

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

All Languages have underlying structural rules that make meaningful communication, like the structure of sentence as the highest unit of language. A sentence contains several kinds of words that have various functions. The words are constructed based on the structure rules of a sentence, for example taking as subject, predicate or verb and object also adverb (Hudson, 2003: 251). Besides, to take the roles in a sentence, the words also have their different groups, such as noun, verb, adjective and adverb. A verb holds the most important roles in a sentence because every subject must have a verb. A verb is a word that is used to describe motion or convey a subject in action (Morley, 2002: 131).

In English, a verb has certain complicated rules in structuring a sentence because it must have specific tense, for example present (indicates that the action is actually being carried out at that moment). In addition, a verb also can change function when it experiences an addition of units like a particle “-ing”. It is called as a gerund considered as a noun. This means that a gerund can be the subject, subject complement, direct object or object of a preposition (Frank, 1972: 434). Because the gerund is a verb form, it can be followed by all grammatical pieces like a modifier and it becomes a gerund phrase. Like a gerund, a gerund phrase also can take same functions but more detail.

The understanding of the use of a gerund phrase is needed, especially for everyone who works in journalistic field in order to make meaningful information. According to (Frank, 1972: 139), a gerund phrase is a phrase consisting of a gerund and any modifiers or objects associated with it. It acts as a subject, an object. The gerund phrase can easily be confused with participle phrase. It can also appear such a dangling modifier. This means simply a word or phrase that modifies the wrong subject in a sentence. It sometimes may happen in writing, especially a long sentence that contains several modifiers since the modifier has to more information about something. This dangling might happen because of the improper usage of subject. Therefore, it is really concerned about how to use the gerund phrase to decrease the mismatch of gerund.

Based on the fact, the writer wanted to analyze further the function of gerund phrases that used in some articles of a newspaper. In this case, the writer took from one of the most up to date online newspaper, which is *BeritaDuaBahasa* (B2B). B2B is an online newspaper that provided as the media of learning English, since it presents two languages which are Indonesian and English. It already visited more than million visitors, especially Indonesian non-native speakers. This presents various themes, such as sport, showbiz, world, agriculture ministry, and out of the box. All the themes are covered attractively and the contents lead more concerns for public (Admin, 2019).

This is very good media that used to improve the English competency of learners, especially for new English learners, because the structure of languages still easily to be understood. However, the writer still found some sentences, especially in the

characteristic of long sentences that contain more modifiers not accuracy, balance and clear.

Basically, the characteristics of writing newspaper must be accuracy, concise and clear. It can create from the way of sentence structure. If an inaccurate information appears, the readers will less of reading and she or he will feel difficult in catching the information that delivered by the writer. The most important point that makes the contents of newspapers give more impression to the readers is the objectivity of that sentence. It means stick to nouns and verbs, such as modifiers; adverbs and adjectives get into the realm of opinion.

The use of gerund phrases in B2B cannot be avoided because all the articles provide detail information that possible to use only short sentences. The sentences most cover in long sentences containing more modifiers together in one sentence. In addition, a gerund phrase also sometimes appeared together with a participle phrase that made confused for the readers. In this case, the writer will use the data from the main concern of the issues appeared in up to date news. These articles come from different themes, because the writer needed to be focused to the use of gerund phrases used in complex sentences so it will help the writer to gain the advantage of this research and provide the conclusion for the final result.

The writer found the most confused gerund phrases case as in this sentence: “*The operation in Indonesia involved a network of over 100 fake accounts on Facebook and Instagram posting content in English and Indonesian either in support or criticizing the West Papua independence movement, which is active in the country’s restive eastern most region of Papua*” (Admin, 2019). This sentence appeared in more complex sentences; because it contains two main clauses and it the main

clause appeared more modifiers to add the information. In addition, there was also using the gerund phrase together with participle phrase that make to be careful in identifying them.

In analyzing this case, the writer will apply one of theories of syntax that proposed by Frank in 1972 because it is more substantial theory to approach to problem of this research. Frank explained that a gerund phrase can take as subject, object, and subject complement that have different rules of structure. The advantage of studying the functions of gerund phrase in the newspaper articles can increase the understanding the rules of sentence structures especially in proving more detail information. To provide the clear and concise information also must concern for the use of verbs that can change also be a gerund and gerund phrases.

1.2 Research Question

By observing the facts, the writer formulates the research questions into: What are the functions of gerund phrases used in *B2B World News* articles?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This study aimed to describe the functions of gerund phrases used in *B2B News* articles.

1.4 Uses of the Study

The results of this research are expected to be beneficial for learners that divided into two major uses namely theoretically and practically.

1.4.1 Theoretical Uses

Theoretically, the result of this research can provide the additional knowledge especially in syntactic field and it can help new learners in understanding the concept of gerund phrase in a sentence. In addition, this research can be used as the future reference for some new researchers who want to analyze the same topic with the present researcher.

1.4.2 Practical Uses

Practically, the writer expected that this research can be useful for the readers so they can get more understanding of the function of gerund phrases. It can help researchers also to analyze the gerund phrases used in complex sentences. In addition, the readers also can excellently practice to use the gerund phrases both in their writing and daily communication.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The writer narrowed the discussion only focused on the analyzing the functions of gerund phrases used in B2B News Articles. The writer took Berita Dua Bahasa as the data sources and used five selected data by using purposive sampling. The five selected data were taken from the edition of October 2019 from world News section with different topics, such as sports, politics, and entertainments. The writer chose based on the criteria that needed by this research. The purpose of purposive sampling is to make objectively collecting the data. The writer applied theory of Frank (1972) to find the function of gerund phrases in any kinds of sentences.