

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is one of the most important things in human life. People use language to communicate their feelings, opinions, and desires to one another. The language used is of great variety structurally. It may be in the form of words, phrases, clauses or even sentences. Words themselves may be of original or derived forms. One of them is *-ing* form.

The ending *-ing* in English is a suffix attached to a verb. A verb may be finite verb and non-finite. Finite verb is a verb which is governed by person, number, or tense in sentences. Finite verb usually functions as a predicate. While, non-finite, also called verbal, serves other functions than predicate. A verbal includes participle, gerund, and infinitive. Participle itself may be present participle and past participle. Present participle and gerund have the same form namely, a verb ending with suffix *-ing*.

-ing forms can not stand alone. They can not also play some roles without any other words in a sentence. So, *-ing* forms are closely concerned with their relation to other words in syntactical constructions. For instance, *a shopping mother* and *a shopping center*. They are related to the word *mother* and *center*. *a shopping mother* means *a mother who is shopping*. Then, *a shopping center* means *a center for shopping*. Due to its kinds, an *-ing* form may be gerund,

present participle, noun, or adjective. When *-ing* form is discussed in term of its kinds, it must be related to the surrounding words.

In fact, *-ing* forms and some other words may fill some functional slots in sentence construction. The function includes subject, predicate, object, modifier, and complement. Swan stated that gerund and noun may act as subject and object. Next, present participle may act as predicate. Then, gerund, present participle and adjective may function as modifier. Further, gerund, present participle, noun, or adjective may fill complement (1995: 277-282).

As a matter of fact, *-ing* forms may be a single word or phrase. For examples:

Winning this competition is a source of pride and a boost to the prestige of the university. (9/**G/**subj/23).

Aileen is *hoping that UPH college* will train students to become responsible citizens with fully developed potentials. (106/**P/pre**/16).

Working with local government, Unhas also joins the Institutional Grants Competition Program (Program Hibah Kompetisi - Institusi) held by the Directorate General of Higher Education. (115/**P/mod**/22).

This is because the foundation running it has hosted public *gatherings* in many places including Makasar, Jakarta, Surabaya, and Tangerang. (188/**N/do**/16).

The achivement of students of Makasar SDH are also quite *encouraging*. (215/**A/sc**/24).

In the sentence numbered (9), the *-ing* form *winning* is classified as a gerund. The gerund *winning* is followed by the object *this competition*, so they all together construct a gerund phrase *winning this competition*. The gerund phrase in the sentence functions as subject of the verb *is*. Next, the present participle *hoping that UPH college* in the sentence numbered (106) together with the auxiliary *is* indicates progressive tense former. Whereas, the construction *working with local government* in the sentence numbered (115) above is a present participle phrase because it consists of the present participle *working* as the most important element of the phrase and the prepositional phrase *with the local government* as its modifier. Then, *gatherings* in the sentence numbered (188) is classified as a noun. It is in plural form, which signalled by the ending *-s* attached the noun *gathering*. Besides, it is modified by the adjective *public*. The noun *gatherings* here acts as object of the verb *has hosted*. Meanwhile, in the sentence numbered (215), the *-ing* form *encouraging* is an adjective because it is intensified by the qualifier *quite* and completes the linking verb *are*.

The evidences as elaborated above become an interesting phenomenon which stimulates the researcher to discuss in the research.

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 the use English *-ing* form in syntactic structures. A study on English *-ing* form is chosen as the topic of discussion in this research for some reasons. First, learners of English often face some difficulties in comprehending

the use of English *-ing* form. Second, the topic bears many aspects to discuss, such as the kinds and functions of *-ing* form in syntactic structures. Third, English *-ing* forms are of high frequency in their use. Therefore, the researcher feels challenged to discuss them in order to get detailed information about the topics.

1.3 The Statement of the Problem

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

1. What are the kinds of English *-ing* form found in *Campus* magazine of November 2009?
2. What are the functions of English *-ing* form used in *Campus* magazine of November 2009?

1.4 The Objective of the Study

In line with the statement of the problem as stated above, this research tries to answer those two questions as follows:

1. To describe the kinds of English *-ing* form found in *Campus* magazine of November 2009.
2. To explain the functions of English *-ing* form used in *Campus* magazine of November 2009.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

Syntax is a study on how words are arranged to construct phrases, clauses, and sentences. This research focuses its discussion on the use of English *-ing* form in sentence constructions. English *-ing* form here is discussed in terms of its kinds and its functions.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that this study may give much contribution for the readers. By reading this work, the readers may have good understanding on the topic discussed, that is, the kinds and functions of English *-ing* form.

Theoretically, this research can help the readers to develop or increase their ability on linguistics, especially the use of English *-ing* form in sentence constructions. Practically, it may encourage other researchers to conduct further research on the same topic seen from different points of view.

1.7 The Meaning of Key Terms

In order that the discussion in this research is comprehensively understandable, some key terms together with their meanings are presented below:

1. ***-ing* form** is a suffix used to form the present participle and nouns from verbs (Holt, 1966: 402).
2. **Gerund** is a verbal (nonfinite verb) that ends in *-ing* form and functions as a noun (Hodges and Whitten, 1984: 542).

3. **Present participle** is the *-ing* form of the verb, used in a sentence as adjective modifiers to modify nouns occurring in any position in a sentence (Wishon and Burks, 1980: 261).
4. **Noun** is a any member of class of words that typically can be combined with determiners to serve as the subject of a verb, can be interpreted as singular or plural, can be replaced with a pronoun, and refer to an entity, quality, state, action, or concept (Webster, 2002: 793).
5. **Adjective** is a word or term used to describe or limit the meaning of a noun or a pronoun (Opdycke, 1965: 79).
6. **Function** is the relationship between a linguistic form and other parts of linguistic pattern or system in which it is used (Crystal, 1980: 155).
7. **Campus** magazine is a monthly English magazine published by Pelita Harapan University Press.