

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Study

Language is a social fact. Language originates spontaneously in the individual, for the imitative and symbolic instinct is inherent in all intelligent beings, whether men or animals; but, like that of poetry and the arts, its development is social. (Sweet (1888) in Halliday 1978)

Language arises in the life of the individual through an ongoing exchange of meaning with significant others. Language is a 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 derive 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 and write and listen and read within actual social and interpersonal contexts (Fowler: 1). 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 news story texts of Indonesian newspapers.

Newspapers contain more than just the news of the day, but even the news is presented in a particular way. News stories are not referred as 'report stories', 'lecture stories', or 'textbook stories'. A story is an account of imaginary or past events, narrative, tale, and anecdote. News stories are referred to in a way that gives them the status of fictional accounts. So, the news story related to the account of past events. It may to some extent relate to a factual account, but carries the implication of interpretation, elaboration, the creation of a narrative. (Reah, 1998: 5)

The newspaper could be seen as texts design to deliver information. The word choices of newspaper story texts use words from everyday vocabulary. There are no words that are from special fields, and no words that would send the majority of the population to the dictionary. The content of the newspaper story texts introduces the reader to a character or characters, and gives some information about events and circumstances. The newspaper texts constructed to arouse and hold the interest of reader. Newspapers create meanings and communicate the meanings to the readers. Their meanings can often depend on the contexts in which they occur.

The writer often found people are bombarded with various sources of information of which the newspaper is one at the present state of information age. So, the readers should have or develop good criteria for evaluating news that they read. Otherwise, they will be floating aimlessly in the fast and strong streams of home and overseas information. It is only through the understanding of logical meaning that they can evaluate information by which they can distinguish good or objective information from bad or biases one. The writer also realizes that civil

society is one where members of the communities can express their ideas and aspirations.

It is by the knowledge of logical meaning that they can increase their confidence in making sense of the newspaper publications and in criticizing the newspaper texts that they read. Also by understanding of logical meaning serves a strong basis for readers to advance their perceptions and arguments of the various current social issues. Thus, this study aims at establishing filters for the readers of newspapers to evaluate the news story texts. All the reasons above cause the writer to observe the language in the newspaper texts.

1.2. The Problems

The problems of the study are:

- (1) What categories of logical meanings are used in Indonesian newspaper story texts?
- (2) What is the dominant pattern of logical meaning used in Indonesian newspaper story texts?
- (3) Why does the dominant type occur in Indonesian newspapers story texts?

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

In line with the problems, the objectives of the study are:

- (1) to describe logical meanings used in Indonesian newspaper texts
- (2) to discover the dominant pattern of the use of logical meaning used, and
- (3) to elaborate reasons for the dominant type occur in INSTs

1.4. The Scope of the Study

Logical meanings in this study are based on the theory of systemic functional linguistics (SFL) as developed by Halliday (1978, 1993, 1994, 2001), Martin (1992, 2001) and other systemicists. 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 clausal relationship. In English as asserted by Halliday (2001) there are ten categories of logical meaning, which are elaborated in Chapter 2.

Firstly, this study deals with the application of SFL theory to the news story texts of Indonesian newspapers. Accordingly, the study describes logical meanings as found in Indonesian newspaper story texts. Secondly, the study examines the patterns on the use of logical meanings in the news story texts of Indonesian newspapers. This specifies the types or categories of logical meanings which are favored by Indonesian newspaper story texts. Finally the study provides explanatory motivations on the use of logical meanings in the newspaper story texts. This includes elaborations on the contextual aspects of logical meanings.

1.5. The Significance of the Study

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

- (1) Theoretically, the findings of this study support or criticize SFL theories. SFL has been mainly applied to English as the exemplification in which the

theories develop. The application of SFL to bahasa Indonesia adds further horizons and justification of the theories.

(2) Practically, findings of this study are beneficial to the newspaper industries.

The findings are applicable for the news story writers in developing newspaper articles.

(3) The findings are further relevant to the students of journalism or readers who are interested in analyzing publications of the newspapers.

