

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is a means of communication. It develops depending on the community who uses the language. Through the language one can define the kind of community because the language may show the behavior and the system of social community. Language is used to express one's opinions, ideas, and desires. It is true that language is very important in life. Therefore, it is hard to imagine how people able to communicate and get along with one another without language.

Language has a social function that makes interaction among each other in a certain community. The interaction itself depends on situation, time, place, and people to whom one speaks. Moreover, using such a language is also influenced by someone's ability.

The English language is the mother tongue for English people who live in England, USA, Canada, Australia, and so on. The English language is international language, because most people use English when having a communication.

The function of language is also to express the idea in literary works. One of the famous literary works is play. Play is a work of literary composition which delicates life and human activity by means of presenting various actions

and also presenting on the stage. One of the famous plays is Eugene O'neil's *Desire under the Elms*.

The story is very interesting to read, however, the writer of the thesis is not analyzing the story of the play. The writer wants to analyze the time deixis in the play, because it has an effect on the story of the play.

To show the use of time deixis, the researcher wants to analyze the time deixis in *Desire Under the Elms*. He convinces that time deixis is the way to reckoning the time for English people, which is used in the play. Levinson (1985: 74) states:

Both time and place are complicated by the interaction of deictic coordinates with the non-deictic conceptualization of time and space. To understand this aspect of deixis in depth, it is first necessary to have a good understanding of the semantic organization of space and time in general, but these topics lie beyond the scope of this book (see though, Leech 1969: Fillmore 1969: Lyon 1977: Chapter 15). Briefly, though, the bases for system of reckoning and measuring time in most language seem to be natural and prominent cycles of day and night, lunar month, season and year.

The system of reckoning and measuring time in most language is based on the natural condition and the movement of the sun, the moon, and the cycles of day and night, and also the use of the cycle and the movement of star. The time deixis, which is used in the play, is based on the day, the month and the year. The deictic modifiers are *this*, *next*, and *last*. This makes the writer interested in analyzing the time deixis in the play, because the writer wants to know the kinds and the purposes of the use of time deixis in the Eugene O'neil's *Desire Under the Elms*.

## 1.2 The Statement of the Problem

The problems of the research are to answer the following questions:

1. What are the kinds of time deixis used in *Desire Under the Elms*?
2. What are the purposes of the use of time deixis in *Desire Under the Elms*?

## 1.3 The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to find out the answer for the problems.

They are as follows:

1. To describe the kinds of time deixis in *Desire Under the Elms*.
2. To describe the purpose of the use of time deixis in *Desire Under the Elms*.

## 1.4 The Scope and Limitation

The research merely deals with time deixis. It does not discuss the person deixis and the place deixis. The time deixis is found in *Desire Under the Elms* written by Eugene O'neil. It was published by Thornton Wilder in New York in 1940. The time deixis will be discussed pragmatically.

## 1.5 The Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. They are introduction, underlying theories, research methodology, data analysis, and conclusion. They are divided into subchapters as follows:

Chapter I : Introduction consisting of the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the scope and limitation, and the organization of the thesis.

- Chapter II : Underlying theories consisting of pragmatics, deixis, speech act, semantics, and speech community.
- Chapter III : Research Methodology consisting of types of research, technique of data collecting, and technique of data analysis
- Chapter IV : Data Analysis consisting of the kinds of time deixis used in the play Eugene O'neil's *Desire Under the Elms* and the purposes of the use of time deixis in the play *Desire Under the Elms* written by Eugene O'neil.
- Chapter V : Conclusion is not divided into subchapters.