

# THE ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN THE NOVEL “AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED” BY KHALED HOSSEINI

Endah Dwi Ratnasari<sup>1</sup>, Eky Erlanda Edel<sup>2\*</sup>

Universitas Putera Batam<sup>1</sup>

STBA Haji Agus Salim<sup>2</sup>

\*email: [ekyedel@gmail.com](mailto:ekyedel@gmail.com)

## Abstrak

*The objectives of this research are expressed to describe the types of illocutionary acts, to find out the context that influence in the utterances and to describe the types of illocutionary acts that found in pragmatics analysis. This research collects and analyzes data by using qualitative method by Searle's theory of Illocutionary act and Leech's theory of context. The findings of this research revealed that there were 42 utterances. There were 10 Assertives, 12 Directives, 6 Commisive, 13 Expressives and 1 Declarations of appointing. All of the findings data of illocutionary acts above have been influenced by the four aspects of context namely; the addresser and addressee, the context of utterances, the goal of utterances and the setting of time or place. Pragmatically, those utterances that contain illocutionary acts in this novel are taken from by society aspects such as social status, age, education level, geographic region, rural or urban residence, physical condition, and familiarity which have some specific purposes. It can be seen from the situation, body language, face expression, and manner of the speaker and the hearer.*

**Keywords:** context, illocutionary acts, pragmatics.

## Abstrak

*Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan tipe-tipe tindak ilokusi, konteks yang mempengaruhi ungkapan-ungkapan tindak ilokusi dan gambaran tipe-tipe tindak ilokusi yang ditemukan dalam analisa pragmatik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk mengumpulkan dan menganalisa data berdasarkan teori tindak ilokusi dari Searle dan teori konteks dari Leech. Penemuan pada penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa ada 42 ungkapan. Ada 10 ungkapan Asertif, 12 ungkapan Direktif, 6 ungkapan Komisif, 13 ungkapan Ekspresif, dan 1 ungkapan Deklarasi yang mengacu pada mengangkat pekerjaan. Semua jenis tindak ilokusi yang ditemukan telah dipengaruhi oleh 4 aspek konteks, yaitu; penutur and lawan tutur, konteks ungkapan, tujuan ungkapan dan tempat/waktu. Secara pragmatik, semua ungkapan yang mengandung tindak ilokusi dalam novel ini diantar oleh aspek-aspek sosial seperti status sosial, umur, jenis kelamin, tingkat pendidikan, wilayah geografis, daerah pedesaan atau kota, kondisi fisik, dan keakraban yang mempunyai tujuan tertentu. Itu dapat dilihat dari gerak tubuh, ekspresi wajah, intonasi dan sikap penutur dan lawan tutur.*

**Keywords:** konteks, pragmatik, tindak ilokusi.

## INTRODUCTION

Language is an effective medium of communication to interact between speaker and hearer. Jackson and Stockwell (2011) define language as the human faculty that enables person to exchange meaningful messages with some of his or her fellow human being. By this definition, it can be said that language is the connection between human beings which function as a tool of communication and social interaction in which they can exchange their ideas, feeling, emotions, thoughts, and opinions by means of speech or writing, especially, in the way of people communicate that is usually affected by the context.

Context is an aspect of connectivity of the physical and social setting of social interaction where it is not only about situational condition of particular place, or time, but also occurs to whom the participant, the purpose of utterances, and social aspect such as

gender, occupation, education, and familiarity (Leech in Rahardi (2009)). It is important to take context in interaction as the aspect of speaker and listener in understanding what the speaker says and how the hearer interprets the intended meaning. However, in reality, people sometimes avoid it, so there is a misunderstanding among speaker and hearer. More generally, if a person is in library, then she meets her friend. Thus, it can be predicted the context of situational condition and place have influenced him or her in saying something.

Furthermore, in communication the speaker normally expects that his or her intention will be recognized by the hearer, hopefully the hearer will do things from the speaker's utterance. It can be called as expression or action. The action that performed by utterances is called speech act. Speech act is a situation when people have to consider the meaning of what the speaker's mean to the hearer in order to make him/her take action from that speaker's utterances. Yule (2010), the term speech act is to describe actions such as "requesting", "commanding", "questioning" or "informing". It means that when a person says something, there is an implied meaning that must be recognized by the hearer to do action from that speaker's utterances. Thus, speech act is very important to be understood because it will affect the way of hearer do something relevant with what the speaker's mean and the contexts that occurs in the conversation.

Moreover, in using language, there are three kinds of speech acts as follows; locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. Locutionary acts mean what the original meaning of the speaker's utterance relevance in certain language. Meanwhile, Illocutionary acts is what the speaker's intend to do by saying something such as promising, denying, informing, ordering or warning. The last level of speech act is called perlocutionary act. It is the effect or reaction on the hearer understanding. It can be a gesture, behaviour, or action (Searle in Rahardi, 2009). In a brief explanation, the researcher could describe the relationship between locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts for example "It's gonna be a hell of rain out there". The locutionary acts are true that the sky was full with black cloud and it is going to be rain soon. On the other hand it might tell to other people to get hurry to avoid getting rain. Thus, it is called as illocutionary acts. The effect of his saying as a form of perlocutionary acts can be seen from the reaction of the hearer whether the hearer does something concerning the upcoming rain.

However, the central idea in speech act is illocutionary acts that could be categorized into; assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. First, assertives is type of illocutionary acts that commits the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition such as stating, suggesting, boasting, complaining or claiming. Second, directives is type of illocutionary acts which speaker wants the hearer to do something such as ordering, commanding, requesting, advising, or recommending. Then, commissives is one type of illocutionary acts that used to make promise or offer such as promising, swearing, agreeing or offering. The next type is expressives which expresses psychological state of the speaker in the particular condition such as thanking, congratulating, pardoning, blaming, or praising, and condoling. Finally, the last type is declarations as one type of illocutionary acts that brings about a change in reality such as resigning, dismissing, christening, naming, appointing, excommunicating, and sentencing (Searle in Rahardi, 2009).

The importance of understanding illocutionary acts is not only from the speaker's certain intention in uttering sentence, but also on the appropriate context both psychical and social setting. Illocutionary acts do not only occur in daily conversation, but it also occurs in dialogues of film or literary works, such as advertisement. Moreover, illocutionary acts also can be found in novel. Novel is one of medium of written communication. Thus, it makes novel as an effective medium that appropriate for further studying about illocutionary acts. There are many novels contain utterances of illocutionary acts, but novel "And the

Mountains Echoed” by Khaled Hosseini is very interesting to be discussed. And *The Mountains Echoed* is a novel by Afghan-American author named Khaled Hosseini that was published on May 21, 2013 in USA. It focuses on the relationship between ten-year-old Abdullah and his three-year-old sister Pari and their father's decision to sell her to a childless couple in Kabul. The communication that built in this novel is uttered by conversation of the characters that have been influenced by contexts both physical and social setting that shapes meaning of its utterances. The conversation can be analyzed pragmatically. By analyzing pragmatically, expectedly it can help people to communicate fluently, avoid misunderstanding, and clarify in delivering the message by using body language, face expression or intonation.

In further, the study of what speakers mean, or “speaker meaning,” is called pragmatics. Mey in Rahardi (2006) states pragmatics is the study of the conditions of human language uses as these are determined by the context of society. From definitions above, the researchers can conclude that these experts above have similarity in defining pragmatics as a study meaning by the utterances related to the context. Thus, it usually makes pragmatics is used for analyzing the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context, especially society that has some aspects such as age, gender, education level, geographic region, familiarity and residence which have led the speaker says what he or she wants to say or write relevance with the condition, to whom, when and where they are communicating.

Pragmatics phenomena in general involve information that is made by acts of using language relevance with the context. It is not to be mixed up with semantic information which is carried by linguistic items in dictionary. It is known that context includes only some of the basic parameters of the context of utterance, including participants, identity, role and location, assumptions about what participants know or take for granting, the place of an utterance within a sequence of turns at talking, and so on. While, Leech in Rahardi (2009) states that context involves ‘relevant’ aspects of the physical and social setting of an utterance. Still, he emphasizes context as the background knowledge assumed to be shared by speaker and hearer which contributes to hearer’s interpretation of what speaker means by a given utterance. Thus, it can be said that context can be meant anything where the participant takes communication such as place, situational condition, the context of utterance and other. However, in reality people sometimes avoid it, so there is a misunderstanding among speaker and hearer. Therefore, context is crucial to be understood, because it impacts on what speaker says and how the hearer interprets the meaning on what speaker says.

Referring to the context as proposed by Levinson (1983), Wijana in Rahardi (2006) states that the context is called as speech situational context. It contains five aspects in the following below: (1) Addressers and addressees, (2) The context of utterances, (3) The goal(s) of utterances, (4) The utterance of act or activity: a speech act, (5) The utterance as product of a verbal act. Those five elements above are included in speech situations, the other elements such as setting of time and place are also within it. Thus, it can be concluded that speech situation context is important in communication which need to be considered in pragmatics analysis. In addition, novel is one of literary works which richest of the elements of speech situation of addresser and addressee, the context of utterance, the goals of utterance, the utterances as a speech act, the utterance as product of verbal act and setting time and place. These elements can be seen from the utterances in conversation among the main characters of novel.

Speech act, according to Mollany and Stockwell (2010:12), is as what actions people perform when people produce utterances. Thus, it can be said that speech acts is not only

acts of producing certain sounds, but it produces the action via utterances. There are three types of speech act namely locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. According to Searle in Rahardi (2006) locutionary acts mean what the original meaning of the speaker's utterance relevance in certain language. Meanwhile, Illocutionary acts is what the speaker's intend to do by saying something such as promising, denying, informing, ordering or warning. The last level of speech act is called perlocutionary act. It is the effect or reaction on the hearer understanding. It can be a gesture, behaviour, or action. In a brief explanation, the researcher could describe the relationship between locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts for example "It's gonna be a hell of rain out there". The locutionary acts is true that the sky was full with black cloud and it is going to be rain soon. On the other hand it might tell to other people to get hurry to avoid getting rain. Thus, it is called as illocutionary acts. The effect of his saying as a form of perlocutionary acts can be seen from the reaction of the hearer whether the hearer does something concerning the upcoming rain.

However, the central idea in speech act is to discuss illocutionary acts. Searle in Rahardi (2009:51) categorizes illocutionary acts into five types; assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. First, assertives is type of illocutionary acts that commits the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition such as stating, suggesting, boasting, complaining or claiming. Second, directives is type of illocutionary acts which speaker wants the hearer to do something such as ordering, commanding, requesting, advising, or recommending. Then, commissives is one type of illocutionary acts that used to make promise or offer such as promising, swearing, agreeing or offering. The next type is expressives which expresses psychological state of the speaker in the particular condition such as thanking, congratulating, pardoning, blaming, or praising, and condoling. Finally, the last type is declarations as one type of illocutionary acts that brings about a change in reality such as resigning, dismissing, christening, naming, appointing, excommunicating, and sentencing.

Furthermore, to explain the types of illocutionary acts as proposed by Searle, it can be seen as following example; a man names John said "*I'll be there at nine*" and the context is when someone asking him to go in particular time. From that utterance, it can be concluded that the speaker is not only speaking, but the speaker seems to be performing speech act of "promising" or "commissives".

In this research, the data was taken from the novel *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. The story of the novel opens in 1952 in the village of Shadbagh, where Saboor tells a fairy tale about Baba Ayub who finally allow his son to be taken by Divs. The fairy tale represents the life of Saboor Family. Then, it begins when Saboor and his two children, Abdullah and Pari, taking a journey to Kabul. Although the children are unaware of the reason of the trip, they willingly follow their father and their Uncle Nabi to the Wahdati household. Abdullah recognizes Mrs. Wahdati who had visited their home earlier. Their Uncle Nabi works for them, because they are poor. Saboor had already lost a son due to the cold of last winter, he is persuaded by Nabi that selling Pari to the Wahdati family (childless family) is the best idea. Abdullah and Pari are extremely close and their separation is horrific and life changing.

Once Suleiman has a stroke, Nila leaves him to Nabi's care and takes Pari to live in Paris. Much later, during the U.S. occupation, the dying Nabi makes Markos, a Greek plastic surgeon now renting the Wahdati house, promise to find Pari and give her a letter containing the truth. Pari eventually marries, has three children and is widowed in her late forties. Then, a phone call from a Mr. Markos in Afghanistan reveals a lot of her past, as he reads her a letter left behind by Nabi, her uncle. Then, Pari arranges trip to Afghanistan,

Kabul in her childhood. She feels that there is strong absence where she losses of connection with her brother Abdullah. She searches for him and finds him in the United States.

Moreover, her niece, Abdullah's daughter, also named Pari, picks her up from the airport and brings her to her home. Unfortunately, both Abdullah and Pari suffer from big gaps in their memory and so their reunion is not completely happy. Abdullah suffers dementia which never allows him to recognize his sister, despite longing for her for all of these years.

The research limits the study only on the types of illocutionary acts; assertives, directives, commissives, expressives and declarations as expressed in utterances among the main characters that have been influenced by the contexts that shape meaning as revealed from novel *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. It is analyzed pragmatically. The objectives of the study are (1) to describe types of illocutionary acts found in novel *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. Then, (2) to find out the context that influence in the utterances that contain illocutionary acts as revealed in novel *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini and (3) to describe the types of illocutionary acts found in pragmatics analysis.

## **METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH**

This research used qualitative method. According to Kothari (2004) qualitative research, on the other hand, is concerned with qualitative phenomenon, i.e., phenomena relating to or involving quality or kind. It means that qualitative research refers to generalize the natural phenomena on particular field. The object of the research is the utterances from the whole chapters in the novel. The data have collected by using observation by the novel *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. The method of collecting data were based on the primary and secondary data; the novel was the primary data and supported journals and books were the secondary data. In order to achieve the objective of the research, it was started by classifying the illocutionary acts contained in the novel which were marked by colors. Then, the finding types of illocutionary acts were connected to the context and situation happened on the novel to be finally seen in pragmatic analysis. It can be seen from this following sentence: "Why didn't Uncle Nabi drive us?" Abdullah said. "He has a car". Father rolled his eyes toward him. "Then we wouldn't have had to walk all this way". Father didn't say anything. He took off his soot-stained skullcap and wiped sweat from his brow with the sleeve of his shirt.

The dialog above contains of assertives illocutionary acts, because the underlined words refer to the complaining. The utterances above are influenced by the context of physical condition and situation, where he follows his father to work in Kabul, but they must walk by passing the dessert in daylight. Thus, Abdullah complains to his father, why his father cannot ask his uncle to drive them to Kabul. Then, perlocutionary acts is the act of affecting something. It is the effect or reaction of the utterance on the reader or hearer. Specifically, the researcher created a list of the types of illocutionary acts:

**Table 1. Variable Indicators**

No	Variable	Explanation	Indicators
1	Assertives	Statement that commits the speaker to the truth proportions	Stating, suggesting, boasting, complaining, and claiming
2	Directives	Statement that wants the hearer to do action	Ordering, commanding, requesting, advising, recommending
3	Commissives	Statement that commits the speaker to do some future action	Promising, offering, vowing
4	Expressives	Statement that expresses what the speaker feels	Thanking, congratulating, pardoning, blaming, praising, and condoling.
5	Declarations	Statement that from the content of utterances related with reality.	Resigning, dismissing, christening, naming, appointing, excommunicating and sentencing.

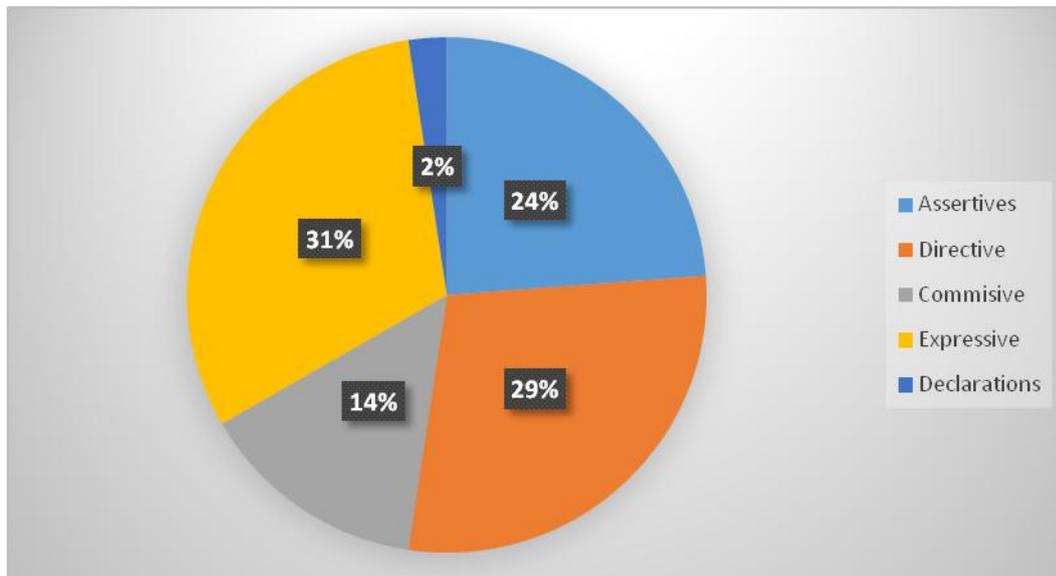
**Source: Adapted from Rahardi (2006)**

From the table of research instrumentations above, the researchers have defined it to the more specific description about the indicators of those five of illocutionary acts in order to avoid ambiguity. In addition, the researcher has analyzed it by using pragmatic which has correlation with the context. In order to limit data analysis the researcher only put three elements of speech situation that are (1) Addresser and addressee, (2) the context of utterances and (3) the goal(s) of utterance because those three elements have close relationship with the speech acts. In addition, the researchers also put the setting of place and time. Then, the researchers tabulated the frequency types of illocutionary acts into table to be finally described the finding data of illocutionary acts pragmatically. What about the characters producing the statements in the novel? Why aren't they taken into account? What about the background of each character in the novel? Wouldn't you want to explore the characters and storyline prior to making any inference on meaning of what they state in the novel?

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The finding data were divided into three steps; analyzing the data; connecting the finding data to the context and situation on the novel; tabulating the data of illocutionary acts types into pie charts as follow:

**Table 2. Finding Data of Illocutionary Act Types**



From the data finding, it can be seen that all types of illocutionary acts that are classified by Searle in Rahardi (2006) and analyzed by the context (Leech in Rahardi, 2006) occurred in the main character's utterance of the novel *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. They are 42 (forty two) utterances were observed; Assertives for 10 utterances, directives for 12 utterances, commissive for 6 utterances, expressive for 13 utterances and declarations for 1 utterance. Through the data above, context has shaped meaning in illocutionary acts as revealed in that novel. First, assertives appears 10 data. The most dominant detail of assertives that appears is stating which has 6 utterances. In this story, the researcher has found so many statements of the main characters which is indicated to give information without expecting a particular response from the hearer. It leads the reader knows deeply about the implicit conflicts that wants to be showed by the author. It can be proved by Saboor's response as a hearer, when Mrs. Wahdati gives information to Saboor, he only nods his head. He doesn't look her way once even as he spoke to her. Pragmatically, based on the situation that shows in the novel, the researchers can say that it happens because there is social status between the speaker and hearer. Saboor as a hearer cannot say anything. He only nods his head because he assumes Mrs. Wahdati as a rich people who more knows everything than him. On the other hand, suggesting and boasting do not appear, because the researcher could not find any suggestion or boast.

Second, the researcher analyzed Thdirective. The most dominant detail of directive is commanding which has 6 frequencies. It is dominant because in this story commanding potentially represents social status. Those utterances commonly produced by the older people like Father to his children, or a rich family of Wahdati to Nabi as employee and in particular context Parwana to Masooma or Abdullah to Pari Wahdati. Commonly, the speaker is forced to describe what he or she wants hearer to do action from them, and the hearer must do it. Meanwhile, advising and recommending do not appear in this novel because the researcher could not find any utterance which is indicated as advice or recommendation.

Next, commissive is statement that commits the speaker to do action. The dominant details of commissive are both promising or offering, because the main characters commonly definitely do some future action which leads to build the story. It can be seen

from Mrs. Wahdati “Would you like one?” to Abdullah and Pari. It can be proved by her sincere speech that shows cultural aspect that a host must honor the guest through offering something to them cheerfully through tenting her eyebrows, tilting her head, and smiling to them. Then, Abdullah and Pari give response by looking at their father as if they ask permission for him. Based on the situation that shows in the novel, the researcher can say that it happens because the speaker as a host needs to have a good manner to honor the hearer whom her guests.

Then, the next illocutionary act is expressive. Expressive is the most dominant types of illocutionary act that appears in this novel. Expressive is statement that expresses what the speaker feels. Commonly, expressive of pardoning is the second dominant detail of expressive that appears in this novel which has 6 utterances. Those utterances commonly are produced by the speaker to show his or her upset thing. Generally, it is produced by Pari Wahdati and Pari. It happens because in chapter 9 as the end of the story reveals about the meeting between Pari Wahdati, Pari and Abdullah. When the two women meet, they feel like their life stories are finally completed and a much deeper understanding of themselves. Ironically, the reunion between Pari Wahdati and Abdullah is not satisfying as Pari Wahdati has hoped. Abdullah suffers dementia which does not allow him recognizing his sister, despite longing for her for all of these years. This context has influenced the main characters in producing their upset thing. That’s why congratulating, blaming, and condoling do not appear, because the main character prefers to express the disappointed thing.

The last type is declaration illocutionary act which only appears in chapter 2. The researcher only got 1 utterance, because as it has been analyzed the main characters commonly express what their feels. There is only 1 data of declaration. Declaration is statement that from the content of utterances related with reality. It is suitable with Father’s utterance “You’ll be in charge of the water”. As an appointing, it can be proved by the situation where father gives a job for Abdullah, and Pari is envy. She wants help her father too. However, because Pari was 3 years old, father gives a job which is appropriate for her. It is suitable with the social status aspect that shows a father should be fair to his children. Based on the situation that shows in the novel, pragmatically, it happens because the speaker as a father needs to be fair to his children. In accordance with Saville (2003:11) who argues that communication usually patterns to particular roles and groups within a society, such as sex, age, social status, and occupation, educational level, rural or urban residence, geographic region, and other features of social organization. Thus, the researcher can say that social status has led father to appoint Pari with the appropriate job for her, in order to make her happy with the duty that he gives.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on research findings and discussion, it comes to some conclusions. First, all types of illocutionary act have been found in the novel *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. It consists of assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. Second, those data has been found and analyzed by the contexts which have influenced the main characters of the novel in producing utterances. The context involves the physical and social setting of utterance. There are many aspects of context that appear in the novel namely; the addresser and addressee, the context of utterance, the goal of utterance and setting of time or place. Those aspects of context are revealed in this novel. In this novel, contexts have influenced the utterances that contains illocutionary acts as produced by main characters. Third, from the five types of illocutionary acts that have been

found and influenced by the contexts as revealed in novel *And the Mountains Echoed*, the researcher has described it in pragmatics analysis. Pragmatically, those utterances that contain illocutionary acts in this novel are led by society aspects such as social status, age, education level, geographic region, rural or urban residence, physical condition, and familiarity which have some specific purposes. It can be seen from the situation, body language, face, and manner. All the utterances have an implicit meaning that must be interpreted by the hearer. There is also the choice of words in this novel. The author has his own style in writing a story that brings the reader to guess the implicit meaning in every statement and conversation between the main characters, especially he uses the aspects of society.

## REFERENCES

- Adisutrisno, Wagiman. (2008). *Semantics; as an Introduction to the Basic Concepts*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Andi.
- Jackson, Howard and Stockwell, Peter. (2011). *An Introduction to the Nature and Functions of Language*. London. Blackwell
- Khaled Hosseini, *And the Mountains Echoed*, London: Bloomsbury Publishing. (2013).
- Kothari, C. R. (2004). *Research Methodology Methods and Techniques*. Second Revised Edition. New Delhi: New Age International Publishers.
- Levinson, S.C. (1983). *Pragmatics*. London: Cambridge University Press.
- Mullany, Louise and Stockwell, Peter. (2010). *Introducing English Language*. New York; Routledge.
- Rahardi, Kunjana. (2006). *Pragmatik: Kesantunan Imperatif Bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Rahardi, Kunjana. (2009). *Sosiopragmatik*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Saville, Muriel Troike. (2003). *The Ethnography of Communication*. Third Edition. UK: Blackwell Publishing.
- Yule, George. (2010). *The Study of Language*. New York: Cambridge University Press.