

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Language, as far as the writer knows, is a means of communication. The idea is supported by Ronald W. Langacker in his book Language and its Structure who says that language is a "...remarkable instrument of communication" (Langacker, 1973: 3). This means it is the main instrument of expressing ideas or relating information and messages to other people. They should understand what the speaker meant and this understanding is only possible if both the speaker and the listeners know the same language rules.

Every language has its own rules which are called grammar. Eugene J. Hall in the book Grammar for Use says:

"Grammar is a description of certain aspects of a particular language. It usually includes phonological (sound), morphological (word composition), and syntactic (sentence composition) points. (Hall, 1993: 3)

Eugene J. Hall also says that each language has its own particular grammar, and:

"This particular grammar has its own system of organization. In brief, its major parts are arranged according to the most important parts of English sentences - subject, verb, object, and so on. Within each major part, the various patterns that can be used are discussed. As far as possible, an attempt is made to relate the patterns to the concepts of meaning they signal." (Ibid.: 3)

On lexicon Eugene J. Hall says the following: "Language is a system of sounds.... Sounds are arranged into words, which are the smallest independent units of sounds that have meaning for us" (Ibid.: 4).

Hall's idea above is almost the same as Langacker's:

"...., a language can be viewed as an instrument of communication. It serves to establish sound-meaning correlations, so that messages can be sent by the exchange of overt acoustic signals. The meaning of a sentence is determined by the meanings of the words from which it is constructed, and the basis for the sound-meaning correlations established by a language is thus to be found in the relations between individual words and their meanings." (Langacker, op. cit.: 27)

English, for instance, is a particular language which has certain rules, especially written English; people have to express thoughts in clear and complete sentences because one fragment is inadequate as in spoken English.

The writer often finds in articles that the grammar and diction of the sentences are not correct. This will cause confusion and misunderstanding on the part of the readers. The writer, as a student of English, wants to apply her knowledge in analyzing the written texts of an English conversation book. The title of which is 1001 English Conversation - Perckapan Bahasa Inggris written by Syafi'i Mashur (Mashur: 1982).

The texts are written by an Indonesian, who is a non-native speaker of English. The writer assumes that he tends to make errors by transferring the Indonesian

systems of grammar and lexicon when writing or speaking English.

Robert Lado in his book Linguistics across Cultures states:

"that individuals tend to transfer the forms and meanings, and the distribution of forms and meanings of their native language and culture to the foreign language and culture -both productively when attempting to speak the language and to act in the culture, and receptively when attempting to grasp and understand the language and the culture as practiced by natives." (Lado, 1957: 2)

With this notion in mind, the writer is going to analyze the errors concerning grammar and lexicon, which may be found in the texts of 1001 English Conversation - Perckapan Bahasa Inggris.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problems the writer aims to analyze are:

- 1.2.1 What grammatical errors are found in the 1001 English Conversation - Percakapan Bahasa Inggris?
- 1.2.2 What lexical errors are found in the 1001 English Conversation - Percakapan Bahasa Inggris?
- 1.2.3 What is the frequency of occurrence of each type of errors?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of her analysis is to find out:

1.3.1 the grammatical errors found in the 1001 English Conversation - Percakapan Bahasa Inggris:

1.3.2 the lexical errors found in the 1001 English Conversation - Percakapan Bahasa Inggris.

1.3.3 identifying the frequency of occurrence of each type of errors.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that the result of the analysis will give contribution to material development of the book 1001 English Conversation - Percakapan Bahasa Inggris with the corrections of the errors found in the book. Besides that the analysis can be as a contribution to the teaching and learning of English, in order to know what kinds of errors are often made by non-native speakers of English and how to use correct English grammar and diction.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of the analysis is the error analysis and the limitation of the study is to grammatical and lexical errors in the book written by Syafi'i Mashur with the title 1001 English Conversation - Percakapan Bahasa Inggris. The scope and limitation is done with the supposition that Indonesians have the tendency of making errors when writing English. The most errors will occur in gram-

mar and lexicon since English is a foreign language for Indonesians and the grammar and lexicon of English are very much different from those of Indonesian.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding of the concept used in this study, the writer gives some definitions on mistakes and errors.

Mistakes are "the products of such chance circumstances and errors are those which reveal his underlying knowledge of the language to date, or, as it is called his transitional competence" (Corder, 1967: 24-25). "The errors of performance or mistakes will characteristically be unsystematic and the errors of competence or errors are systematic" (Miller (1966) in Corder: 25).

Since the writer intends to analyze the systematic errors only, the definition of errors as established by Dulay, et.al. (1982) was used. Thus in this study, errors were defined as "any deviations from a selected norm of language performance, regardless of their characteristics or sources" (95). So, in this analysis the writer does not make any differentiation between mistakes and errors. So, any deviations she meets in the book 1001 English Conversation - Percakapan Bahasa Inggris written by Syafi'i Mashur will be regarded as errors and will be analyzed.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

The writer will review the theoretical framework on what error analysis is and the differentiation between errors and mistakes. Then the writer tries to review what kinds of errors there are by dividing the errors into grammatical errors and lexical errors.

The underlying theories the writer uses for her analysis are theories on grammar and lexicon. In describing the errors, she also uses error taxonomy, i.e., to classify the errors according to what are written in the book without looking for their underlying cause or source. In her analysis she applies the surface strategy taxonomy in which errors are classified into errors of omission, addition, misformation and misordering.

1.8 Research Methodology

The research methodology applied in this thesis is a descriptive research study which is designed to obtain information concerning the current status of data as it exists at the time of study. It attempts to identify, classify and describe the errors of the book 1001 English Conversation - Percakapan Bahasa Inggris. The appropriate method for this study is the descriptive method, the error analysis.

Error analysis is a research technique for the objec-

tive, systematic and quantitative description of the manifest errors. The use of error analysis is to analyze the systematic errors as they are presented in the sentences or conversations in context. In this case, they are of the contents of the book being analyzed (Corder, 1967: 25).

1.9 Organization of the Study

The writer organizes the analysis into five chapters: Chapter I is the introduction, which the writer divides into sub-chapters: background of the problems, statement of the problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study. Then followed by the definitions of key terms, theoretical framework and the organization of the study. Chapter II is the review of the related literature, which includes the error analysis, the kinds of errors, namely, the grammatical and lexical errors. Chapter III is the research methodology which is divided into the research design, the subjects, the data collection, and the data analysis. Chapter IV is the data analysis and research findings. Chapter V is devoted to the conclusion of the analysis and followed by some suggestions. Finally, this thesis is completed with a bibliography and an appendix.