

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

In this globalization era, the introduction of suplicated technology should be welcomed by those who have a high ability in conducting excellent finished-job and using the computer. Understanding the language used in the computer is essential to those professionals. The rapid development of science and technology have brought about changes in how people work and have accessed to the modern technology equipment, such as computer and mobile phone.

Computer is an electronic device for performing arithmetic and logical operations is a device or flexible machine to process data and convert it into information. Data are simply raw facts or figures collected whereas the *information* is what one gets after processing the data. *Information* is always useful and meaningful for the user. It is also stated that computer has four basic operations which perform irrespective of the program running on it. They are classified as: *Input, processing, output, and storage*. It has two big parts, they are hardware and software.

The English for technology is quite different from its application so it is very important that one should master the command as presented in the Computer text menus. They are interesting texts which can be analyzed about the structures of clauses using the Functional Grammar studies. The Functional Grammar provides a popular description of a language nowadays. By applying the Functional Grammar, a language is so clear to be analyzed especially in the text. In this sense, clauses, phrases, words, morphemes, and so on are interpreted as functional with respect to the whole.

Technically, the metafunctions are termed as *Ideational, interpersonal, and textual function (thematic structure)* respectively. One of the metafunctions which is used in this study is thematic structures because the researcher can see the arrangement of clauses as messages in the text. He sees the position of clause in the *Help* menu texts of computer.

It is interesting to analyze the Computer *Help* menu texts because many users of computer either the lecturers or the students do not care about the Computer *Help* menu texts and even they never open the text because they think that the *Help* Menu Texts are not important and they will make the users to face the problems. They do not know the arrangement of clauses and they do not understand about the structures of clauses in the texts. Moreover, the texts are so important to be understood especially in the position of clauses and what messages are in the texts which are based on the arrangement of clauses when they have difficulties in operating the computer.

The characteristic of Computer *Help* menu texts are its own arrangement that is completely different from other kinds of text types because they consist of comments that give the guidance for the users how to operate and use a software application of computer. The text is one-way direction spoken language. It is helpful to give the solution if the users find the difficulties in an application, such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, or Microsoft PowerPoint.

From the Computer *Help* menu texts itself the researcher will emphasize the analysis of thematic structures which is concerned with the clause(s) as messages or the arrangement of clause(s). The arrangement of clauses can be Marked or Unmarked in the text because sometimes the texts are not started by the actor (subject), but it can be started by the adjuncts or other points. The topic that focuses on the arrangement of

clause is called Thematic Structures because in the Thematic Structures, it is so clear about the structure of the message. The thematic structures discuss two parts; Theme and Rheme. The Theme can be identified as the element which comes in first position in the clause(s) and Rheme is the rest of the message of the clause after the Theme. Thus, the Rheme is where the clause moves after the point of departure.

The researcher takes the points of thematic structures such as Marked and Unmarked Theme, Multiple Theme, group complex or phrase complex, Theme in Declarative Clauses, Theme in Interrogative clauses and Theme in Imperative clauses in the computer's *Help* menu text and it is very useful to give the understanding to all users about the *Help* menu text. He is also very much interested and describing the arrangement of clause(s) how the beginning of clause(s) is/are in the texts.

## **1.2 The Problems of the Study**

The problems of the study are formulated as the followings.

1. What kinds of thematic structures are used in the clause(s) of the *Help* menu text of the computer?
2. How are the thematic structures realized in the clause(s) of the *Help* menu text of computer?
3. Why are the thematic structures realized the way they are?

### 1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problems of study, the objectives are:

- 1) to describe the kinds of thematic structures that are used in the clause(s) of the *Help* menu text of computer.
- 2) to show the position of the thematic structures are realized in the clause(s) of the *Help* menu text of computer, and
- 3) to describe the reasons of the thematic structures that are realized in the way.

### 1.4 Scope of the Study

Thematic structures in this study are based on the theory of Systemic Functional Language (SFL) as developed by Halliday (1994, 2002, 2004, 2005), and other systemicists. The aspects of study cover about *Marked and Unmarked Theme, Theme in Declarative Clauses, Theme in Interrogative Clauses and Theme in Imperative Clauses, Multiple Theme, group complex or phrase complex* in the Computer *Help* menu texts.

In a computer, there are some application softwares in the Microsoft Office 2003 such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, and Microsoft PowerPoint. Each application has also some menus on the program such as File, Edit, View, Format, Tools, Table, Window, and Help. Then in the *Help* menu text, there are many texts of computer comments. So the researcher takes a few of comments in the *Help menu* so that the research will not be so wide. The field of the study focuses on the computer *Help* menu texts in the Microsoft Word application especially *in Format* of Microsoft Word's *Help* menu text such as *About checking the consistency of formatting, About Portable Network Graphics (png) format, About automatic formatting, About applying formatting, About the format of pasted information, About*

*displaying tracked changes and comments, About formatting text by using styles, Specify how dates and numbers appear in Indic language documents, Customize labels, Continue a story elsewhere with linked text boxes, About opening and saving in other file formats, Formats Word can open directly, Install system support for multiple languages, About footnotes and endnotes, Field codes: Date field, Customize envelopes, Change the position of text in a table.* Then it also focuses on the thematic structures.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Findings of the study are expected to have very significant points in theoretical and practical values and relevant to various aspects as the followings.

1. Theoretically, the findings of the study menu will support or criticize SFL theories as the application of SFL to the computer's *Help* menu texts will add further horizon and justification of the theories.
2. Practically, it will be useful for the users of computer and the English Department students to understand how the arrangement of the clauses used.
3. The findings will be further relevant to the students who are studying the computer and users of computer to comprehend about the instructions (comments) in the *Help* menu texts of computer so that they are able to understand the instructions.