

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A language, as a means of communication, needs learning before we are able to understand and produce it well. The statement above is supported by Fromkin and Rodman in *An Introduction to Language* (1992:11) saying “a language, then, consists of all the sounds, words and possible sentences. When you know a language, you know the sounds, the words, and the rules for their combination.”

It is impossible to master a foreign language without the knowledge of the language. Thus, the Indonesian learners of English are strived for learning and practicing the bases of linguistic knowledge. Moreover, Baradja in his book *Kapita Selektta Pengajaran Bahasa* (1990:67) states that the mastery of English knowledge means mastering consciously: (1) the system of English grammar, (2) the system of English sounds, and (3) the system of English vocabularies.

The statements above indicate that the production of words is an important point in using language. Therefore, it is necessary to know how words are produced by studying morphology. It is in line with Fromkin and Rodman’s statement (1992:41) that morphology is the study of the rules by which words are formed.

Veit (1990:33-34) identifies that English words are divided into eight parts of speech, namely: noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, preposition,

conjunction, and interjection. Nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs make up the largest part of the English vocabularies. This study focuses its discussion on verb-formation processes, such as: compounding, conversion, clipping, back formation, borrowing and derivation.

For example:

- (1). He must *enrich* the mind with knowledge. (Supono, 2000:82)
- (2). A cup of tea may *freshen* me. (Supono, 2000:97)
- (3). You should *nail* with a hammer. (Supono, 2000:147)
- (4). They will *blacklist* him. (Supono, 2000:22)
- (5). Pesawat itu *mendarat* dengan mulus di bandara Halim Perdana Kusuma. (Kridalaksana, 1996:41)
- (6). Halaman itu dia *bolak-balik*. (Alwi et al, 2003:132)

The verbs *enrich*, *freshen*, *nail* and *blacklist* undergo the English verb-formation processes; and the verbs *mendarat* and *bolak-balik* undergo the Indonesian verb-formation processes. In the sentence (1), the verb *enrich* is derived from *en-* (a derivational prefix) as a bound morpheme and *rich* (an adjective) as a base or free morpheme. When the prefix *en-* is added to an adjective, the result is a verb that has a causative meaning (Katamba, 1993:50-51). Thus, the verb *enrich* undergoes a derivational process. The verb *freshen* in the sentence (2) consists of *fresh* (an adjective) as a base or free morpheme and the suffix *-en* (a derivational suffix) as a bound morpheme. When the suffix *-en* is added to an adjective, the result is a verb (Katamba, 1993:74). Thus, the verb *freshen* undergoes a derivational process. Meanwhile, in the sentence (3), the

word *nail* is a noun from which a verb has been formed without changing the form of the word - without adding any affixes. It is usually called conversion or functional shift. The verb *blacklist* in the sentence (4) above can be segmented to show its constituent elements, thus *black* and *list*. Here, *black* (an adjective) and *list* (a noun) are combined to produce *blacklist*, a verb. This combining process is usually known as compounding.

In the sentence (5), the verb *mendarat* consists of the prefix *men-* as a bound morpheme and *darat* (a noun) as a base or free morpheme. The bound morpheme {meN-} attached into a noun may change the noun into a verb (Alwi et al, 2003:104-105). It undergoes derivation process. While, the word *bolak-balik* is derived from the base form *balik* that undergoes reduplication, that is, partial reduplication with the change of vowel, *bolak-balik*.

The discussion above shows that verbs in both English and Indonesian may be formed through various ways. Besides, the verb-formation processes in the two languages have some similarities and differences. This fact becomes a phenomenon that needs researching scientifically.

1.2 Reason for Choosing the Topic

The topic of this study concerns with word formation processes in English and Indonesian as well as their similarities and differences. This topic is so defiant that the researcher finds some complicated problems of the English and Indonesian verb-formation processes, so the researcher is interested in doing a

research to find the way how verbs in the two languages are constructed as well as their similarities and differences.

In addition, through this study both the researcher and the readers may improve their ability about English and Indonesian derived verbs, together with their similarities and differences.

1.3 Statement of the Problems

In connection with the verb-formation processes in English and Indonesian, the researcher formulates some problems to discuss, such as the following:

1. What English verb-formation processes are found in *Time* of 2006?
2. What Indonesian verb-formation processes are found in *Intisari* of 2007?
3. How are the English verb-formation processes different from the Indonesian verb-formation processes in the two magazines?
4. How are they similar?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

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

1. To identify the processes of English verb-formation found in *Time* of 2006.
2. To search the processes of Indonesian verb-formation found in *Intisari* of 2007.

3. To clarify the differences of English and Indonesian verb-formation processes found in the two magazines.
4. To find their similarities.

1.5 Scope of the Study

Word formation processes may involve morphemes as basic grammatical units and various word classes, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections. This study limits its scope to discuss only the formation processes of verbs which function as predicates of the sentences in English and Indonesian.

The processes of English verb-formation intended are derivation, compounding, conversion, back formation and clipping (Kuswati, 1996:9-26). Meanwhile, the Indonesian verb-formation processes include derivation, borrowing, compounding, transposition and reduplication (Kridalaksana, 1996:40-108).

In short, this research tries to find the processes of verb-formation in English and Indonesian, as well as their similarities and differences.

1.6 Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the findings of this research may contribute valuable information for the readers, especially the Indonesian learners of English. Hopefully, this study may stimulate other researchers to do further researches on

the English verb-formation processes compared with the Indonesian verb-formation processes more comprehensively.

In addition, this study may enrich our vocabularies and consequently enhance our understanding in both English and Indonesian

1.7 The Meaning of Key Terms

To make the discussion of this study more easily understandable, some of key terms are presented here:

1. *Verb* : A word that expresses action or condition (being or state being) and is essential to sentence meaning (John, 1981:338).
2. *Formation* : The manner or style in which something is formed (Morris, 1969:516).
3. *Process* : Any approach to linguistic description which sees some elements (structure, etc) as being the result of a change operating on some other elements in the language (Crystal, 1980:285).
4. *Predicate* : The part of a sentence or clause that expresses something about the subject. It regularly consists of a verb and may include objects, modifiers, or complements of the verbs (Morris, 1969:1032).