

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Research

In learning English, there are four types of skills that must be mastered by learners, they are listening, reading, speaking and writing and in the case of writing skill, the importance of grammar plays role in achieving learners' educational and perfectional goals (Baleghzadeh and Gordani in Gulo and Rahmawelly, 2018). In that case, the importance of grammar skill also can give knowledge to the learners to develop their ability in English especially in writing correct sentences. Unfortunately, grammar also becomes one of the major issues that commonly faced by learners which in this case, especially students. As it supported by Corder in Ellis (2008) that error made by the students in learning language is a common phenomenon because it indicates as the result of students' lack of knowledge of grammar rule.

Further, in English grammar, there are several lexical categories that must be combined correctly in order to write English sentences, such as subject, verb, object, complement and adverbial and in addition, preposition (Swan, 1995). Sargeant (2009) explained that preposition is a word that shows a relationship between its object and some others in sentences and it conveys the meaning of position, direction, time or other abstraction. Moreover, Swan (1995) also stated that it is very difficult in learn how to use prepositions correctly in foreign language, which in this case, English language because most English prepositions have several different functions and they may

correspond to several different prepositions in another language. As it mentioned by Radford in Krisnawan (2018), that preposition is categorized as the functional word which means that this class of words do not have clear lexical meaning and do not denote objects, ideas or others. Thus, it makes preposition as part of grammatical structure that cannot be taken for granted.

However, through this research, the writer would like to discuss another level of preposition that is known as prepositional phrase since the problem of prepositional phrase can be found in any types of sentences that show relation of time, place and location taking into difference function of sentence. Prepositional phrase itself is known as one of the sentence elements which has function to indicate certain relation between other words in a sentence and it used to make the sentence complete and understandable (Quirk et al, 1985). Frank (1972) added that a prepositional phrase is formed by prepositions, nouns and pronouns, for instance, *on the ground* or *on the table*. Hence, related to the case of prepositional phrase, the writer in this research interested in analyzing one of the online newspapers, *Tempo English Sport* articles.

*Tempo English* or previously called as *Tempo interactive* is one of famous news in Indonesia which serves information into two language versions, namely Indonesian English language. Here, the writer chooses newspaper since it has significant influence or impact on how individuals and society construct stigmas toward certain individuals, culture and etc (Eklesia and Rido, 2020) and also, the perspective of society always influenced by the information in newspaper (Pekkarinen in Evayani and Rido, 2019). Moreover, if an article is engaging, concise, and well structured, then the readers are

encouraged to go on and to create it, the writer of the newspaper must be able to build a creative sentence to attract reader's interest.

As in other newspapers, *Tempo English* also provides many sections in various themes, like sport. Nowadays, many people are interested to discuss about the phenomenon of sport, because the importance of sport support in human health (Tonts, 2005). Sport is generally understood to include physical activities that go beyond competitive sports, such as play, reaction, etc. (Tonts, 2005) which means sport is bound by certain activities with certain regulations. *Tempo English sport* is always update for current issues that serves various themes of issues (Sanam, 2015). Moreover, the writer also focuses on choosing sport articles that are related to football since the topic of football is global which means football is not only national but also international sport as well.

Furthermore, the writer is interested in discussing the prepositional phrase because most learners and common readers are unable to differentiate between to infinitive and prepositional phrase since in the *to-infinitive*, the phrase also using particle "to" as well as prepositional phrase when it comes to the prepositional marker "to" (Sanam, 2015). Sometimes some learners assume that both of phrases are categorized into similar syntactic analysis as part of prepositional phrase, but indeed they are different structure and function, even sometimes they may serve in a same function in indicating a sentence, but not all (Frank, 1972).

## **1.2 Research Question**

Based on the background of the stud, the writer formulates the research question into:  
What are the functions of prepositional phrase used in *Tempo English Sport* articles?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

Regarding to the research question, the objective of this research is to describe the functions of prepositional phrases that used in sentences of *Tempo English Sport* articles.

## **1.4 Uses of Research**

### **1.4.1 Theoretical Uses**

Theoretically, the result of this research was expected can be implemented in the field of linguistic study, particularly syntactic study when analyzing the functions of prepositional phrase, thus it can enrich the knowledge dealing with how to identify functional grammar within a sentence then able to arrange not only correct but also effective sentences.

### **1.4.2 Practical Uses**

Practically, the writer hoped that the result of this analysis may provide significant contribution in terms of learning syntactic study, especially in syntactic function of prepositional phrase as the smaller unit of sentence within the sentence, so it can help the learners to know what information intend to convey from the sentence and enable learners to construct correct and effective sentences when using to-infinitive phrase.

### **1.5 Scope of Research**

In this research, the writer only focuses in discussing the functions of prepositional phrases that are used in *Tempo English Sport* articles. Specifically, the writer chose three selected articles on September, 2020 that are showing football articles. Further, in order to do the analysis, the writer applied Frank's theory (1972) of prepositional phrase functions where in this theory, the prepositional phrase function is divided into two major categories, they are adjectival and adverbial function. The adjectival function is the prepositional phrase that modified noun or noun phrase, while adverbial function is the prepositional phrase that is able to modify verbs, adjectives and even adverbs.