

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

If some words are joined together, they will be able to form a phrase, a clause, and a sentence to express ideas. A phrase, as defined by Brown Ann Cole et al, is a group of related words that functions as a single part of speech but lacks a subject, a predicate, or both (1984: 46). It means that a phrase is a construction composed of two or more words without subject, predicate, or both.

Phrase can be classified on the basis of its component parts and function. Due to its components, a phrase can be noun phrase, adjective phrase, verb phrase, prepositional phrase, and adverb phrase. While, based on its function, a phrase may serve as subject, predicate, object, modifier, and complement in sentences.

A verb phrase is a phrase whose main component is finite verb. If the main component is non-finite verb, the phrase is classified as verbal phrase. Verbal phrase includes participial phrase, gerund phrase, and infinitive phrase.

Verbal phrase usually functions as subject, object, modifier, and complement. Verbal phrase cannot function as predicate. Further, each of the verbal phrases may have different functions in sentences. For example:

- (1) *Ignoring the remainder of the photographs*, Harry searched the pages around them for a recurrence of the fatal name. (Rowling, 2007: 288)

- (2) *Unnoticed by Travers*, who was looking through the bronze doors at the inner hall, each of the guards gave a little start as the spells hit them. (Rowling, 2007: 427)
- (3) He blamed Ron and Hermione: their determined indifference was as bad as the relentless rain for *dampening his spirits*, but neither could erode his certainty, which remained absolute. (Rowling, 2007: 353)
- (4) I told you at The Burrow, I've had the essentials packed for days, you know, in case we needed to *make a quick gateway*. (Rowling, 2007: 136)

*Ignoring the remainder of the photographs* in the sentence numbered (1) above is a phrase because it is composed of more than one word without subject and predicate. Moreover, the most important element in the phrase is the present participle *ignoring* with the complement *the remainder of the photographs*. So, it is classified as a present participial phrase. The phrase functions as modifier of the noun *Harry*. Next, the phrase *unnoticed by Travers* in the sentence (2) is called a past participial phrase because the main component in the phrase is the past participle *unnoticed* followed by the modifier *by Travers*. The past participial phrase *unnoticed by Travers* functions as modifier of the phrase *each of the guards*. Then, the phrase *dampening his spirits* in the sentence numbered (3) above is said to be a gerund phrase because the most important component in the phrase is the gerund *dampening*. It comes after the preposition *for*, so it acts as object of the preposition. Here, the gerund is followed by the complement *his spirits*. Further, *to make a quick gateway* in the sentence numbered (4) above is categorized as an infinitive phrase because the most important component in the

phrase is the infinitive *to make* which is followed by the complement *a quick gateway*. The phrase functions as object of the verb *needed*.

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

## **1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic**

There are a lot of problems in studying linguistics, especially syntax. One of them is concerned with the use of English verbal phrases in sentence constructions. A study of verbal phrases is chosen as the topic of discussion in this research because learners of English often face the difficulty in comprehending the use of English phrases, especially the verbal ones. Besides, the topic bears many great problems, such as the functions, components, constructions, and transformations of verbal phrases in English. That is why, the researcher is challenged to discuss this topic. In addition, the research may enhance the ability of both the researcher and the readers on the use of English verbal phrases. Therefore, the research is considered relevant in order to get detailed information on the topic discussed.

## **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 kinds of English verbal phrases found in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*?

2. What are the functions of those English verbal phrases?

#### **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 show the kinds of English verbal phrases used in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.
2. To describe the functions of those English verbal phrases.

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

Syntax discusses the way how to arrange words into phrases, clauses, and sentences. This research focuses its discussion on the use of verbal phrases in English. Verbal phrases here are discussed in terms of their kinds which include participial phrase, gerund phrase, and infinitive phrase and their functions which include subject, object, modifier, and complement in sentences.

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

Generally, it is hoped that this research will give valuable contribution to the readers as well as to the researcher herself. By reading this work, the readers may have good understanding on the topic discussed, that is, the use of English verbal phrases in sentence constructions. Theoretically, this research can help the readers to develop or increase their ability on linguistics, especially English verbal

phrases. 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 researcher more comprehensively understandable, some key terms together with their meanings are presented below:

1. Verbal is incomplete verb forms that function as other parts of speech than verbs. The non-finite forms, which are called verbal, are not limited by person or number, but they have voice and some tense. (Frank, 1972: 51)
2. Phrase is a group of related words that functions as a single part of speech but lacks a subject, a predicate, or both. (Brown, 1984: 46)
3. Verbal Phrase is a verbal plus any words that complete its meaning. (Carter and Skates, 1990: 34)
4. Infinitive Phrase is a verb phrase in which the nonfinite of a verb is preceded by the word *to*. (Veit, 1986: 189)
5. Gerund Phrase is a verbal (nonfinite verb) that ends in *-ing* and functions as a noun. (Hodges and Whitten, 1984: 542)
6. Participial Phrases are verbals that function like adjectives. They are used to modify nouns. (Veit, 1986: 220)
7. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is a novel written by Joanne Kathleen Rowling. It is the seventh series of Harry Potter.