

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Human beings express their idea using language, so language is one of the most important things in human life. They use language to communicate with another people and to express their idea. Learning language is not merely being able to speak the language, but moreover, they must have a good mastery of the language systems and language components. Those language components include the arrangement and pronunciation of phonetics, and understand the meaning of the words and sentences.

Each language in the world has different patterns and rules. Because of these differences, the language learners have to pay attention to the patterns and rules of the language they are learning. A good understanding of the language systems enables them to spell language well and understand the use of language.

There are two forms of language usage. They are spoken language and written one. The elements of spoken language are sound and meaning. While, the elements of written languages are different from spoken one, they are form and meaning.

Linguistics study involves phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Phonetics is the study of speech sounds. Further, phonology is the study of the sound patterns of the language. Morphology is the study of morphemes. Next, syntax is a study of interrelationship of words. While,

semantics is a study of meaning of the words. Accordingly, syntax deals with the arrangement of words to form structure- phrase, clause, and sentence. Syntax has to do with grammar. English has two kinds of lexical units namely: content words and function words. Content word consists of noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. Function word is also called structural word.

Function word consists of preposition, conjunction, auxiliary, etcetera. Sometimes, part of function word has the same form but has different function. Furthermore, some of function words have the same lexical form as content word, but they have different function in sentences.

For example:

1. She is sitting *before* me.
2. My uncle died *before* I came.

In the two examples above, the word *before* belongs to function word because they include into preposition and conjunction. In the sentence (1), the word *before* functions as a preposition. It is called preposition because it connects main clause and pronoun in the sentence, so prepositional phrase *before me* is an adverb. While, in the sentence (2) the word *before* functions as a conjunction because the word *before* relates main clause and sub clause in the sentence.

Based on the example above, it can be said that function words are chosen as the topic on discussion of this thesis because function words are considered as a confusing problem when one content word has more than two functions in a sentence. Concerning the statement above, the writer wants to analyze function words deeply in order to get detailed information about bifunctional function

words. The writer hopes that the result of this thesis would give useful information about bifunctional of function words.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

In this thesis, there are some problems which occur in studying bifunctional function words. The problems which will be discussed are as follows:

1. What are the structures of bifunctional function words?
2. How are the functions of bifunctional function words used?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to find out the answer of the problems:

1. To describe the structures of bifunctional function words.
2. To explain the use of bifunctional function words.

1.4 The Scope of the Problem

This research will discuss syntax as the main analysis. Syntax concerns with the interrelation of words in sentences. Syntax is also the study about what the function of the words in the sentences. Based on their syntactic categories, words themselves could be divided into content words and function words. Here, the writer will only discuss about bifunctional function words in English in detail.

1.5 The Source of the Data

The writer takes *Newsweek* magazine as the source of the data. So, the main source of the data are sentences which contain function words taken from the *Newsweek* magazine of June 12, 2006 edition. There are some reasons why the writer chooses *Newsweek* magazine as the source of the data. Firstly, the data which are needed are available in *Newsweek* magazine. Beside that, *Newsweek* magazine is one of the magazines that uses English and it is well - known in the world.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

Many language researches, in fact, have given something new and valuable to be used as a reference to other researchers. The writer hopes that the result of this research may contribute something valuable for the readers, especially in stimulating to study more about bifunctional function words. For the other researchers, they can continue this research deeply and completely in the other field such as semantics and morphology.