

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

People use language to communicate with one another. In using language, however, one should manipulate appropriate words to express her or his ideas so that they are understandable. There are many ways to express one's ideas. Some of them are by the use of written language. Both oral and written languages have the same function that is, a means to convey ideas in communication. In fact, language is not only used as a means of communication in society, but it is also a very important means to establish and maintain relationship among people. In other words, language always takes place as a medium of communication in society when the society or people cooperate with one another. That's why the society and language are very closely related.

Learning a language cannot be separated from the four skills of language study namely, speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Reading is important for us to get knowledge and science. When we read any literary work, for example, we often find the problems of sentences. English sentences have many conjunctions that introduce clauses of more than one type. For example, the clause when he left in the sentence 'The other came *when he left*' indicates time, so the clause *when he left* is classified as adverb of time. But the clause *when he left* is interpreted differently in different sentences:

1. Can you tell me *when he left*? (Noun: Object)
2. *When we left* is still a mystery (Noun: Subject)

3. Do you remember the day *when he left*? (Adjective)
4. How could we know the result
when he left before the end? (Cause)
5. They invited him again even
when he left once without saying goodbye (Concession)

(Allen, 1989:58)

In the sentences (1) and (2), the finite dependent clauses belong to noun clauses. In the sentence (1), the finite dependent clause serves as direct object, while in the sentence (2), the finite dependent clause functions as subject of the main clause. Next, the finite dependent clause in the sentence (3) functions as adjective because it modifies the noun the day. Then, the clause *when he left* in the sentence (4) is classified as adverbial clause of cause. The clause here functions as modifier of the main clause. Next, in the sentence (5), the finite dependent clause is classified as adverbial clause of concession. The clause *when he left* here functions as the modifier of the main clause.

Those sentences above show that one clause (e.g. *when he left*) has the different functions in different sentences.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

The Faculty of Letters, especially the English Department, concerns with two fields of study namely, linguistics and literature. One of the branches of linguistics is syntax. Syntax itself concerns with the structure of phrases, clauses, and even sentences.

In connection with syntax, this thesis tries to apply one of the theories of syntactic analysis, that is, the use of finite dependent clauses introduced by *wh-*

words. It is chosen as the topic of discussion because the writer finds most of the problems of finite dependent clauses challenging to discuss scientifically.

In addition, people will get difficulty to comprehend the use of finite dependent clauses, because it is so hard for them to learn the finite dependent clauses without understanding the characteristics and the functions of the finite dependent clauses. So, learning the finite dependent clauses can improve our knowledge in the English language.

1.3 The Scope of the Study

It is very important to limit the scope of the problems in order to get the detailed information about the finite dependent clauses introduced by *wh*-words as the topic of discussion.

Clauses can be classified according to their dependency- independent (main clause) and dependent (subordinate clause). Dependent clauses can be viewed from their components- finite and non-finite. Finite dependent clauses can also be introduced by various subordinate conjunctions, such as: *after, if, when, because, as...as, where, when, although, since, how, than, as*, etcetera. In this case, the subject matter which will be discussed focuses on the finite dependent clauses introduced by *wh*-words (*what, when, where, why, who, which, and how*),

Further, finite dependent clauses introduced by *wh*-words may be adverbial clauses, adjective clauses, and noun clauses. The adverbial clauses function as modifier of verbs, of adjectives, of adverbs, and of sentences. Next,

the adjective clauses function as noun modifier and as pronoun modifier. Then, noun clauses may function as subject, as object, as complement, and as appositive.

1.4 The Statement of the Problems

In connection with the finite dependent clauses, the writer discusses some problems of study. They are as follows:

1. What are the kinds of finite dependent clauses introduced by *wh*-words in *Oliver Twist*?
2. What are the functions of finite dependent clauses introduced by *wh*-words in *Oliver Twist*?
3. What is the occurrence frequency of the use of each finite dependent clause introduced by *wh*-words in *Oliver Twist*?

1.5 The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to find out the answer for those problems namely:

1. To describe the kinds of finite dependent clauses introduced by *wh*-words in *Oliver Twist*.
2. To search the functions of finite dependent clauses introduced by *wh*-words in *Oliver Twist*.
3. To determine the occurrence frequency of the use of each finite dependent clause introduced by *wh*-words in *Oliver Twist*.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the result of this study may contribute something valuable for the readers, especially for researchers to use it as reference for further research on the use of finite dependent clauses introduced by *wh*-words. Specifically, it is beneficial for the readers, since it may stimulate them to study the finite dependent clauses more comprehensively. In addition, hopefully this study can be one of the alternatives for the English learners to understand better about the use of finite dependent clauses introduced by *wh*-words in the novel *Oliver Twist*.

1.7 The Method of Study

Due to the source of the data, this study belongs to a library research since the data of this research is taken from printed material, namely the novel *Oliver Twist* written by Charles Dickens. Based on the activities performed, this work is classified as descriptive research, because it involves the step usually done in descriptive research as stated by Surakhmad in Teknik Research: Pengantar Metodologi Ilmiah "descriptive method is a way used to solve the topical problem by collecting, classifying, and analyzing data" (1978:132).