

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language arises in the life of the individuals through an outgoing exchange of meaning with significant others. Language is the product of the social process. Language comes to life only when functioning in some environment. We do not experience language in isolation if we did we would not recognize it as language but always in relation to a scenario, some background of persons and actions and events from which the things which are said derived their meanings. This is referred to as the 'situation', so language is said to function in the contexts of situation.

Language usage is not merely an effect or reflex of social organization and process; it is a part of social process. It constitutes social meanings and thus social practices. Necessarily, we speak, write listen and speak within actual social and interpersonal contexts of situation.

In understanding a text, the function of language will help readers understand what the writer means through the text. Most readers have difficulties in understanding the text even though they have read it several times. They do not know how to get information from the text easily. There are some factors that influence the readers' competence in understanding the text; they have limited ability to comprehend the text. Consequently, they become slow down and find difficulties in getting something information from their reading texts. Therefore, getting information is in fact is not as

easy as some people think. Most people read without giving much thought on how they do it since they assume reading is not very important.

Logical meaning refers to one which exists or forms in the relationship of one clause to another (Halliday 1994:179). It is asserted by Hurley (1991:1) that logic inherently includes relations between or among clauses. This study is concerned with meaning which relates clauses in internet help menu texts.

The Internet has revolutionized the computer and communications world like nothing before. The invention of the telegraph, telephone, radio, and computer set the stage for this unprecedented integration of capabilities. The Internet is at once a world-wide broadcasting capability, a mechanism for information dissemination, and a medium for collaboration and interaction between individuals and their computers without regard for geographic location. The internet is not a colossal creation, but rather a disparate set of communications methods that includes e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging (IM), web logs, mailing lists, Internet Relay Chat (IRC) and Usenet newsgroup, world wide pages and virtual worlds.

Computer is the media to operate the internet. It is a machine designed to process, electronically prepared pieces of information which are termed data. A computer has two parts which enable users to operate it, they are hardware and software. Hardware is the equipments formed computers, such as the monitor, PC, Keyboard, etc; while software is program applications containing many applications, such as *Microsoft word, Microsoft excel internet explorer, modzilla firefox, etc.* Each applications has help menu which gives information or guidance to the users in operating each applications.

Internet allows millions of people to contact each other across continents to play online games, or to share pictures. Share ideas, share common interest, email addresses. Passwords as the internet is also used by millions as gigantic social network that spans all over the world. ([http://wiki. Answers.com/Q/How_does_the Internet_benefit_people](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_does_the_Internet_benefit_people))

It is found that many users of internet have problem in using internet explorer, for example, when they try to find their web page they have to ask the expert or read books relating to the information they need. The information can actually be found in help menu texts. The users sometimes do not know that all information they need about using internet explore has been served by the internet server company. Microsoft Help is a comprehensive resource for practical advice, tutorials, and demonstrations to help users learn to operate Internet Explore. Use the Search feature, Index, or table of contents to view all Internet Explorer Help resources. In addition to Help resources, the users can take advantage of various services and perform important support tasks - all from a single location

The language used in internet help menu texts is unique. Simple and direct language is used dominantly in the texts due to the aim of the texts to give instruction and a clear explanation to the users. Language style ranging from technical and formal to informal, it also uses action words and imperative, active and passive voice. It consists of instruction of how to operate the internets explore. The text is one way direction spoken language. It is helpful to give solution of the problem when operating the internet explorer. The way it gives instruction is slightly different from other instructions, such as manual books of cellular phones, TV set, and others manual books. It has a table of content, chapters and an index.



Logical meanings which concern to the relationship of one clause to another because of the use of certain conjunctions to relate one clause to another clause(s) is interested to be analyzed as it will increase the internet users' understanding about the information they read in help menu. Through understanding of logical meanings they can grasp the instructions given by the help menu and operate the internet explore easily.

1.2 The problems

Based on the background provided above the problem of the study is formulated as in the following

- (1) What categories of logical meaning are used in Internet menu help texts?
- (2) What is the dominant pattern of logical meaning used in internet help menu text?
- (3) Why are the logical function realized the way they are?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Concerning to the explanation in the background given above the objectives of the study are:

- (1) to describe logical meanings used in internet help menu texts
- (2) to discover the dominant pattern of the use of logical meanings, and
- (3) to elaborate reasons for the dominant type of logical meanings in internet help menu texts.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

There are some application in operating internet such as Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox. Each application has some menus such as File, Edit, View, Favorite, Tool and Help. In help menu texts, there are many texts of computer comments such as content, Index, Tips of the day, for Netscape Users, Online Support, and Send Feedback. The writer takes only help menu texts in Internet Explorer as the source of the study as objects of the study. The field of the study focuses helps menu texts in Internet Helps menu texts such as finding *The Web Pages You Want*, *Browsing the Web You Want*, *Printing and Saving Information*, *Sending the Information over the Internet*, *Understanding Security and the Privacy on the Internet*, *Internet's Explorer Information Bar*, *Managing Web Browser Add's on*, *Controlling Access to Inappropriate Internet Content*, *Customizing Your Web Browser*.

Logical meanings in this study are based on the theory of systemic functional linguistics (SFL) as developed by Halliday (1978,1993, 1994, 2001), and other system cists. This study does not treat formal logic as commonly understood, but rather it is concerned with the logic of language as developed in SFL. Logical meanings form between or among clauses. In other words, a logical meaning indicates a clausal relationship. In English as stated by Halliday (2001) there are ten categories of logical meaning, which are elaborated in chapter 2.

Since there are so many menus relating to help served by windows program, this study is restricted to investigate the occurrences of logical meanings of clause complex and their contextual aspects in help menu texts. This study deals with the application of SFL theory to the internet help menu texts, examination of the patterns on the use of

logical meaning in the internet help menu texts, and finally the study provides explanatory motivations on the use of logical meanings in the internet help menu texts. This includes elaborations on the contextual aspects of logical meanings.

1.5 The Significant of the Study

Findings of this are expected to be theoretically and practically useful and relevant to various sides as the following:

- (1) Theoretically, the findings of this study menu support or criticize SFL theories. The applications of SFL on internets' help texts will add further horizons and justification of the theories.
- (2) Practically, findings of the study will be beneficial to internet service industries. The findings will be applicable for the internet service industries in developing their instruments.
- (3) The findings will be further relevant to the internets' users in understanding the instructions written in help menu.

