

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Study

As normal human beings we need to express ourselves and communicate our ideas, desires, and emotions with others. Then the medium to run this activity is language, so language in this case plays an important role as a means of communication in society. By using language, people can make relation to one another in their life. In relation with this fact, Sapir in *Language* says "Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbol ( 1921 : 8 ).

The use of language by human beings involves the production of words. To know how words are produced, it is necessary to study morphology. It is in line with Nida's opinion, saying that morphology is the study of morphemes and their arrangements in forming words ( 1949 : 1 ). Words in English are grouped into eight parts of speech : nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

Furthermore, nouns may be formed through some processes, such as compounding, conversion, coinage, blending, clipping, back formation, borrowing, acronymy, and derivation ( Stageberg and Goodman, 1977 : 127 ). Derivation is the forming of new words by combining affixes or bound bases with existing words.

In this thesis the writer discusses suffixes that have relation with noun formation, such as *-dom, -ess, -er, -ette, -hood, -ism, -let, -scape, -ling, -ship, -ist, -ian, -age, -ary, -ity, -y, -ance, -ness, -ation, -ee, -ure, -al, -ment, -ence, -ant, -eni, -ion, and -tion*.

There are certain suffixes which may attach to one or more word bases to form noun. For example, suffix *-ity* may attach to noun, verb, and adjective ( *virginity, conformity, authenticity* ). Suffix *-dom* may attach to noun and adjective to form noun ( *girlhood, freedom* ). Yet, there are suffixes that may only attach to verb, or adjective such as suffix *-ment* which may only attach to verb to form noun ( *management, arrangement, agreement* ), while suffix *-ness* may only attach to adjective to form noun ( *happiness, sadness* ). However suffix *-ment* or *-ness* is suitable only for certain verbs or adjectives, because there are no such forms as *invitement, selectment, falseness, wiseness*, etc. Another word, suffix *-ment* cannot be added to verb like *invite* and *select* and suffix *-ness* cannot be added to adjective like *false* and *wise*.

The evidences above become a phenomenon which needs researching scientifically.

## **1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic**

The topic contains a lot of problems to investigate, so that the researcher feels challenged to do a research on the problems in order to get some alternative solutions.

Besides, those problems are often faced by English learners; consequently, this research is still regarded as a relevant study both for the researcher and for the readers.

In addition, the topic, that is, noun suffixes, is so far never discussed as a material of thesis in the English Department of Widya Mandala University. That's why, the researcher is quite eager to perform a research on the topic intended.

### **1.3 The Statement of the Problem**

In connection with the use of suffixes to form nouns in English, the researcher formulates some problems of study. They are as follows :

1. What are the kinds of suffixes used to form nouns in *Holland Horizon* magazine ?
2. What are the meanings of those noun suffixes ?
3. What is the degree of productivity of each of the noun suffixes in the magazine ?

### **1.4 The Objective of the Study**

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

1. To describe the kinds of suffixes used to form nouns in *Holland Horizon* magazine.
2. To clarify the meanings of those noun suffixes.

3. To determine the degree of productivity of each of the noun suffixes in the magazine.

### **1.5 The Scope of the Study**

Word formation is a process of forming words out of the existing ones. This process may involve morphemes ( free or bound ) and various word classes such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, but this study discusses only noun formation.

The basic processes of word formation are compounding, derivation, coinage, blending, clipping, back formation, borrowing, acronymy, reduplication, and conversion ( Stageberg, 1977 : 127 ). In this research, derivation is the only word formation process in application.

Derivation is the forming of new words by combining affixes with word bases. Affixes may be prefixes and suffixes. Prefixes are not discussed in this study, but suffixes. Suffixation is a process by which some affixes are attached to the end of a word base.

In short, this research discusses suffixes used to form nouns, including their kinds, meanings and degrees of productivity.

### **1.6 The Significance of the Study**

It is hoped that the result of this research may contribute something valuable for the readers, especially the English learners. So, they may have a good understanding on the use of noun suffixes in English. Theoretically, this

study is expected to improve the readers' knowledge about noun suffixes. More specifically, the result of this study is intended to stimulate other researchers to do a further research on the same topic.

### **1.7 The Method of the Study**

Due to its source of the data, this study belongs to a library research since the data of this research are taken from printed materials, namely *Holland Horizon*. Based on the activities performed in this study, it is classified as a descriptive research, because it follows the steps commonly done in a descriptive research, as stated by Surakhmad in *Dasar dan Teknik Research : Methodology Ilmiah* that "descriptive method is a way to solve the problem by collecting, classifying and analyzing the data ( 1978 : 132 ). Besides, this research is categorized as descriptive because the researcher just describes the data in relation to their kinds, meanings, and degrees of productivity without giving any judgment or prescription. Consequently, the result of this research is applicable only for this study. In other words, it cannot be generalized.