

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This introduction chapter presents background of the study which is followed by statement of the problem, purpose of the study, the significant of the study and structure of the thesis.

### **A. Background of the Study**

The main function of language is as informative. The informative language functions as a communication tool through which people express ideas, feeling, and gives information. People communicate to each other to fulfill their needs of many aspects such as economy, society, and education. A language allows people to interact and cooperate in order to share and exchange information. Researchers communicate with others to inform them about their findings. Delahunty et al (2010:5) stated that language as a system to connect thoughts.

In language teaching, language is not only a tool, but also a direction. Delahunty et al (2010:7) stated that in the field of education, language is the object of study in speaking and writing in order to develop skills to communicate. As a tool of communication, language has different rules and system. Delahunty et all (2010:36) stated that the rules and system of

language such as the part of language components of language system could reflect understanding of natural language. The parts or elements of language are sounds, spellings, words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and the structure. These elements are studied in phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

These elements of language are equally important either in spoken or written language modes. The rules such as grammatical structures should be understood in order to make language sound natural in both modes. This understanding of grammatical rule could reduce misunderstanding in a communication.

In written language, the message to be communicated is manifested in a text. This is asserted by Delahunty et. al (2010:37) stating that discourse and text are the product of communication. Every communication and conversation produces a text; the language used is called discourse and the product of discourse is called text. A kind of text which is common in university life or academic communication is research journal articles. This kind of text requires sufficient mastery of related linguistic aspects. Hinkel (2004:8) stated that an advanced linguistics foundation is required to write an academic writing.

In writing an article, understanding linguistic units such as sentence and phrase used in the articles is undeniably required. In spoken language, grammatical errors may be tolerable as long as they do not affect the

meaning and can easily be corrected. On the other hand, in written language, grammatical errors can easily be seen, but cannot be corrected immediately. Thus, the mastery of grammatical rules in sentential and phrasal levels will be very helpful for writers to write their message in the articles.

Grammar used in research journal articles might be different from that of used in other kinds of texts. They are used as the reference and people look for the legal research journal articles assuming they have already examined thoroughly. There should be common features of grammar in the journal despite the fact that various texts are presented there. Inside the research journal articles there are many texts, like the definition of text it is defined as the production of communication among the people (Delahunty & Garvey, 2010:6).

Research journal articles have their own design and characteristics. Hinkel (2002:7) stated that one of the functions of a text is as a tool to communicate and convey the messages. The description of information can be written into a text. The text written in journal articles has their own characteristics starting from the structure, cohesion, and logical structures of text as the text has its own purpose. Research journal articles use much detailed analysis and describe the results of the analysis. One of the characteristics of a journal article is the use of simple sentence. Hutchins (1977) stated that *“The influence of communicational function on textual*

*structure is perhaps more direct and transparent in scientific text than other types of texts”.*

Research journal articles are characterized by features different from the features of other type of texts such as novel or fiction works. The scientific texts are featured by being precise, clear and brief and this makes writing an academic writing is not easy for English native speakers let alone for non-native speakers. Johns cited in Hinkel (2004:4) that non-native students at graduate and under graduate levels often fail in academic written prose. Hinkel (2002:1) believes that for non-native speakers, academic writing is more complicated than for native speakers of English.

Academic or scientific texts are fundamental in the university life. The students and faculty members are exposed to the texts in their activities. Reading and writing these texts are daily routine. Recognizing the characteristics of academic texts could help to read and write the texts. In general, the characteristics are grammar, phrasing, sentence structure, and punctuation. By comprehending the content, the structures and the characteristics of an article, one especially the nonnative speaker may have the guideline to produce good articles and ultimately may support their professional career (Hinkel, 2004:8 & 19).

The grammatical characteristics of scientific texts, especially research journal articles, have not been widely published. Academic writing books which are now available mostly present general information on how to make

an academic text. Indonesian researchers encounter problems to publish their research reports in journal due to the lack of knowledge on how to make systematic science report (Mirahayuni : 2013). The future research about the structures of sentences, paragraph, and each part of the articles such as the phrase, clause, etc may be done.

The grammatical characteristics of research journal articles have attracted some researchers. In the native country like America, the previous research had been done a long time ago. Swales (1990:131-132) stated that there are 40 researches have been done since 1972 until 1988. Various fields of study such as geotechnical engineering, biological science, psychology, economics, medicine, and literary had been used as the data. From these varied fields of study, a research in the field of literary was limited. Dealing with English literature and English language teaching, research in the field of this study was not found yet. Further, research in English language teaching could be done at present to support the previous research. The research features were on paragraph development and tense, voice and tense, variations, structure, and verb forms. From those features, there was only one research which is concerned with NP-development. The NP-development was done by Dubois in 1982 in the field study of zoology. On the other hand, the NP development in field of study in both English language teaching and Linguistic has not been done yet.

In Indonesia, Wiratno (2012) found that the characteristics of Indonesian scientific text are simple, concise and logic. As a written report that describes about research, research articles should be simple in the use of sentences. Using simple sentences is preferred to avoid complicatedness that might potentially confuse the readers. In the other hand, in the academic text the modifications of noun phrase frequently appear in simple sentence which is look like complex sentence. So far, several researches were done related to noun phrase in research article. They are focused on how noun phrase is used and constructed in the articles in English written by both native and non native speakers.

## **B. Statement of the Problem**

The problems studied in this research are presented in the following questions and divided into two sorts of questions.

Main question:

How are the noun phrase constructions of sentences used in the research journal articles?

Sub-questions:

1. What types of sentences are used in the research journal articles?
2. How are the NP constructions used in the object and subject?

3. What are the differences and similarities of noun phrase constructions in research journal articles written by native speakers and non-native speakers?

### **C. Purpose**

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the noun phrase constructions of sentences used in the research journal articles.

The sub-purposes of the study are:

- 1) to discover the types of sentences used in the research journal articles;
- 2) to investigate the use of noun phrase construction in the subject and object positions in research journal articles;
- 3) To explore the differences and similarities of noun phrase construction in research journal articles written by native speakers and non native speakers.

### **D. Significance of the Study**

Theoretically, the findings of this study is expected to develop and test the theory of the study of linguistics particularly the pattern and usage of noun phrase construction and types of sentences used in research journal articles. It can be the resources for the next researchers to further investigate other grammatical elements in research journal articles. Practically, this study is

hoped advantageous in English language teaching particularly in terms of in the teaching and learning of grammar in scientific texts.

#### **E. Structures of Thesis**

This thesis is structured following the pattern: First, introduction which briefly describes the background of the study, research questions, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, and the structures of the study. Second part is a discussion of basic theory related to the theory of the research such as sentence, clause, phrase, noun phrase. Chapter three, the third part is described about the methodology of the research. Chapter four present a description of the finding and the discussion. And the last chapter is chapter five presents the conclusion and recommendation.