

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

The separations of a sentence into its component or constituent parts have the purpose in explaining their relationship and of defining them in accordance with this relationship. The relationship of its component or constituent parts is concerned with syntax. It is in line with the opinion of Opdycke, saying that syntax is the study of explaining predicative, qualifying, and other word relationships according the rules of grammar (1941: 267). The relationships between those component constituent parts may refer to structures of modification, of predication, of complementation, or of coordination.

If the constituent parts consist of those which are modified and those which modify, they are the components of structures of modification. A structure of modification is defined as a structure composed of a head and a modifier whose meaning serves to broaden, qualify, select, change, describe or in some other way affect the meaning of the head (Francis, 1958:297).

Due to their forms, head and modifier of a structure of modification may be words, phrases, clauses, or sentences, as evidenced below:

(1). And we hope all children will soon enjoy a clean bill of health

starting with 

clean	→	sanitation
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*Time of June 16, 2008, p.1*

The word *clean* in the sentence (1) is a simple word that modifies the noun *sanitation*.

- (2). He argues in an alarming 

book	←	of that title
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*Time of June 16, 2008, p.12*

The phrase *of that title* in the sentence (2) is a prepositional phrase that modifies the simple word *book*.

- (3). The very 

qualities	←	that make bugs so hard to get rid of
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could also make them an environmentally friendly food.

*Time of June 16, 2008, p.44*

The clause *that makes bugs so hard to get rid of* in the sentence (3) is an adjective clause that modifies the complex word *qualities*.

- (4). The key role here 

is played	←	by Qatar's First Lady, Sheika Mozah bint Nasser al-Misned.
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*Time of July 21, 2008, p.49*

The words *by Qatar's First Lady, Sheika Mozah bint Nasser al-Misned* in the sentence (4) is a prepositional phrase that modifies the verb phrase *is played*.

- (5). 

today	→	crude oil travels in tankers that carry up to 4 million barrels
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*Time of June 16, 2008, p.42*

The word *today* in the sentence (5) is a simple word that modifies the main clause *crude oil travels in tankers that carry up to 4 million barrels*.

Further, in terms of their categories head and modifier may be nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, or function words. The following quotation may clarify the discussion intended:

- (6). He also graced the 

big	→	screen
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, notably as the conniving Hedley Lammarr in the 1974 western comedy *Blazing Saddles*.  
*Time* of June 16, 2008, p.12

The word *big* in the sentence (6) is an adjective that modifies the noun *screen*.

- (7). *The Americans* was revisited and then 

very	→	quickly
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 understood as indispensable.  
*Time* of June 9, 2008, p.48

The word *very* in the sentence (7) is a qualifier which modifies the adverb *quickly*.

- (8). But what qualifies you to do the job, and what qualifies you to get the job, may involve two 

completely	→	different
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 calculations  
*Time* of June 23, 2008, p.19

The word *completely* in the sentence (8) is an adverb that modifies the adjective *different*.

- (9). For years, 

China's	→	citizens
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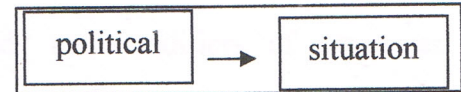
 couldn't watch the evening news without being reminded of their darker sides, of the grasping, reckless self-interest that has characterized China's headlong rush.

*Time* of June 2, 2008, p.18



Then, the word *China's* in the sentence (9) is a noun that modifies the noun *citizens*.

(10). The situation in Tibet, particularly the



, has reached a level of emergency.

*Time* of June 9, 2008, p.26

The word *political* in the sentence (10) is an adjective that modifies the noun *situation*.

The evidences stated above become a phenomenon which encourages the researcher to do a scientific study on the topic intended.

### 1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

There are a lot of problems in linguistic study, especially in syntax. One of them is concerned with syntactic structures, especially structures of modification. A study of structures of modification is chosen as the topic of discussion in this research for several reasons. First, it challenges the researcher to investigate these problems scientifically. Second, the study on the topic above may offer some alternative solutions on the problems usually found in English sentence construction. Third, this scope is complicated enough to understand. Therefore, it is relevant to discuss as the materials of a research.

### 1.3 The Statement of the Problem

Due to the topic of the discussion in this research, three problems are formulated as the following:

1. What are the forms of heads and modifiers of structures of modification found in *Time* magazine?
2. What are the categories of heads and modifiers of structures of modification found in *Time* magazine?

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

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

1. To determine the forms of the heads and modifiers of structures of modification found in *Time* magazine
2. To show the categories of heads and modifiers of structures of modification found in *Time* magazine

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

Syntax discusses the relationship between the component constituent parts of construction, which may refer to structures of modification, of predication, of complementation, or of coordination. This research focuses its discussion on structures of modification. The structures of modification here are discussed in terms of the forms and categories of their immediate constituents. The forms of the constituents intended include words, phrases, clauses, and sentences; while the categories of the constituents may be nouns, adjectives, adverbs, verbs, or function words.

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

It is hoped that this study may contribute something valuable for the readers. By reading this work, the readers may have good understanding on the topic discussed, namely the use of structures of modification. Theoretically, this study is expected to improve the knowledge of English learners about syntax, especially structures of modification. Hence, they may increase their competence in English. Practically, the result of this research may encourage other researchers to conduct further researches on the topic seen from different points of view.

### **1.7 The Meaning of Key Terms**

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

1. Syntax is the study of the arrangement of words into phrases and sentences or syntactical construction (Nida, 1962 :1).
2. Syntactic structure is the combination of no more than two lexical words, with or without function words (Francis, 1958:291).
3. Structure of modification is the structure consisting of a head and a modifier (Francis, 1958 : 297).
4. Immediate constituent is one of two or few, constituents of which any given construction is directly formed (Gleason, 1955:133 ).



5. Head is a term used in the grammatical description of some types of phrase (endocentric phrases) to refer to the central element which is distributionally equivalent to the phrase as a whole (Crystal, 1980:172).
6. Modifier is a word or word group that describes, limits, or qualifies another word group in a sentence (Heffernan and Lincoln, 1982:244)
7. TIME is an English magazine which is published weekly by Time Asia (Hongkong).