

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This study deals with the use of English participles viewed from their functions, characteristics and the occurrence frequency of each of those participles in the English daily newspaper *The Jakarta Post*. The discussion in this chapter is divided into seven parts, namely the background of the problem, the reason of choosing the topic, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the scope of the problem, the significance of the study, and the method of the study.

1.1 The Background of the Problem

As human beings, we may act as individual and social man. As an individual man, we have ideas, emotions and desires. But at the same time, as a social man, we need other persons to communicate with. By communicating each other, we can share our ideas, emotions and desires. While, to communicate in society, language is used as a medium. It is in line with the opinion of Sapir as stated in *Language*, "language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols" (1921: 8).

The language used as a means of communication may be in the forms of morphemes, words, phrases, sentences, or even discourses. Words as one of

linguistic units may be classified into eight parts of speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections.

In English structure, a verb can be finite or a real verb and non-finite or a verbal, which functions as other parts of speech than verb, like noun, adjective, or adverb. Verbal may be in the form of infinitives, gerunds, and participles.

Based on the topic of the study, the researcher just discusses the English participles. Participle is a word, which is derived from a verb in *-ing* ending (e.g. boring, sleeping, knocking, etcetera) which is called present participle, or from a verb in *-ed* ending (e.g. bored, interested, knocked, etcetera) which is called past participle (Hornby and Cowie, 1970: 900).

English participles in application may be of different functions, characteristics, constructions, and meanings. They may be used as adjective, noun, progressive tense former, perfect tense former, passive structure former, and etcetera.

The following examples clarify the discussion above:

- (1) The election may not fail, but it might not take place as *scheduled* (*The Jakarta Post* of March 8, 2004: 1).
- (2) Sukip, *representing* a group of printing firms under Temprina Media Grafika, which is responsible for printing 68 million ballot papers for the regional legislative election, said the group could only finish on March 17 at the earliest (*The Jakarta Post* of March 8, 2004: 1).

The word *scheduled* in the sentence (1) is classified as past participle, which undergoes the process of suffixation, that is, the addition of the suffix *-ed* to the

verb *schedule*. The past participle in this sentence is used as the passive construction former in reduced construction. While, its use is combined with another word, that is, adverb *as* that completes its meaning and forms the phrase *as scheduled* that is used to complete the basic idea in the sentence *The election may not fail, but it might not take place*. Actually, the past participle *scheduled* is a reduced form of *(as) it was scheduled*. The deletion of the subject pronoun *it* and the auxiliary *was* is intended to create the simple sentence. The second sentence shows that the present participle *representing* is used to replace the relative pronoun *who* and the verb *represent*. Consequently, the verb *represent* changes into present participle *representing* through the process of suffixation, that is, the addition of the ending *-ing* to the root *represent*. In the sentence above, the present participle *representing* together with the phrase *a group of printing firms under Temprina Media Grafika* is used as modifier of the subject *Sukip*. It means that it is used to describe and limit the subject of the sentence. There is a process of clause reduction in the sentence above. Actually, the verbal phrase *representing a group of printing firms under Temprina Media Grafika,..* is a reduced form of *(Sukip) who represents a group of printing firms under Temprina Media Grafika, (which is responsible for printing 68 million ballot papers for the regional legislative election, said the group could only finish on March 17 at the earliest)*. So, the process of clause reduction above is the omission of the relative pronoun *who* and the changing of a verb *represent* into *representing*.

The use of English participle is of various kinds depending on its function in sentences. In fact, it may be used as adjective, noun, adverb, progressive tense former, perfect tense former, passive sentence former and etcetera. The problem above becomes an interesting phenomenon to discuss in a research in order to get a solution scientifically.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

The study on the use of English participles found in *The Jakarta Post* is chosen as the topic of this research because learners of English often face the difficulty in comprehending it. Besides that, the researcher finds that the use of English participles has so many complicated problems, such as their functions, characteristics and meanings. 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 English participles 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, the use of English participles found in the English daily newspaper *The Jakarta Post*, the researcher finds three problems to discuss. They are as the following:

1. How are English participles used in *The Jakarta Post*?
2. What factors characterize the use of English participles in the newspaper?

3. What is the occurrence frequency of each of the participles in the newspaper?

1.4 The Objective of the Study

In order to answer the problems about the use of English participles found in the English daily newspaper *The Jakarta Post* above, the researcher determines three aims of this study, namely:

1. To reveal the use of English participles found in *The Jakarta Post*.
2. To describe the factors which characterize the use of English participles in the newspaper.
3. To determine the occurrence frequency of each of the participles in the newspaper.

1.5 The Scope of the Problem

A finite verb is usually used as predicate of a sentence. However, a verb also functions as other parts of speech than verb. Such a verb is called verbal or non-finite verb and doesn't act as the true verb. The verbal includes infinitives, gerunds, and participles. An infinitive is the basic form of verb with or without *to*. While, gerund is the *-ing* form of verb used as noun. As mentioned previously, participle is a word which is derived from a verb with the addition of *-ing* ending called present participle or from a verb with the addition of *-ed* ending called past participle. But this study discusses English participles only.

There are many problems in the use of English participles, such as their functions, constructions, characteristics, meanings and so forth. This study limits its discussion on the functions and characteristics of English participles used in *The Jakarta Post* of March 8-12, 2004.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

Generally, the researcher hopes that this research will give valuable information about the use of English participles to the readers, especially for the students of the 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 the use of English participles. Practically, the result of the research can stimulate other researchers to do further research on the same scope.

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, the English daily newspaper *The Jakarta Post*. Further, based on its activity and characteristics, this study is a descriptive research. It is a research which is done through some steps, as stated by Surakhmad in his book entitled *Dasar dan Teknik Research: Pengantar Metodologi Research*, 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 and characteristics 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.