

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Words are put together to form a phrase, a clause, and a sentence to express an idea. A phrase, as described by Brown, is a group of related words that functions as a single part of speech but lacks a subject, a predicate, or both (1984: 257). It means that a phrase is a construction composed of two or more words without subject, predicate, or both.

A noun phrase is a phrase which has a noun as its head. As defined by Mc Mahan and Day, a noun phrase is a noun plus its modifiers (1984: 362). It means that a noun phrase is a phrase which consists of a noun functioning as head and accompanying modifiers that describe the noun itself.

In fact, the components in a noun phrase are of various classes and arrangements. Here, the researcher tries to describe the noun modifier based on its categories and forms.

In terms of its categories, a noun modifier may be noun, adjective, verb, adverb, and function word. Take a look at the instances below:

(13/OP/12/1) She was treated for *her blood clot* in her leg in 1998

(72/DO/12/1) We don't pick up *small crimes*.

(101/D0/31/2) It has led *many developing nations* to curtail international adoptions as they work toward compliance.

(121/RS/42/2) *Morning Markets* have given way to grocery stores.

(7/RS/11/1) “*Our Society* is feudal,” says Arman Deol.

The noun phrase *her blood clot* in the datum numbered (13) above consists of the head *clot*, which is a noun, and the modifiers *her* and *blood*, which are a possessive adjective and a noun respectively. Then, the noun phrase *small crimes* in the datum numbered (72) is composed of the noun *crimes* as head and the adjective *small* as modifier. The modifier describes the noun it modifies. Next, *many developing nations* which is a noun phrase, in the datum numbered (101) comprises the noun *nations* as head and the function word *many* and the verb *developing* as modifier. Furthermore, in the noun phrase *morning markets* in the datum numbered (121) the adverb *morning* functions as modifier and the noun *markets* as head. Moreover, *our society* in the datum numbered (7) is classified as a noun phrase. The head of the phrase is *society*, which is a noun, while the modifier is *our*, which is a function word.

Besides, due to its form modifier may be word, phrase, and clause. Pay attention to the following examples:

(6/RS/10/1) *Female feticide* is still in practice, as is making sure boys get more food and schooling than their sisters.

(24/SC/16/1) This will be *the ultimate test of the balance of power* in Washington.

(14/RS/13/1) *Norm, who was 78 when he died Dec.27*, was the face and spirit of Operation Desert Storm.

In the datum numbered (6), the noun phrase *female feticide* is composed of the head *feticide* and the modifier *female*. Both of them are words. Next, the noun

phrase *the ultimate test of the balance of power* in the datum numbered (24) consists of the head *test*, which is a word, and the modifiers *the*, *ultimate*, and *of the balance of power*, which are words and a phrase. Then, the construction *who was 78 when he died Dec.27* in the datum numbered (14) is a clause which functions as modifier of the noun *Norm* as head.

Furthermore, a noun phrase may fill some functional slots in sentence construction. The functional slots intended include subject, object, modifier, and complement. The discussion below proves the statement:

(30/RS/23/1) *The President's view of his own power* is a conraised one," says White House counsel Kathryn Ruemmler.

(33/DO/25/1) He appended *a signing statement* to 2012 defense bill asserting presidential prerogatives in those areas.

(62/RS/32/1) Sandra Fluke, *the law student Republicans barred from testifying before a congressional committee las year*, was a valuable asset to the pro-choice cause in part because her.

(19/SC/16/1) Gadap Town is *a polio factory*.

The noun phrase *the President's view of his own power* in the datum numbered (30) functions as subject. It comes before the linking verb *is*. Next, *a signing statement* in the datum numbered (33) is a noun phrase which functions as object. It follows the transitive verb *appended*. Then, in the datum numbered (62) the noun phrase *the law student* together with the past participle phrase *barred from testifying before a congressional committee las year* functions as modifier that modifies the noun *Republicans*. Meanwhile, the noun phrase *a polio factory* in the

datum numbered (19) functions as complement. It follows the linking verb *is* and refers back to the subject *Gadap Town*.

The evidences above become a phenomenon which encourages the researcher to do a scientific study on the topic.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

There are a lot of problems in linguistic study. One of them is concerned with syntax, especially noun phrase. The use of English noun phrases is chosen as the topic of the discussion in this research because learners of English often face some difficulties in comprehending the use of English phrases, especially noun phrases. Furthermore, the topic bears great problems to discuss, such as the modifiers and the functions of English noun phrases which are of high frequency in use. In addition, the researcher is eager to enhance the mastery on the topic discussed. That is why, the researcher wants to discuss this topic in order to get detailed information about English noun phrases.

1.3 The Statement of the Problem

In relation to the topic of the discussion in this research, two main problems are formulated as the following:

1. What are the kinds of modifiers of nouns as found in *Time* magazine of January 2013?
2. What are the functions of noun phrases as used in the magazine?

1.4 The Objective of the Study

In line with the statement of the problems as stated above, this research aims to answer those two questions namely,

1. To reveal the modifiers of nouns as found in *Time* magazine of January 2013.
2. To describe the functions of noun phrases as used in the magazine.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

It is necessary to limit the scope of the problem in order to get a detailed understanding about the topic of the discussion. Dealing with the title that is chosen, syntax is an appropriate branch that can be used in analyzing the data of this research, that is phrase. A phrase may be in the form of infinitive phrase, participial phrase, gerund phrase, adjective phrase, verb phrase, prepositional phrase, noun phrase, appositive phrase, and adverb phrase. This research focuses its study in the use of noun phrases. The noun phrases here are discussed in terms of their modifiers and functions.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the result of this research may contribute something valuable for both the researcher and the readers. By reading this work, the readers may have good understanding on the topic discussed, namely the English noun phrases.

Theoretically, this research is expected to improve the knowledge of English learners about noun phrases. Hence, this research can help the readers to

increase their competence in language study. Practically, the result of this research may stimulate other researchers to do some other researches on the same topic seen from different points of view.