

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Language is part of human's life and it cannot separate from our life because everybody uses language to communicate each other. We cannot fully understand others without knowing their language. We use spoken language every day, face-to-face, as a means of communication and written language allows us to record and hold on to our history across generation. Language itself is very complex. In addition, according to Nurliah (2013:1), the study of children's language acquisition is always interesting to be investigated. But babies are not born talking. They learn language, starting immediately from birth. Languages are not all cut from the identical pattern, and this makes a different in acquisition. The study of language acquisition by children is very interesting. It will make better understanding about the development of the children's language and knowing uniqueness of children in producing a language.

For many years, many people assumed that the acquisition of children's language is something usual; nothing special, especially in Indonesia. So they think that the study of children's language acquisition is not important to do. In fact, that this assumption is not true. Learning does not "turn into" acquisition and it usually takes place in formal environments, while acquisition can take place without learning in informal environments (Krashen, 2002). The study of

children's language acquisition is important. It is useful for the language teaching technique in children and language acquisition subject itself. How do we teach children and what the technique should be done to the children under the age of three years. At around 18 to 24 months of age, children learning morphologically impoverished languages such as English begin to combine words and form two-word utterances such as *want cookie*, *play checkers*, and *big drum* (Brown, 2000). The answer can be gotten from the study in language acquisition. The language acquisition device lets children analyze the language they hear and extract the rules of grammar that allow them to create brand new word. To sum up, everybody is equipped with LAD to verbalize his intention. Even as an infant, a baby starts to use a language from its crying, the baby is already communication to the adult to convey his unhappiness, hunger, and so on. As so the infant begins life on earth, it can start to communicate with us.

In general, the morphology by child at the age of two years old consists of free morpheme. It depends on child mood and situation when he is talking. The location and environment of child also influence the word production of his. From example: when he's crying, when he's playing and he's happy. In those conditions, he has different ways in producing free morpheme. Dealing with morphology acquisition, especially about free morpheme, the phenomena about what types of free morpheme have been acquire by children become actual researches. It is in line the subject finding by this researchers.

For example about the phenomena of free morpheme acquisition can be seen on Dominic, a two years old Indonesian child, the writer's neighbor child. At

the time he approaches his mother and said 'kue na enak ma'. (Mom, the cake is delicious). Her mother at the first was confused with her son's expression because during her mother cooked; Dominic looked sad and weeps to see her mother cooked. But the writer's surprised did not emerge any more since Dominic answered her mother's question by saying 'iya, kuenya enak.' (Yeah, the cake is delicious). Dominic's utterances are known as free morpheme since the utterance is not the same with the speaker intention. The word 'kue – cake it means as the free morpheme words but actually is influence by the context that the speaker, Dominic gives the attention while her mother was cooked.

Explaining the definition of free morpheme as it on the child above, Child's language acquisition process has been explored Pateda (2000: 6) say that morphology is the study of from, word-forming, and the word-changing and also the meaning.

With the other word free morpheme is a process of morphology which change the meaning, from and distribution of the base morphemes. This thesis focuses on the use free morpheme in first language acquisition. The problem of free morpheme firstly linguistic theory for the most part is a theory about how to product and not process, so it was unclear what the predictions should be and how the child could be argue the free morpheme in language acquisition and how the child learn to correct any error he make given the supposed absence of corrective reactions from adults.

In society, it is believed that babies and children's language development vary one from another. Based on the explanation above, this point of view makes

the writer intends to focus her study, as perceived by their parents; free morpheme by child at the age of two years old. In fact, the research of child language acquisition especially by two years old child is rare to carry out. This is the reason why the research will be conducted by the writer. This study is expected to be useful knowledge for the reader to know much about the process free morphemes in the language acquisition.

B. The Problem of the Study

The problems of the study are formulated as the following:

1. What are the types of free morphemes found in the utterances acquired by two year old Indonesian child?
2. How does the child use the free morphemes?

C. The Objectives of the Study

The objects of this research are:

1. To identify the types of free morphemes found in the utterance acquired by a two years old child
2. To describe how the free morphemes are used in the utterance produced by the child.

D. The Scope of the Study

The writer conducts this study in the scope of first language acquisition, particularly the free morpheme acquisition. The data is limited to the Indonesian words produced by a two year old child in his daily activities.

E. The Significance of the Study

Findings of the study are expected theoretically and practically give much contribution to the world of children language acquisition research. Theoretically, this study becomes the basic of the further research which also interested in investigating the same area with different focus and object. Practically, the finding of this study becomes some of guidelines for the teacher, adult and particularly parents who directly touch this area, in order to be able to guide their children good language development specifically in free morpheme.