

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

This study deals with syntax as its topic of discussion. Syntax is defined as a basic branch of linguistic study concerned with the interrelationships of words (Stevens & Kegel, 1966:189). It means that syntax studies the arrangements of words into phrases, clauses, and sentences, or syntactic structures and analyses the relationships among those words.

Minimal syntactic structures as stated by Nelson Francis are combination of no more than two lexical words, with or without function words (1958:291). That simple definition clarifies that to produce a syntactic structure needs at least two lexical words. The definition also shows us that several words which are grammatically combined may form a construction of wider meaning than the meaning which is derived from each of the lexical words.

Further, Francis divides syntactic structures into four basic types – structure of modification, structure of predication, structure of complementation and structure of coordination (1958:292). All larger structures, he explains, are simply combination of these; no matter how complicated a structure may be, it can always be analyzed in terms of these four.

A structure of complementation has two immediate constituents – a verbal element and a complement. The verbal element may be a simple verb, verbal or any structure that has a verb in key position. Whereas, the complement may also

be a great variety, such as noun, adjective, adverb, phrase, clause, or one of the other three syntactic structures.

Complements appear only with linking verbs and transitive verbs. The complements of those verbs are subjective complements and objects respectively. It is also common that a transitive verb may have more than one object. Thus, one of them must be direct object, while the other could be indirect object or objective complement.

The following quotations may clarify the discussion above:

- 1) Its professors are among the highest paid in American academe; they teach only 28 weeks a year. (19/ March, 6/ 58)
- 2) The shock of 9/11 provoked an overestimation of the risks the world faced. (37/ March, 13/ 62)
- 3) We know that we have given Iraqis a chance to decide their own destiny through politics rather than murder and that civil war is still avoidable. (66/ March 13/ 62)
- 4) Within hours after Milosevic's body was unloaded from the plane, Serbia started slipping back to normality. (131/ March, 27/ 70)
- 5) She said, "He's been cast in the lead in your movie." (105/ March, 20/ 64)

The structure of complementation (*Its professors*) are among the highest paid in American academe;... in the sentence (1) consists of the linking verb *are* as verbal element and the prepositional phrase *among the highest paid in*

American academe as subjective complement. The linguistic form of the complement is a phrase.

In the structure of complementation (*The shock of 9/11*) *provoked an overestimation of the risks the world faced*, the simple verb *provoked* functions as verbal element. Meanwhile, the noun phrase *an overestimation of the risks the world faced* functions as direct object. Here, the linguistic form of the direct object is a phrase.

Another version appears in the structure of complementation (*We know that*) *(we) have given Iraqis a chance to decide their own destiny through politics rather than murder (and that civil war is still avoidable)*. The position of verbal element of the structure of complementation is filled by the verb phrase *have given* and the complement position is filled by the simple noun *Iraqis* and the noun phrase *a chance to decide their own destiny through politics rather than murder*. Here, *Iraqis* acts as indirect object, while the noun phrase *a chance to decide their own destiny through politics rather than murder* acts as direct object. The linguistic form of the indirect object is a simple noun. Meanwhile, the direct object is a phrase in nature.

In the sentence (4), the structure of complementation (*Within hours after Milosevic's body was unloaded from the plane*), *(Serbia) started slipping back to normality* consists of the simple verb *started* as verbal element and the gerund phrase *slipping back to normality* as complement. The gerund phrase acts as a direct object of the verbal element *started*, a transitive verb.

Finally, the structure of complementation (*She*) *said*, "*He's been cast in the lead in your movie.*" in the sentence (5) contains the simple transitive verb *said* as verbal element and the noun clause *He's been cast in the lead in your movie* as a complement, which is a direct object. The linguistic form of the direct object is a clause. This quotation also proves that a complement of a structure of complementation may be in another syntactic structure, especially a structure of predication, as seen in the sentence (5) above. Here, the personal pronoun *he* functions as subject and the verb phrase *has been cast* acts as its predicate.

The quotations and explanations above make clear that the immediate constituents of a structure of complementation may be in various forms and classes. This phenomenon encourages the researcher to do a research on the topic in order to reveal the use of structure of complementation in the magazine.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

There are a lot of problems in linguistic study, especially in syntax. One of the problems is concerned with syntactic structure, specifically structure of complementation. This scope is complicated enough to understand. Whereas, the problems which are found in the use of structure of complementation are often faced by English learners. Learners must be familiar with several aspects in order to understand structures of complementation, such as the kinds of verb (transitive and intransitive verb, linking verb, non-finite verbs, et cetera) and the seven grammatical properties of a verb (person, tense, mood, aspect, voice, phase, and

status), the kinds of complement (subjective and objective complement, direct and indirect object), and so on.

Understanding a structure of complementation may help learners to compose various sentences. Besides, it is going to help them understand texts which often make use of various syntactic structures.

1.3 The Statement of the Problem

Due to the topic of the discussion in this study, two problems are formulated as the following:

1. What are the kinds of the immediate constituents of the structures of complementation found in the *TIME* magazine?
2. What are the linguistic forms of those complements?

1.4 The Objective of the Study

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

1. To describe the kinds of the immediate constituents of each of the structures of complementation in the *TIME* magazine.
2. To identify the linguistic forms of those complements.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

Descriptive linguistics has four main branches of study – phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics. This research focuses its discussion on syntax

only. Further, syntactic construction includes phrases, clauses, and sentences. Syntactic construction may be differentiated into structure of modification, structure of predication, structure of complementation and structure of coordination. The only structure discussed here is structure of complementation. The structure of complementation is seen from its verbal element and complement as well as the linguistic unit to which the complement belongs.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that this study may contribute something valuable for the readers. By reading this study, the readers may have good understanding on the topic discussed, namely the use of structures of complementation.

Theoretically, this study is expected to improve the knowledge of English learners about syntax, especially structure of complementation. Practically it may challenge other researchers to conduct further research on the same topic.

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. **syntax**: the study of inter-relationships between elements of sentence structure, and of the rules governing the arrangement of sentence in sequences (Crystal, 1980:346)
2. **syntactic structure** : construction analyzable into sequences of syntactic categories or syntactic classes, these being established on the basis of the

syntactic relationship linguistic items have with other items in a construction (Crystal, 1980:346)

3. **minimal syntactic structure**: combinations of no more than two lexical words, with or without function words (Francis, 1958: 291)
4. **structure of complementation**: a structure which has two immediate constituents: a verbal element and a complement (Francis, 1958:342)
5. **immediate constituent (IC)**: one of the two or more constituents which immediately or directly form a construction (in Depari, 2000:96)
6. **verbal (element)**: an element which is a simple verb or it may be any structure that has a verb in key position. Thus it may be a verb-phrase, an infinitive, a structure of modification with verb as head or a structure of coordination whose components are any of these. (Francis, 1958:342)
7. **complement**: an element appearing either with linking verbs or with transitive verbs. (Francis, 1958:346)
8. **structural meaning (grammatical meaning)**: meaning which is derived from putting words together in a construction. (Ramelan, 1992:133)
9. **TIME**: an English magazine which is published weekly by TIME Asia (Hongkong)