

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language and people who speak it basically have a correlation each other. As social creatures, human beings need language to communicate with other people. Language itself is something used to express our ideas and wishes. Therefore, language cannot be separated from human beings. H.A. Gleason supports this statement saying that language has so many interrelationships with various aspects of human life that it can be studied from numerous points of view. (1969:2).

The opinion above shows us how important language in human life is. For this reason, a curiosity to study language arises. The development of language is felt in line with the development of language theories. This is a reflection of the deficiency of the former language theories and also an effort to give explanation for linguistic problems clearly.

And, here the researcher tries to discuss one aspect of the problems concerning syntax, that is, noun clauses. The noun clauses are observed in terms of their functions and the real sentences from which they are derived.

In fact, noun clauses may fill various functional slots in sentence construction, such as subject, direct object, indirect object, object of preposition, subjective complement, objective complement, adjective complement, and appositive. Further, they may be derived from declarative sentence, yes-no question sentence, and wh- question sentence.

The following may clarify the discussion intended:

- (1) *That the world is round* is a fact (Azar, 1989: 270).
- (2) The question is *how he will get the money* (Frank, 1972: 284).
- (3) I heard *what he said* (Azar, 1989: 264).
- (4) He has promised *whoever is there* a letter of thanks (Wishon and Burks, 1980: 178).
- (5) You can call me *whatever names you like* (Frank, 1972: 285).
- (6) We were concerned about *whether he would get the money* (Frank, 1972: 284).

The noun clause *that the world is round* in the sentence (1) functions as subject. It comes before the linking verb *is* and the subjective complement *a fact*. The noun clause is derived from a declarative sentence, that is, *the world is round* which is added the word *that* before it. Next, in the sentence (2), the noun clause *how he will get the money* functions as subjective complement. It happens because the noun clause comes after the linking verb *is* and refers back to the subject *the question*. The noun clause is derived from a yes/no question sentence, namely *how will he get the money?* Meanwhile, the noun clause *what he said* in the sentence (3) acts as direct object of the transitive verb *heard*. The noun clause is derived from a wh- question sentence, that is, *what did he say?* Then, the noun clause *whoever is there* in the sentence (4) functions as indirect object of the transitive verb *has promised*. Whereas, the noun phrase *a letter of thanks* serves as direct object. The construction of the sentence can be changed into *he has promised a letter of thanks to whoever is there* with the same meaning. The noun clause is

derived from a wh- question sentence, namely *whoever is there?* Later, the noun clause *whatever names you like* in the sentence (5) functions as objective complement and refers to the object *me*. The noun clause is derived from a wh-question sentence, that is, *whatever names do you like?* And, the noun clause *whether he would get the money* in the sentence (6) functions as object of the preposition *about*. The noun clause is derived from a yes/no question sentence, namely *would he get the money?*

1.2 The Reason Choosing the Title

The study on the use of English noun clauses in W. Somerset Mougham's *The Painted Veil* is chosen as the topic of the discussion in this research because the topic bears great problems in indicating the function and the noun clauses derived for learners of English to comprehend. That is why the researcher is quite interested in doing a research on these problems. Besides, the problems intended are frequently encountered by the users of the language, especially in spoken language. Consequently, this study may enhance their ability on the use of practical English. Therefore, the research on the topic is considered relevant in order to get the alternative solution on these problems.

1.3 The Statement of the Problems

In relation to the topic of the discussion in this research, the researcher determines two problems to discuss, namely:

1. What are the functions of noun clauses used in *The Painted Veil* ?
2. What are the real sentences from which the noun clauses are derived?

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

In line with the statement of the problems as stated above, this research aims to answer the two questions:

1. To describe the functions of noun clauses used in *The Painted Veil*.
2. To determine the real sentences from which the noun clauses are derived.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation

It is very important to limit the scope of the problems in this study in order to get detailed understanding about the topic of the discussion, namely the use of noun clauses in English sentences.

Noun clauses are discussed in syntax. Hence, this research focuses its discussion on syntax, including syntactic functions and syntactic constructions. In terms of syntactic functions, noun clauses may fill the following slots: subject, object, and complement. Subject itself may be real subject and delayed subject. Likewise, object here may be differentiated into direct object, indirect object, and object of reposition. While, complement itself may cover subjective complement, objective complement, and adjective complement. Further, in terms of syntactic constructions, noun clauses may be derived from declarative sentence, yes-no question sentence and wh-question sentence.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the result of this study may contribute something valuable for the readers especially those who are interested in English noun clauses.

Theoretically, this study is expected to improve the knowledge of the English learners about syntax, specifically noun clauses. Practically it may encourage other researchers to do further researches on English noun clauses in terms of different view points.

1.7 The Meaning of Key Terms

Some key terms together with their meanings are presented below in order to make this study more comprehensibly understandable.

1. Syntax. It is a basic branch of linguistic study concerned with the interrelationships of words. Syntactical analysis concentrates on the examination of phrasal and clausal patterns in language (Stevens and Kegel, 1966:189).
2. Sentence. It is a full predication containing a subject plus a predicate with a finite verb (Frank, 1972: 220).
3. Dependent Clause. It is not a complete sentence. It can not stand alone as a sentence, that's way; it must be connected to an independent clause (Crystal, 1980: 146).
4. Noun clause. It is a dependent clause and cannot stand alone as a sentence. It must be connected to an independent clause (Azar, 1989: 269).
5. Function. It is the relationship between a linguistic form and other parts of the linguistic pattern or system in which it is used (Crystal, 1980: 155)
6. *The Painted Veil*. It is one of W. Somerset Mougham's novels published in 1957 by Pocket Books, Inc. New York.