CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

Words are the basic units of syntax. Words can be classified into various lexical categories. Jong-Bok and Sells(2007: 12) mentioned that there are three criteria of words based on different lexical categories such as meaning, morphological form, and syntactic function. Based on semantic criteria, words can be classified as noun(refers to an entity), verb(refers to an action), adjective(refers to property) and adverb(refers to the manner of an action). However, some words in semantics do not match lexical categories. For instance,*construction* is closer to an action than an individual. Besides, morphological form is more credible to characterize words in terms of their forms and functions. Because of the nature of morphology, it does not allow more than one lexical category. For example, verbs do not have plural marking like *devoured* and *devours*, *laughed* and *laughs*. On the other hand, syntactic function or distributional possibilities is the most credible rather than semantic and morphology in judging of lexical category of a word.

Syntax is also known as the study of sentence structure. Sentences in all languages have rules. Each sentence has some different element of words. Sentences consist of two main parts such as noun phrase and verb phrase. Sentence can be divided into some categories and constituent parts. It is shown as the formulation of the basic rules of English word order. It is known as phrase structure rules. Besides, Larsen(2016;77-79) explained the grammatical properties of the subject of sentence as word order(linearity) and phrase structure rules

(categoriality and hierarchy). In this study, the writer wants to focus on hierarchical form. The hierarchical properties categorize its form as a hierarchy from the level of sentence into the smallest unit like constituent. In syntax, constituent is words that function together as single units.

Constituent structure has been formed as a main aspect of human language long time ago. It is important because it is related to sentence terms. According to Andrew (2008), "Constituent structure explores combination of words, into phrases and sentences. Constituent structure provides the road map to determine which words can be combined with others." On other hand, based on Miller (2007), phrase is applied to single words and to sequence of words. He believes that a single noun like *sands* takes a place where a phrase take place.

For example, if a slot is _____ *is needed*, then the word *sands* as in *Sands is needed* or *special sand for the lawn* as in *Special sand for the lawn is needed*. In this case, phrase can be developed without limit.

In this research, the writer chooses *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter as the data source. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* is one of British children's literature. It tells the story of a very naughty rabbit, Peter, who gets himself into a dangerous situation. It happens because he does not want to listen to his mother. The main theme of this story is you reap what you sowed. It is interesting to analyze a children short story or children literature. It not only has a moral value but also reflects the ideology of the culture that is fit in children's behaviour in that period. Children literatures usually have a clear or explicit meaning. They should be no ambiguous.

There is a way to find out ambiguity in sentences. Ambiguity means that sentences may have more than one meaning. Tallerman(2005; 123) stated that not all ambiguity is syntactic. Some of ambiguity are lexical, such as in 'I went down to the bank'. It may have meaning as 'the river bank' or 'the place where money is kept'. Ambiguity arises because we can't tell which words group together to form a phrase. This is syntactic ambiguity.

Based on the above phenomena, this research focuses on the constituent structure of the simple sentences. In this research, the writer tries to find out the constituent structure and analyzes syntactic aspect of constituent structure of the simple sentences.

1.2   Research Question

In doing this research, the writer proposes three research questions :

1.   What are constituent structures in *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*?

2.   How many types of sentence structure found in the story?

3.   How does the constituent found in the story behave?

1.3   Objectives of the Research

Based on the questions above, the objectives of this research are :

1.   To describe the constituents structure in *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

2.   To identify the types of sentence structure found in the story

3.   To identify the characteristics of constituents found in the story

1.4   Scope of the Research

In this study, the writer analyzes and identifies constituent structure of the simple sentences in *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. To identify the constituents of the simple sentences, the writer uses constituency tests. Constituency tests help the

writer to distinguish phrases which are constituents from those which are not constituents. The writer focus on the phrases which are constituents of the simple sentences.

1.5   Method and Technique of the Research

This research is conducted in following three steps, they are collecting data, analyzing data and presenting the result of analysis.

1.5.1   Method and Technique of Data Collection

Data were collected by doing a non-participatory observation on *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* short story. After that, the writer took simple sentences. Then, the simple sentences were classified according to the types of sentences such as declarative, exclamation, interrogative, and imperative sentences, based on the types discussed by Bok and Sells (2007).

1.5.2   Method and Technique of Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the data were analyzed by using distribution method and its technique by Sudaryanto (2015). The writer used the method to find the phenomena. Distribution method includes several techniques. One of techniques is substitution technique. Substitution teachnique is one way to identify that a phrase is a constituent of a simple sentence. This is based on the fact that a phrase (constituent) can be replaced by a word without damaging the sentence which contains the phrase (constituent). The other technique is transposition technique. Transposition technique is another way to identify that a phrase is a constituent of a simple sentence. Besides, this technique is useful to identify the constituent structure (Miller, 2008). The third technigue is deletion

technique. Deletion technique is helpful to identify whether a certain phrase in a simple sentence is an obligatory constituent or not.

1.5.3   Method and Technique of Presenting the Result of the Analysis

There are two methods proposed by Sudaryanto (2015). Those are formal and informal methods. Informal method use brief verbal statement to explain the data, while the abbreviations and symbols are used in formal method. In presenting the analysis of the data, the writer uses both of them. The informal method is used because the result of the analysis will be delivered by using verbal statement, whereas formal method will be used because there are several abbreviations and symbols are used in presenting the result of analysis.