

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is an acquired oral system for people to communicate one another. Communication is not purely a means of transmitting ideas, emotions, or desires to others, but it refers to the same or equal understanding between speakers and listeners. Since people are members of social group, they depend on the use of language. They cannot conduct communication with others without language. Therefore, we all know that language has an important role in society as a means of communication.

Due to the preceding statement, Sapir in *Language* supports as follows:

Language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotion, and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols (1921:8).

This definition shows there are many terms that are communicated by language. Someone can show his/her thought to someone else and they can exchange information by using language. Hence, language plays an important role in human life. Many linguists make some researches or discussion about language. Linguistics as the scientific study of language describes language widely.

Linguistic study involves phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Phonetics is the study of speech sounds. Phonology is the study of the sound patterns of language while, morphology is the study of morphemes. Study syntax is a study of interrelationship of words. Semantics is study of the meaning

of the words. Accordingly, syntax deals with the arrangement of words to form structures – phrases, clauses and sentences. In syntax and grammar, we are familiar with the term adverbs, especially frequency adverbs.

Adverbs may be classified according to their function, such as adverb of time, adverb of frequency, adverb of manner, et cetera. In this case, the writer wants to analyze frequency adverb, which exists in English. According to Hornby, the term adverb of frequency is used for those adverbs that answer the question *how often*, such as: *often, always, everyday, twice a week* (1964:180). The adverbs of frequency most commonly used are *always, usually, often, sometimes, seldom, rarely, never* and so on. Here, the writer wants to analyze the structure and the way frequency adverbs are used in English.

Due to the previous background, this research will analyze the frequency adverbs in English. The reason of choosing this topic is that the researcher wants to know the frequency adverbs more deeply. By studying frequency adverbs, we know where to place frequency adverbs in the right position. Discussing the problem the researcher wants to analyze frequency adverbs deeply in order to get detailed information about them.

1.2 The Statement of the Problems

In this thesis, the researcher will analyze some problems related to the topic of discussion. The problems of the study are as the following:

1. What are the structures of frequency adverbs in English?
2. How are frequency adverbs used in English?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

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

1. To describe the structures of frequency adverbs in English
2. To describe the use of frequency adverbs in English

1.4 The Scope of the Study

It is very important for the researcher to limit the problems in order to make the discussion more specific. In this study, the writer conducts a research in the field of syntax.

In syntax and grammar, we are familiar with the term adverbs, like adverb of manner, adverb of place, adverb of time, adverb of frequency, adverb of degree, et cetera. Here, the writer wants to analyze the frequency adverbs only.

Frequency adverbs consist of many adverbs, therefore, the writer wants to analyze only the adverbs *always, usually, often, sometimes, seldom, rarely, and never* in English. The research analyzes the structure and the use of frequency adverbs in English. In running an analysis on the use of frequency adverbs, the writer applies the semantic analysis to know their meaning.

1.5 The Source of Data

The research chooses Time magazine as the source of data, because Time magazine frequently uses a great deal of English frequency adverbs. In addition, Time magazine is one of magazines well known all over the world.

Time magazine contains many examples of attractive articles and the writer also finds many data about frequency adverbs to be analyzed. Time magazine taken as the source of data in this research includes the edition of January up to June 2006.

