

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents five subchapters, namely background of the study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study. These are important to explain because all of them describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of Study

Morphology can be defined as the study of the structure of words and the rules for word formation. The interesting one in learning morphology is that the existence of phenomenon which is driven by certain canonical cases emphasized in the linguistic literature which is called as blocking. The term “blocking” is employed by Aronoff (1976) which refers to cases in which the non-existence of expected form is supposed to result from the existence of another form. The problem of morphological blocking and its inner-workings are common issue in modern morphological debate (Aronovich, 2008)

Blocking words can be easily found whether in spoken and written. Blocking words are common words which are usually used by people. Besides, they syntactically and lexically are accepted by people and they can understand the meaning of blocking words in the dictionary.

The superlative form of the adjective *warm* is *warmest*. People use the word *warmest* to show the superlative condition. Whereas there is another form of

superlative such as *the most warm* as it is similar with the phrase *the most beautiful* yet people tend not to use the second form. Based on Aronoff's idea the first form which is acceptable by society is called blocking word while the second is called as blocked word. Blocking words are commonly used by people since it is categorized as grammatically correct while blocked words are avoided by people since it is categorized as ungrammatical. People who create blocked words are considered uneducated, careless in writing and know little about grammar. Uniquely, nowadays we can find that there are many people use blocked words in many writing forms such as in novel. These sometimes make people confused to understand the meaning of the words. See the example of blocked words in novel *Eat, Pray, Love*.

I thought the Ashram was **the weirdest** thing I ever saw

(Example is taken from *Eat, Pray, Love* novel page 147)

The word *the weirdest* can not be found in any dictionary because the accepted form of superlative of the word *the weirdest* is *the most weird*. The writer intentionally writes *the weirdest* to make the novel look more interesting. Since the superlative of *the weirdest* is written using an accepted form the reader can be confused with that. To avoid this problem the readers must understand a concept which is called as the blocking words versus blocked words.

The use of blocked word is very interesting. It is because blocked words are very unique. They seem odd but very interesting to read. See further example of blocked words which are stated in Poser (1992) below:

Table 1.1 Blocking Word versus Blocked Word

Noun	Blocked words	Blocking words
Ox	Oxes	Oxen
Man	Mans	Men
Foot	Foots	Feet
Mouse	Mouses	Mice
Goose	Gooses	Geese

The table above are meant to be the list of blocked words that are not listed in dictionary such as *mans* which is easier to keep in mind than irregular plural of *men* because to change the singular form to plural form is simply by adding suffix *_s* in common. In contrary, the blocking words listed in the table above are easily found in any dictionary.

In conducting this research, the writer selects *Eat, Pray, Love* novel as source of data because there are many blocked words found in it. Furthermore, this novel got a great achievement for its first launch, during 2006-2007 which achieved a 3,47 rating. This novel was written by Elizabeth Gilbert, goodreads author. It has been copied for over 6 million copies sold worldwide. In addition, it remained on The New York Times Best Seller list for 187 weeks (Diane Daniel, 2016).

In that novel, the author simply uses expressions which in fact the meanings are similar with the words that people use in common. Therefore, the

writer hopes that this study can help people by displaying many new words that have not been known by people. As the result, by this study the writer aims to explain to the people that the evolution of language occurs through times.

There are not many studies conducted related to this field. Two studies have been found, discussing blocking and blocked word yet none of them talks about blocked word which exist in novel. Therefore, this study is considered as an initiative study about blocked word in novel.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problems

Based on the background of the study, the statements of the research problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of blocked words found in Elizabet Gilbert's novel entitled *Eat, Pray, Love*?
2. What are the requirements of the words to be called as blocked words?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the research problems formulated above, this study has several objectives. Those are:

1. To explain the types of blocked words found in Elizabeth Gilbert's novel entitled *Eat, Pray, Love*.
2. To explain the requirements of the words to be called as blocked words.

1.4 Significances of the Study

This study is expected to give contribution both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, it is hoped that this study gives understanding about the theory of blocked word, particularly the types of blocked word. In addition, the writer expects the readers to understand further about blocking-blocked words theory and help other students to provide a reference about the theory about blocking-blocked words.

Practically, this study can help the readers to understand blocked word. It also hope this study can provide alternative word for any novel writer to make his future novel to be more interesting.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The scope of this study is morphology which is focused on theory of Blocking-blocked words proposed by Plag (2002) and the requirements of blocked words proposed by Rainer (1988). Furthermore, the limitation of this study is any words are categorized as blocked words are found in novel *Eat, Pray, Love*.