CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   The Background of the Study

Language is one of the most important things in human life. Human being expresses his idea using language so that others understand him. Learning language is not merely being able to speak the language or able to translate it into the other language, but moreover, he must have a good mastery of the language system and language components. Those language components are included the arrangement and pronunciation of phonemes or sentences, and understands the meaning of the words and sentences.

Understanding the language systems is very important, especially, for those who want to learn language deeply. A good understanding of the language system enables them to spell language well, even; they will be able to carry out language research. As the persons who are concerned to the language study, they are obliged to become skilled at the language. In the effort to deepen their knowledge they must conduct some studies of different languages.

Language is used for communication among people. The development of language continues all the time. Some linguists have found that there are several basic languages characteristics. The characteristics are sound, system, and meaning (Nasr, 1978: 11).

This has been done by linguists to broaden their views and understanding of other languages. English language also recognizes system of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Therefore, the writer tries to discuss one aspect of the problem concerning to syntax. Syntax itself concerns with the structure of phrases, clauses, and sentences. One kind of the sentences is question. English has three kinds of question forms, they are yes/no questions, attached (or tag) questions and interrogative word (informative) questions. In this case, informative questions consist of nine kinds of question words, such as *what, when, where, why, who, whom, whose, which,* and *how*. On the contrary, Indonesian has several question words. They are *siapa, apa, dimana, dengan apa, mengapa, bagaimana, bilamana*. For example:

(89) *How* is the government going to produce drinking water when it hasn't been able to provide clean water?

(71) *Who* provides drinking water?

Indonesian:

(195) *Bagaimana* pemerintah dapat menyediakan air minum apabila tidak mampu lagi memenuhi produksi air bersih?

(181) *Siapa* yang menyediakan air minum?

In the English sentence (89) *how* is an interrogative adverb, and it functions as a question word. In the Indonesian sentence (195) *bagaimana* is an adverb. The English question word (71) *who* functions as a subject of verb. The Indonesian sentence (181) *siapa* may functions as subject or object if it is placed in the final position.

The reason of choosing the title is that the writer wants to know in detail about the English informative question and its equivalence in Indonesian. It is because, both English and Indonesian informative questions are different in their structure.

1.2   The Statement of the Problem

In connection with Indonesian and English informative question, the writer discusses some problems of the study. They are as follows:

1.   What are the structures of informative questions in English?

2.   What are the similarities and differences of informative question in English and Indonesian?

1.3   The Objective of the Study

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

1.   To describe the structure of informative question in English.

2.   To describe the similarities and the differences of informative question in English and Indonesian

1.4   The Scope of the Problem

Syntax concerns with the study of the structure of phrases, clauses, and sentences. One kind of the sentences is question. Questions in English and Indonesian have different structure. English has three kinds of question forms. In this research, the researcher does not analyze all kinds of questions. The

researcher only focuses on English informative questions and its equivalence in Indonesian.

1.5   The Source of the Data

To do the research the writer must have the accurate data source. The writer takes the data from "The Jakarta Post" of March 2004. The writer chooses the source of data because "The Jakarta Post" is a popular newspaper which provides more information about informative questions. This newspaper gives the complete data to support this analysis. Further, "The Jakarta Post" is familiar as an English newspaper.

1.6   The Significance of the Study

A lot of language researches, in fact, have given precious contributions in the improvement of English learning. The writer hopes that the result of this research may contribute something valuable for the readers, especially, in stimulating to study more about informative question, and also for the other researcher to continue this research deeply and completely.