

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

As normal human beings we need to express ourselves and communicate our ideas, desires, emotions, and so on with others. Then the important 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. Sapir in *Language* states:

Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols (1921:8)

The quotation above implies that language has got a close relationship with human life. Language determines human being's civilization, in which a good language shows a good civilization of human being.

Most day-to-day communication among people is done in spoken language, that is by talking. Besides, communication is also done in written language, that is by writing.

Furthermore, learning a language can not be separated from the four language skills, namely writing, speaking, reading, and listening. Reading is important to get knowledge and science. When we read a magazine or any literary work we often find the problems of sentence. English and Indonesian sentences may be active and passive in construction.

In fact, some texts both in English and Indonesian are commonly written in the form of passive structure. It is true especially in the field of scientific writing.

English passive structures can be signed through the characteristics, such as: putting the verb *be* and adding *the past participle* after *be*. Then, the actor is signed by *by* phrase and it is put at the end of the clause. However, English passive sentence is different from Indonesian passive sentence, especially in the structures. While, Indonesian passive structures can be signed by adding prefix *di-* or *ter-*, personal pronoun and confix *ke-an* in the verb of the sentence. And the actor is expressed by the word *oleh + noun* that is preceded by the verb.

Therefore, those striking differences between English and Indonesian passive structures arise a great problem for learners of the two languages.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

This thesis, entitled *A Comparative Analysis of English and Indonesian Passive Structures in Henrik Ibsen's The Wild Duck and Bebek Liar*, deals with linguistics.

The discussion of this thesis is concerned with syntax, because it involves a great deal of problems of sentence constructions.

In this thesis, the writer tries to analyze passive structures in English and Indonesian, especially the use of passive structures in the plays *The Wild Duck* and its translation in Indonesian *Bebek Liar*. It is chosen as the topic of the

discussion because it is felt challenging to discuss and may contribute something valuable for learners of English and Indonesian.

In addition, people get difficulty to comprehend passive structures of English and Indonesian, because of the fact that the passive construction of Indonesian is quite different from that of English. That's way, the writer is interested in investigating passive structures in the two languages in order to find their differences as well as similarities.

The investigation is done in the hope that this work may help learners to improve their ability in mastering English and Indonesian passive structures.

1.3 The Statement of the Problem

The problems of the study are as follows:

- a. What are the characteristics of English passive structures in Henrik Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*?
- b. What are the characteristics of Indonesian passive structures in Henrik Ibsen's *Bebek Liar*?
- c. How are English and Indonesian passive structures similar in the two plays?
- d. How are they different in the two literary works?

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to answer the above questions, namely:

- a. To elaborate the characteristics of English passive structures in Henrik Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*.
- b. To describe the characteristics of Indonesian passive structures in Henrik Ibsen's *Bebek Liar*.
- c. To search the similarities of English and Indonesian passive structures in the two plays.
- d. To seek the differences of English and Indonesian passive structures in the two literary works.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

It is important to limit the problems that are discussed in this thesis in order to get detailed information about passive structures in English and Indonesian. Actually, there are many problems of English and Indonesian passive structures, such as the characteristics, the meanings, the differences, the similarities and the forms. However, in this thesis the writer focuses the discussion on the characteristics of English and Indonesian passive structures. In relation to their similarities as well as their differences.

The problems of passive structure are found in most of the languages all over the world; but this study chooses English and Indonesian only. In other words, only passive structures of English and Indonesian are discussed in this research.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the result of this research would convey useful information about English and Indonesian passive structures for the learners, so that they are able to produce good passive structures in the two languages. Theoretically, this information is then expected to improve the learners' knowledge in writing English and Indonesian passive structures. More specifically, the result of the study is intended to stimulate other researchers to do a further research on the same problems.

1.7 The Method of the Study

Due to its source of data, this study belongs to library research because the data of this research are taken from printed materials, namely Henrik Ibsen's plays.

Based on the activities involved in this study, it is classified as a descriptive research. Surakhmad in *Dasar dan Teknik Research: Pengantar Metodologi Ilmiah* states that descriptive method is a way used to solve the topical problem by collecting, classifying and analyzing data (1978:132).