

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English is an international language used in global communications and plays a very significant role in this globalized era especially in the beginning of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (2003) and Asian Pacific Economic Corporation or APEC (2010). It has been greatly used as a lingua franca and language of science and technology in many different fields of activities. The fact that it is the world's most widely spoken that language leads the Indonesian educational authorities to include it as a compulsory subject in schools and universities. Besides, many non formal courses are established to fulfill the needs to study English more seriously. Therefore, the establishment of bilingual classes and schools with international standard is evident that the mastery of English is a proof that in the past, present and future, the need of English is unbargainable

Being able to communicate effectively in English does not only mean to be proficient in the various language skills involved in the communication progress, but it also means to be able to use it effectively. In the various communications depending on the nature of the interaction, an excellent knowledge of English grammar is believed to be the basis for the four skills. When one is explaining something to another person, whether in speech or writing, s/he instinctively tries to organize what s/he says in a way that will make it easier for the hearer or the reader to understand. Therefore, it needs experiential function to express some meanings.

Experiential function concerns with clauses that have guised as the way of representing patterns of experience. Bell (2001: 121) states that experiential function

expresses cognitive meaning; the fundamental idea-conveying the function of language. This draws on the systems and networks of transitivity to create proportions, which convey the user's experience of the external world of the senses and inner world of the mind. It means that this function is related to Speech Function.

Speech function is used to fulfill human needs in exchange of experience which is oriented to functional interpretation or systematic functional. It is also used to give the respond in delivering some information from the speaker. Getting some information needs more explicit analysis of English grammar to improve the knowledge and understand language use in context. The needs of description of English starts from a social and an interactive perspective on language as discourse and shows in a consistent way how lexicogrammar acts to enable encoding purposeful message appropriately in text.

In understanding the text, the function of language will help the readers to understand what the writer means from the text. Most of the readers have difficulties in understanding a text even though they have read it several times. They do not know how to get the information from the texts. There are so many factors that influence the readers' competence in understanding them. They have limited ability to comprehend them. Consequently, they become slow down and find difficulties in getting some information from their reading texts. Therefore, getting the information is in fact 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. For them, reading is only an activity to read some words or sentences, so they give little concern to the result of reading text. As a result they can not get the messages from their reading.

In this case, experiential function is very important to be discussed because it has a constituent structure that can be described functionally in terms of process, participant, and circumstance, with process being the essential ingredient. It can be said

that experiential function concerns with the clauses that have guises as the way of representing patterns of experience through the process of doing, process of being, process of existing, process of physiological and psychological, indicating perception, relational, activities of saying, commanding, asking, and etc. All of these elements can make the readers understand the texts of the newspaper.

Newspaper is a publication containing news, information, and advertising. General interest newspapers often feature articles on political events, crime, business, art/entertainment, society, and sports. The Jakarta Post is one of the newspapers which is sold in Indonesia. All people can have access in the daily *The Jakarta Post*. It is the only one written in English. This can be one of the sources to be used as teaching learning materials. On the other hand, the rapid development of science and technology has brought about changes towards how people can access information from newspaper and at the same time increase their knowledge. That is why a student who studies English can enlarge his or her knowledge by reading newspaper.

So, the writer is very much interested in searching closely about experiential function as found in the daily *The Jakarta Post* which is directed to the importance understanding the texts.

1.2 Problems of the Study

The problems of the study are formulated as the following :

- 1) what is the type of Process dominantly used in the daily *The Jakarta Post*?
- 2) what is the type of Circumstance dominantly used in the daily *The Jakarta Post*?
- 3) why is the pattern of experiential functions used in the way it is in the daily *The Jakarta Post*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

With reference to the problems, the objectives of this study are

- 1) to describe the types of Process used in the daily *The Jakarta Post*.
- 2) to describe the types of Circumstance used in the daily *The Jakarta Post*, and
- 3) to explain the reasons for the pattern of the experiential function as used in the daily *The Jakarta Post*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

Functional grammar refers to an approach to language on the principle of roles or functions played by a language. That is why the notion of functional approach to language (or rather Functional Grammar) is interpreted as covering three related meanings. Firstly, functional study to language is based on the principle that language is structured in response to the needs of people as social beings for language. In other words, language in use or known as text, that is everything that is said or written, forms in context of use which is often referred to as social context. Thus, language evolves in line with human needs for language. Secondly, functional approach refers to the concept that human beings use language in order to fulfill three functions known as metafunctions namely (1) to represent (ideational), (2) to exchange (interpersonal), and (3) to organize experience (textual). In this case, the ideational metafunction can be discussed, it is about experiential function, where language is used to describe experience. The discussion is limited to the types of Process and Circumstance used in the daily *The Jakarta Post*.

1.5 Significance of the Study

A study on experiential function is very interesting and challenging because it is one of the aspects of the language used. In this case, the findings of this study are expected to be useful theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically, the readers can enlarge their knowledge on theories of experiential function in order to get some information easily.
2. Practically, the readers and writers realize that the demand on news is not only to know all the events of the world, but also to understand the information which can enlarge their knowledge and bring them into positive thinking. In addition, the finding of research are expected to gain benefit because it provides some valuable information particularly to another researcher who would like to conduct an in-depth study on experiential function.
3. In the English Language the text as found in the daily *The Jakarta Post* can be used as a source of teaching materials for the students of the English department or interested.