



**THE ILLOCUTIONARY TYPES OF SPEECH ACTS
FOUND IN TREVOR NOAH'S STAND-UP COMEDY SHOW
CALLED 'AFRAID OF THE DARK'**

THESIS

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**ENGLISH STUDIES
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
BUDDHI DHARMA UNIVERSITY
TANGERANG
2024**



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Presented as a partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Bachelor Degree

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STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

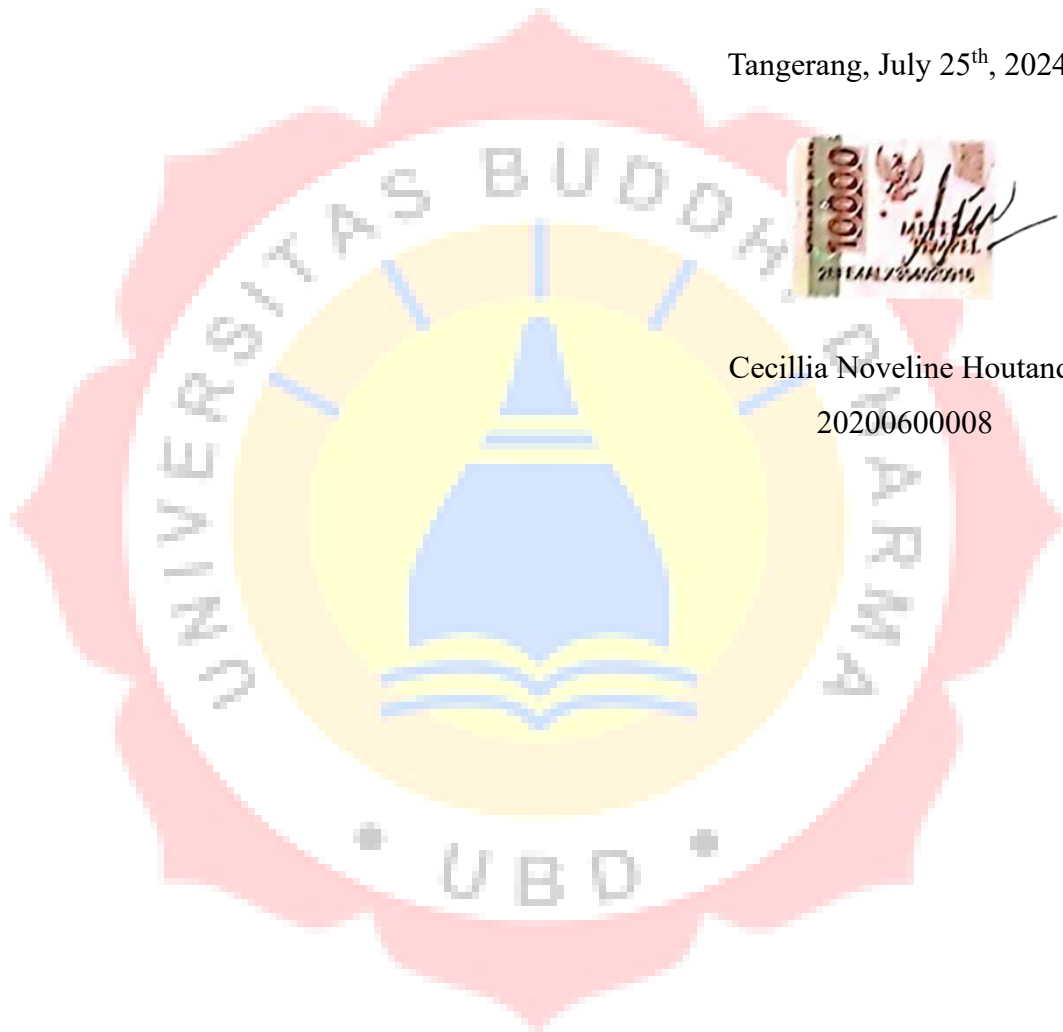
I honestly declare this final project is my own writing. This is true and correct that I do not take any scholar ideas or work from other dishonestly. All the cited works are quote in accordance with ethical code academic writing.

Tangerang, July 25th, 2024



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20200600008



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ABSTRACT

Humour has several components that lend themselves to the study of language. Yet there is barely plenty of humour analysis in stand-up comedy. This research focus on the speech acts on humour of Trevor Noah in stand-up comedy show called "Afraid of the Dark". It aims to examine the types and functions of speech acts in order to engage the audiences. Descriptive-qualitative method is used to analyse the data. The writer found that Noah used of 5 types of speech acts by Searle could enhance the humour and material that he would deliver. The writer found 9 functions of assertive speech acts, 5 functions of directive speech acts, 5 functions of expressive speech acts, 4 functions of commissive speech acts, and 1 function of declarative speech acts. The stage present of Noah also helps him to create a light-hearted and enjoyable impression. The writer recommends carrying out in-depth research on comedy because it is still not often discussed in language studies.

Keywords: *Speech Acts, Stand-Up Comedy, Humour*

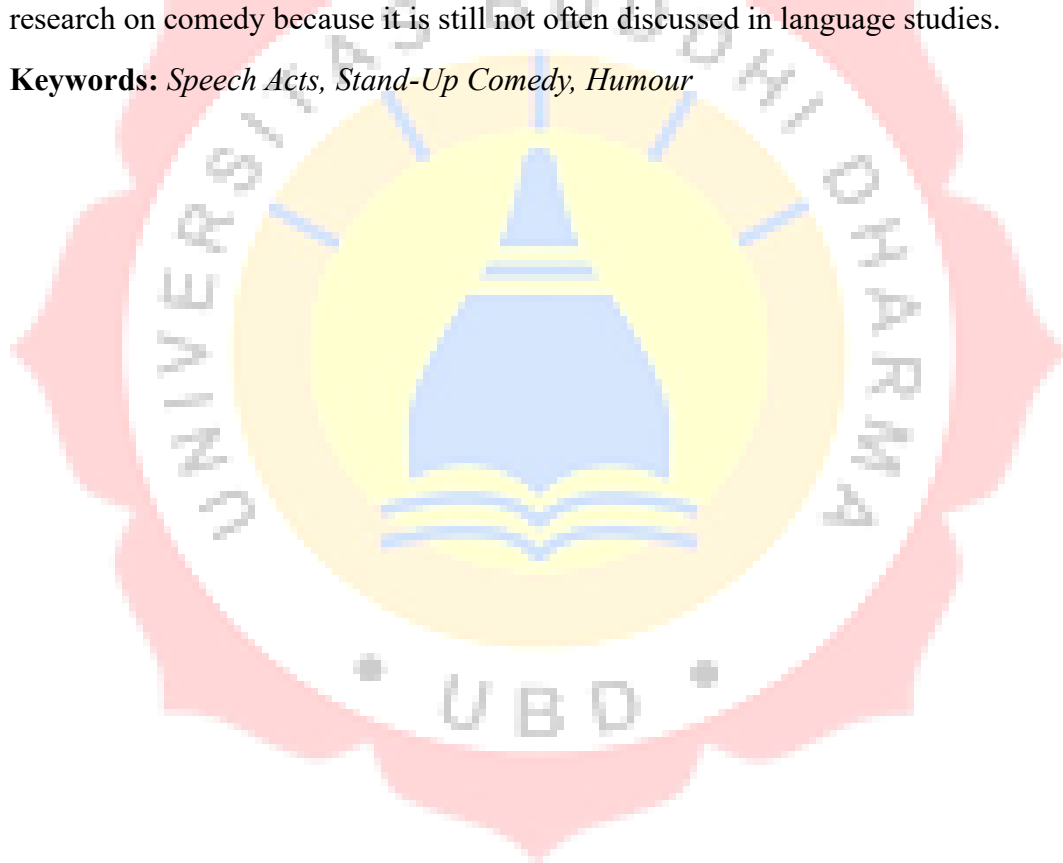
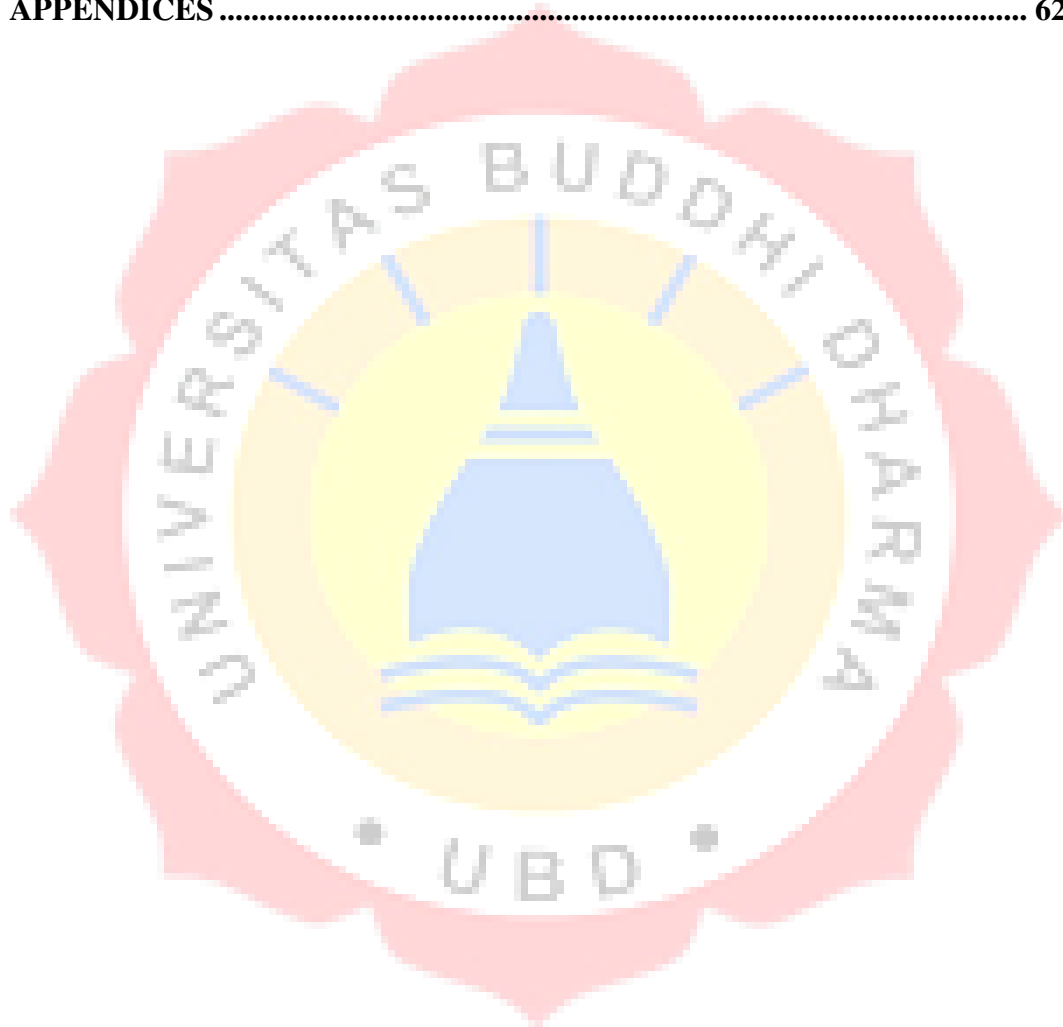


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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Language is a part of humans. It is a standard language of spoken, written, or manually signed symbols that people use to express themselves as members of a social group and contributors to its culture. Language is used for play, emotional release, imaginative expression, communication, and identity expression (Crystal & Robins, 1999). One definition of Language is that it is composed of socially accepted norms, which are learned in Linguistics. According to Richard and Schmidt (2002), linguistics is the study of language as a means of communication. One subfield of linguistics is pragmatics, which studies how humans create and understand meaning through languages, as well as how they utilize languages in social circumstances (Nordquist, 2019). Pragmatic competence, or the capacity to see the unsaid as a component of the conveyed, is crucial for language users.

A branch of pragmatics that is important for communication is called speech acts. It defined in terms of the aim of the speaker and the impact on the audience. In essence, it is the response that the speaker wants the listeners to provide (Nordquist, 2019). It is necessary for the listeners to share the same background knowledge regarding the topics being discussed and to be able to interpret the meaning behind the speakers' statements. Speech acts tend to be utilized in comedic contexts. Humorous speeches tend to draw in larger audiences since they are more enjoyable to listen to and seem more laid back, making it simpler for listeners to understand what they are saying. It is anticipated that humour will reduce social communication barriers. Humour is a communication style where the stimulus elicits laughter. It is one of the functions of a Stand-Up Comedy (Koestler, 2023). Stand-Up Comedy is a humorous act performed live in front of an audience, where the performer speaks directly to them from the stage. A comedian, comic, or stand-up comedian is the name given to the performer. A stand-up comedy routine may include props, music, magic tricks, ventriloquism, stories, observations, or one-liners. With stories that are frequently humorous, stand-up comedy shows combine entertainment with social critique and contemplation on daily life, making them a

widely enjoyed kind of entertainment worldwide. In America, stand-up comedy has developed significantly. Trevor Noah, a comic, writer, and host renowned for his brilliance in fusing humour with exposure to modern concerns, including politics, race, and culture, is one of the comics that stands out in this genre.

Trevor Noah is a world-renowned comedian and social commentator who expertly navigates linguistic complexities to deliver thought-provoking and humorous performances, and is at the forefront of this art form. He is well-known worldwide for his ability to slickly combine humour and perceptive social analysis. Noah has done a lot of shows. One of his shows is 'Afraid of the Dark' in New York in 2017. 'Afraid of the Dark' is a performance by Trevor Noah that features a variety of comic elements covering a wide range of subjects, from personal struggles to intense social commentary. By dissecting the humorous speech acts in this performance, one can gain a deeper understanding of how Noah employs language and comedy to accomplish specific communication objectives, including influencing the audience's perspective on the topics covered or fostering an emotional bond with them.

Speech act theory by J.L. Austin and John Searle explored the theoretical framework pertinent to this analysis and laid a significant basis. The ways that words can be employed to perform activities as well as convey information are the focus of their field of research (Nordquist, 2019). By using this idea to analyse humour in stand-up comedy shows, it can be seen how comedians like Trevor Noah do more than just "tell jokes"—they also carry out specific activities that have an emotional and social impact on the audience.

This linguistic study of stand-up comedy provides an intriguing opportunity to deconstruct the linguistic techniques, humour structures, and audience engagement strategies used in comedic discourse. The purpose of this study is to unravel the complex of linguistic performances that fascinate and resonate with a diverse range of audiences globally by conducting research of illocutionary types of speech acts in humour within Trevor Noah's stand-up comedy.

1.2. Statements of the Problem

Humour has several components that lend themselves to the study of language. Yet there is barely plenty of humour analysis in stand-up comedy. The speech acts used in comedic expressions are one area that can be examined. Although it is typically performed alone, stand-up comedy involves a lot of people. Here, the individual needs to be able to direct his intentions, whether it be to critique or to entertain. Understanding how humour in stand-up comedy performances may be evaluated as a complicated speech act is one of the issues this research faces.

Trevor Noah has a lot of skill in this area. He can employ a variety of accents in his performances to make the topic he wants to get across simpler to understand. Additionally, he can use comedy to explain delicate subjects, which helps ease the tension in the room. Noah has knowledge of history happening around the world.

However, humour can sometimes be pointless due to the partner is unable to comprehend the speaker's meaning. Pragmatics are supposed to be able to dissect the issue so that the message may be fully comprehended. The writer wants to know the types of illocutionary speech acts that Noah used in his show to discover this matter. Particularly when addressing topics in that can make the audience laugh. The research explores more about illocutionary types of speech acts in Comedy contexts. This research will focus more on the explanation of types and functions of speech acts to engage audiences.

1.3. Research Question

Concerning the background of the research and statements of the problem that have been given above, have led to the formation of a research question, which is: What are the types and functions of illocutionary speech acts that Noah uses to engage the audiences?

1.4. Goals and Functions of the Study

In accordance with how the research questions above were formulated, the objective of this study is to discover the types and functions of illocutionary speech acts that Noah used in his show 'Afraid of The Dark'.

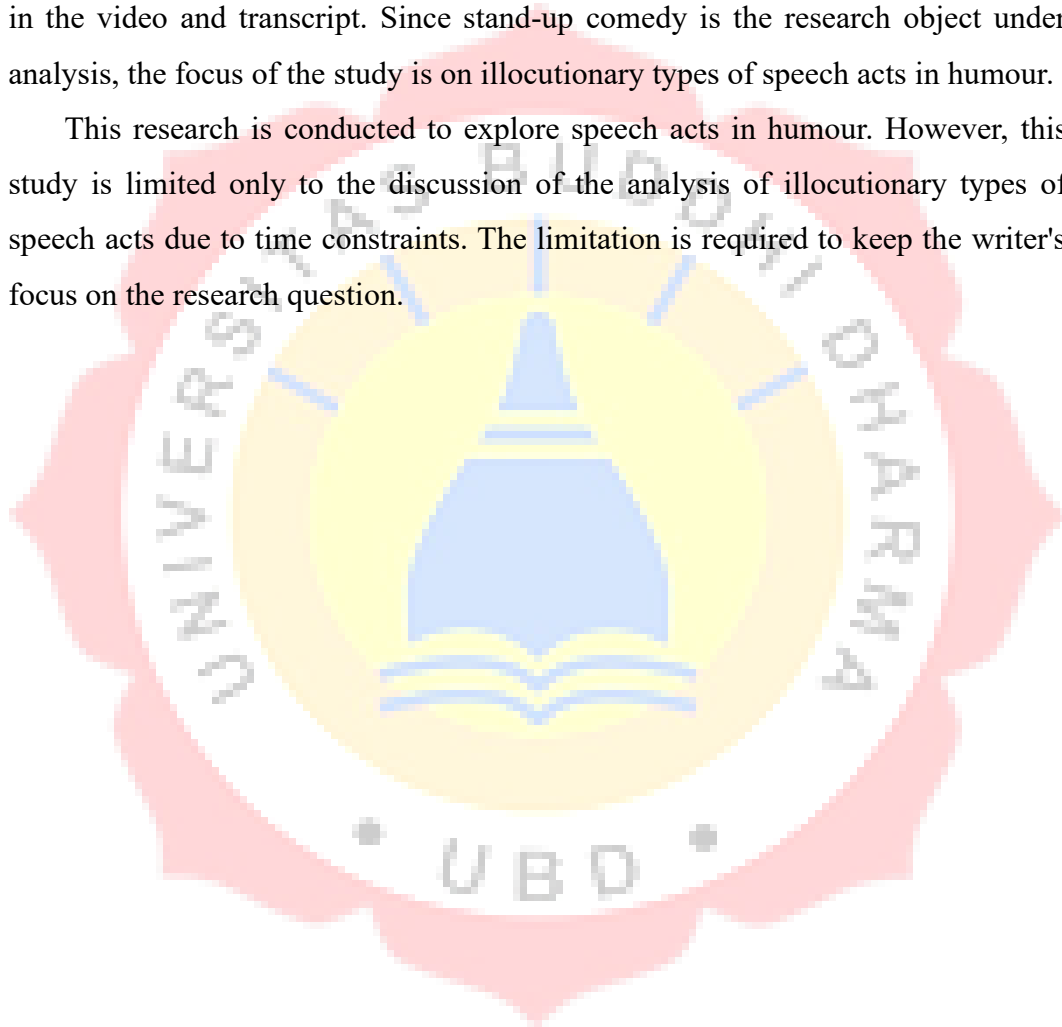
The expected benefits of this research in terms of its function are to enhance understanding of speech acts in comedy. Afterwards, this research serves as a

guideline and reference for future researchers who are interested in studying speech acts.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on pragmatics, especially the types of speech acts by Searle. It analyses how Noah used speech acts in comedic ways and how it affected the audiences. In doing so, the study looks into the kinds of speech acts that are included in the video and transcript. Since stand-up comedy is the research object under analysis, the focus of the study is on illocutionary types of speech acts in humour.

This research is conducted to explore speech acts in humour. However, this study is limited only to the discussion of the analysis of illocutionary types of speech acts due to time constraints. The limitation is required to keep the writer's focus on the research question.



1.6. Conceptual Framework

The following illustration describes the conceptual framework of the writer's research in conjunction with its explanations:

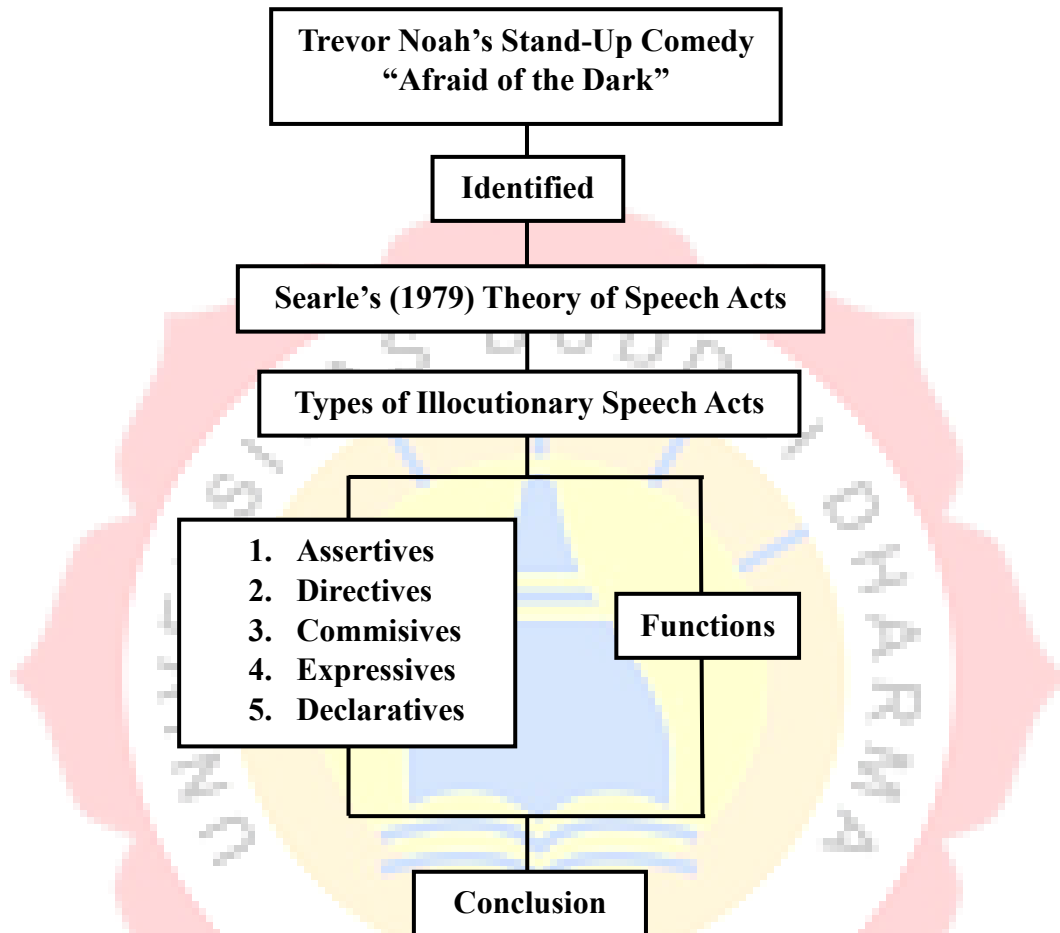


Figure 1.1 Conceptual Framework

This graphic shows that the writer took the data from Trevor Noah's stand-up comedy show, 'Afraid of the Dark' in 2017. The writer collected the data qualitatively using visual analysis by rewatching the video and note-taking. The data was collected completely through video and transcript analysis of the stand-up comedy show. Following that, the data was analysed by identifying each utterance from Noah and taking note of the types of speech acts found in his utterances based on Searle's theory. In order to address the research question, a conclusion was finally drawn from the analysis.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. Review of Previous Studies

In order to enhance the knowledge of illocutionary types of speech acts, the writer has reviewed three previous studies. The first study of Illocutionary types is done by Rohmadi, et al (2023) which analysed the pragmatic view of Cak Lontong's usage of numerous speech acts in humorous discourse on YouTube media. They focused on the functions of speech acts. Furthermore, they established the maxim of cooperation and violations of the maxim of cooperation that in Cak Lontong statements. Also, they explained the application of both direct and indirect speech acts. It appears from the study and discussion that Cak Lontong applies a variety of expressive, declarative, and assertive speech acts to make his speech opponents laugh. Cak Lontong uses humorous speech acts, which are contextual and involve the interlocutor as bait or victims. These acts serve various functions, including assertive, expressive, declarative, and directive, with the aim of informing opponents, providing entertainment, recognizing speakers' actions, and influencing the speaker.

Another study of speech acts came from Augia and Refaldi, students of Universitas Negeri Padang in 2022. The study analysed Illocutionary types of Raditya Dika's performance at SUCRD in 2016. It aimed to reveal the types of illocutionary that Raditya Dika used in his stand-up comedy performance. The writers used Searle's theory to analyse the data descriptively. The results of the research revealed that Raditya Dika used four different kinds of illocutionary acts when delivering his punchline. Raditya Dika's most frequently used illocutionary types are shown in 90 data points (76,27%) out of 118 punchlines. He used it to encourage greater audience participation in the space.

The third study is from Hausca, et al (2020) which analysed illocutionary speech acts used by Tom Cruise to promote his film during an interview. It aims to outline the various forms and functions of illocutionary speech acts that the interviewee and the interviewer execute. The study used Yule's theory (1996) to do the research qualitatively and descriptively. The results of the study revealed the representative speech acts was determined to be the most frequently delivered

speech, in percentage 48,7%. Declarative speech acts were nonexistent in the interview. The current study's findings shown that Tom Cruise frequently used his speech to make factual claims or to explain ideas that he thought to be true.

Concerning the stated studies above, the writer has discovered both similarities and differences between her research and the three previously mentioned studies. The first and second studies shared similarities with the writer's research. Both studies used Searle's theory and observed humorous contexts. However, the objects are different. Rohmadi's data were taken from dialogues between locutor and interlocutor. Augia's and Refaldi's data were Stand-Up Comedy using Bahasa Indonesia. The writer's data were stand-up comedy full scripts of Trevor Noah's show in English. The third previous study has a different context. The data were taken from an interview. Nevertheless, the study shares a similar purpose which examines the illocutionary types of speech acts and its function.

2.2. Theoretical Framework

2.2.1. Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a discipline of linguistics that studies the use of language in social circumstances, as well as how humans generate and perceive meaning through language (Nordquist, 2019). One reason why pragmatics is hard to define is the wide range of topics that pragmatics is supposed to cover. There is still an incompatible definition of pragmatics that satisfies all parties. According to Levinson (1983), the study of pragmatics focuses on the connections between language and context, which are fundamental to any explanation of how language is understood. Language and context work together to help people grasp what is said in the context of presumptions or previous statements. This means people already have the knowledge of what was said. Pragmatics, according to David Lodge's article in the *Paradise News* (1991), provides "a fuller, deeper, and generally more reasonable account of human language behavior." Understanding language and what people mean when they talk are frequently impossible without pragmatics.

Morris in his book “*Signs, Language and Behavior*” (1946) described how the linguistics phrase refers to the origins, applications, and effects of signs within the context of the interpreters' whole conduct. Nordquist's (2019) interpretation in Morris' pragmatics discussion stated that signs refer to subtle motions, movements, sounds of voice, and bodily expressions that frequently accompany speech. Related to Finch (2000), explained in social circumstances, rather than emphasizing what people say, pragmatics focuses on how they say it and how other people understand what they say. While utterances are the actual sound units produced during speech, the underlying meaning of the sounds is conveyed by the signs that go along with them.

Based on the explanation above, the writer concluded that pragmatics is the study of language usage in social environment. It is how humans generate and perceive meaning through language. The aim of studying pragmatics is acquiring a deeper understanding of utterances. Pragmatics provides a deeper and more reasonable account of human language behavior, making it essential for understanding language and people's meaning.

2.2.2. Speech Acts

2.2.2.1. Definition of Speech Acts

According to Nordquist (2019), a speech act is a branch of pragmatics that focuses on the use of words to perform activities as well as convey information. It basically refers to the action that the speaker wants to elicit from the listeners. Speech acts can include any variety of statements, including requests, cautions, pledges, apologies, and greetings. Speech acts have a crucial role in communication. Speech acts involve real-life interactions and need for both language proficiency and acceptable linguistic usage within a particular culture. For example, the utterance “The room is hot,” it could be a statement or a request to turn on the fan.

In line with Schiffrin (1994), in the context of speech act theory, cognitive context is present and contributes to what are known as "constitutive rules," or a type of background information that speakers and listeners share. Schiffrin contends that a key focus of speech act theory should be context as situation.

American philosopher J.R. Searle expanded on the speech-act theory, which was first presented by Oxford philosopher J.L. Austin in "How to Do Things With Words" which first published in 1962. This theory examines changes in the listener's and speaker's states of conduct during communication in addition to the language that is utilized. "To say something is to do something" is emphasized by the notion, according to Austin (1962:12). Regarding the importance of speech-act theory like the one put out by Austin, Schiffrin (1994) points out that the theory's basic discoveries come from its capacity to clarify the relationship between language and meaning and action.

In the opinion of him, speech acts can be classified into three levels: locutionary act (producing meaningful comments), illocutionary act (making a statement with a certain force), and perlocutionary act (the real acts attained through statements). It begins with a speaker's statement. The meaning and structure of the utterance are conveyed to the addressee, who grasps the speech through the locutionary act. The illocutionary act forces the utterance toward the addressee in exchange for the addressee doing an act. The addressee's performance as a result of the response is the perlocutionary act.

2.2.2.2. Types of Speech Acts

Austin (1975) examines three layers or components of utterances, they are:

a) Locutionary Act

Nuccetelli and Seay (2007) defined locutionary acts as the simple act of making linguistic sounds or signs with a specific meaning and reference. A locutionary act, often referred to as an utterance act or a locution, is defined in speech-act theory as the act of making a meaningful utterance, a segment of spoken language that is preceded by silence and followed by silence or a change of speaker (Nordquist, 2019). Locutionary acts can be giving information, posing queries, giving descriptions, or even declaring a decision. It is the meaningful statements people make to express their needs and desires and persuade others of their point of view.

b) Illocutionary Act

The phrase "illocutionary act" in speech-act theory describes the use of a sentence to convey an attitude for a specific purpose. Although performative verbs like "promise" or "request" are frequently used to make illocutionary acts clear they are sometimes ambiguous (Nordquist, 2019). As an example, the utterance "It is cold in here" can be a statement or a request. According to Austin (1975), an illocutionary act is when someone speaks with a certain amount of force. Mey (1993) in Seken's book titled 'Introduction To Pragmatics: A Course Book For Beginners' (2015) noted that of the three characteristics of speech acts that Austin described, the majority of speech act theorists' attention is directed toward the illocutionary acts.

c) Perlocutionary Act

Perlocutionary acts refer to an act that a speaker does to a listener through speech. Conversely, perlocutionary acts have an effect on the audience. They have an impact on the listener through behaviours, ideas, or feelings; they can even alter someone's perception (Nordquist, 2019). Austin (1975) explained contrary to locutionary and illocutionary acts, which are controlled by conventions, perlocutionary acts are natural rather than conventional. In addition, Yule (1996, p. 49) defines perlocutionary conduct as speaking in a way that is appropriate for the situation and hoping the other person would get the meaning one intended.

2.2.2.3. Classifications of Illocutionary Speech Acts

The speech act classification system was developed by John Searle. According to Searle (1979), speakers can accomplish five illocutionary points on propositions in one utterance:

1) Assertive

The first type of illocutionary is assertive. An assertive persuades the listener that the proposition is true. Its purpose is to portray the proposal as a state of affairs (Searle, 1999: 148). An assertive can be confirmed as true or false. It involves stating, explaining, suggesting, praising, etc. In addition, Searle (1999: 148) notes an assertive is always a representation of belief.

As an example, the utterance “Cats have four legs.” This utterance is a statement. A clear declaration of anything being true or incorrect is called a statement.

2) Directive

A directive speech act is defined in linguistics as an expression intended to persuade someone to do something. The illocutionary point of these lies in the speaker's attempts to persuade the hearer to take an action (Searle,

1979: 13). Speech acts classified under this category include orders, requests, invites, counsel, and opinions. Searle (1999: 148) stated that every directive expresses the speaker's wish for the receiver to carry out the instructed action. However, the receiver can follow or ignore.

“Turn off the light!” This utterance is an example of directive speech act. It shows a command from the speaker. A speaker instructing the listener on what to do (or not do). It may even be manipulative or convincing.

3) Commissive

In relation to Austin, Searle (1976) claims that commissive is employed to bind the speaker to a particular way of actions. Essentially, commissive provides a means for a speaker to guarantee that they will take action—or not—in the future. Those illocutionary acts whose purpose is to commit the speaker to a future course of conduct. Promises, vows, pledges, and swears are examples of commissive speech acts. It is an expression of what one intends to accomplish. The speaker commits to taking the course of action reflected in the propositional content. The speaker can maintain or break a commissive speech act (Searle, 1999: 148).

The writer took a pinky-promise as an example. It is an expression of commitment that kids typically use to reassure one another that a promise will be preserved. A promise is a commitment or pledge that one will carry out a specific action.

4) Expressive

Speech acts that are intended to express a speaker's feelings and emotions about themselves and the world around them are known as expressive speech acts. This class's illocutionary goal is to articulate the mental state described

in the sincerity condition regarding a situation described in the propositional content (Searle, 1979:15). Expressive speech acts convey either good or negative information and are frequently centered on the listener. As stated by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:211), certain types of expressive verbs are greeting, welcoming, condole, thanking, congratulating, complaining, complementing, boasting, lamenting, praising, protest, deploring, and apologizing. For example, while congratulating someone, the speaker should be pleased with the accomplishment for which the hearer is receiving the congratulations.

5) Declarative

A declarative is a statement made by a speaker with the intention of changing the course of events after the speech act has been delivered. Declarations is is the distinguishing feature of this class that one of its members' successful performance causes the propositional content to coincide (Searle, 1979 :16). The world may shift as a result of declarations. Pronounce, declare, appoint, and other terms are included. Searle (1999: 148) describes a declarative as change the world by showing it as having been transformed. For example, “Both sides had declared war on each other”. This utterance can affect the world when the war is decided.

2.2.3. Comedy

Based on contemporary ideas, the main purpose of comedy, theater, or any other kind of art is to amuse. It is juxtaposed with tragedies on the one hand, and comedies like farce and parody on the other. In a web reference journal (*thoughtco.com*) written by Gill (2018), comedy is defined by Aristotle, who also highlights its distinctions from tragedy. Aristotle highlights that tragedy portrays men as better than they actually are, and comedy portrays them as worse. Whereas humour employs stereotypes, tragedy uses actual people. Comedy is

defined as entertaining content that makes people laugh. It can be found in movies, literature, and also stand-up.

The phrase "stand-up comedy" refers to a unique kind of humour where the comedian—also known as the stand-up comedian—speaks to the audience while standing on stage. Generally speaking, stand-up comedians are solo performers who prepare themselves in front of their audience with microphones and begin reciting series of humorous tales, one-liners, little jokes, and anecdotes—often referred to as "bits"—in an effort to make their audience laugh. The beginnings of stand-up comedy are the subject of several stories. The influences on stand-up comedy were Jesters, Commedia dell'arte, Shakespearean clowns, British music hall comedians, and American vaudeville performers (Schwarz, 2010:17).

Limon (2000:12) in his book "Stand-up Comedy in Theory, Or, Abjection in America" stated that the value of stand-up is specifically audience-dependent because joking is a social phenomenon. A joke's level of humour is determined by the unique dynamics between the jokes-teller and the audience, not by the joke itself. A stand-up comedy routine may include props, music, magic tricks, ventriloquism, stories, observations, or one-liners.

Based on the explanation above, the writer can conclude that in stand-up comedy, humour is discussed as a tool for criticism and an entertaining part. Aside from that, a stand-up comedy frequently uses humour to address sensitive topics. The delivery of stand-up comedy is essentially connected to speech act theory. It is part of communication with humour in it.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research Approach

The method the researcher chooses to gather, examine, and evaluate data is known as a research approach. It gives a strategy for the researcher to map out a systematic process in order to better comprehend a phenomenon. The research approach can be broadly classified into three groups. There are three categories: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed approaches. Qualitative research is a method for identifying and understanding the meaning that individuals or groups assign to a social or human situation. Quantitative research is a method to evaluate objective theories by examining the relationships between variables. Meanwhile, a mixed-methods research technique involves gathering data in both quantitative and qualitative forms, combining them, and employing distinctive structures that might feature theoretical frameworks and philosophical presumptions (Creswell, 2014).

According to Crossman (2020), qualitative research is a social science approach that examines specific groups or locations using non-numerical data to gain insight into the social environment. Research involves generating new questions and methods, gathering data usually in the participant's environment, analyzing the data inductively to go from specifics to broad themes, and interpreting the results. The final written report is organized in a configurable way. This type of inquiry is supported by those who value an inductive method of inquiry, an emphasis on personal meaning, and the significance of capturing the complexity of a given situation.

In doing this research, the writer uses qualitative method. This method helps to describe more about the speech act of humour on Trevor Noah's "Afraid of the Dark". The explanation of speech acts' types and its functions in stand-up comedy are analyzed qualitatively.

3.2. Data Types

Facts and figures gathered for study or reference are referred to as data. It is the information that you gather in order to find solutions to research questions. According to the sources, there are two types of data, the primary data and the

secondary data. Any original information gathered by researchers, such as surveys and interviews, in order to address research questions is referred to as primary data. Meanwhile, secondary data are data that has previously been gathered by other scholars. Heiss (2017) stated that secondary data can be a low-cost substitute for the resource-intensive self-collection method and have the advantage of being readily available.

Depending on the characteristics, data can be categorized as quantitative or qualitative. Generally speaking, qualitative data are unprocessed information from documents, focus groups, observations, interviews, and multimedia materials. Quantitative data is defined as anything that can be counted, measured, or assigned a numerical value. For example, it was gathered through quantitative content analysis and closed-ended questionnaires (Heiss, 2017).

Data gathered for this study is categorized as qualitative data. Trevor Noah's stand-up comedy act provided the data for this study. The data has been published online and taken from a platform called Netflix. The data itself that is analyzed is primary data according to its type. The writer obtained data from scripts that are retrieved from a website named *scrapsfromtheloft.com*.

3.3. Data Source

Data source defined as any source that provides people with useful data, such as numbers or facts, to support the study. As explained above, there are two types of data according to its source: primary and secondary data. On the other hand, secondary data is described as data that are sourced from anyplace that has initially collected it. This study used secondary data. The data are taken from a Netflix special show called "Afraid of the Dark", which is a stand-up comedy by Trevor Noah in 2017. The transcript is taken from *scrapsfromtheloft.com*. The data were analysed by the writer using the theory of Searle. The duration of the show is 1 hour 8 minutes. The data evaluated by the author for this research is primary data, whereas the data obtained by the author, such as transcripts, is secondary data.

3.4. Data Collection Method

In order to collect the data, secondary data can serve as a low-cost alternative to the costly primary method. Moreover, the data are easily accessed. Several forms of

secondary data were proposed by Walliman (2011: 79–80), with written materials serving as the primary source of documentation, such as annual reports, journals, government publications, etc. Moreover, there are non-written data such as, videos, films, live reporting, etc. There are two main sources of secondary data: quantitative and qualitative. This study used qualitative approach. Marshall and Rossman (2006) identifies four approaches for acquiring qualitative research: participation in the context, direct observation, in-depth interviews, and document analysis. As the writers recommend, specialized methods like interaction analysis and visual analysis can and should be used in addition to these methods.

According to the explanation above, this research that the writer collected the data by note-taking and rewatching the video with the duration 1 hour 8 minutes in order to analyse the speech acts of Noah's stand-up comedy and the audience reaction of it. Moreover, the document analysis was conducted by evaluating the transcripts of the show was using Searle's theory (1979). Additionally, the writer looks for other studies-related papers for the purpose to analyze the data. The writer found 5 types of Illocutionaty speech acts. There are 69 utterances found and analyzed by the writer.

3.5. Data Analysis Method

Moloeng in his book "Metode Penelitian Kualitatif" (1989) noted that analysing all of the data from research instruments, including notes, documents, test results, recordings, and others, is known as data analysis. Data analysis is crucial for gathering and analysing data, as well as determining the researcher's observations and conclusions. This study utilized qualitative research, which means the definition of the concepts and the study's methodology will be more explorative and flexible compared to quantitative research. Therefore, in order to persuade others of the validity of their findings, researchers need to establish a strong case that is based on solid logic and high-quality data.

In order to examine the data, the writer first looked for a compelling subject to investigate further, ultimately settling on stand-up comedy humour. Then, American comedian Trevor Noah was selected as the object. The "Afraid of the Dark" video show was downloaded by the writer. The transcript of stand-up was

obtained through website namely *scrapsfromtheloft.com*. The writer cross-checked the video's transcript while watching and rewatching the stand-up show's video. Every statement in the stand-up show was identified by the writer, who also noted the various speech acts that were present. The social issues were also highlighted. Moreover, the timestamps are marked to make it easier to analyse.

After collected 69 utterances from the data, the writer categorized each utterance to the types of speech acts. Following that, each utterance is explained in terms of the applied theory. Additionally, a qualitative explanation of the purpose of speech acts is also given. Furthermore, the writer highlights the use of indirect communication by Noah in quantitatively for social issues.

This chapter concludes with an analysis of stand-up comedy speaking acts using qualitative research methods. The writer used publicly available secondary and primary data, which are the transcript of the stand-up comedy and the collected utterances from the transcript. In addition, the website provides access to video transcripts. Both watching movies and taking notes helped to gather data. Discourse analysis was used to qualitatively assess the data. In doing the analysis, the writer need to matched each utterances to Searle's explanation of theory in order to classify and utilize it as a speech act.