

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Minister is a leader of a church. He or she is a person whose main job is to convey a message from God. He or she has a functional role as a leader in a church (Hall, 1992, p. 10). He or she works as God's representative to deliver sermon for everyone. Based on my experience, every week I listen to the minister's speech at a church, the speech attracts me. The minister has "a power" and "a skill" that will make the congregation believe and understand the sermon.

Special "skills" are needed by the minister to speak before the congregation. So that congregation can pay a good attention to him. The skills may come from his or her ability, his or her education at the school of ministry or from his or her good social relationship. In the theological seminary, a minister candidate is trained to deliver a sermon to the congregation. He or she learns how to give sermon which is based on the Bible in front of the congregation.

The important point when the minister gives a speech is the kind of speech acts which is mostly used by the minister in the introductory part of the sermon. It is due to the fact that he or she realizes that the introductory part is to lead to the content of the sermon. Therefore, he or she must select some utterances to correlate what Jesus says and does in the Bible with his or her acts in his or her life time in the introductory part of the sermon. He or she also has to attract the congregation's focus from the introductory part to the conclusion part of the

sermon. Therefore, the introductory part is very important to determine the success of the whole sermon.

To support this research in the introductory part, the writer found that there is a previous study done by (Swales, 1985 and Bhatia, 1993, as cited in Cheong 1999, p. 44). They analyze about the genre of sermons delivered by Korean, Filipino, and American pastors. According to (Swales, 1990, p. 58, as cited in Cheong, 1999, p. 45), a genre is "a class of communicative events, the members of which share the same set of communicative purpose." Genre has similarities. They are "structure, style, content, intended audience (Swales, 1990, p. 58, as cited in Cheong, 1999, p. 45) and rhetorical movement" (Swales, 1990, p. 140 as cited in Cheong, 1999, p. 45). Swales gives an example of the rhetoric movement that:

The research article introduction moves in a linear sequence from the more general (dealing with the world in which the research project has operated) to the more particular (talking about the present paper).

In the writer's opinion, the rhetoric movement can happen when someone makes an article. First, He or she can make the generalization about what he or she will write then he or she will write the details of his or her topic.

Further, (Bhatia, 1993, as cited in Cheong, 1999, p. 45) says that the sermon is usually divided in the two areas based on the characteristic of the genre.

Bhatia says that:

First, a sermon is a recognizable communicative event characterized by a set of communicative purpose identified and mutually understood by pastors of the church in which it regularly occurs. Second, these constrains are often exploited by the expert members of the community to achieve private intentions within the framework of socially recognized purposes.

A minister used a sermon to deliver the word of God. He attempts to deliver sermon well by a good relationship with the congregation when he communicates with them. A minister prepares everything to the points of a part of scripture to attract the congregation's attention. So, a sermon may happen in a communicative event when the minister explains his or her points of the sermon and the congregation can get the idea of the goal of the sermon.

There is another study conducted by Braga which analyzes a ministers' sermon. According to (Braga, 1981, as cited in Cheong, 1999, p. 47),

The rhetorical process is used to designate devices of speech or writing that develops the sermon outline. The classification of the rhetorical processes based on the Braga's explanation, they are explanation, argumentation, quotation, illustration, and application.

This process can happen in each stage of a sermon. A minister usually uses some of the classification of this process to explain his sermon in the introductory part, the content of the sermon, and the conclusion of the sermon.

Based on Braga's theory above, (Moon, 1985, as cited in Cheong, 1999, p. 47) states that sermon can be divided into three stages. They are 'introduction', 'body', and 'conclusion'.

The introduction is the beginning of the sermon which is designed to secure the favorable attention of its audience. The body is the part which is organized into main divisions and subdivisions of thought connected by appropriate transitions. The conclusion is to summarize the truth that has been given forth in the sermon in a way that reemphasizes its importance to the hearer.

There is a previous study of the minister's sermon about phases in a sermon from Bhatia. (Bhatia, 1991 as cited by Cheong, 1999, p. 49) attempts to

analyze the “rhetorical functions and markers employed by the subjects for each phase of the sermon”. Bhatia explains that the discourse structure is “the study of regularities of organization in a specific genre, a sermon, which reveals how the overall message is structured in order to communicate the intention of the minister”. It means that minister has some steps in his or her sermon from the beginning of the sermon to the end of the sermon and it can be analyzed in discourse structure. Then, there is a previous study about the stages and moves from Moon and Bhatia. (Moon, 1985 and Bhatia, 1991, as cited in Cheong (1999, p. 49) analyzed the macro - stages and micro - moves delivered by Korean, Filipino, American pastors. In this case, their analyses are different from this research. This research only discussed the speech acts used by ten ministers in the introductory part of their sermons. The writer is interested in speech acts because by using speech acts theory every utterance can be classified based on their types. The writer wanted to show the speech acts in minister’s sermo. Then she wondered to classify the minister’s utterances in each type based on speech acts theory. Based on the explanation above, this research analyzed the speech acts of five ministers’ sermons in *Tanah Mas Isa Almasih*. The writer is interested to know what kind of speech acts is mostly used by the five ministers and just shows the research about move and rhetorical function when they deliver a sermon in the church, especially in the introductory part of their sermon. The writer chose *Tanah Mas Isa Almasih* as a place setting because this church is the writer’s church.

1.2 FIELD OF THE STUDY

The field of this study is Pragmatics, a branch of linguistics.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of this study is the speech acts, move and rhetorical function in ten sermons which were used by five ministers in the introductory part of their sermon in *Tanah Mas Isa Almasih* church Semarang.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTION

The research questions for this study are as follows:

1. What kinds of speech acts are mostly used by five ministers in the introductory parts of their ten sermons?
2. What are the moves found in the introduction stage?
3. What are the rhetorical functions of each move as represented by the speech act?

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The aims of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the kinds of speech act while are mostly used by five ministers in the introductory part of their ten sermons.
2. To find out the moves used by the five ministers in the introduction stage.
3. To find out the rhetorical function of each move as represented by the speech act.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Hopefully, this study will give more knowledge to public speakers and give some input to ministers or pastors when they deliver the introductory part of the sermon to attract the congregation's attention.

1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS

a. Speech act

Speech act is "action performed via utterances" (Yule, 1996, p. 47).

b. Sermon

Sermon is from Arab language, *Khutbah*. It means a religious message of a term which is used to convey to the congregation (Jacobs, 1993, p. 60).

c. Introductory sermon

Introduction as the preliminary part of the sermon which is designed to secure the favorable attention of its audiences, establish relationship between scripture used and its subject, state its proposition, and introduce its body (Moon, 1985, as cited in Cheong, 1999, p. 47).

d. Minister

Minister is a person, who has a functional role as a leader in a church (Hall, 1992, p. 10).