

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

English is an international language which is used in most countries all over the world. In Indonesia, English is a foreign language which is learned by students of elementary school up to university.

The competency in English will help us to gain control of our personal environment whether it is academic setting, the world of work or society in general. Accordingly, this thesis discusses one aspect of English that often becomes a problem, especially for the Indonesian students, in order to find out the answer for the problem. The aspect intended here is gerund phrase.

Gerund is verbal that ends in- *ing* and functions as a noun. While phrase is a group of related words that functions as a single part of speech but lacks a subject, a predicate or both. Gerund phrase is one of verbal phrase types. In this verbal phrase type, a verb is reduced to an – *ing* form. The term verbal indicates that a gerund, like the other two kinds of verbal, is derived from a verb and therefore expresses action or state of being.

Gerund phrase as a verbal noun may perform all the functions which nouns are capable of fulfilling in a sentence, such as subject of verb, object of verb, object of preposition, subjective complement, and appositive.

1. Gerund phrase as subject of verb:

- (1) The biggest failing of the goods- for- bonds deal, however, is that it has hooked American consumers onto cheap imports and caused a huge deterioration in the U.S current- account deficit (39/ 46/ IV).

The sentence above shows that the gerund phrase *the biggest failing of the goods- for- bonds deal* acts as subject of the verb *is*.

2. Gerund phrase as object of verb:

- (2) He loves seeing good movie (36/ 28/ IV).

The gerund phrase *seeing good movie* in the sentence (2) above functions as the object of the verb *loves*.

3. Gerund phrase as object of preposition:

- (3) "Bremer didn't inform the White House or the Pentagon of the timing of the move", an official says, "but Chalabi had view allies left in Washington willing to defend him" (8/ 21/ 1).

In the sentence above the gerund phrase *the timing of the move* functions as object of the preposition *of*.

4. Gerund phrase as subjective complement:

- (4).The difficult part of our vacation will be getting to Florida (27/ 42/ III).

The gerund phrase *getting to Florida* refers to the subject of the sentence above, namely *the difficult part of our vacation*. It can also be said that *getting to*

Florida is equivalent with *the difficult part of our vacation*. So, it is classified as a subjective complement.

5. Gerund phrase as appositive:

(5). However, the left one was better at doing his action: shooting, punching, opening armored cupboard, etc (Weinhold, 1979: 211).

A gerund phrase as an appositive explains the previous noun phrase. The gerund phrase *opening armored cupboard* in the sentence above functions as appositive. It explains the previous noun phrase *his action*. Together with *shooting* and *punching*, the gerund phrase *opening armored cupboard* is equivalent with *his action*.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

The study on the use of gerund phrases in the *Time* magazine is chosen as the topic of the discussion in this research because learners of English often face the difficulty in comprehending it. Besides that, the researcher finds that the use of gerund phrases has so many complicated problems, such as their functions, components, constructions, and transformations. That is why, the researcher is quite interested in doing a research on these problems. Moreover, the students of Widya Mandala University never discuss the use of gerund phrases as the topic of their research. Therefore, the researcher decides to discuss the topic above in order to get the alternative solutions on the problems.

1.3 The Statement of the Problem

In line with the topic of the study, that is, an analysis of the use of gerund phrases found in the *Time* magazine, the writer finds three problems to discuss.

They are as follows:

1. What are the functions of gerund phrases in the *Time* magazine?
2. What are the components of those gerund phrases?
3. What are transformational processes which those gerund phrases undergo?

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

In order to answer the problems about the use of gerund phrases found in the *Time* magazine above, the researcher determines three aims of this study, namely:

1. To identify the functions of gerund phrases in the *Time* magazine.
2. To clarify the components of those gerund phrases.
3. To investigate the transformational processes those gerund phrases undergo.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

The verbal includes infinitives, gerunds, and participles. An infinitive is the basic form of the verb with or without *to*. While, gerund is the *-ing* form of verb used as noun. Participle is a word which is derived from a verb with the addition of *-ing* ending called present participial or of *-ed* ending called past participle. But this study discusses gerund only.

Further, gerund may be in the form of single word or of phrase. This research focuses its discussion on gerund phrase.

There are many problems in the use of gerund phrases, such as their functions, constructions, components, transformation and so forth. The scope of this study covers the functions, components and transformation of gerund phrases used in *Time* magazine of June 2004.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

Generally, the researcher hopes that this research will give valuable information about the use of gerund phrases to the readers, especially for the students of English Department of Widya Mandala University. Theoretically, this research can help the readers to develop or increase their ability on linguistics, that is, verbals and specifically about gerund phrases. Practically, the result of the research can stimulate other researchers to do further research on the same topic.

1.7 The Method of the Study

Related with the source of the analyzed data, this study is a kind of library research, because the data are taken from the printed material, that is, English weekly magazine *Time*. Further, based on its activity and characteristics, this study is descriptive research. Surakhmad, in his book entitled *Dasar dan Teknik Research: Pengantar Metodologi Research*, says that descriptive method is a way used to solve the problems by collecting, classifying, and analyzing the data (1978: 132). Consequently, in doing this research the researcher just describes the data in

relation to their functions, components, and transformations without any judgement or prescription. Moreover, the result of this research is applicable only for this study. In other words, the result of the research cannot be generalized.