

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

Language serves as a pivotal instrument for human communication, facilitating the expression of thoughts, emotions, and intentions. Within the multifaceted structure of language, syntax assumes a critical function, as it regulates the arrangement of words to construct coherent and meaningful sentences. Syntax is characterized as the collection of rules, principles, and processes that govern sentence structure, and it is indispensable in both oral and written forms of communication (Radford, 2009). In the realm of second language acquisition, the accuracy of syntax frequently serves as an indicator of a speaker's proficiency and fluency.

This study aims to analyze the forms and systems of syntactic structures that occur in the English utterances of UKS UNAND members during conversational interaction. UKS (Unit Kegiatan Seni) Universitas Andalas is a student organization that accommodates artistic activities for Universitas Andalas students from various academic departments. As the members come from diverse educational backgrounds, they possess different levels of English language proficiency. As active university students, UKS UNAND members at certain times attempt to apply English in their daily interactions, particularly as part of their academic experience and language learning process.

The use of English in daily conversation is also influenced by the requirement to take a TOEFL examination prior to graduation. For this reason, the researcher, who is also a member of UKS UNAND, is interested in examining how English is used by fellow members in daily interactions. The data for this study were collected when the researcher was in the seventh

semester. The conversations took place at the UKS UNAND Arts Cottage (Pondok Kesenian UKS UNAND) after routine arts practice sessions.

There was no specific context or predetermined topic for the conversations, as they consisted of random and spontaneous interactions conducted on a particular day agreed upon by several members who wished to practice their English language production skills. The participants were given full freedom to express any ideas or topics, provided that the conversation was carried out entirely in English. Although the participants' vocabulary choices were relatively limited, they were encouraged not to mix English with Indonesian in order to maintain consistency in language use during the interaction.

The participants involved in the conversations were the researcher and several UKS UNAND members, namely Arif, Disty, Finna, Risky, Nabila and Cantik. All participants are university students from different academic departments and are also personal acquaintances of the researcher. The conversations were recorded with the participants' awareness and subsequently transcribed into written text for analysis. From the recorded and transcribed data, the utterances were analyzed to identify their syntactic structures and systems.

Therefore, investigating syntactic forms and their systems extends beyond theoretical linguistic analysis; it also serves as a practical foundation for enhancing language teaching methodologies. Such analysis plays a crucial role in connecting learners' conceptual knowledge of grammar with their actual language use in communicative settings, particularly in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) contexts. By identifying patterns and discrepancies in learners' syntactic usage, educators can design more targeted instructional approaches that promote both grammatical competence and communicative effectiveness.

1.2 Research Questions

This research aims to answer the following questions:

1. What are the syntactic structures found in the utterances of UKS UNAND members?
2. What are syntactic system found in the utterances of UKS UNAND members?

1.3 The Objectives of the Research

This research aims to examine the syntactic structures found in the English conversations of UKS UNAND members. It focuses on identifying the forms and systems of syntax used in their speech. The goal is to understand their level of grammatical competence and how closely their spoken English follows standard syntactic rules, as well as to identify any deviations that may help improve English language teaching for EFL learners.

1.4 Focus of the Research

This research focuses on the use of syntactic structures in the English conversations of UKS UNAND members. It aims to identify the types of sentence structures they use, how these structures are formed, and the systems from standard English grammar. The study is limited to spoken English and highlights how syntax is used in everyday conversations within the organization.

1.5 Method of the Research

There are three methods that researchers will use in this study. The first is collecting data, then analyzing the data and finally presenting the results of the data. This research applies a descriptive qualitative method to examine the syntactic structures used in English conversations by UKS UNAND members. The qualitative approach is chosen to explore how language is naturally used in real communication situations.



1.5.1 Data Collection

The data in this study were collected through researcher observations, in which the researcher also participated as a participant in the daily conversations of UKS Unand members. The data analysis process is divided into several parts. The data were collected through audio recordings of conversations that took place during UKS organizational activities. The writer listened to the audio recording results carefully and paused them one by one to separate one sentence from another, then the complete conversation that had been grouped into sentences with the speaker was analyzed syntactically for its function and categories. These recordings were then transcribed into written form and analyzed based on various syntactic elements, such as sentence types (simple, compound, complex) and sentence structure.

1.5.2 Data Analysis

The recorded conversation data were analyzed using a descriptive qualitative method, with a focus on identifying and classifying syntactic structures. The analysis followed the framework outlined by Burton-Roberts (2016) in *Analysing Sentences: An Introduction to English Syntax*, which offers a clear and structured explanation of English sentence forms. This book serves as a useful reference for examining spoken language, especially in different levels of grammatical complexity.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- a) Syntax : The set of rules governing the structure of sentences in a language. Chomsky (1957) defines syntax as the system of principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in a particular language.
- b) Syntactic Structure : Syntactic structure is the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language. This includes elements such as sentence types (simple, compound, complex), clause patterns, and

phrase structures. It reflects the grammatical framework that underlies communication (Radford, 2009).

c) Conversation : According to Yule (2020), conversation is one of the most common forms of human communication and involves the interactive use of language where participants continually monitor and adapt to each other's responses. Linguists studying conversation often apply Conversation Analysis (CA), a methodological approach developed by Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson (1974), to examine the fine details of spoken exchanges, including pauses, overlaps, repair mechanisms, and intonation patterns.

d) UKS Unand : UKS Unand is an organization that focuses on the campus arts. UKS Unand members consist of many students from various departments. UKS Unand became the object of the author's research because of several moments that led to English conversations among its members.

