

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter explain the background of choosing the study's topic, the research questions, the purpose of the study, the limitation of the study and the significance of the study. The explanations of these parts are presented below.

1.1 Background of the study

Cohesion is one of the aspect that important to be considered in writing. To make a text united among sentences is viewed as a cohesive text. If a paragraph is lack of corresponding cohesion, it will become a group of unrelated sentences (Johns, 1980). Therefore, an understanding of cohesion and its use in any subject is principal to understanding of any discourse.

According to Halliday and Hassan (1976), cohesion is referred to the range of possibilities that exist for linking something with what has done before and the linking is achieved through relation in meaning. It means that cohesion is occur when the components of the surface text are connected in a sequence. Cohesion is distinguished by two general types of cohesion that is grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion (Halliday & Hassan, 1976).

The construct of cohesion is one of the widely explored sub-filesds of second language writing. Some previous study has already conducted on cohesion topics. One of the study that has been conducted in English Department is the study on cohesion in the abstract of English Department students' skripsi, by Maulani (2011). She found that the cohesion devices used in the abstract is dominated by

reference with the percentage of 64.07% for literature program. Followed by conjunction with the percentage of 25.50% for educational program and 25.66% for literature program. The lexical cohesion is on the third position with the percentage of 5.64% for education program and 9.81% for literature program. The last cohesive device is substitution and ellipsis with the percentage of 0.46% for literature program and 0.10% for education program.

Another study on cohesion also has conducted by Haryani (2009). She conducted a study on lexical cohesion in career advice articles. It is found that there are five types of lexical cohesion occurs in career advice articles; repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and collocation. Meronymy is not found in the articles. The most dominant type used is repetition with the percentage of 75.08%, it has function to emphasize the message to be remembered by the reader. The second position is synonymy with the percentage 11.9%, it makes the articles interesting to read. Next position is followed by collocation with the percentage of 6.4%, it eases the reader in imagining the context. Next is hyponymy 4.18%, it specify the context and the last is antonymy 2.5%, it shows occurrence of the possibilities.

Lexical cohesion is how the texture of the text is created by the use of words with its related meaning (Klebanov & Shamir, 2010). It is different from another types of cohesion, lexical cohesion is not explicitly marked in the text but supplied by the reader's background knowledge. Lexical cohesion comes through the selection of words that are related with words that have gone before (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). There are types of lexical cohesion pattern of how a writer

creates cohesion in discourse; repetition, synonymy, hyponymy, meronymy and collocation (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). These types are used as the devices in discovering the lexical cohesion in a text.

Lexical cohesion is important in a text because it will give the reader ease concluding the meaning or the message in a text. As MacMillan (2007) in his research of the role of lexical cohesion in the assessment of EFL reading proficiency, he observed the Test of English as a Foreign language (TOEFL), stated that lexical cohesion in reading comprehension should be the subject to the limitations of the construct of reading reflected on the TOEFL test. Lexical cohesion plays a fundamental role in the construct of reading reflected on the TOEFL test because, firstly, it benefits the students preparing for the TOEFL test, and, secondly, the lexical cohesion in reading comprehension skill would be replicable in real-life reading practices within the criterion environment the language of instruction is English (MacMillan, 2007).

Lexical cohesion is also useful for other subject. As Klebanov and Shamir (2010) stated, lexical cohesion is helpful to give a segmentation into sub-topical units and into separate stories in transcribed broadcast news, to give word sense disambiguation, to give extractive summarization in terms of looking for sentence where many strong chains are active, to be as the chains major issues, and also to give an understanding in topical stylistic analysis as in political speeches.

. One of researches on cohesion in business discourse that has been conducted is *Cohesion in Written Business Discourse: Some Contrast* by Johns

(1980). She reveals that lexical cohesion is the most common category in three business discourse types (letter, report and textbooks). Many studies of cohesion devices have already discussed in previous research. The limited study in lexical cohesion in business discourse encourage the writer to conduct a study about it.

Business discourse is about the way people communicate in a commercial organization to get things done (Cosman, 2013). As Chiappini and Nickerson (2002) stated, business discourse shared in the spoken and written communication in indirect or direct and explicit or implicit context. One of the business writing that will be analyzed here is application letter.

Application letter is a letter that purposed to attract employer's attention and persuade the employer to grant the applicant an interview (Buckley, 1957). It is a key tool to get a job (Chaima, 2013). If an application letter is written with a talent and understanding and prepared with a professional care, it will hit its value (Buckley, 1957).

Application letter is one of the materials that taught in English Department (ED) State University of Jakarta. It is aimed to ease the students in preparing themselves to get job in the future. As the eminent university, the alumnus from State University of Jakarta are expected to have the ability to write an application letter well. In order to make a good application letter the students have to consider more on the lexical cohesion. Based on the explanation above, the writer wants to find out how is the lexical cohesion is implemented in students' application letter.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background above, the research problem focus on finding answer to the research question:

1. What lexical cohesion are employed in application letter of English Department students in Business Writing class?
2. What type of lexical cohesion devices is most dominantly found in application letter of English Department students in Business Writing class?
3. How is the frequency of lexical cohesion used in application letter of English Department students in Business Writing class?
4. How is the appropriateness of lexical cohesion used in application letter of English Department students in Business Writing class?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to figure out how cohesive the application letters made by the English Department students are. To fulfilling the main purpose there are some aspect that needed to discover, there are discovering:

1. Lexical cohesions are employed in application letter of English Department students in Business Writing class.
2. The type of lexical cohesion device mostly used found in application letter of English Department students in Business Writing class.
3. The frequency lexical cohesion devices used in application letter of English Department students in Business Writing class.

4. The appropriateness of lexical cohesion used in application letter of English Department students in Business Writing class.

1.4 Scope of Study

To avoid misunderstanding and clarify the problem, the researcher made the scope of the study. As the study is conducted within the framework of fulfilling the a thesis in an academic semester, the resource is also limited in terms of location of taking the data. This study only focuses on lexical cohesion in application letter in the business writing class of English Department student.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The results of the study is beneficial to give knowledge about lexical cohesion used by the English Department students in their application letter, to be the references for the readers to conduct evaluation on lexical cohesion. It willexpand the knowledge of lexical cohesion in business writing of English Department as one of the linguistics features. It helps the students to be more conscious to the cohesiveness in their writing. In addition, it provides feedback to the lecturers of Business Writing subject on lexical cohesion device as one of the linguistics features.