CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Research

Human will never be separated from what is called language. Language itself it used naturally as a communication tool, and discussion about language will always be an important part of intelectual needs and interesting discussion to follow. The language that will be the topic of this research is English.

English as the language that will be discussed in this research is a language spoken by people both native speaker or non-native speaker around the world. Based on this, it is important to study the internal structure of English so that we can use this language correctly especially in understanding English sentence structure.

As the explanation above, study about English sentence structure in other words is study about syntax. According to Robert Noel Burton (2016) structure is central to study about syntax. (p.6). Structure in a sentece, is a very general concept connected with complex thing, such as its divisible into parts (constituent), different kinds of parts, constituents certain arrangement and in each constiuent a specifiable function in the structure of the thing as a whole.

In dealing with syntactice structure, there are three things that will be discussed : (a) analyzing linguistic expression into their consituents, (b)

identifying the categories of those constituents, and (c) determining their function. And in this paper the expression that will be explained is sentence that contains modifiers of the one of syntactice categories that is adjective. Furthermore the writer assumed that we have known that the categories of syntactic categories are divided into two kinds, there are: lexical categories (noun, verb, adjective, and adverb), and functional categories (determiner, numeral, quantifier, pronoun, preposition etc.)

In the result of analyzing structure, we will know the explanation about why some words in the sentence should fit together in a particular way to make well-formed expression. And this is will be related to the study of grammar.

Grammar itself, in mind is a set of rules that connected with the study of writing. Further in the study of grammar we will find the term of *Prescriptive Grammatical Rules and Descriptive Grammatical Rules.* The prescriptive grammatical rules is the term that rise on the seventeenth-century England, when speaking and writing "correctly" came to be considered a key to social success and a variety of spoken English in London came to be considered "standard" and the other dialect was considered "non-standard" and of lower social prestige.

We may be familiar with grammatical and ungrammatical sentence. Lobeck and Denham (2014) stated that using descriptive grammar, grammatical sentence refers to a possible sentence in the language, while ungrammatical refers to an impossible sentence in the language. Using prescriptive grammar, however, grammatical means confirming to rules of how one should speak or

write (according to some authority), while ungrammatical means not conforming to rules of how one should speak or write (according to some authority).

Talking about sentence, we will recognize some categories that construct it, and one of them is adjective phrase. We may think that adjective is the familiar as the modifiers of noun. In adjective phrase, adjectives add more information of noun that is modified. In modified noun, adjective also can be modified by other categories of words. Lobeck and Denham (2014) said that adjective can be modified by a category of words called degree words, such as very, so, too, rather, or quite (p.154).

Burton (2016) also stated that many adjectives have the morphological possibility of taking a comparative (-er) and superlative (-est) suffix, as in the newer and newest, subtler and subtlest. Other do not (cf. *beautifuller/ *beautifulles, *dubiouser/*dubiousest) but instead may be modified by the comparative and superlative degree adverb more and most, less and least. Yet other adjectives have irregular comparative and superlative forms (good, better, best-bad, worse, worst (p.52).

In modifying adjective, degree word and degree adverbs, both have same fuction that is to modify the adjective. This is supported by statement Burton (2016). He said, the main function of degree adverb is to modify adjectives (specifiying the degree of the attribute expressed by the adjective), so this seems the appropriate place to mention degree adverb as a category (p.52).

In other hand, not all categories of adjective can be modified by degree adverb. Burton (2016) stated, adjective that accept the –er/est inflection or modification by degree adverbs are called gradable adjective. Further he said that non-gradable adjectives do not accept the –er/-est inflection, or modification by degree adverb (p.52). Adjectives are often considered to be the prototypical example of a "gradable" category. Degree expressions such as *too* are restricted to adjectives and morphological comparatives, and superlatives are found for adjectives and not for other categories.

In this research, a kind of literature that writer use as object to classify, analysis, and determine about modifiers of adjective is novel. Novel can provide amount of content with some chapters in it. With so many contents in the novel, the writer has many opportunities to be able to find data in accordance with the related research topic. Also, the other benefit to use novel as object of the research is easiness in finding novel both from bookstore or in internet as what the writer does.

Further novel that is used is novel about romance in which there are many adjectives that can used for the data research. Fictional stories about love letters complemented with beautiful words are the main attraction for conducting research on adjectives that are modified by degree words.

The novel used by the writer in this research is "The Last Letter" written by Boygene Borice. It tells about the letter from a man to his girl, which is divided by some letters and there are found also some poems in it. It was

published in 2019. Boygene Borice is a young talented Kenyan, who writes poetry and inspirational books. His life revolves around books, and if there was one thing that he honors is poetry and books that bring value to life. He has a degree in Information Technology from the Multimedia University of Kenya.

In determining and analyzing degree words that modified the adjective, we often easy to find and determine degree word by finding words such as very, so, quite, rather, and too, which followed adjective in it. But more than that, we have to know the function and connection of degree words it self with the adjective that following it.

In the processs of observation to find references for this research, the writer found that it is rare to find the research about degree words. Some of the research just focus on explaining the function of degree.

Based on this problem, in this research the writer will focus on how to determine, analyze, and classify the kind of degree word found in novel The Last Letter. Further, the syntactic structure and phrase marker will also be included in every data to explain their function and meaning for adjective which followed. The goal of this research is to achieve the comprehension about analysis of degree words that modify the adjective and explanation about syntactic structure of it.

B. The Question and Scope of the Problem

This part encompasses the question of the research and scope of the problem.

1. The Question of the Research

Based on the explanation above, the question of this research is concluded as follows:

a. What is the kinds of degree words that modify adjective found in novel The Last Letter?

b. How is the syntactice structure of kinds of degree words modified the adjective found in novel The Last Letter?

c. What kinds of degree words that m0stly found in the novel ?

2. The Scope of the Research

This research focused on the modifiers of adjective or degree words. It explained about determining and classifying degree words that modified an adjective in a sentence. Furthermore, the syntactic structure shown by the phrase marker and tree diagram in this research related to the characteristics of the adjective itself. The theries which are used are:

1. Lobeck and Denham (2014) 2. Bolinger (1972) 3. Burton (2016).By classifying and analysing those kinds of degree words, we can understand more our conversation in our communication.

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. The Objective of the Research

From the questions above, the objective of this research is proposed to achieve the following answers:

a. To know the kind of degree words that modify adjective found in novel The Last Letter

b. To explain the syntactic structure of adjective modified by degree words founded in novel the last letter.

c. To find out what types of degree words are most commonly found in the last letter novel

2. The Significance of the Research

The aim of this research is to explain about adjective modifiers that found on the novel The Last Letter. This research is expected to achieve the comprehension about degree words, how degree words can modify the adjective, also explanation about meaning and syntactic structure about it. The sigificance of this researceh wil be described as follows:

a. Theoritically

The writer hopes that this paper will be useful not only for the writer herself to learn more depth about syntax especially about degree words, but also for the readers to add the knowldage about modifiers of adjective which in this case is degree words.

Further the writer hopes that this paper will be useful for the English learners to increase the knowledge about syntax, grammar, and mainly adjective modifiers.

b. Practically

The writer hopes that the result of this paper is useful for the next researchers especially who are interested in topic with this paper. Being a reference or the example for the next research is also a goal of this research. Hopefully, next researcher can learn from this paper to make a better research or make a correction from what insufficient or erroneous from this research.

For STBA JIA, the writer hopes that this paper can be a form of scientific contribution which becomes one of the references in the library for future researchers, especially those who have the same topic as this research or maybe for lecturers who will develop the results of this research.

D. **Operational Definition**

1. Syntax

In linguistics, syntax is the set of rules, principles, and processes that govern the structure of sentences (sentence structure) in a given language, usually including word order.

2. Grammar

8

Grammar is the study of words, how they are used in sentences, and how they change in evey situation. In other word, grammar is the study of sentence structure.

3. Adjective

An adjective is a word that describes the noun. It is a part of speech that give more information about noun that goes with it. The adjective often place before the noun.

4. Degree Words

In English grammar, a degree modifier is a word (such as very, rather, fairly, quite, somewhat, pretty, sort of, and kind of) that can precede adjectives and adverbs to indicate the degree or extent to which they apply. Also known as a degree adverb(ial) and a degree word.

5. Sentence Structure

In English grammar, sentence structure is the arrangement of words, phrases, and clauses in a sentence. The grammatical function or meaning of a sentence is dependent on this structural organization, which is also called syntax or syntactic structure.

6. Tree Diagram

The tree diagrams is the notation that most syntacticians used to describe how sentence is organized in mental grammar.

7. Novel

A novel is a relatively long work of narrative fiction, normally written in prose form, and which is typically published as a book.

E. The Systematization of the Paper

The systematic of the research mean to present the composition of this paper. This research is divided into five chapters as follows:

Chapter I: Introduction explains about the background of the research, the question and scope of the problem, the objective of the research and significance of the research, the operational definition, and the systematization of the research.

Chapter II: Theoretical Description contains some theories from many references to support the research such as definition about grammar, definition of syntax, definition and categories of degree words, explanation about adjective, definition of tree diagram, and definition of novel.

Chapter III: Methodology of the Research explains about method of the research, procedure of the research, technique of the data collection, technique of the data analysis, and explanation about data source.

Chapter IV: Research Findings and Discussion contains the data description, data analysis, and data interpretation.

Chapter V: Conclussion and Suggestion This is about conclusion of all chapter, including the suggestion relating with the data result.