

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is a complex knowledge and ability that allows speakers to communicate with others and express ideas, hypotheses, emotions, desires, and all the possibilities. Fasold (2013) defines language as a system of limited aspects that enable speakers to construct sentences to carry out communicative tasks. Further, this proves that language and thought convey inseparable relations because language is the perfect tool for acquiring and expressing thoughts. In that, language expresses thoughts directly and indirectly.

Directly, language expresses thoughts by communicating using simple language. Further, this term is semantic which sentences spoken contain appropriate meaning disinfluenced by context. Then, language expresses thoughts indirectly influenced by the context of who the listener is, under what circumstances, where they are arguing, and so on. Furthermore, this proves that context greatly influences language that expresses thoughts indirectly. According to Prasetyo (2017), pragmatics examines how meaning is influenced by things outside of language. Thus, one example of expressing thoughts is sarcasm.

Attardo (2001) defines sarcasm as an overtly aggressive type of irony, with clear markers and targets. People often use sarcasm daily for various reasons, such as hiding insecurities, expressing pent-up anger, overcoming social awkwardness, and showing superiority. Also, Keraf (2010) stated that sarcasm is a harsher figure of speech than irony which contains bitter criticism and reproaches. Sometimes irony can also be utilized in this figure of speech because the format is

the same yet the function is different. However, sarcasm aims to attack, while irony can have a humorous or pitying impact. Thus, sarcasm becomes negative when used to attack harshly or regardless of the humorous context of the ironic figure of speech.

Sarcasm has a unique function because the format seems ordinary while the criticism is aggressively painful. Furthermore, this makes it essential for people to master sarcasm, especially politicians. Politicians reveal many statements in formal circumstances and often use sarcasm to hit their opponents. Therefore, sarcasm is often used in debates to ensure attacks on opponents.

A debate is an argumentative activity between two or more parties regarding an agreed issue or topic. Semi (1994), debate is a form of argumentation skill by comparing or pitting opinions face to face. A debate is held with rules and objectives, namely to defend an opinion with solid reasons and break the other argument. As for the format, debates have different formats according to the agreement of the organizers and participants. For example, the United States presidential debate in 2020 experienced several changes.

The format of the 2020 American presidential debate underwent several changes in line with health developments influenced by the pandemic and the political situation in the country. For example, because of the many interruptions and teasing between the two candidates, especially from Trump, the Presidential Debate Commission announced that one of the discourses that emerged was to cut off the microphone if a candidate interrupted his opponent. However, though there are many differences and changes regarding the debate format, one of the most notable things in agreement throughout the world is to use polite words.

Debates may contain sarcasm because sarcasm has a unique function. After all, the format seems formal criticism. Sarcasm is when people say something different (contrary) from what they mean without intending to deceive. Usually, sarcasm is used as figurative language and has a critical purpose. Following Culpeper (2011), sarcasm is a face-threatening act performed by insincere politeness. Thus, sarcasm is a defined expression of the opposite feeling and meaning of what the speaker said. The utilization of sarcasm was presented by Donald J. Trump and Joe Biden at the 2020 United States Final Presidential Debate. The fierce debate between Donald J. Trump and Joe Biden happened in Nashville, Tennessee, on October 22, 2020. Furthermore, this debate is still an attractive topic because both uttered impolite language even sarcastically.

Tiwari, V. (2020) noted that The United States Final Presidential Debate locked horns against each other. Donald Trump and Joe Biden exchanged jabs at each other, sometimes getting personal and attacking each other. Joe Biden sarcastic Donald Trump by revealing that one who oversaw so many deaths and take no responsibility should not remain as president of the United States. *"220,000 Americans dead. You hear nothing else I say tonight, hear this. Anyone who is responsible for not taking control. In fact, not saying I take no responsibility initially. Anyone who is responsible for that many deaths should not remain as president of the USA,"* Joe Biden said. Thus, The United States Final Presidential debate is often criticized and controversial.

Through explanation, researchers are interested in analyzing the transcript containing the remarks made by Donald J. Trump and Joe Biden at the 2020 United States Presidential Debate Final because of interesting sarcastic language

both spoken to offend each other. Therefore, researchers want to explore the language used, especially sarcasm.

1.2 Research Problem

Under the background described above, the researcher means to research sarcasm presented by Donald J. Trump and Joe Biden in the 2020 United States Final Presidential Debate. This study strives to solve the following research questions:

1. What are the classifications of the sarcasm found in The United States Final Presidential Debate between Joe Biden and Donald J. Trump?
2. What are the purposes of sarcasm used by Joe Biden and Donald J. Trump in The United Final Presidential Debate?

1.3 Purpose of the Research

The research purpose of this study is to discover the classifications of the sarcasm found and the purposes of the sarcasm used by Donald J. Trump and Joe Biden in the United States 2020 Presidential Debate.

1.4 Limitation of the Research

This research is limited to the sarcasm in The United States Presidential Debate between Joe Biden and Donald J. Trump in Nashville, Tennessee, October 22, 2020. This research will investigate how to identify sarcasm, the purpose of using sarcasm, and the classification of sarcasm.

1.5 Significances of the Research

The researcher aims to deliver information regarding sarcasm used by Donald J. Trump and Joe Biden in the United States 2020 Final Presidential Debate. The researcher projects this research to give some theoretical and practical benefits to the reader, as follows:

1. Theoretically, the researcher believes this research contributes to linguistics, especially the study of sarcasm in debate or other literary works.
2. Practically, this research is usable to expand knowledge in learning the purpose of language use, especially about pragmatics and sarcasm in language learning. Furthermore, the researcher hopes this research is a reference for other parties conducting research in the same field.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Sarcasm is a language style that utilizes critical, offensive, harsh, and contradictory meanings used by Donald J. Trump and Joe Biden in the 2020 United States Presidential Final Debate.
2. The United States 2020 Final Presidential Debate is a disciplined, rule-governed formal form, conducted within a defined framework between Joe Biden and Donald Trump as presidential candidates.