

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. The Background

Many students believe that the TOEFL Listening Comprehension test is too difficult for those who have never taken the test before. Many students fail the TOEFL test because they have difficulty answering the listening part. According to Seferoglu and Uzakgoren (2004), the type of listening materials is linked to a few different listening comprehension issues. According to Bloomfield (2010) and Walker (2014), one of the significant challenges with listening comprehension is the pronunciation of words that differs from how they look in print. Hasan (2000) indicated that unusual words, hard grammatical systems, and the period of the spoken passages are the maximum critical factors that cause problems for learners' listening comprehension.

Short dialogue is interesting to improve listening skills. Short dialogue is a kind of listening subject that has a short conversation. Dialogue is a means of indicating communication between two people who need the intention to understand one another. In dialogue, those involved share information, data, facts, thoughts, ideas, and opinions and try to consider, understand and accept one another. Listening comprehension is a measure of your ability to understand a brief and long conversation in English. It contains audio recordings, similar to what you may hear from a group of students at an English-language school or university. Listening comprehension aims to test your ability to understand spoken language.

Pragmatics is the study of language communication in various contexts. If the words employed have different meanings, then this statement can be understood if pragmatics refers to the study of interpreting meaning by listeners, such as applying explanations. The topic of this study will be what types of speech acts may be found in TOEFL difficulties to include brief dialogues in the listening comprehension test. The problems that will be discussed in this research will be able to demonstrate the different forms of speech actions seen in a brief dialogue in a listening comprehension test. According to Searle in Rusminto (2010), the act of is a theory that investigates the meaning of language based on the speakers' utterances and actions.

The speech act theory of John Searle and George Yule is used in this research. Based on what researchers have said here, researchers can conclude that, while pragmatics is interesting because it is about how people make sense of each other linguistically, it can be a

difficult subject to study because it requires us to make sense of others and what they have to say about their thoughts.

This study differs from others in that it focuses on speech acts observed in TOEFL questions, which contain brief conversations in the listening comprehension test.

This investigation is necessary to comprehend the meaning of the entire speech. So that the entirety of this short dialogue can be reported.

The problem that must be solved in this study must be presented in the form of a theory. Mahsun (2007) defines listening as "a means of listening to the usage of language." For this inquiry, the researcher listened to various types of short discourse from the TOEFL book.

The researchers on this paper will contribute to the evaluation of pragmatic content material. In making authenticity within the test, the researchers must be listening to native speakers in certain situations in real life, and thus the researchers have truly considered the authenticity of response. (McNamara, 2010).

## **1.2. Research Problems**

This paper attempts to discover an answer to the following questions:

1. What types of speech acts are found in TOEFL listening comprehension test items of short dialogue?
2. Which kinds of speech acts are found dominantly in TOEFL listening comprehension test items of short dialogue?

## **1.3. Research Objectives**

Concerning the research problems mentioned above, the research aims of this paper are as follows:

1. To discover what kinds of speech acts can be found in the short dialogue of listening TOEFL test items.
2. To find out which kinds of speech act found dominantly in a short dialogue of listening TOEFL test items.

## **1.4. Significance of the Research**

### **1. Theoretical Significance**

This research may contribute to further understanding of analyzing pragmatics speech acts in a listening comprehension test.

### **2. Practical Significance**

- a) This research would be the basic way how to identify a test item is considered as a pragmatics test.

b) This study can be used as a resource for other researchers who want to perform research on the topic.

### **1.5. Scope of the Research**

From the significance of the research, researchers will focus on identifying pragmatic speech acts in short dialogues in TOEFL listening test items. This research is conducted for analyzing pragmatics content in the listening comprehension test.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In the following, the researchers review the theories that underline this research such as pragmatic, speech act, TOEFL proficiency test, and short dialogue.

#### 2. 1. Literature Review

##### A. Pragmatic

Mey (in Rahardi, 2003:12) defines pragmatics as "the study of the conditions of human language uses as determined by the setting of society." According to Levinson (in Rahardi, 2003:12), pragmatic linguistics is the study of the relationships between language and its spoken context. As a result, people who do not comprehend the context of their communication may misinterpret or even fail to perceive the speaker's goal at all. In this situation, the speaker should say what he wants to communicate, and the speech companion should receive or accept the utterance based on its meaning and purpose.

##### B. Speech Acts

The term "speech act" refers to an activity such as informing, asking, praising, or questioning. By doing a speech act, the speaker is frequently attempting to achieve some effect with those words; an effect that, in some situations, could have been achieved with an alternate action.

Finally, speech acts are the utterances utilized to carry out such actions. It is critical to remember that to comprehend how the acts work, one cannot simply dismiss the importance of context around the utterances.

##### Searle's Classification of Speech Acts

1. Assertive: speech act in which the speaker states whether he or she believes something to be true or false; for instance, "I'm a rich guy".
2. Directive: speaker instructs the listener to conduct some future action that will make the world conform to the speaker's statements; for instance, "commanding": "Turn off the TV."
3. Commissive: speech acts which commit the speaker to the performance of future action; for instance, "promising": "I will come to your home tomorrow."
4. Expressive: the act of speaking that demonstrates the speaker's expression through utterance; for instance: "I'm sorry, I like it, and so on."
5. Declarative: statements which bring about the state of affairs described in the assumption expressed; for instance: "I sentence you to three years in prison!"

### **C. TOEFL Proficiency Test**

TOEFL was first published in 1964 and has since evolved into a reliable English proficiency exam. The TOEFL exam type was formerly called PBT (Paper Based Test). However, as time and technology progressed, the type evolved to TOEFL CBT (Computer Based Test) and subsequently to the most recent version TOEFL IBT (Internet Based Test). According to its website, the TOEFL test assesses non-native English speaker's ability to use or understand the language as they talk, hear, write, and read.

### **D. Short Dialogue**

The TOEFL short dialogue is in brief form, consisting of only 2-4 words between two people, followed by one question. Synonyms of the keywords stated in the listening, specific vocabulary, idioms, phrasal verbs, conditionals, wishes, causatives, modals, negative expressions, inferring meaning from intonation, and listening for language functions are the points examined in this section (Dang, 2016).