

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Backgrounds of the Problems

Language is a means of communication that people use to extend their messages or to convey their ideas. Therefore, as said by Nasr in *The Essentials of Linguistic Science*, language is a part of culture, which is a part of human behavior. Furthermore, he states that language is an acquired habit of systematic vocal activity representing meanings coming from human experiences (1980: 1). It shows that language relates not only to human vocal activity but also to human behavior.

Meanwhile, Gleason in his book *An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics*, states that:

Language operates with two kinds of material. One of these is sound. Almost any sort of noise that human vocal apparatus can produce is used in some way in some language. The other is ideas, social situations, meaning (1961: 2).

The components of language are spoken and written. Spoken language has sounds and meanings as its components, whereas the written language has words and meanings.

In written language, words are arranged into phrases, clauses, and sentences. They are not just haphazardly arranged, but they relate to each other; they depend upon each other.

The relation of the linguistic units (words) that may occur together in a sequence is called syntagmatic relations. Dafydd Gibbon (1997: 1) states that

syntagmatic relations comprises immediate dominance, linear precedence, sentence function, government relation (dependency relation), binding relation (anaphora, cataphora, long distance dependency).

Being interested in this kind of relation, the researcher decides to analyze the dependency relation of constituents. The researcher wants to analyze the dependency relation of English simple sentences. The relations of constituents in simple sentences are going to be analyzed here because a simple sentence is the sentence that can be easily understood by English learners.

The study of the dependency relation deals with the arrangement of words, in which arrows traditionally show the relation of the controller and the dependent words with the heads of the arrows point to the dependent words. Dependency relation deals with the relation of the words, and the relation of the words deal with syntax. Richards defines syntax as the study of how words are combined to form sentences and the rules that govern the formation of sentences. How words are combined means that the combination of words is not haphazard but it shows the reciprocal relations in nature. Each word influences the other word so that we cannot omit one of them in case it will change the meaning of the sentence.

The following are the examples of dependency relation of English simple sentences, which are found in the data:

(1) *He pours milk into a glass.* (DOAS, 1949: 28)

[*He*] [*pours*] [*milk*] [*into*] [*a*] [*glass*].

The words in the sentence above relate syntagmatically to each other. The pronoun *he* and the noun *milk* depend directly on the verb *pours*. The preposition

is also said as the controller of the noun that follows it. So, in the prepositional phrase *into a glass*, the noun *glass* directly depends on the preposition *into*. Prepositional phrase *into a glass* depends on the verb *pours*, but only *into* is directly linked to the controller. It can be described with a chain of subordination, first from *pours* to *into*, then from *into* to *glass*. The article *a* depends on *glass*, as the determiner of *glass*.

(2) *I saw the lining ...* (DOAS, 1949: 72)

[*I*] [*saw*] [*the lining*]

The relation of the sentence above is the subject *I* and the object (*the lining*) depend directly on the predicate *saw*.

In those sentences, words are combined in certain relations that one depends on the other. The first sentence shows the dependency relation among the constituents and the second sentence shows the dependency relation among the grammatical functions, namely subject, predicate, and object. The study of these functions here deals with syntactic function.

Those phenomena motivate the researcher to write the analysis of dependency relation of English simple sentences.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

The researcher chooses the dependency relation as the topic of this research because the relation of words is very important in linguistic study. The dependency relation is one of the important aspects of a language in which the learners can learn the way the words relate to each other. So, this research, she

believes, will give important information for both the researcher herself and the other learners.

1.3 The Statements of the Problems

Based on the backgrounds of the problems and the reason of choosing the topic above, the researcher formulates the following problem statements:

1. How are the constituents of English simple sentences in Arthur Miller's *Death of A Salesman* syntagmatically interrelated in terms of dependency relations?
2. What are the grammatical functions of those constituents?

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

This research is aimed to learn the dependency relation of English simple sentences. The researcher wants to answer the statement of the problem in this way:

1. To show the syntagmatic interrelation of the constituents of English simple sentences in Arthur Miller's *Death of A Salesman* in term of dependency relation.
2. To describe the grammatical functions of those constituents.

1.5 The Scopes of the Problems

Syntagmatic relations refer to syntax. Syntax is the study of the arrangement of words into phrases, clauses, and sentences. There are many kinds

of syntagmatic relations such as immediate dominance, linear precedence, sentence function, government relation (dependency relation), binding relation (anaphora, cataphora, long distance dependency). The researcher will limit and focus the problem only on dependency relation. The researcher discusses the dependency relation of the constituents and the grammatical functions of English simple sentences constituents.

The researcher takes some simple sentences as her data from a drama, which is a kind of literary work that plays for a theatre. She chooses *Death of A Salesman*, which was written by Arthur Miller, and published in 1949 in New York by The Viking.

1.6 The Significances of the Study

This analysis is expected to give information to the readers about the dependency relation of words, in terms of dependency relations of English simple sentences. The researcher will get more knowledge about the dependency relation, and additionally she hopes that this research will be a valuable reference for other researchers on the same problems.

1.7 The Meaning of Key Terms

1. *Syntagmatic relations* are the relationship that linguistic units (words, phrases) have with other units because they may occur together in a sequence (Richards, 1985: 285).

2. *Dependency relation* is a subordination of one element to another (Matthews, 1981:78).
3. *A Simple sentence* is composed of a single independent clause with no dependent clauses, and it has only one subject and one predicate (Troyka, 1987: 172).
4. *Death of A Salesman* is (the title of the drama) as the source of data for this analysis.