

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a means of communication. People, who are social creatures, need to interact and communicate with others. By communication, people can express what they feel and what they think of others. According to Mc. Combs and Becker (1979:5), communication can be defined as a process of involving some very complex human behaviors by both the sender and the receiver of the message.

Since English is a foreign language for Indonesian people, many people have difficulty in using English in their communication. They face problems in reading, speaking, listening, and writing. And the solution to reduce the difficulty in communicating with others in English is to speak, listen, read and write in English as much as you can.

Writing is one of the vital language skills that a writer cannot neglect. In writing there are many aspects that the writer should pay attention. One of the aspects is grammar. Nowadays it is noted in the linguistics world that there are three major English grammar systems in their historical and chronological order: Traditional Schoolroom Grammar, American Structural Grammar, and Transformational -- Generative Grammar (Encyclopedia of English).

This thesis concentrates on the Traditional Grammar. According to the Traditional Grammar, a sentence is defined in two ways (Marcella Frank, 1972: 220): by meaning and by function. By meaning a sentence is a “complete thought”, but this definition is inadequate because of the vagueness of the term “complete thought”. Because if we only

see or hear a statement, how do we know it is a “thought” and what makes it “complete”? while by function, a sentence consists of a subject and a predicate. This definition is more satisfactory because it is actually possible to identify the structural functions of subject and predicate in a sentence. If we join both functional and formal characteristics of a sentence, a sentence is defined as a full predication containing a subject plus a predicate with a finite verb.

In Traditional Grammar, a sentence is classified by the number and kind of clauses. A clause may be defined in the same way as a sentence: it is a full predication that contains a subject and a predicate with a finite verb. There are two kinds of clauses, independent and dependent. The independent clause is a full predication that may stand alone as a sentence, while the dependent clause has a special introductory word that makes the predication “depend” on an independent clause.

The sentence classifications according to Traditional Grammar are simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences. A simple sentence has only one independent clause, while a compound sentence has two or more independent clauses. The complex sentence contains one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses, and the compound-complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

Another aspect that is also essential to the writing skill is sentence complexity. The length and complexity of the sentences affect the readability of the text. The longer the sentences, the more ideas the reader must absorb. Therefore, the sentence complexity is believed to influence the reader’s comprehension.

The data source that is used by the writer is newspaper articles. The articles are specifically Headline articles in the Jakarta Post Newspaper. The writer took the Jakarta Post Newspaper because:

1. The Jakarta Post English Daily Newspaper has developed into a prestigious newspaper since its conception in 1983.
2. It has sent its journalists to overseas training courses and other various training courses to maintain its quality.
3. The Jakarta Post Newspaper has gone international (www.thejakartapost.com).

Considering all the points above, the writer finds out that producing sentences is not all that easy. There are some aspects that a writer should consider. The writer here considers the important aspects in writing are grammar and sentence complexity. The writer would like to find out the connection among these two points in the articles of the Jakarta Post Newspaper.

Moreover, there are some reasons why the writer is interested in analyzing the sentences on the headline article of *The Jakarta Post* Newspaper. First, there are some studies analyzing the sentences in the printed media, specifically in the newspaper, yet seldom do scholars pay attention to the study of kinds of sentences. Second, the analysis on the kinds of sentences will be connected to the theory of sentence complexity that is believed to influence the readers' comprehension.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

There are two problems that going to be found out in this study:

1. what are the kinds of sentences found in the Headline articles of the Jakarta Post Newspaper?
2. what is the frequency of the occurrences of each kind of sentences of each Headline articles of the Jakarta Post Newspaper?
3. what are the patterns of these kinds of sentences?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Closely related to the statements of the problem above, the objectives of the study are to answer the above research questions:

1. to find out the kinds of sentences found in the Headline articles of the Jakarta Post Newspaper.
2. to find out the frequency of the occurrences of each kind of sentences of each Headline articles of the Jakarta Post Newspaper.
3. to find out the patterns of these kinds of sentences.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is expected to give a contribution to the Jakarta Post readers, especially those who begin learning English. The writer hopes the result of this analysis will give the easiness to the readers in reading the sentences in the printed mass media, by classifying the dependent and independent clauses, so that the readers can comprehend the news.

Besides giving benefits to the readers, the result of this study can be used as reference in the education world. The educators are supposed to give and develop the

material of grammar, especially making the types of sentences based on their number and kinds of clauses without ignoring sentence complexity, so that the students can make good sentences.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

This thesis is making use of two theories. They are Sentence and Traditional Grammar.

The theory of sentences portrays some kinds of sentences and the sentence complexity. The sentences can be classified according to their forms, functions, and numbers and kinds of clauses they consist of. The first classification is according to their forms: declarative, interrogative, imperative and exclamatory sentences. The second classification is according to their function. According to Francis, the sentences are classified into situation, sequence, and response sentences. The third classification of a sentence is based on their numbers and kinds of clauses they consist of. This classification includes simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences. The simple sentence consists of one independent clause. The compound sentence has two or more independent clauses. The complex sentence contains one independent clause and two or more dependent clauses. The compound-complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses. And the sentence classification which is used in this study is based on the numbers and kinds of clauses.

The analysis on the sentence is under the theory of Traditional Grammar, which Huddleston (1984) says the traditional classification of English standard recognizes eight

parts of speech, namely: nouns, pronouns, determiners, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, and conjunctions.

1.6 Scope and Limitation

The writer decided to limit the study in several ways. The writer took *The Jakarta Post Newspaper* section of headline news issued in March 2005 and April 2005. The March issues were dated on 4th, 5th, 9th, and 27th. The April issues were dated on 2nd, 3rd, 9th, and 26th.

1.7 Assumption

The study was carried out under the assumption that the writers of the headline articles wrote the English sentences correctly.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the writer defines the following key terms:

1. Headline article

The article that is on the first page with the title printed in the biggest font.

2. Newspaper

A newspaper is a geographically circumscribed print medium, daily issued, serving the general interests of a specific community (Whitney, 1991:159).

3. The Jakarta Post Newspaper

It is a well-known national daily newspaper in a foreign language, in this case English, which is published in Jakarta. It has several fields discussed in it, such as local, national, and international economics, politics, social matters, and culture.

4. Sentence

A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought.

5. Sentential analysis

Analysis on the sentence in a paragraph or text.

6. Sentence Complexity

In language, all complexity is structural. The complexity of a sentence is viewed from its multiple elements of meaning at one level, called complex words, and at a different level, called complex expressions (from www.Brandle.com).

7. Clause

A clause is a full predication that contains a subject and a predicate with a finite verb. There are two kinds of clauses, independent and dependent. The independent clause is a full predication that may stand alone as a sentence while the dependent clause has a special introductory word that makes the predication “depend” on an independent clause. The introductory word is subordinate or coordinate conjunction.

8. Simple Sentence

It has only one full predication in the form of an independent clause.

9. Compound Sentence

It has two or more full predications in the form of independent clauses.

10. Complex Sentence

Complex sentence contains one independent clause and one or more dependent (or subordinate) clauses.

11. Compound-Complex Sentence

Compound-complex sentences contain two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

1.9 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter 1, Introduction, deals with the background of the study, statement of the problem, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, assumption, theoretical framework, scope and limitation, definition of key terms, and organization of the thesis. Chapter II presents a review of related literature. Chapter III is a research method which deals with the design of the study, population and samples, instrument, procedure of collecting the data, and technique of data analysis. Chapter IV consists of data analysis and discussion of the findings, and the last, chapter V discusses conclusion and suggestions.