

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is the heart of human life. It is used to communicate, to share the idea and request information. Language also has been studied in one of the scientific studies called linguistics. It has several branches such as phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, and etcetera.

Syntax is of interest because without syntax human beings would be unable to construct complex messages conveying information about complex situations or ideas. As a matter of fact, this research discussed one aspect of the problems dealing with syntax. Syntax concerns with the structure of words, phrases, clauses and sentences.

A structure of complementation as one of syntactic structures is a structure consisting of verbal element and complement as its immediate constituents. Complement, as defined by Trask, is a variety of other things which appear to 'complete' a sentence in some sense (2005:32). For instance: The oranges sent to us from Florida were *delicious*. Here, *delicious* is a complement which completes the meaning of linking verb *were*.

Further, Trask mentioned that an object is also a complement. It can be direct object and indirect object. The following may clarify the discussion.

- (09/NP/14) From upholstered pillows to parakeets, the promenade gives *improptu expression* to Syrian entrepreneurship.
- (07/Adj/10) The factual basis for every one of these claims is *weak*.
- (10/IP/14) I really want *to go back*," says Abu Anas, 46, a candy seller from Damascus.

In the sentence numbered (09) the complement *improptu expression* is a noun phrase which acts as a direct object and receives the action of the transitive verb *gives*. Then, the adjective *weak* in the sentence numbered (07) is a subjective complement which refers back to the subject. Further, the direct object *to go back* is an infinitive phrase that follows the transitive verb *want*.

Besides, due to its forms, a complement may be a word, phrase, and clause. The following quotation may clarify the discussion intended:

- (19/Adj/24) When Colorado began assembling its retail pot market, the guiding principle was *safety*, says Barbara Brohl, the states's head cannabis regulator.
- (16/NP/22) The problem is *the proceeds*.
- (02/NC/06) The worry is *that terrorists are adept at blending in*.

In the sentence numbered (19) the complement *safety* is a complex word which acts as subjective complement. Moreover, it also describes the subject. Next, the complement *the proceeds* in the sentence numbered (16) is a noun

phrase which acts as a subjective complement refers to the subject. The complement in the sentence numbered (02) *that terrorists are adept at blending in* is a noun clause which acts as a subjective complement and refers to the subject.

The evidence as elaborated above becomes a phenomenon which encourages the researcher to do a scientific study on the topic intended. Hopefully, the result of this research develop the readers' ability in understanding English complement.

## **1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic**

There are so many problems in linguistics study. One of them is concerned with syntax, especially complement. A study of English complement is chosen as the topic of the discussion in this research for several reasons. First, it is frequently encountered in English structures. Second, this scope is complicated enough to understand. Third, the study on the topic above may offer some alternative materials for English learners to overcome the problems concerned.

## **1.3 The Statement of the Problem**

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

1. What are the classes of complements as used in *Time Magazine* of February 2014?
2. What are the forms of the complements as used in the magazine?

#### **1.4 The Objective of the Study**

In line with the statement of the problem as stated above, this research is directed to answer those two questions namely,

1. To identify the classes of complements as used in *Time Magazine* of February 2014,
2. To reveal the forms of the complements as used in the magazine.

#### **1.5 The Scope of the Study**

Syntax is a study on how words are arranged to construct phrases, clauses, or sentences or syntactic structures. Syntactic structures is differentiated into structure of modification, structure of predication, structure of complementation, and structure of coordination. The only structure discussed here is structure of complementation. In this case, this research focusses the discussion on the use of complement. Moreover, complements here are discussed in terms of their classes and also the forms.

#### **1.6 The Significance of the Study**

It is hoped that this study may contribute some valuable information for the readers who are interested in syntax. By reading this study, the readers are expected to get better knowledge about the topic, namely English complement.

Theoretically, this research may develop the reader's ability in linguistics especially the use of English complements in sentence constructions. Practically,

the result of this research is intended to stimulate other researchers to do further researches on the topic more comprehensively.