

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

In linguistics, study about the sentence of a language is called syntax. Syntax focused on the ways in which words are placed and combined together as one sentence. Once we have structural knowledge of English sentences, it is easy to get the meaning and the purpose of certain sentence and utterance correctly. It helps us to avoid or decrease misunderstanding in speaking and reading comprehension. As English department student, learning syntax is a fundamental necessity which will be a guidance to ease the students understanding literal source in an explicit and simple way.

Yule (1996, p. 4) defines syntax as the study of the relationships between linguistic forms, how they are arranged in sequence, and which sequences are well formed. Syntax is a branch of linguistics that studies the rules, or “patterned relations” that govern the way words combine to form phrases and phrases combine to form sentences. Etymologically, the word syntax is from the Greek, *sun* (together) + *tattein* (arrange) “arrange together. The component of language that deals with the arrangement of words in a sentence is called syntax. Syntax is one of the major components of grammar. Syntax is primarily concerned with the ways in which words are put together in sentences. (Saifuddin Ahmad Husin).

Furthermore, Gleason (1961, p. 128) states that syntax is the principles of arrangement of the construction formed by the process of derivation and inflection (word) into larger constructions of various kinds. In addition, Chomsky (1966, p. 1) states that syntax is the study of the principles and process by which sentences are constructed in particular languages. Radford (1997, p. 1) also says that syntax is concerned with the ways in which words can be combined together to form phrases and sentences. Moreover, Wekker and Haegeman (1985, p. 5) define syntax as determining the relevant component parts of a sentence. According to the definitions of syntax above, it is concluded that syntax is the arrangement and relationship among words, phrases, and clauses forming sentences based on grammatical rules.

Often, the use of language will be vague or ambiguous which causes the meaning of the sentence cannot be understood easily. In this case, studying syntax is important since it studies how sentences are formed and arranged based on the grammatical rule. If people arrange the correct sentences, they can arrange a good writing and make good communication. Furthermore, the listeners or readers can understand the meaning of the sentence easily. For example in the sentence, "Siti folded the blanket in the bedroom". This sentence has a case of ambiguity so that it has some of interpretation. The first interpretation can be "Siti folded the blanket that is in the bedroom". (in the bedroom modifying 'blanket'), or the second one, can be "Siti did the folding of the blanket in the bedroom",

(in the bedroom modifying 'folded'). From the examples above can be concluded when a surface structure relates to more than one deep structure, we would have a case of ambiguity. That example above proved that it is important to learn the structure of the sentence or syntax to avoid that kind of misinterpretation.

Besides, there are many reasons for studying syntax, from general humanistic or behavioral motivations to much more specific goals such as to help us to illustrate the patterns of English more effectively and clearly. Moreover, studying syntax also enable us to analyze the structure of English sentences in a systematic and explicit way. As the student of English Education department of IAIN Antasari who can be categorized as student of EFL as well, most of us translate native language directly into English without considering the word order that changes between languages. It is a common mistake often found among EFL students. That is why the researcher strongly believe that conducting research in the field of syntax will decrease that habit since this research can be an additional source for recognizing word order and sentence structure of English. Those reasons mentioned above are good enough to encourage English department students for learning syntax in a depth way.

Furthermore, for those students of English department of IAIN Antasari who will be an English teacher, learning syntax will give a huge advantage as well. Many students of EFL begin to learn English by memorizing words and phrases; it is the responsibility of the teacher to

ensure that the students understand the meaning and usage. Most of the teachers just being sure to include more vocabulary than what is available in a child textbook, and instruct students how to modify sentences to fit different situations. Just because a student knows a word does not mean he or she knows how to use it in a sentence. It is a duty for the English teacher to do so and learning syntax can be a way to make it into reality. However, it cannot be done if the teachers themselves are not able yet to analyse the word orders and sentence structure. Thus, once more, this research will be one of many ways to solve this common problem which always happen continuously in this country.

In this research, the researcher chose Tree Diagrams as a mean to analyze verses in the English translation of *surah Al Qiyamah* by T.B Irving. Tree diagram is one of popular theory of syntactic analysis. It is very interesting if we are able to analyze sentences using tree diagrams. Tree Diagrams is sentences analysis by using internal hierarchical structure of sentences as generated by set of rules. There are some advantages of using Tree Diagrams. Bornstein (1977, p. 48) states that a sentence is the basic unit of syntactic analysis which is easier to see the parts of phrases and subparts (parts of speech) of the sentence in a tree diagram. Finch (1998, p. 107) states that the advantage of tree diagrams is that they enable us to see at a glance the hierarchical structure of sentences. Besides, it is always taught to English students, especially in Linguistics.

Sentence has three forms, namely positive sentence, negative sentence, and interrogative sentence. A positive sentence usually states something is true or correct while a negative sentence is opposite; states something is not true or incorrect. Then, an interrogative sentence is a type of sentence which usually asks a question and uses a question mark (?). It may ask for information or for confirmation or denial of a statement. Also, it typically begins with a question word such as what, who, or how, or an auxiliary verb such as do/does, can or would. There are three types of interrogative sentence; they are *yes/no interrogatives*, *wh-interrogatives*, and *alternative interrogatives*.

The researcher selects the holy Qur'an to be analyzed syntactically. The researcher wants to know the structure of the sentences in the English translation of Qur'an because it is the central religious text of Islam. It is also a noble and glorious book of Moslems that is always relevant in all ages. For Moslems, Qur'an is the eternal and indisputable word of God. It is used as a fundamental view for Moslem in doing their activities. It has a collection of Allah SWT revelation that was brought down by Angel Gabriel (*Jibril*) to prophet Muhammad SAW with the certain ways gradually in about twenty three years. Qur'an is not only unique in the way in which it presents its subject matter, but it is also unique in that it is a miracle in itself, in the sense that it could not be the work of humans. Qur'an has a perfect arrangement word and word choice. As Allah said in the Qur'an *surah Al Baqarah* verse 2:



This verse means that Allah has created Qur'an as a guidance for human being and He also guarantees that there is no doubt in the Qur'an at all. Only who has faith to Allah that will feel no hesitancy toward the Qur'an.

The Qur'an consists of 114 chapters or *surah*, varying in length from 3 to 286 verses (*ayah*). In this research, the researcher chooses *surah Al Qiyamah* to be analyzed since this *surah* has consideration of obvious concerning in its *ayah* to increase human belief. This *surah* talked about the dreadfulness of the Judgment Day (Resurrection). Allah has mentioned some signal of that day which is so terrifying and tightening. By analyzing this *surah*, the researcher will find some utterance used in the *ayah* of the *surah* which showed the unearthly atmosphere of the Judgment Day and that is believed by the the researcher that the contents will be a reminder of the resurrection and strongly will be a vim for human to raise their enthusiasm in worshipping Allah in this dereliction and crisis of faith era.

Qur'an has been translated into many languages to understand the meaning and message, including English. There are some well-known translators of the holy Qur'an who have translated Qur'an into English such as Mohammed As'ad, (Mohammed) Marmaduke William Pickthall, Abdullah Yusuf Ali, and Thomas Ballantine Irving. In this research, the

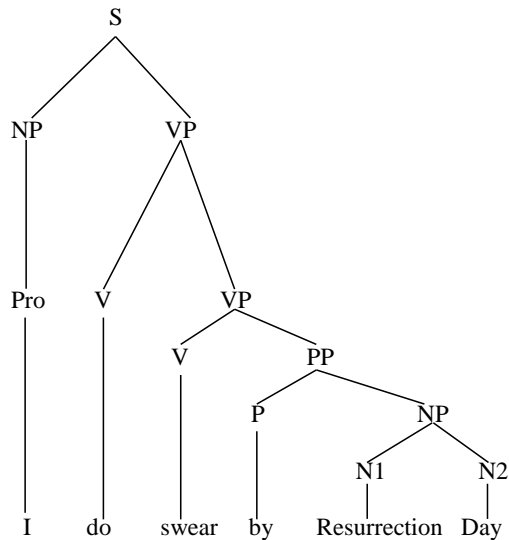
researcher chooses the English translation of the holy Qur'an by Thomas Ballantine Irving only in order to be focused and able to get deeper analysis from one source. The researcher also has some certain reasons why she picks the English translation of The Qur'an by T.B Irving.

T.B Irving is an English native speaker who was born in Cambridge, Ontario (Canada) in 1914. He was educated in Toronto, Montreal and Princeton University from where he obtained a Ph.D in Near Eastern Studies. He embraced Islam in 1930' s in Toronto. Even if he is a 'convert', he did not want to be called so. He thought that the term of convert means change and he did not feel that at all. Moreover, he declared himself as a native-born Muslim. Furthermore, the reason why the researcher chooses T.B Irving's English translation of the holy Qur'an because in 1985 he published a translation of the holy Qur'an in American English to make it accessible to a wider audience, especially the youth. (www.wikipedia.com). Since the researcher has been having tendency of learning American English since a long time as well, she is convinced to use T.B Irving's English translation of the Qur'an as the source of her data research.

All of the translations of the holy Qur'an have grammatical rule. It contains phrase, clause, and sentences. Each of them must be in language as the structure in order to avoid misunderstanding between translators and readers. It is very impossible for the existence of translation without any

structural form. In the structural form, the message can be accepted easily and the intention can be understood effectively. For example, in the English translation of *surah Al Qiyamah ayah 1*:

I do swear by Resurrection Day,



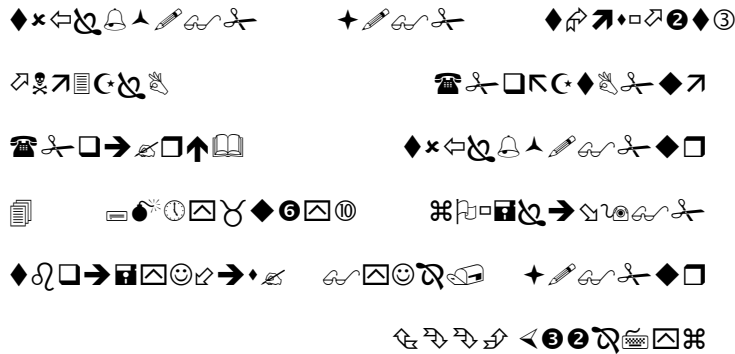
The formula of the diagram : $S \rightarrow NP + VP$

The pattern of the sentence consists of noun phrase (pronoun) “I” followed by verb phrase consists of verb “do” and followed verb phrase which consists of verb “swear” and followed by prepositional phrase that consists of preposition “by” and followed by noun phrase which consists of N1 “Resurrection” and N2 “Day”.

As a Moslem and student of IAIN Antasari, the researcher believes that conducting research through *surah* of the Holy Qur’an will be an interrelated and interesting way to applicate all of knowledge that the

researcher got during the lectures. Both *dunya* and *akhirat* can get along well through this research. The researcher hopes that her belief and spirit of Islamic worship will be increased during this research.

Moreover, Allah already promises us that He will raise the level of human who believes in him and for those who love to learn some degrees as stated in *surah Al Mujadilah ayah 11*:



After searching for previous research which related to this topic, the researcher found some thesis with similar idea such as a thesis by Rachmawati (2003), who analyzes A Syntactic Analysis on Sentence Patterns Used in David Fosters Songs. She found nineteen sentence patterns of all lines in every stanza of David Fosters songs. Lutfiani (2006), who investigates A Syntactic Analysis on Kelly Clarksons Songs by Using Tree Diagram. She found eleven sentence patterns of Kelly Clarksons songs, and Amri (2008), who analyzes Surface Structure Analysis in Kangguru Magazine by Using Diane Bornsteins Tree Diagram Theory. In his thesis, he found twenty three sentence patterns of nominal and verbal sentences in Kangguru magazine on June 2006 edition.

Those thesis mentioned above are written by English students from different university, while in the library of IAIN Antasari the researcher only found one thesis with similar topic which is written by an English Department student of Tarbiyah and Teachers Training Faculty, Isnawati (2014), entitled A Syntax Analysis of Holy Qur'an Surah *Al-Haaqqah* Translation by A. Yusuf Ali. In her research, Isnawati found fourteen sentence patterns of the whole *ayah* in the *surah*.

Finally, according to the phenomenon and explanation which had been mentioned above, the researcher interested in conducting research with the title: **“A SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS ON THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF *SURAH AL QIYAMAH* USING TREE DIAGRAMS”**.

B. Statement of Problems

Based on the background above, the writer investigates and focuses on the following questions:

1. What syntactic patterns are found in the English translation of *surah Al Qiyamah* by T.B Irving?

C. Objectives of Study

Based on the statement of problem above, the purpose of this research is to find out and describe the syntactic patterns in the English translation of *surah Al Qiyamah* descriptively. The researcher wants to know how is the description and the elaboration of the patterns which formed the sentences of *ayah* in the data.

D. Significance of Study

The result of this research is expected to give contribution as follows:

1. To give contribution and additional source about syntax field especially in analyzing syntactical pattern of sentences using tree diagram.
2. To assist English department students understanding and appreciating linguistics field in a new way.
3. To give information for future researchers.
4. For the researcher herself, this research will be a warming up before continuing her Master degree in related major.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid any misinterpretations toward the title of this research, the writer needs to describe some terms in the title as follows:

1. Syntactical Analysis

An analysis of data which are taken from the whole verses of the English translation of *surah Al Qiyamah* by using tree diagrams.

2. Tree Diagrams

A two-dimensional diagram used as a convenient means of playing the internal hierarchical structure of sentences as generated by a set of rules, commonly known as phrase structure rules.

3. Surah Al Qiyamah

The seventy fifth *surah* of the Holy Qur'an which consists of 40 *ayah*. This *surah* talked about the dreadfulness of the Judgment Day (Resurrection).

4. T.B Irving

He is one of translators who translate the Holy Qur'an into English. He is a Canadian and his English translation of the Holy Qur'an is simple and mostly using words which are familiar by the EFL students like the researcher.