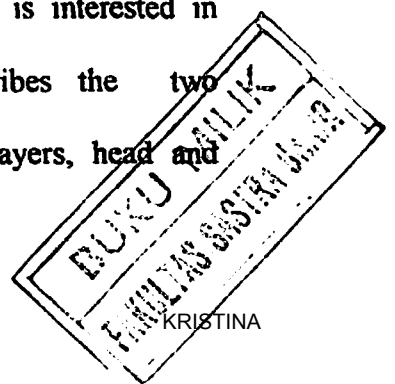# CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Language is a part of culture. According to Raja T. Nasr (1978 : 1), language is a part of human behavior and it is an acquired habit of systematic vocal activity representing meaning coming from human experiences. Since language is a part of culture and a part of human behavior, our attitude towards it must not be different from that, towards any other parts of culture or behavior. Additional, language is represented by a string of symbols. These number of symbols are combined in limited number of ways. In other words, grammar has an important role. It is the part which deals with the patterned relations of words with each other in the sentences of a language. Words cannot be put together in just any place or position. There are systematic orderings of words and in addition to those there are some grammatical devices like inflections (affixes, suffixes., prefixes), parts of speech, etc. Word order demands words that are in relation to each other.

Structure, it is a systematic ordering of words in sentences. Dealing with structure, Nelson Francis in the *Structure of American English* states that there are four basic types of syntactic structure. They are structures of modification, predication., complementation , and coordination. The writer is interested in Nelson Francis's discussion on modification which describes the two components, head and modifier. As they consist of many-layers, head and

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modifier, they appear and form a complex structure of modification which causes the two components interesting to discuss. Concerning modifiers, there are several types of modifiers: noun, verb, adjective, adverb, function word, phrase, and clause modifiers. Each of the modifiers might modify several kinds of heads, which can be nouns , verbs, adjectives, adverbs, function words, phrases and clauses. Talking about modifiers and their heads, we cannot separate them from their positions. The modifiers may precede or follow the heads they modify. In addition, there are explanations and examples provided in Nelson Francis's discussion. It is also stated by Keith Brown in *A Linguistics Introduction to Sentence Structure* that a modifier is a constituent that restricts the possible range of reference of some other constituents, the head.

As the writer has observed, there are some errors in the use of the modifiers. Quite a lot of mistakes can be seen in the *Common Mistakes in English.* Two types of mistakes are presented in the following (Fitikides 1971:80).

Example 1 : I last night went to the cinema.

In the first example, the adverb last night is usually placed at the end of sentence.

Example 2 : My uncle has a garden very large.

The second example, the adjective, "large" is generally put immediately before the noun it modifies. The sentence should be "my uncle has a very large garden".

Having known the existence of types of modifiers and the errors in the use of modifiers, the writer is interested in conducting a research on the use of modifiers in real writings by native speakers. The writer is particularly interested in studying certain articles of different topics from the *Newsweek Magazine.* As we know

magazine is a media for people to get information which deals with effective source.

The writer wants to see what kinds of modifiers which are commonly used in the articles of *Newsweek*, in the issue of August 2001 at the time the writer found her latest source of data. She is eager to know what forms of modifiers and what they modify in authentic writing instead of English structure text books that describe the rules of patterned words relations concerning modifiers.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Concerning about the use of modifiers in the articles in *Newswek*, the writer is interested in studying modifiers and their usage in real writing ; therefore, the problem is presented as follows:

1. What kinds of modifiers are used in the selected articles in *Newsweek* Magazine , what do they modify and what positions do they occupy ?

2. Which kinds of modifier are mostly found in the selected articles ?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

As modifiers have important functions in modifying heads, the writer wants to find out the kinds of modifiers that are found in the articles, the types of structure that are modified by the modifiers, the position of the modifiers and then she determines what types of modifiers that are frequently used in the selected article.

1.4 Significance of The Study

Through this research, the readers are strongly suggested as to how modifiers function, and what their various forms are. Talking about these, it is important to know them more deeply whether in pattern, function or their relations which support one's knowledge of grammar usage properly.

Another significance of the study is for the learners of English structure to have a better understanding about modifiers. Learners will improve their knowledge of modifier and hopefully will be able to apply it. At last, the writer hopes that her study will be useful for the students of English majoring in Linguistics and other learners who are particularly interested in the use of modifiers.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In doing this research, the writer tries to limit the subject which is about modifiers in certain articles of *Newsweek* Magazine issued in August, 2001. She will examine the modifiers and the heads what parts of speech, phrases or clauses used in the selected articles and exclude meanings. Then, the explanation and description of modifiers will be constrained to the scope of the structure of modification with single words, phrases, and clause as the heads and the modifiers, based on the theory of Nelson Francis.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

Jackson (1988:125) said that modifiers are the class of items which realize meanings associated with the classification and description of participants. He describes the common modifier of noun, adjectives completely. He also describes particles, other nouns which modify noun, and clause modifier introduced by relative pronouns "which" and "who". The adjectives occur before nouns. While according to Keith Brown (1991:91), a modifier is a constituent that restricts the possible range of reference of some other constituent, the head or the nuclear sentence. He pays attention to only the nuclear and nuclear constituent, modifiers with their simple matter of optionality. While Janet M. Bing in *Grammar Guide* (1989:8) stated that words, phrases, and clauses that give information about other words are called modifiers. The modifiers are adjectives, adverbs, certain phrases, prepositional phrases and certain clauses, relative and adverbial clauses.

As she has observed, modification is systematically and deeply discussed in Nelson Francis's theory of modification compared with other authors which discuss the description of modification. Concerning the discussion of Nelson Francis, there are two components of a structure of modification. They are head (H) and modifier (M). A modifier is a constituent that restricts the possible range of reference of some other constituent, the head (Brown 1991:91). The head is the nuclear component. The four parts of speech; noun, verb, adjective and adverb, phrases, and clause can be the heads and each of the four part of speech and other words that go along with full lexical word, function words, phrases and clauses

may function as modifiers. To make clearer, modification is indicated by an arrow " → " pointing from the modifier toward the head (Francis 1958:294). While the positions of modifiers may precede or follow the heads.

1.7 Method of The Study

In this study , the writer uses qualitative approach. She does not start with any hypothesis and also does not make any generalization. The writer does not use tape recorder or other tools, but she uses written documents, the articles in *Newsweek* magazine.

1.7.1 Definition of Key terms

Syntactic structure is : a meaningfull combination of two or more words.

Modifier is : a constituent that restricts the possible range of reference of some other constituents, the head .

Head is : a nuclear component that is modified by modifier.

1.7.2 Population

The writer uses *Newsweek* magazine as her population to find out not only the kinds of modifiers but also the positions, what the modifiers modify, and the structure of modification that occur. *Newsweek* is a weekly magazine which is one of the most widely read magazines. The writer analyzes the modifiers of several articles entitled: "Appro priate for

All Ages", "Dangerous Season", "It's Da Bomb", "Free at Last : I'm not a

Spy", which were issued on August 6, 2001.

1.7.3 Technique of Data Collection

In collecting the data, the writer uses the following procedures:

1. Reading the selected articles of different topics.

2. Identifying modifiers by underlining them.

3. Listing all the modifiers .

1.7.4 Technique of Data Analysis

There are some steps which are taken, they are :

1. Defining the types of modifier.

2. Determining the types of head.

3. Describing the positions of the modifiers

4. Finding the frequency of each type of modifiers in each article.

5. Putting the result and total number of heads and modifiers in each article in a table along with the percentage.

6. Finding out what kinds of modifiers which are mostly found in the selected articles

In finding the percentage of the occurrence of the types of modifier, the writer uses the following formula :

$$\frac{M}{W+P+C} x100\% = p$$

p   = the percentage of the type of modifier.

M.   = the total number of one type of modifier

W + P+ C   = the total number of the uses of all kinds of modifiers, word,

phrase, and clause.

In each of the selected articles, the writer gets this percentage by dividing

the total number of one type of modifier (M) with (W + P + C) which refers to the

total number of the uses of all kinds of modifiers, word, Phrase, and clause. The

result is multiplied by 100%. Then, the writer determine what types of modifiers

that are mostly found by seeing the percentage.

CHAPTER II

GENERAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY