

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some subchapters. Those are background of study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Those are important to be explained because they will describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of the study

People are human being who needs other people to stand for their life. People use language as a way to get close to others. Language can be used as a sign where humans come from. Language is also regarded as a way to communicate between one group and another, or it can be said that language is a tool of communicate (Barber, 1993:3).

Language touches every part of life; it gives word to human thoughts, ideas, and feeling. It means that through the language, people can express their thought, ideas, and feeling in both spoken and written language. In Linguistics, language is viewed as vocabulary which in contained in literary works. It means that language has literature and art value. As we know language is various (Adisutrismo, 2008: 1). We are still with the interesting problem that language different from one another, and this problem makes the study of linguistic so interesting.

Language is an important means to have a communication. People need it to make a contact and relation to each other. People utter words and sentences as their expression to each other. To make good sentences, people need to know some rules in a certain language. English also has its own rules including an expression to show anything. One of them is the way of making agent as a doer in a sentence. People know it as agentive noun.

According to Saeed (2009), agentive nouns have the meaning the entity who/which performs the action of the verb. It means that mostly verbs have their certain expression to show the doer or the actor of the verb. For example, a verb

“play” has “player” as the agentive noun. Mostly it is indicated by suffix –er.

In this study, the writer takes this phenomenon as the theory because it is interesting topic. It shows that English has its own way in expressing agents. It also helps people in classifying of semantic dimension of agentive noun. It gives learner knowledge in determining the characteristic of agent. The writer analyzes this topic in a novel, namely *Low Country* by Anne Rivers Siddons.

Novel is invented story in prose, long enough to fill a complete book that resulted from one idea, design and experience of someone (Oxford advanced learners dictionary : 1995), and it means that through novel, someone can wreak what are in mind, everyone can share their story, experience, willing what has been their dream. Therefore, novel is one creation that is really useful to represent what the author ideas, willing, his or her private experience of life etc.

The writer is really careful in selecting this novel to be analyzed, the writer decides to use *Low Country* novel because the writer sure it is good novel to be analyzed and the author include in bestseller list in New York times. As the famous one, many students in senior high school or freshman love this novel. The study will give them information related to agent of a verb. Sometime students analyze this study to know the part of words in a sentence. Mostly people know this as subject-predicate-object. Here subject seems like agent of the verb. For example, *the teacher is writing on the blackboard*. *Teacher* stands as agent of teach, person that teaches student.

Many new learners are confused in making and understanding the rule of agentive nouns. In this study the writer intends to give information the way of making agents and the types of agentive agents. So, the reader can have good analysis. For example, as taken from the novel as the source of data the word *Instructors* in the sentence *several my instructors begged me to wait, begged me to get my degree first and then somewhere specialized, like the art institute of Chicago, where two of them had thought, for further serious study* it is categorized as type of regular agentive noun since it is formed from *Instruct* + *or* as stated by Saeed (2009) and included in professional agent type in semantic dimension.

The second is the data found which is included into irregular agentive noun. The word *Servant* in the sentence *I don't want him to get idea that African-American women are subservient or take servants roles* it is formed from *serve + ant*. Saeed (2009) states there are some irregularities. For instance, some nouns do not obey the informal rule given above: *footballer*, for example, is not derived from a verb *to football*. In other cases, the nouns may have several senses, some of which are quite far from the associated verb and in semantic dimension *Servants* is categorized in animate agent.

The writer sure that it is important to be analyzed because mostly new learner tend to imitate common concept which mean mostly an agent is identified with the suffix *er*. In fact, in English there is another perception about agentive noun as stated by Saeed (2009) such the irregular one.

1.1 Statement of Research Problems

Through this research, the writer emerges the following questions:

1. What are the types of Agentive Nouns in *Low Country* novels by Anne Rivers Siddons?
2. What are the semantic dimensions of Agentive Noun in *Low Country* novel by Anne Rivers Siddons?

1.2 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of research problem, the purpose of the study are :

1. To explain the types of Agentive Nouns in *Low Country* novel by Anne Rivers Siddons.
2. To explain the semantic dimensions of Agentive Nouns in *Low Country* by Anne Rivers Siddons.

1.3 Significances of the Study

The significances of this study are to give contributions both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the results of this study will contribute as the factual information to the next researcher about agentive noun and semantic dimension in

agentive noun. The writer also expects the readers can understand further elaboration about the term of agentive noun and semantic dimension in agentive noun to help other students who look for references about agentive noun.

Practically, the purpose of this study is to give references and hoped to be able understanding about the use of agentive noun and can differentiate between the doer of any verbs and also to help the reader especially for freshman and students in senior high school when reading a book, novel or may be short story it still confused and not understand with the use of agentive noun and to differentiate between the doer of any verbs because mostly new learner tend to imitate common concept which mean mostly an agent is identified with the suffix *er*. In fact, in English there is another perception about agentive noun as stated by Saeed (2009) such the irregular one.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is agentive noun. In addition, this study focuses on the types of agentive noun by Saeed (2009) and the types of semantic dimension in agentive noun by Owoeye (2013). Furthermore, the limitation of this study is the agentive noun and semantic dimension in agentive noun in *Low Country* novel by Anne Rivers Siddons.