Significance**

The results of this research will provide insight to collect data and analyze data regarding meaning contained in a song.