

## **ABSTRACT**

Children acquire their language through the process of language development. The children's linguistic knowledge develops by stages. At first, they may be able to produce sounds only. Then, they develop their ability of producing words and sentences until they master a fully formed grammar. They produce sentences of increasing length and complexity per time as they mature.

In this qualitative descriptive study, the writer would like to describe the elementary transformations of the Indonesian sentences made by the children of four, five, and six years old. Furthermore, the writer also would like to describe the differences of the elementary transformations. As a pure linguistic study, it is syntactic approach which is used in this study. In further case, it deals with Transformational Generative Grammar as a part of Syntax.

Three children of different ages, the children of four, five, and six years old who use Indonesian as their first language were chosen to be the respondents of this study. The data of this study are Indonesian sentences that were elicited and tape recorded in three stimulus situations: responses to a projective test, conversation with adult(s), and conversation with peer(s).

In dealing with data analysis, labelled tree diagram is applied to examine both Indonesian grammatical and ungrammatical sentences generated by them. Then, the differences they made are presented in tables.

This thesis is ended with conclusion that in principle, the children of four, five, and six years old are able to use all the four elementary transformations, that are deletion, substitution, adjunction, and permutation elementaries. The differences they made are in the types of sentences involving the various types of elementary transformations and combinations of them in their sentences.



# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION