# CHAPTER I
# INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the background of the study, questions of the study, objectives of the study, and significance of the study.

## 1.1 Background of Study

Linguistics explores how language operates and how people use it to interact, understand, and convey meaning within different contexts. Linguistics is the scientific study of language, encompassing various branches that explore how language is structured, used, and interpreted. One of its key areas is pragmatics, which focuses on how context influences meaning in communication. Unlike syntax and semantics, which analyze grammatical structure and meaning in isolation, pragmatics examines language in real-life interactions, considering factors such as speaker intention, social relationships, and situational context.

A crucial branch within linguistics is pragmatics, which examines how context affects the interpretation of meaning in communication. Rather than focusing solely on the structure of language, pragmatics looks at how words are used in real-life situations to convey intentions, elicit responses, and build relationships.

A crucial concept within pragmatics is speech act theory, introduced by John Austin and further developed by John Searle. This theory suggests that language is not merely a tool for conveying information but also a means of performing actions (Austin, 1975). Speech acts are categorized into three levels: locutionary acts (literal meaning), illocutionary acts (speaker's intent), and perlocutionary acts (effect on the listener). Among these, illocutionary acts are particularly significant because they define how utterances function in social interactions, such as making requests, giving orders, making promises, or expressing emotions.

This concept becomes particularly relevant in movies, where dialogues are not only used for storytelling but also serve as powerful tools to construct character relationships, convey ideological conflicts, and reflect social dynamics.

In a movie, there is of course a lot of dialogue among the characters. It is

language which connects them all. The dialogue can vary in form and from the way it is delivered. Dialogue is the most interesting part in a movie. The audiences know what is going on in the movie through dialogue. To make it easier, there is subtitle in a movie. From this subtitle, which is the same with the script, language can be learned more. A language allows us to understand what someone says or means. However, it is not only about the meaning of the utterances that people create, there are also a few actions that are performed.

In *Hacksaw Ridge* (2016), a war film directed by Mel Gibson, illocutionary acts play a crucial role in shaping the protagonist's journey, highlighting the clash between personal beliefs and external pressures. As a conscientious objector, Desmond Doss uses speech acts to negotiate his moral stance, assert his religious convictions, and persuade others in the midst of war. His dialogues whether in the form of directives (urging others to act), expressives (revealing personal emotions), or commissives (making promises) demonstrate how language can function as a means of both resistance and influence**.**

Several studies have explored illocutionary acts in movies, including the research by (Fatma & Sundari, 2021) entitled "Illocutionary Acts Performed by Anna in *Frozen II*", which focuses on identifying the speech acts performed by the secondary character Anna in an animated fantasy film. This previous study classifies illocutionary acts but does not deeply analyze their influence on character interactions**,** ideological conflicts, or the moral framework of the story. This research expands the analysis by exploring how speech acts in *Hacksaw Ridge* reinforce ethical values, military hierarchy, and social pressures in a wartime environment**.**

Many existing studies only classify illocutionary acts but do not analyze how these speech acts reflect moral dilemmas, ideological stances, or social pressures in extreme situations such as war movies.

This study aims to explore the use and function of illocutionary acts in the movie *Hacksaw Ridge*, examining how language serves not only as a means of communication but also as a powerful tool for action, and moral expression. By analyzing illocutionary acts in the characters' dialogue, this research will explain how language forms relationships, conveys intent, and drives the narrative in the film.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher has chosen *Hacksaw Ridge* as a subject to analyze Illocutionary acts. The movie provides a rich context in which various illocutionary acts can be identified and examined, the researcher can explore how the characters use language not only to communicate but also to perform actions that have significant consequences. The variety of dialog in the film such as commands, promises, denials, to declarations offers a valuable case study for applying Illocutionary act theory.

### 1.2 Research Question

1. What types of illocutionary acts are most frequently used by the characters in Mel Gibson's *Hacksaw Ridge* movie?
2. How do these illocutionary acts reflect the moral value faced by the characters in the *Hacksaw Ridge* movie?

### 1.3 Objectives of the Research

1. To identify the types of illocutionary acts most frequently used by the characters in *Hacksaw Ridge*.
2. To analyze how these illocutionary acts reflect the moral value faced by the characters in the *Hacksaw Ridge* movie.

### 1.4 Significane of the Study

This research is expected to contribute both theoretically and practically to the study of language, especially in the field of pragmatics and speech acts.

#### 1.4.1 Theoretical Significance

this study contributes to the academic understanding of speech act theory, particularly the use and function of illocutionary acts in cinematic discourse. It enriches the literature on pragmatics by providing evidence of how language is used not only to convey information but also to perform actions within specific social and moral contexts. This research is intended to serve as a reference for future studies related to speech acts and illocutionary analysis, particularly for students and scholars in the English literature and linguistics fields.

#### 1.4.2 Practical Significance

Practically, this study helps English literature students to apply their knowledge of speech act theory in real-life communication and media analysis. This equips learners with analytical tools to identify intentions, values, and

communicative strategies behind spoken language, which can be applied in education, film criticism, communication studies, or interpersonal discourse analysis.