

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

A study of a language(s) is an interesting one to be conducted, especially if the language is a foreign or a second language. In the process of learning it, someone will say that it is a complex activity while others may say that it is challenging. If one is serious then the complexity will sooner or later becomes simple, fun, and enjoyable. It means that it cannot be denied that if one wants to study a language, in this respect, one must give a special interest and attention so that it is motivating and interesting, otherwise one will say that it is difficult to learn.

In this era of information and communication technologies (ICTs), English as a language has a very important position, because it is used as a (1) mother tongue, (2) foreign language (FL), (3) second language (SL), (4) lingua franca, and (5) language of information, (Kariman, 1994). The mastery of English has become a very essential tool in the process of communication among people in the world. It is also true, that English is included as one of the important requirements in the workforce.

This is absolutely a fact, as many advertisements for job positions require applicants to have oral and written fluency in English. English as a language has a very strong role in the understanding of sophisticated technology. So, this makes the position of English even much more important in this modern society. Realizing this situation, more and more people feel that it should be studied seriously.

It has been widely accepted that English is a global language which plays a very significant role in this globalization era especially year 2003 which has been the beginning of the ASEAN Free Trade Area. It can be used as a medium of communication in many different fields of activities between two or more people coming from different nations. The fact that it is the world's most widely used 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 in depth.

English as the first foreign language is taught in the public schools in Indonesia from the Secondary up to the University levels. This is to point out that it is an important language to be taught in schools. And it is a fact that because it is an international language, in this globalization era, some private schools start introducing it beginning from the Elementary School or even The Playgroup. The other evidence of its importance is shown by the opening of some Playgroup institutions and Kindergarten Schools focusing on English as a means of communication among the teachers and children.

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 also mean to be able to use it effectively. In the various communications depending on the nature of interaction, knowledge about English grammar is believed to be the basis for the skills. When one is explaining something to another person, whether in

speech or writing, s/he instinctively tries to organize what she/he says in a way that will make it easier for the hearer or the reader to understand. Therefore, it needs an exchange of experience by human beings.

Speech function is used to fulfill human needs in exchange of experience which is oriented to System Functional Linguistics (SFL). 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 needed of description of English starts out from a social and interactive perspective on language as discourse and shows in a consistent way how lexicogrammar acts to enable encoding purposeful message appropriately in text. Halliday (1994:34) states that language is simultaneously used as representation, exchange and organization of experience. It means that human can not live in isolation. They need to interact with others in order to fulfill their needs. In this case, interpersonal function is performed to make interaction.

Interpersonal function can guide people to understand what the writer means in her/his writing. In this case, interpersonal function is a best way to avoid misunderstanding. It can be drawn from “*me and you*” model. It means that interpersonal function can be described as interactional. It is used in various settings to explain roles, information, and goods and services. It serves to signal explicitly that a response is required. It means that this function is related to speech function.

In interpersonal function, speech function is used to fulfill human needs in the exchange of experience which is oriented to functional interpretation or systematic functional. It means that *speech function* has four basics; they are statement, question, offer, and command. All the basics can be realized in *Mood*, where it contains *declarative, interrogative and imperative*. Therefore, speech function is also used to give the respond in delivering some information from the speaker.

Textbooks are presented to guide the students in teaching- learning process. That is why the most obvious and most common form of material support for language instruction comes through textbooks. Textbooks are the books that are designed for students as written guide to the subject content of a course of study. Usually the basic task of a book is the presentation of the data. So, textbooks are the books used by the students as the guidance which contain some basic tasks and the presentation of the data.

In reality, most students find difficulties to understand a text even though they have read it several times. They do not know how to get the information from the texts. They always use dictionary to help them in understanding the text. Therefore, they do not get the information easily. They feel bored and give little concern to the result of reading.

Textbooks can be used as instrument which presents a basic principle of subject as the basis of a course study that contains instructions in the principle of English language. The languages used in the textbooks must be scientific, universal,

relevant, and easy to understand. It means that the language of the material in a textbook must be clear, neutral, and accurate in a scientific way. The words used must be understood by the students in order to increase their achievement in English. That is why these textbooks consist of instruction, explanation, and some exercises for the evaluation.

Furthermore, textbooks are printed to make the students familiar with the forms of the test. The use of integrated exercises and the use of authentic text related to real life situations will help the students to master language skills and enhance the students' ability to understand the use of language in various situations. It also encourages independent learning that students are involved in sharing ideas, knowledge, and exchange of experiences.

So, the writer is very much interested in searching closely about the interpersonal function as found in the English students' textbooks which are directed to the importance of exchange experience. It can guide the students to understand the texts easily.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

In line with the background of the study, the problems are formulated as the following:

1. How are the interpersonal functions realized in the textbooks?
2. Why the interpersonal functions are realized the way they are?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Interpersonal function can be established by making contact and identity. It should be very interesting and motivating when it is realized at two levels such as semantics, and lexicogrammar. At the level of semantics, human being performs two roles namely GIVING and DEMANDING and lexicogrammar, it is termed as Mood. Thus, the objectives of this study are:

1. to describe the realization of interpersonal functions in the textbooks.
2. to investigate some reasons of why the interpersonal functions are realized in the way they are.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

In this study, the writer discusses only on interpersonal function in students' English textbooks. In this case, it is important to describe the realization of interpersonal functions in the textbooks. It is very interesting to help the reader in identifying the character of the speaker (writer) which is found in four students' English textbooks.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

A research that is conducted should show some applicable results, so that it can contribute some ideas that can enhance the quality of the knowledge. The study is expected to improve the teaching - learning process, especially in this case to identify

the interpersonal function in the students' English books. It is also hoped that the findings of the study will enrich the students' knowledge of the System Functional Linguistics (SFL). Students will learn more about SFL in the texts shown in the students' English textbook. It is also intended to show that the students can understand the text in a natural setting when function of language is concerned with enacting and distinguishing interpersonal relations, such as giving or demanding information from goods and services.

Therefore, the results of this study are important to provide some information about interpersonal function used in English students' book used in the four textbooks. In this case, the result of this study can help many sides theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically, the readers can enlarge their knowledge on theories of interpersonal function in order to communicate with other people.
2. Practically, the readers and writers realize that the demand on textbooks are not only to guide the reader in teaching learning process, but also to understand the information which can improve their interaction and bring them into positive thinking. In addition, the findings of this 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 interpersonal function.