

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Study

Language is used as a means of communication in society. It is an important role in our life. Language is a means of communication that enables human beings to communicate, cooperate and get along with each other. People use language to convey messages to the other. Language is a means to communicate ideas, opinions and feelings. Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary stated that "Language is system of sounds, words, manner, signs, symbols, used by human to communicate thoughts and feelings"<sup>1</sup>

Language is an arbitrary system of speech sound which is used or can be used in interpersonal communication by an aggregation of human beings which rather exhaustively catalogs things, process and event in the human environment.<sup>2</sup> From the definition above it is identified that language comprises process. It means that there must be a process in acquiring a new language. In addition the process will take a long period. The learners will look toward such many things as writing system, spelling vocabularies and even grammar.

One of language used by the largest number of people in the world is English. It has been spread all over the world and it plays an important role in International communication as well as spoken language among various groups or parts of the world. Automatically, English becomes important to be taught in Indonesia. And since the position of English as an international language, English plays important role in international world because the development of science and technology is mostly transferred through English as its medium.

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<sup>1</sup> Martin H. Manser, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (New York : Oxford University Press, 1995), 5<sup>th</sup> Ed, p. 233.

<sup>2</sup> Ramelan, *Introduction to Linguistic*, (Semarang: IKIP Semarang Press, 1992), p.10.

Learning English is not easy for Indonesian learners. There are four skills in studying English: listening, speaking, reading and writing. One of the components supporting four skills in studying English is grammar. Grammar as one of components that is difficult to be mastered by students takes very important rule in composing language because to understand the nature of language, we must understand the nature of grammar, and in particular, the internalized, unconscious set of rules that is part of every grammar of every language.<sup>3</sup>

Most of Indonesian learners get difficulty in studying grammar. While grammatical mastery of the target language is important as asserted by Chomsky cited by Steinberg, one of the fundamental language ability should be possessed by people in order to be able to communicate is the ability to produce and comprehend grammatical sentence.<sup>4</sup>

Grammar is partly the study of what forms (or structure) are possible in a language.<sup>5</sup> Traditionally, grammar has been concerned almost exclusively with analysis at the level of sentence. The meaning of grammar based on *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* is the rules in a language for changing the form of words and joining them in sentences or a particular theory that is intended to explain the rules of a language in general.<sup>6</sup> Thus, a grammar is a description of the rules that govern how a language's sentence is formed.

So by using grammar, we have to be able to combine words and phrase to be a good sentence in language. People should have a good sentence to communicate well with each other. Those two things are a good word and a systematic phrase. As stated in verse 24 of Surah Abraham that learning grammar is very important aspect to language acquisition:

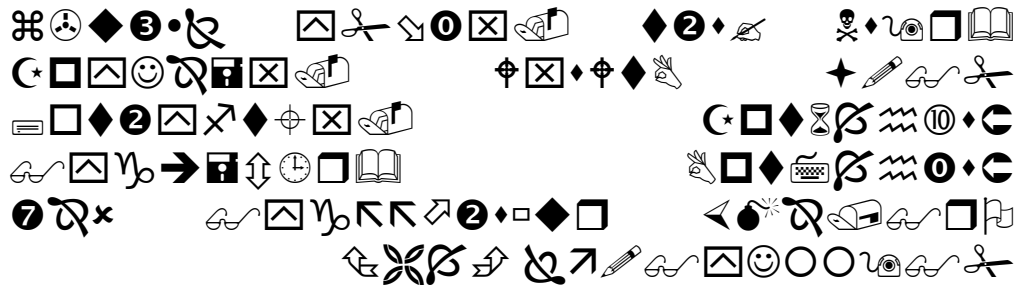
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<sup>3</sup> Victoria Fromkin, et. al., *An Introduction to Language*, (Thomson: Heinle, 2003), p.14

<sup>4</sup> Danny D. Steinberg et al, *Psycholinguistics: Language, Mind and World*, (London: Longman, 2001), 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, p. 345.

<sup>5</sup> Scott Thornbury, *How to Teach Grammar*, (English: Bluestone Press, 1999), p.1

<sup>6</sup> A.S Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. p. 559



The meaning:

*“Seest thou not how Allah sets forth a parable? A goodly word like a goodly tree, whose root is firmly fixed, and its branches (reach) to the heavens”.*<sup>7</sup>

This serve can be put in language context which states that learning grammar is important. “A good word” can be interfered with producing the language accurately and appropriately. The place of grammar is considered as fundamental factor like a good tree whose root is firm and its branches are in the sky. It is means that one should posses the basic knowledge of grammar in order to be able to communicate grammatically.

Studying phrase, we are required to know each individual word/constituent. A phrase is a group of words that functions as a single unit in the syntax of a sentence. Noun phrase is one of varieties of phrase which is part of grammatical structures. Grammatical structures not only have (morphosyntactic) form, they are also used to express meaning (semantics) in context-appropriate use (pragmatics). It means that teacher should be able to teach grammar (in this context, noun phrase) for the students that having aim the students can master noun phrase not only its form and meaning, but also the use to communicate grammatically and correctly. Many scientists have defined what actually noun phrase is. The following are several definitions of noun phrase; Noun phrase is a noun head that has adjective modifiers that appear before and after it.<sup>8</sup> Noun phrase is a group of words in a sentence that behaves in the same ways as a noun that is as subject, an object, a complement

<sup>7</sup> Abdallah Yousuf Ali (ed), *The Glorious Qur’an Translated to English*, (Libanon: Harat Hureik, 1999), p.641.

<sup>8</sup> Marcella Frank, *Modern English; A Practical Reference Guide*, (New Jersey : Prentice-Hall, 1972)1<sup>st</sup>Ed, p.112

or as the object of preposition.<sup>9</sup> A noun phrase (abbreviated **NP**) is a phrase whose head is a noun or a pronoun, optionally accompanied by a modifier set.<sup>10</sup> Noun phrase is a noun combines with other words in a noun phrase.<sup>11</sup>

Noun phrase has some types and constructions. Type means one of a group of things or people with certain features in common; kind or sort.<sup>12</sup> In this study types means kinds or sort of noun phrase. There are three types of noun phrase such as *pre-modified*, *post-modified* and *pre-post-modified noun phrase*. The definition of construction is way or act of constructing; structure or building.<sup>13</sup> Construction here means the structure that builds noun phrase. There are some constructions of noun phrase such as 1) e+N+PP, 2) d+N, 3)d+N+PP, 4) adj+N, 5) e+adj+N, 5) e+adj+N, 6) d+N+N, 7) d+adj+N+PP, 8) d+adj+N+RCL, 9) N+PP, 10) N+adj, 11) e+adj+N+PP, 12) e+N, 13) adj+N+N, 14) e+adv+adj+N, 15) N+ RCL.

Many Indonesian learners get some difficulties in learning noun phrase, especially in analyzing the construction of noun phrase. Noun phrase has many compositions, based on the position of the modifier. Sometimes, the Indonesian learners are difficult to determine the position of the modifier's form.

From the explanation above, the writer comes to the conclusion that the analysis of English noun phrase is important in order to develop and broaden our knowledge of grammar as one of components of English. And also by administering this study, we are going to know the variety of English words in general and the English noun phrase in particular. In spite of this, Mastering noun phrase can make our English skill better both written and spoken English. That to be the last reason why the writer chooses analyzing noun phrase is the writer would like to share the result of analysis of types and

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<sup>9</sup> A.S Hornby. *Op.Cit*, p.867

<sup>10</sup>Wikipedia, *Noun Phrase*, retrieved from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noun\\_phrase](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noun_phrase) on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2011

<sup>11</sup> John Eastwood, *oxford guide to English grammar*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), 7<sup>th</sup> Ed.p. 175

<sup>12</sup> A.S. Hornby, *Op.Cit*, p.449

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*,p.86

constructions of noun phrase found in *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* and also to know what teaching approach can be used to teach noun phrase with the readers and English learners. Approach here means a set of correlative assumptions dealing with the nature of language teaching and learning.<sup>14</sup>

The writer chooses short story to be analyzed because some materials in textbook are short story. And most of learners are interested in reading short story. The writer chooses the book entitled *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to be the object of this research because it has interesting story. It contains a group of short stories. There are ten short stories in this book. These stories tell about the adventure of Sherlock Holmes as a detective. The theme of these stories is about criminality and murder.

The result of this research expected will give several contributions for the readers in general and for the students at English department in particular.

## **B. Research Question**

Based on the description of the study above, the researcher would like to make statement of the problems. The problems that are going to be discussed in this study can be stated as follows:

1. What are the common types and constructions of noun phrase used in the short story entitled *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*?
2. What teaching approach can be used to teach noun phrase?

## **C. Objectives Of The Study And Pedagogical Significance**

The objectives of the study are to find out and analyze what the common type and construction of noun phrase used in short story entitled *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* is and also to know what teaching approach can be used to teach noun phrase.

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<sup>14</sup> Jack C. Richard and Theodore S. Rodgers, *Approach and Methods in Language Teaching*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986), p.15

Hopefully, the result of this study would give valuable contributions to the English language learning context and will be beneficial for many sides such as for students, teacher, writer, reader and next researcher:

1. For the writer; the result of this study can improve her knowledge about noun phrase
2. For the students; the result of this study may help students to improve their understanding on noun phrase.
3. For the teacher; the result of this study can give inspiration to the teacher to enrich their teaching method.
4. For the next researcher who is interested in this subject and has strong commitment to do a further research in this field by extending it to other level, other subject, and to different setting.
5. For reader; this research hoped can give more beneficial information and knowledge about noun phrase.