

CHAPTER I

Introduction

1.1 Background Study

For over decades, the increasing study related to genre up to texts has been gaining more interest, specifically the use of nominal group in the field of applied linguistics, in various disciplines (Sayfour, 2010; Swales, 2004) such as media texts (Bardici, 2012; Ong'onda, 2016; Ayoub, Awan, and Abbas, 2016), speech (Koussouhon & Dossoumou, 2015; Liping, 2014), and poem (Hussein, 2011; Nguyen, 2012). Known as significant grammatical unit, nominal group has the most variety rank of groups and provides the largest range of meanings to be presented (Thompson, 2000, p. 181 in Saputra, 2017, p. 3 and Hussein, 2017). The units appear to help writers explain more details on what is about in their writings.

The studies regarding nominal group has been conducted continuously in the past years. Priyanto (2013) in his study analyzed the nominal group structures from the abstracts of Asian TEFL and TEFLIN journals. He pointed out that the abstracts of Asian TEFL have more nominal group structures with the total of 15 structures; meanwhile the abstracts of TEFLIN journals have least with 12 structures. Meanwhile Sharndama (2015) conducted a study that focuses on nominal group structures used in professional and popularized legal texts. The results show that there is no significant variation in the nominal group or noun

phrase structures in two categories of legal texts. The pre-modifiers in both texts have different roles, meanwhile the complexity of post-modifiers results the difficulty of comprehending the text by a lay audience.

Another study conducted by Saputra (2017) regarding nominal group structures in Bank Mandiri General Conditions for Account Opening 2016. A corpus of Bank Mandiri General Conditions for Account Opening 2016 was collected for this study. He revealed that simple nominal group composed from one or two elements to describe a 'thing' occur 57 times (50.44%). Meanwhile complex nominal group consists of several elements to express a 'thing' is less used only 56 times (49.56%). As Halliday (1985) stated that nominal group has both simple and complex structure. The information provided in Bank Mandiri General Conditions for Account Opening 2016 is mostly derived from simple nominal group structure. Even though there was no significance different of the use of simple and complex structures, it was believed if language users should be capable of mastering its structure and usage in order to anticipate misinterpretation among them.

Refers to the previous studies regarding nominal group in various types of texts that have been conducted, it can be seen that nominal group is mainly found in the form of "thing" to indicate the information that is being discussed in a text. Unfortunately, the studies are mainly focus on investigating adult texts as their corpus, as for examples abstract of articles, legal texts, and information book

regarding opening bank account. Therefore, the present study use encyclopedia as the corpus that is aimed for children that contains more entries and information regarding topics that are being discussed.

Encyclopedia is one of the ways of information transfer that is in the form of report text, which is one of thirteen genres that are mentioned in Indonesian curriculum and described in *Kompetensi Dasar 4.9.1* as “*menangkap makna secara kontekstual terkait fungsi sosial, struktur teks, dan unsur kebahasaan teks information report lisan dan tulis, sangat pendek dan sederhana, terkait topik yang tercakup dalam mata pelajaran lain di kelas XI*”. Encyclopedia can be used in teaching and learning process to expose different examples of report text as it is assumed as one of challenging type of texts that requires students’ analytical understanding that is the basic competency for the students to have C4 cognitive domain proposed by Bloom's taxonomy, which will make them better prepared to face the challenges in daily life in the future. Moreover, encyclopedia also has more variation of nominal group used to be expose to the students in the teaching and learning process, which is in line with GBA – that aims to expand students communicative competence (Oematan, 2008: 21) by learning through different kind of texts (Pujiastuti, D., Susilohadi, G., & Asrori, M., 2013, p. 306) – and SFL – that concerned with the mechanism of text structure, function, and meaning –.

From the above reviews, it can be conclude that in few existing studies related to various types of texts and genres, until today, the researcher has not found a

study, which focuses on examining the variability of nominal group used in encyclopedia. This study therefore aims to fill these gaps by examining the variety of the used of nominal group in two different children's animal encyclopedias.

1.2 Research Questions

1) How do the two children's animal encyclopedia entries vary in regard to the use of the nominal groups?

1.1) How do they vary in regard to the nominal group's structure?

1.2) How do they vary in regard to nominal group elements' functions?

1.3 Aims of the Study

This study aims to:

1) Discover the variation of nominal group used in different animal sections in two children's animal encyclopedia entries.

1.1) Discover the variation of nominal group's structures

1.2) Discover the variation of functions of nominal group in two children's animal encyclopedia entries.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on analyzing the use of nominal group as participants and circumstances in the encyclopedias. The data will be taken from **Encyclopedia of Knowledge: A Complete Guide to Almost Everything** and **The Little Animal Encyclopedia** to be compared.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give contribution in the field of English Language Education, especially material development as it is hoped to give new information for teachers and practitioners that they can use another learning source – encyclopedia – to teach report text, as well as enrich the research finding in the SFL field. Meanwhile the results of this study are hoped to give information about the variation of nominal group in encyclopedias to present the meaning in sentences.