

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

The production of words in English happens from time to time in order to fulfill the need of its users. To know how words are produced, it is necessary to study morphology. It is in line with the opinion of Nida saying that morphology is the study of morphemes and their arrangements in forming words. (1949: 1).

Word formation is a process of forming words out of the existing ones. The new words can be formed by morphemes (free or bound morphemes) or by other word classes, such as noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. The basic processes of word formation are compounding, derivation, coinage, echoism, blending, clipping, acronymy, back formation, borrowing, antonomasia, reduplication, and conversion.

In fact, nouns in English may be constructed in various ways. Besides, they may also serve many different functions in sentence construction. The following illustration may clarify the discussion intended:

- (1). By Saturday, Egyptian search-and-rescue operations had brought 378 survivors ashore, but the *likelihood* that more than 1,000 others had died made the tragedy one of the worst disaster in maritime history. (*Time* of February 13, 2006 page 9)
- (2). Mittal, 55, is the Indian-born *chairman* of the world's biggest producer of steel, Mittal Steel, which he built up over the past decade with the slew of acquisitions,

in the process of making a fortune for himself estimated at \$25 billion. (*Time* of February 13, 2006 page 22)

- (3). Nonetheless, they and labor unions can make life hard for Mittal, who still needs to get *E. U.* antitrust clearance for the deal. (*Time* of February 13, 2006 page 25)
- (4). Saddam's *boycott* of the court last week forced its chief judge to adjourn hearings until next week. (*Time* of February 13, 2006 page 18)
- (5). The *Web* giant Google reminded everybody very publicly last week how differently things work in China. (*Time* of February 13, 2006 page 18)

The word *likelihood* in the sentence numbered (1) is a derived noun. The root of the word is *likely* and it is attached to the derivational suffix *-hood* to form the word *likelihood*. The process of the formation of the word *likelihood* is called derivation. The word *likelihood* here functions as the subject of the verb *made*; so it belongs to a noun. Next, the derived noun *chairman* in the sentence numbered (2) is formed by combining the noun *chair* and the noun *man*. The word *chairman* is constructed through compounding. It functions as the complement of the linking verb *is*. Meanwhile, the word *E. U.* in the sentence numbered (3) is formed through acronymy; since it is the short form of the word *European Union*. It is constructed by using the initial letter of the word. The function of the noun is the subject of the verb *get*. Likewise, the word *boycott* in the sentence numbered (4) is formed through antonomasia. The word *boycott* here is formed because it is derived from the name of person, that is Captain Boycott, the agent of an Irish landowner. The noun here functions as the subject of the verb *forced*. Then, the noun *Web* in the sentence

numbered (5) is also a derived noun. The word *web* is the short form of the word *website*; since the word *web* is constructed by cutting the final and using the initial, and the process of the formation of the word *web* here is called clipping. And it functions as the subject of the verb *reminded* in the sentence.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

A morpho-syntactic analysis of English derived nouns is chosen as the topic of the discussion in this research for some reasons. Firstly, knowing English derived nouns may help the learners to better understand the formation of noun, which, in turn, lead to vocabulary comprehension in English. Next, English derived nouns are of high degree of productivity in word formation processes. In one sentence a word may be categorized as a verb which functions as predicate; while, in other sentences it may be categorized as a noun which functions as subject, object, complement, and modifier. Consequently, they become an important topic to discuss. In other words, it needs to be researched deeply.

1.3 The Statement of the Problem

To discuss the function and formation of English derived nouns, two problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the functions of English derived nouns?
2. What kinds of word formation processes do they undergo?

1.4 The Objective of the Study

In line with the statement of the problem as stated above, this research accordingly aims to answer those two questions, namely:

1. To identify the functions of English derived nouns.
2. To reveal the kinds of word formation processes they undergo.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

This research focuses on the formation of English derived nouns. The derived nouns here are discussed in terms of morphology and syntax. Morphologically, the derived nouns are viewed from their formation processes, while syntactically, they are observed from their function in sentence constructions. The formation of English derived nouns here includes compounding, derivation, clipping, echoism, blending, coinage, borrowing, acronymy, antonomasia, reduplication, and conversion. Further, the derived nouns may fill various syntactic functional slots, such as subject, object, complement, and modifier in sentences.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that this research may contribute some valuable information for the readers. Further, it is beneficial for the readers to have a good understanding on the topic discussed, namely morpho-syntactic analysis of English derived nouns.

Practically, this research may encourage them to apply this method of word formation in order that they can enrich their vocabulary; hence, they enhance their

English competence. Theoretically, the result of this research can stimulate other researchers to discuss the same topic 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. Morphology is the study of morphemes and their arrangements in forming words.
(Nida, 1962: 1).
2. Word formation is a process of forming words out of the existing ones. The new words can be formed by morphemes (free or bound morphemes) or by other word classes, such as noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. (Stageberg, 1977:127)
3. Noun is one of the important parts of speech. Its arrangement with the verb helps to form sentence core that is essential to every complete sentence.
(Frank, 1972: 6)
4. Syntax is the study of the arrangement of words into phrases and sentences or syntactical constructions. (Nida: 1962: 1)
5. Morpho-syntactic. It is analysis of language that uses criteria from morphology, the combining of morphemes to form word, and syntax, the structuring and functioning of words in sentences.(Richard, 1980: 155)
6. Function is the relationship between a linguistic form and other parts of the linguistic pattern or system in which it is used (Crystal. 1980: 155)
7. *TIME* is an English magazine published weekly by *TIME* Asia (Hongkong).