

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is very important in human life. It is needed to express our ideas and wishes. Besides, language is also used as a means of communication in social intercourse, so language is one of the most important characteristic forms of human behavior. Edward Sapir states that “Language is purely human and non instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbol (1949 : 8)”.

There are two forms of language usage. The first is spoken language, and the second is written language. However, it is not easy to study language especially foreign language. A scientific study of language is called as linguistics.

Linguistics study involves phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Phonetics is the study of speech sounds. Further, phonology is the study of the sound pattern of language. Morphology is the study of morphemes. Next, syntax is a study of interrelationship of words, while semantics is study of the meaning of words and sentences. Accordingly, syntax deals with the arrangement of words to form syntactic structures: phrases, clauses, and sentences. Words as one of linguistic units may be classified into eight parts of speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

In English, the verb is the most complex part of speech. Its varying arrangements with nouns determine the different kinds of sentences-statements, questions, commands, and exclamations. Like a noun, a verb has the grammatical properties of *person* and *number*, properties which require agreement with the subject.

According to Frank (1972: 47), the types of verbs described here differ according to the kind of complement they may have. Because these types may cut across each other, a verb may belong to more than one type, such as: *predicating* or *linking verbs*, *transitive* or *intransitive verbs*, *reflexive verbs*, *auxiliary* or *lexical verbs* and *finite* or *non-finite verbs*. In relation to the quotation above, the verb is classified into finite and non-finite verb based on the function. Frank states that a finite verb is a lexical verb with or without auxiliaries that acts as the full verb in the predicate. It is limited by all the grammatical properties that a verb may have, like person, number, tense, voice, mood, and etcetera. While non-finite or infinite verbs are incomplete verb forms that function as other parts of speech than verbs. They are also called as verbal and not limited by person or number, but they have voice and some tenses (1972: 51).

For example:

*To succeed* takes courage, foresight, and luck. (16/I/04)

The *talking* children angered the teacher. (50/P/07)

The first sentence belongs to *to infinitive*. Even though the sentence is in past tense, the verb is still in a base form. *To succeed* in the data (16) above also functions as the subject of *takes*. The second sentence is the example of *participle*

*-ing* as it modifies the noun, so it functions as an adjective of the noun *children*. The writer analyzes non-finite verbs in this research as the main topic because this topic is interesting to investigate scientifically.

## **1.2 The Statement of the Problem**

In this research, there are some problems which occur in studying non-finite verbs. The problems which will be discussed are as follows:

1. What are the kinds of non-finite verbs used in English?
2. What are the functions of non-finite verbs in sentences?

## **1.3 The Objectives of the Problem**

In line with the problems above, this research tries to answer the two questions, namely:

1. To describe the kinds of non-finite verbs used in English.
2. To describe the functions of non-finite verbs in sentences.

## **1.4 The Scope of the Study**

It is important to limit the problems that are discussed in this research in order to get detailed information about non-finite verbs in English. This research discusses syntax as the main analysis. In this case, the writer only wants to analyze verbs as a part of syntax in English, especially non-finite verbs which occur in the novel entitled *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer.