

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

To-infinitive, one of verbal forms, is a nonfinite verb that functions as other than predicate in sentences. It is the basic form of a verb that is preceded by the word *to*, also called full infinitive.

As one of linguistic units, to-infinitive can be formed through transformational process, that is, the changing of clausal structure related to certain transformational processes to form a to-infinitive or to-infinitive phrase. It is due to the fact that every sentence has two phrase structures – deep structure and surface structure, which are transformationally related. Take a look at the following sentences:

(1) John is easy to please.

The construction *John is easy to please* in the sentence (1) is derived from the deep structures *it is easy* and *we please John*.

(2) John is eager to please.

*John is eager to please* in the sentence numbered (2) is derived from the deep structures *John is eager* and *he pleases us*.

(3) He came early to catch his train.

The form *he came early to catch his train* in the sentence (3) is derived from the deep structures *he came early* and *in order that he caught his train*.

(4) I don't know what to do.

*I don't know what to do* in the sentence numbered (4) is derived from the deep structures *I don't know (it)* and *what I should do*.

(5) The delegates argued about how to cast the votes.

The construction *the delegates argued about how to cast the votes* in the sentence numbered (5) is derived from the deep structures *the delegates argued about it* and *how they should cast the votes*.

(6) He has a lot of books to read.

*He has a lot of books to read* in the sentence (6) is derived from the deep structures *he has a lot of books* and *he can read them*.

(7) They need a garden to play in.

The construction *they need a garden to play in* in the sentence numbered (7) is derived from the deep structures *they need a garden* and *which they can play in*.

(8) The first man to see is Tom.

*The first man to see is Tom* in the sentence (8) is derived from the deep structures *the first man is Tom* and *that we must see*.

(9) The first man to see me was Tom.

The form *the first man to see me was Tom* in the sentence numbered (9) is derived from the deep structures *the first man was Tom* and *who saw me*.

Further, to-infinitive may fill various functional slots in sentence construction, such as subject, object, complement, and modifier. Functioning as subject, it may be real subject or delayed subject. Then, as object, to-infinitive

may act as direct object and object of preposition. While, as complement, to-infinitive may serve as subjective complement. Furthermore, acting as modifier, to-infinitive may modify noun, verb, adjective, adverb, and sentence. Take a look at the following examples:

(33/60) *To establish more medical schools* would not be the right answer.

*To establish more medical schools* in the datum (33) is a to-infinitive phrase which functions as subject of the verb phrase *would not be*.

(53/100) No wonder people don't like *to receive clocks as gifts*.

The to-infinitive phrase *to receive clocks as gifts* in the datum numbered (53) functions as object of the verb phrase *don't like*.

(100/ 155) Most experts now say that the cure for dyslexia is *to teach phonics*.

The construction *to teach phonics* in the datum (100) above is a to-infinitive phrase which functions as subjective complement because it follows the linking verb *is* and refers back to the subject *dyslexia*.

(9/30) This was the second time for UPH *to have appointed its own professors outside of the official corridor*.

*To have appointed its own professors outside of the official corridor* in the datum numbered (9) is said to be a to-infinitive phrase which functions as modifier that follows and modifies the noun *UPH*.

The evidences above become a phenomenon that is interesting to investigate scientifically.

## 1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

This topic is considered as interesting and important problems to discuss. Actually, there are a lot of problems in studying linguistics, especially syntax. One of them is concerned with to-infinitive as a linguistic unit. A study on to-infinitive in English is chosen as the topic of discussion in this research because the topic bears great problems in English, especially the transformational processes and functions of to-infinitive. Moreover, to-infinitives are of very high frequency of usage, so they play strategic roles in language learning. Therefore, the researcher is challenged to analyze the problems in order to reveal some alternative solutions.

## 1.3 The Statement of the Problem

Due to the topic of the discussion in this research, two main problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the transformational processes undergone by to-infinitives in *Campus* magazine of February 2009?
2. What are the functions of to-infinitives in the magazine?

## 1.4 The Objective of the Study

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

1. To describe the transformational processes undergone by to-infinitives in *Campus* magazine of February 2009.
2. To reveal the functions of to-infinitives in the magazine.

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

The term to-infinitive includes to-infinitive as word and phrase. The study of to-infinitive is related to syntax. Syntax is a basic branch of linguistic study concerned with the interrelationships of words. Here, to-infinitive is studied from two points of view namely, its transformation processes and functions. In relation to its transformation, to-infinitive may be derived from clauses. Further, due to its functions, to-infinitive may serve as subject, object, complement, and modifier in sentence constructions.

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

Hopefully, this research can give a lot of valuable contribution to the readers and the researcher himself. By reading this study, the readers are expected to get good understanding on the topic discussed, that is, the transformations and functions of to-infinitives in sentence constructions. Theoretically, this study may help the readers to increase their ability on linguistics, especially to-infinitives. Practically, it may encourage other researchers to do further researches on the same topic seen from different points of view.

### 1.7 The Meaning of Key Terms

To make the discussion in this research more comprehensively understandable, some key terms together with their meanings are presented below:

1. To-infinitive is the simple form of a verb phrase, usually preceded by *to* (Troyka, 1987: 163).
2. Transformation is a formal linguistic operation which enables two levels of structural representation to be placed in correspondence (Crystal, 1980: 362). It is normally stated in the form of rules which may be applied to one of the pair – an input – altering it to produce the other – an output (Gleason, 1955: 172-173).
3. Function is the relationship between a linguistic form and other parts of the linguistic pattern or system in which it is used (Crystal, 1980: 155).
4. *Campus Magazine* is a monthly magazine published by Pelita Harapan University Press.