

**THE ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS USED IN THE NOVEL *THE GREAT GATSBY* BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD: A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS**



**A THESIS**

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University  
in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements to obtain a Undergraduate Degree in  
English Literature Study Program*

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**2022**

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With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 569/UN4.9.1/KEP/2022 regarding supervisor, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Ridha Rusmanyta Rudy (F041171533) to be examined at the English Department of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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**THE ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS USED IN THE NOVEL *THE GREAT GATSBY* BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD (A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS)**

Submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S.) Degree at the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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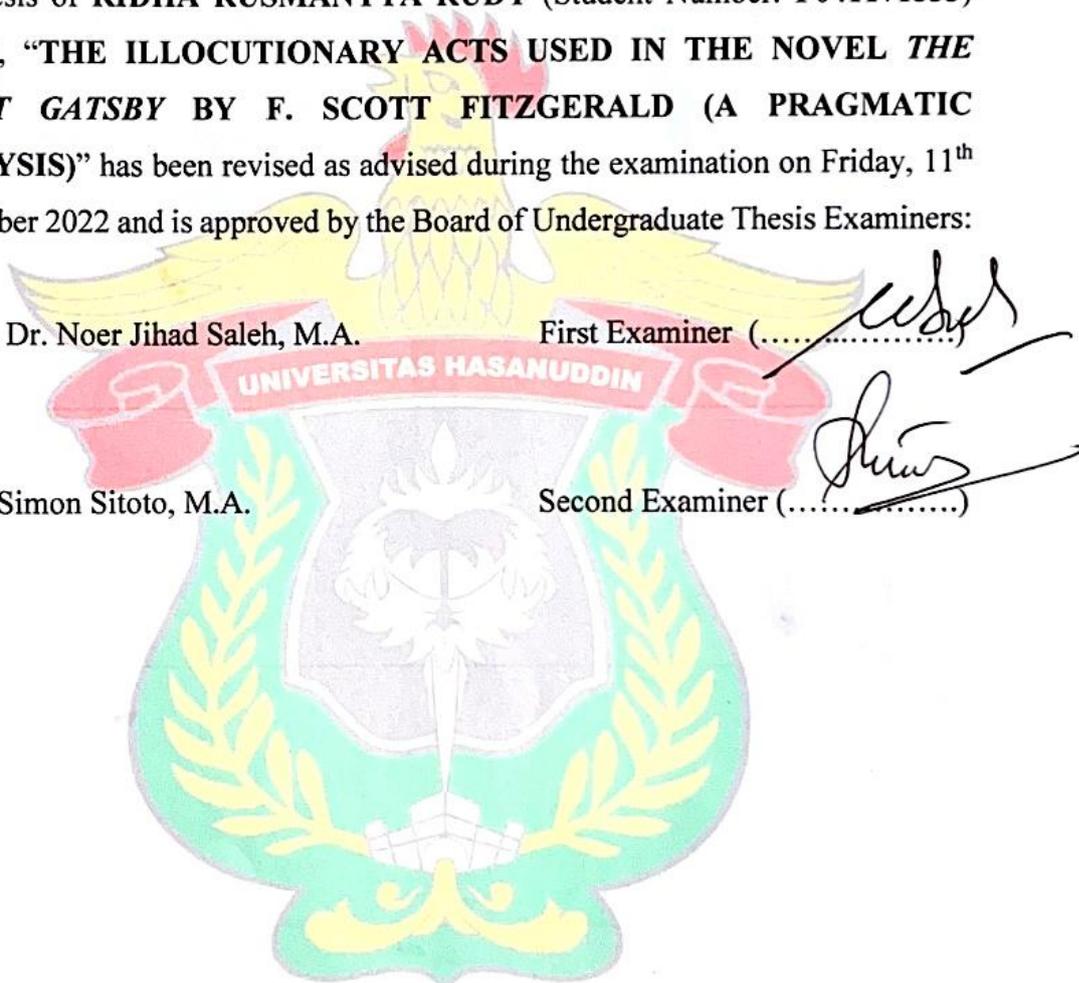
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

First and foremost, the writer would like to send all praises and gratitude to Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala for His blessing on the completion of this thesis in order to obtain a bachelor's degree in Hasanuddin University's English Literature Study Program. It is undeniable that this thesis required a significant amount of effort to complete. This work, however, would not be complete without the support, motivation, advise, and comments. The writer would like to take this opportunity to express her gratitude and appreciation to:

1. **Prof. Dr. Akin Duli, M.A.** as the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.
2. **Dr. Nasmilah, M.Hum.** as the Head of English Literature Study Program, **St. Sahraeny, S.S., M.AppLing**, as the Secretary of English Literature Study Program, **All Lecturers of English Literature Study Program**, and **all academic staffs** who I most appreciate and respect for teaching, helping, and supporting me because without them, I would not be where I am today.
3. **Prof. Dr. Noer Jihad Saleh, M.A.** as my Academic Counselor, who had been giving me support throughout my studies.
4. The writer expresses heartfelt gratitude and greatest appreciation to **Dr. Kamsinah, M.Hum.** and **Dr. Sukmawaty, M.Hum.** as my supervisors, for the time, guidance, and advice in completing this thesis.

5. My beloved parents, Rudy Hartono and Kusmardina, who have raised me, supported me, and always prayed for me Thank you for being such wonderful parents.
6. My siblings M. Rifqi Rizqullah and Rifqa Rukhsana for always being there for me in good and hard time.
7. My dear best friends, Dea Divana, Liquisha Dwi Chantika, Hasry Mukhtiali, Fikran Ruslan, Aiman Fakhirah, Nurul Nabila, Andi Nurul Avira Fathanah, Tri Ananda Lestari and HIMALAYA for always being there to support and cheer up the writer when she is down and tired.
8. My 911, Muhammad Abu Dzar Alghiffari for being available during my ups and downs, as well as for always facing the writer's selfishness while working on this thesis.
9. Last but not least, I'd like to thank myself for working hard and not giving up, and for overcoming all of life's challenges while doing this study.

Makassar, October 2022

The Writer

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## ABSTRACT

**RIDHA RUSMANYTA RUDY (F041171533).** *The Illocutionary Act in The Novel The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald (A Pragmatic Analysis)*, Supervised by **Kamsinah and Sukmawaty**).

The aims of this study are (1) To find out the types of illocutionary acts used in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*; (2) Describe the indirect meaning of illocutionary acts used by the main characters found in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*; and (3) To find out the most dominant type of illocutionary acts contained in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.

The method of research that is used in this study is descriptive qualitative method. Searle's theory (1969) used to discuss and analyze the utterances found in the novel. The data source for this study was all of the utterances found in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.

In this research, the writer found that there are five types of illocutionary acts used in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* namely; representatives 345 utterances (informing, asserting, stating, telling, predicting, complaining, describing, denying, prohibiting, boasting, confirming, arguing and claiming), directives 141 utterances (asking, ordering, begging, commanding, warning, suggesting, urging, demanding, requesting, inviting and forbidding), commissives 15 utterances (disagreeing, agreeing, refusing, planning, offering and threatening), expressives 15 utterances (happy, greeting, disappointing, apologizing, praising, mocking and welcoming) and declaratives 1 utterances (declaring situation). The writer also found that the main characters in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* use both direct and indirect illocutionary acts. In indirect illocution, the writer finds the meaning of the indirect illocution which are three of the five types of illocutionary acts, those are representatives (complaining, emphasizing, predicting, arguing and denying), directives (reminding, requesting, suggesting, commanding, advising, persuading, ordering and insisting) and commissives (refusing). Aside from that, the writer discovered that the most dominant type of illocutionary act used is representatives.

**Keywords:** *Pragmatics, Illocutionary Acts, Novel, The Great Gatsby.*

## ABSTRAK

**RIDHA RUSMANYTA RUDY (F041171533).** *Tindak Tutur Ilokusi dalam novel The Great Gatsby karya F. Scott Fitzgerald (Analisis Pragmatik)*, (Dibimbing oleh **Kamsinah dan Sukmawaty**).

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah (1) Untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis tindak ilokusi yang digunakan dalam *The Great Gatsby* karya F. Scott Fitzgerald; (2) Mendeskripsikan makna tidak langsung dari tindak ilokusi yang digunakan oleh tokoh utama yang terdapat dalam *The Great Gatsby* karya F. Scott Fitzgerald; dan (3) Untuk mengetahui jenis ilokusi yang paling dominan terkandung dalam *The Great Gatsby* karya F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Teori Searle (1969) digunakan untuk membahas dan menganalisis tuturan yang ditemukan dalam novel. Sumber data untuk penelitian ini adalah semua ucapan yang ditemukan dalam novel *The Great Gatsby* karya F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menemukan bahwa ada lima jenis tindak ilokusi yang digunakan dalam *The Great Gatsby* karya F. Scott Fitzgerald yaitu; representatif 345 ujaran (menginformasikan, menegaskan, menyatakan, menceritakan, memprediksi, mengeluh, menggambarkan, menyangkal, melarang, menyombongkan diri, membenarkan, membantah dan mengklaim), direktif 141 ujaran (meminta, memerintahkan, memohon, memerintah, memperingatkan, menyarankan, mendesak, menuntut, meminta, mengajak dan melarang), komisif 15 ujaran (tidak setuju, menyetujui, menolak, merencanakan, menawarkan dan mengancam), ekspresif 15 ujaran (senang, menyapa, kecewa, meminta maaf, memuji, mengejek dan menyambut) dan deklaratif 1 ujaran (menyatakan situasi). Penulis juga menemukan bahwa tokoh utama dalam *The Great Gatsby* karya F. Scott Fitzgerald menggunakan tindak ilokusi langsung dan tidak langsung. Dalam ilokusi tidak langsung, penulis menemukan makna ilokusi tidak langsung yang merupakan tiga dari lima jenis tindak ilokusi, yaitu representatif (mengeluh, menekankan, memprediksi, membantah dan menyangkal), direktif (mengingat, meminta, menyarankan, memerintah, menasihati, membujuk, memerintah dan bersikeras) dan komisif (menolak). Selain itu, penulis menemukan bahwa jenis tindak ilokusi yang paling dominan digunakan adalah representatif.

**Kata Kunci:** *Pragmatis, Tindak Ilokusi, Novel, The Great Gatsby.*

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter consist of the background of the study, identification of the problem, scope of the study, research questions, objective of the study, and significances of the study.

#### **A. Background of Study**

Language plays a significant part in the lives of all humans since it is utilized to interact and communicate with others. Humans always use language both orally or in writing. When someone says something, it is important to consider not only the language but also the understanding. The intent and purpose will be clearly communicated with an understanding. According to Louis Allen in Bisen (2009:3) said that, "*Communication is a bridge of meaning*". It involves a systematic and continuous process of telling, listening and understanding. In conveying something, one intention can be spoken using various forms of speech.

Pragmatics is the study of the meaning of the speaker. In other words, pragmatics is the study of the meaning of the context between the speaker and the listener. It is supported by Yule (1996:3) that "*pragmatics is the study of the speaker meaning*".

In communication, the interlocutor must understand what the speaker is talking about and what the speaker wants based on the speaker's utterances. After that, the interlocutor will respond to the sentence being discussed by the speaker. For example, sentences that only tell, sentences that require an answer, and sentences that ask the interlocutor to do something. For this reason, to improve

communication people not only produce utterances containing words and grammatical structures, but they also produced actions through those utterances, which are known as speech acts. It is supported by Austin (1962:94) said “*Say something is to do something; or by saying something we are doing something*”. The study of speech acts is important for us. One of thing that matters is that we understand what messages have been discovered in each utterance. Speech act is also determined by the speaker's language ability to convey messages in communication. Speech acts are classified into three types: locutionary acts (the act of saying something), illocutionary acts (the act of doing something), and perlocutionary acts (the act of persuading someone).

In this study, the writer will focuses on analyzing the illocutionary acts. According to Yule (1996:48) stated that “*the illocutionary act is performed via the communicative force of an utterance*”. It is also in line with Hurford and Heasley (2007:273) which said that “*the illocutionary act is the act viewed in the terms of the utterance's*”.

Based on the definition that has been stated so far, the researcher concludes that illocutionary acts is the function and purpose of speech, which is a part of communication that allows us to understand the speaker's utterance. Illocutionary acts are important in understanding speech acts in a communication. Illocutionary acts are performed in order to provide knowledge, but they can also be performed in order to carry out an action. Illocutionary acts must be described or investigated in the novel so that the reader understands the purpose of the speech. They must also be analyzed because speech acts in a novel are easier to identify and can reveal

who the speakers and interlocutors are. As a result, readers not only read the novel, but they also learn about illocutionary acts.

There has been research into illocutionary acts, but most research uses objects in the form of oral speech, the writer takes the initiative to examine illocutionary acts in written discourse that includes concrete speech, such as in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*, which was chosen as the object of study in this study. Not only that, the researcher also will try to find out the direct and indirect illocutionary used by *Gatsby*. In order to analyze the topic the researcher about to discuss, the researcher uses Searle's Theory. Therefore, the title of this study is *An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts used in the novel The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald (A Pragmatic Analysis)*.

## **B. Identification of Problem**

After reading the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the research identifies some of the problem found in the novel:

1. Readers find it difficult to understand the speaker's intentions in the novel.
2. The main characters in the novel sometimes prefers to imply the meaning of his utterances rather than express it directly.
3. Some utterances have more than one illocutionary act that has a specific meaning, namely an indirect illocution.

### **C. Scope of Study**

Based on the of the problem stated found in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, the researcher will make a limitation to this study. First, this study focuses on finding the types of illocutionary acts used by the characters. Second is analyzing main characters utterances, which contain both direct and indirect illocutionary acts.

### **D. Research Questions**

1. What are the types of the illocutionary act used in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*?
2. What are the indirect meaning of utterances used by the main characters in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*?
3. What are the most dominant type of illocutionary acts used in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*?

### **E. Objectives of Study**

1. To find out the types of illocutionary acts are used in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.
2. To describe the indirect meaning of utterances used by the main characters in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.
3. To find out the most dominant type of illocutionary acts contained in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.

## **F. Significances of Study**

Based on the purpose of this research, it is expected to be useful both theoretically and practically, as for the benefits as follows:

1. Theoretically, this writing can contribute to a broader understanding of the theory of speech acts, particularly illocutionary acts. The researcher hopes that by reading this research, the reader will gain a better understanding of the theory of speech acts and particularly illocutionary acts.

2. Practically, this research increases the reader's understanding of speech acts, particularly illocutionary acts. It can also be used as a reference for studying various types of illocutionary acts, as well as for gaining additional knowledge in sociolinguistics, pragmatics, and other fields. The findings of the study can be used by English language teachers to teach the different types of illocutionary acts. This outcome can also be used as a reference and source of information for future field researchers.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter consist of previous related studies and the theoretical background.

#### **A. Previous Studies**

Regarding the issues raised by the researcher above, other researchers have discussed the related study in graduating papers and journals. These studies are necessary to support the researcher's analysis.

As seen on Fatah's (2018) entitled "An Analysis of Representatives Act used in novel *Because of Winn-Dixie*", the writer is aiming to find out the types of representatives act, as well as the meaning of representatives act used in the novel. The findings are 21 of 32 types of representatives act used in the novel *Because of Winn-Dixie*, especially used by major characters like Opal and Winn-Dixie as main character, the most frequently used by the writer of representative acts was informing (20.3%).

In Adinda's (2011) entitled "An Analysis on Illocutionary Acts in novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*", the writer focuses on analyze the classifications of illocutionary acts in the novel. From the data analysis of the novel, the writer finds some kinds of illocutionary acts, such as: Representatives, Directives, Commisives, Expressives, and Declarations. Then, from the types of Illocutionary Act can be used to classify what the speaker say, such as asserting, concluding, requesting, promising, threatening, offering, apologizing, welcoming, congratulating, excommunicating, and marrying.

The most recent study the researcher had found written by Rahman (2020) entitled "An analysis of Illocutionary Acts in The Movie *The Lord of The Rings : The Fellowship of The Ring* (A Pragmatic Analysis)". This study is aiming to know the direct and indirect illocutionary acts performed by the characters and to know the significant type of illocutionary acts used in *The Lord of The Rings : The Fellowship of The Ring*. The writer found that the characters use both direct and indirect illocutionary acts. In direct illocutionary acts, the significant type of illocutionary acts used in the movie is the act of representative, while in indirect illocutionary acts, the significant type of illocutionary acts that used in the movie is the act of directive.

Based on the previous related studies explained above, the researcher concludes that the correlation between this study and the studies mentioned above is that all studies discussed about illocutionary acts. Two of the three studies also analyzed a novel, but the title was different. However, there are some differences that can be found that the researchers have not discussed. Fatah's research only analyzes one type of illocutionary act, namely the representative act in the novel *Because of Winn-Dixie*. As a result, the author employs Searle's theory. Adinda, on the other hand, analyzes the types of illocutionary acts in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Meanwhile, Rahman's research analyzes illocutionary acts, focusing on direct and indirect illocution, but the object of study is film. The researcher analyzes the novel's illocutionary acts using Searle's theory in this thesis. The researcher then analyzes Gatsby's direct and indirect illocutions in the novel, which

have not been discussed in previous studies on researchers who used the novel as their research object.

## **B. Theoretical Background**

### **1. Pragmatics**

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that emerged from the view of Charles Morris. Morris (1938:6) defined pragmatics as “*the study of the relation of signs to interpreters*”. Pragmatics theory explains the reasons or thoughts of the speakers and the listener's way of constructing a correlation in the context of a sentence sign with a proposition (plan, or problem). In this case pragmatic theory is part of performance. According to Huang (2007:2) stated that “*Pragmatics is the systematic study of meaning by virtue of, or dependent on, the use of language. The central topics of inquiry of pragmatics include implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and deixis.*”. Relating to this idea, Yule (1996:3) also defined that,

“Pragmatics is concerned with four dimensions of meaning. The first is the study of speaker meaning. It refers to the study of how listeners or readers understand the message that speakers or authors intend to communicate. Second, pragmatics is defined as the study of contextual meaning, or the interpretation of what people mean in a specific context and how that context influences what is said. Third, pragmatics is the study of how more gets communicated than is said. This method investigates how listeners can draw conclusions about what is being said in order to arrive at an interpretation of the speaker's meaning. Finally, pragmatics is study of the expression of relative distance”.

It is supported by Wijana (1996:1) which mentioned that “*pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies the structure of language externally, namely how the linguistic unit is used in communication*”.

From the definition above, the writer can conclude that pragmatics is the study of the meaning of an utterance conveyed by the speaker to the listener that connects the speech sentence and context.

## **2. Speech Acts**

Austin (1962:94) was the first to introduce the theory of speech acts. He made it absolutely clear that *“by saying something, we perform an action or simply state things.”*. He also classified speech acts into three types: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary.

Searle (1969) identified three fundamental dimensions that distinguish different types of speech acts:

- 1) Locutionary acts (the act of saying something) are speech acts in which words, phrases, and sentences are used to express something based on the meaning contained.
- 2) Illocutionary act (the act of doing something) is a type of speech act used to achieve a specific goal.
- 3) Perlocutionary act (the act of persuading someone) is a speech act in which the speaker attempts to persuade the listener.

A speech act's direction of fit characterizes how that act is related to the world. "Word-to-world" suitability refers to the speaker's attempt to make his words "match" with reality. The expression of promise, on the other hand, is "world-to-word" appropriate because it represents the speaker's attempt to make reality according to his words.

Searle created a taxonomy of speech acts that includes five categories: (1) representative, aims to convey something related to the truth expressed (statements, descriptions, and predictions), (2) directives, aims to produce an effect in the form of the speaker's actions (commands, requests, and requests), (3) commissive, intends to bind the speaker's speech in the future to carry out what he says (promises, oaths, and bets), (4) Expressive, which aims to express the speaker's psychological attitude toward the implied situation (greetings, praise, and gratitude), and (5) Declaration, which aims to change the reality of the situation based on proportions (dismissal, recruitment, and validation).

### **3. Illocutionary Acts**

The illocutionary acts is one of Austin's theories. According to Yule (1996:48) said that,

“illocutionary acts is performed via the communicative force of an utterance. Illocutionary acts are associated with the production of "well-formed" utterances with a purpose or function in mind. An illocutionary act is the act of pronouncing a statement, offer, promise, or question.”

This is closely related to sentence forms that embody an expression. Chaer & Leonie (2004:53) says that “*illocutionary acts are speech acts that are usually linked to explicit performative sentences*”.

Based on the definition that has been stated so far, the researcher concludes that the act of doing something is referred to as an illocutionary act. It is not only used for informing, but also for doing something as far as the accuracy of the speech event is concerned. An illocutionary act is performed by making an utterance with a communicative intention.

Leech (1993) also stated that illocutionary refers to the act of saying something. An illocutionary acts is concerned with who speaks, to whom, when, and where the speech acts is delivered. The context of the speech must be included in the speech situation in illocutionary acts. In other words, illocutionary means taking action when saying something. Rustono (1999) argues that illocutionary acts are speech acts that contain the intent and function or power of speech. Illocutionary acts are not easy to identify because these illocutionary acts are related to who speaks to whom, when and where the speech act is carried out, so that in the illocutionary acts it is necessary to include the context of the speech in the speech situation.

We've seen that an utterance can have more than one illocution, which are divided into two types:

#### 1) Direct illocution

The illocutionary act obtained by analyzing the relationship between the form and function of an utterance is known as direct illocution. It is supported by Hurford and Heasley (1983:291) stated that *“the direct illocution of an utterance is the illocution most directly indicated by a literal reading of the grammatical form and vocabulary of the sentence uttered.”* This is in line with the statement proposed by Yule (1996:355) that *“whenever there is a direct relationship between structure and a function, we have a direct speech act.”* Based on that definition, we can conclude that a direct illocution is an illocutionary in which only the illocutionary force and potential content are communicated through the lexical items and syntactic form of the utterance.

## 2) Indirect illocution

Indirect illocution is an illocutionary act in which the speaker expresses a different illocutionary force than the one expressed literally in the utterance. According to Hurford and Heasley (1983:291) stated that “*The indirect illocution of an utterance is any further illocution the utterance may have.*”. Any additional illocutionary act contained in the utterance is considered indirect illocution. According to Yule (1996) indirect illocution occurs when the speaker does not express explicitly the intended meaning of the utterance. It is the listener's responsibility to analyze the utterance in order to comprehend its meaning. That statement implies that the speaker may occasionally convey an implicit meaning to the listener. Non-language aspects, on the other hand, must be considered from the other to understand what the speaker means in this case. Sometimes the speaker says one thing but means something else.

## 4. Classification of Illocutionary Acts

Austin's speech acts theory are based on the speaker, while Searle sees speech acts based on the listener. So, Searle tries to see how the illocutionary value is captured and understood by the listener. Searle (1969) made a basic classification of speech that forms illocutionary acts into five types, namely:

### 1. Representatives

According to Yule (1996) representative acts are speech acts in which the speaker expresses his or her beliefs about external reality. This speech act is used to inform the audience about something. In other words, in representative acts, the speaker attempts to make the words or utterances produced conform to the type of world reality. Searle in Leech (1993) mentions this types of speech acts as representative (or assertive), which identifies it in terms of semantics because it is propositional. In addition, the responsibility for the compatibility between words or speech with worldly facts lies with the speaker. Included in this type of representative are utterances that are affirming, stating, reporting, describing, etc.

## 2. Commissives

Yule (1996) explains that through commissive acts, speakers follow up or fulfill what is said. This type of utterance expresses the speaker's intent. The speaker is responsible for the truth of what is said when using commissive speech acts. Leech (1993) said that this type of speech act has a fun function. Pleasing means pleasing the listener because he does not refer to the interests of the speaker. According to Yule (2006) stated that the types of speech acts included in this type of speech act are agreements, threats, refusals, and guarantees.

## 3. Directives

Directive acts contain things that are the speaker's desire for others to do something. Yule (1996) stated the directive speech act is an expression of what the speaker wants. The types of speech acts included in the directive type of speech act are ordering, requesting, suggesting, etc. In this case, the listener is responsible for completing what he will do to the speaker's wishes.

#### 4. Expressives

Yule (1996) argues that in expressive acts there are statements that describe what the speaker feels. This speech act reflects the psychological statements of the speaker towards a situation, including saying thank you, being surprised, saying welcome, congratulation, joy, worry, pride and dislike.

#### 5. Declaratives

Based on Yule (1996) opinion it can be seen that in declarative acts there is a change in the world as a result of the speech, for example when we resign by saying 'I am resigning', firing someone by saying 'you are fired', or marrying someone with stating 'I am ready'. Included in this type as mentioned by Hasibuan (2005) are, among others, firing, declaring war, marrying off, releasing duties.

### **5. The Great Gatsby Novel**

*The Great Gatsby* is a novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald which is one of the best literary novels of all time because it establishes its author as one of America's best writers of literature. This novel was about a poor young man who fell in love with a woman of noble descent, who was initially separated due to material things and then reunited. Many other classic stories have ended with a happy ending in which the young man is finally united with his idol woman. But there is one thing that distinguishes this novel from other classic novels or stories, and that is a heartbreaking ending. This novel first published by Charles Scribner's Sons in August 1925 and has 218 pages. When Fitzgerald died in 1940, more than 25,000 copies were sold and worldwide sales reached 30 million copies.

According to Zulfahnur (1996) stated that novel comes from the Latin *novellus* which is derived from the word *novies* which means new; a story that appears later after drama, poetry, etc. Nurgiyantoro (2013:11-13) argues that

“the novel is a work of fiction that is built by building elements, namely intrinsic and extrinsic elements. A novel is also defined as an essay in the form of prose that contains a series of stories from a person's life with other people around him, highlighting their character and behavior.”.

Based on the opinion above, it can be concluded that the novel is a work of fiction that contains a series of stories of essential value, inspired by real life and then expressed in aesthetic language. The novel as a literary work has an allure and the ability to attract public interest in literary works.