

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

In this research, I found tense, aspect, and modality in the short story *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry, theory is used to analyze the types of tenses to analyze the kind of aspect, and to analyze the type of modality is Berk (1999).

The most tenses used in the short story are past tense, with 161 data. The second most dominant one found was the present tense with 72 data. The third most dominant is the perfect aspect with 23 data. Furthermore, what is dominant in the short story is epistemic modality. Next is the progressive aspect with 7 data. The last one is the deontic modality which only found 3 data.

Next, there are functions found in each tense, aspect, and modal in the short story. The past tense only has one function namely is to communicate past time, found in 161 data. The past tense has functions, namely habitual action, state, universal truth, planned future events, commentary, performative, and historical. The most dominant function found in the present tense is the commentary with 29 data, performative with 20 data, state with 6 data, universal truth, habitual action, and planned future event found with 5 data each, and the last one is historical with 2 data.

The next function is the function of aspect. The aspect is divided into 2, there is progressive aspect, and the perfect aspect. The progressive aspect has the function used to communicate an ongoing and incomplete event, not done yet, not completed yet, preparations are still ongoing, and still in the middle of cognition. In the short story, only 2 progressive aspect functions were found, the most dominant being preparations are still ongoing with 6 data, and

not completed yet 1 data. Next, namely perfect aspect. Perfect aspect has the function of state, or activity that begins in the past, and continues into the present, past events with current relevance, experience at any point in the past, and events of the recent past. The most dominant function of the perfect aspect is past events with current relevance of 10 data, state or activity begins in the past, and continues into the present of 8 data, experience at any point in the past is 5 data, and no event of the recent past was found.

Next is the function of modality. Modality consists of two namely epistemic modality, and deontic modality. Epistemic modality has functions namely possibility, prediction, and ability. The epistemic modality function found the most dominant is prediction with 11 data, possibility 8 data, and ability 1 data. Meanwhile, deontic modality has the functions of volition, strong obligation, and permission. Each of these functions is found in 1 piece of data in the short story.

The dominant past tense type is found because the story tells about past situations that have passed, so only a few of the stories use present tense sentences. The dominant aspect type found is the perfect aspect because the events found in the story have completely occurred and only a few sentences in the essay are in progress. Meanwhile, the dominant modality that appears in the story is the epistemic modality because, in the story many possibilities occur in the sentences.