**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

This introduction chapter covers six important points; the first is background of the research that describes the reason why the researcher intends to conduct the research. The second is statement of research problem which states the problem that the researchers try to solve, then objective of the research consisted of the answer of the research problem stated by the researcher. The next is significance of the research which explains the research’s advantage, scope and limitation to define the focus of the researcher, and the last is definition of key terms as the researcher expects the readers to have the same interpretation in understanding the research.

1. **Background of the Research**

Human as a social being needs to interact and communicate with others in the society. A society is where they involve in their daily life. A society is any group of people who are drawn together for a certain purpose or purposes (Ronald Wardhaugh: 1986). As Aristoteles (384-322 BC) once said that human being is *zoon politicon*, means that human is destined to socialize and interact with each other. The intention in communicating with others is many, which one of those are to get information and to exchange information. Concerning this matter, the slightest example of communication between human beings in daily life is like knowing the price of food. So that they can afford to buy in order to survive. Considering this simple fact of their daily life, it is really necessary for them to communicate with others to obtain information. As information is undeniably an important necessity.

Later on, human expands their thinking in communication, which is not only to find out the information about their surroundings but also to portray the information to a larger perspective, which is about the world. They tend to be curious to know about what is happening out there around the world. What is happening outside their territory and country. Talking about world, it will lead to a larger society which consist of many differences. In communicating, they need a definite means to be able to understand those differences, which is language. In this case, it will be English as the international language.

Language is often defined as *a means of communication*. It offers an idea that when everyone or everything is conducting communication, language, then, takes place as the medium of communication among the participants. One thing must be kept in our mind when there is a communication, there will be language (Astuti:2011). As a means of communication, it holds a great role in human’s daily life. As Soeparno (2002:5) stated that there is no society without any language and there is no language without society. To communicate means to share any idea or information we have towards others. As Jepersen (1934) stated, “... The essence of language is human activity \_\_ activity on the part of one individual to make himself understood by another, activity on the part of that other to understand what was in the mind on the first...”. Sharing idea or information by conducting communication here can be by speaking, writing, moving our body or using other signals. Edward Sapir in *Language* (1921, p.8)stated that language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols. Quoted from Simon Dik (*Functional Grammar,* 1978, p.1), it is said that a language is conceived of in the first place as an instrument of social interaction between human beings, used with the primary aim of establishing communicative relation between speakers and addressees.

Regarding those statements by linguists, the researcher finds that the media used in communication are also various. One of these is news. As nowadays news is like a demand, people tend to be continuously supplied by news as they do not want to be out of date. As stated above that human beings tend to know what is happening around the world, news is one of the media to gain information. Somehow it is impossible to figure out what is happening in other part of the world regarding the time and distance. However, in this global era this state is no longer a matter. Since, we’ve been served by the large system of connected computers around the world which allows people to share information and communicate with each other, called internet.

The existence of internet is very useful for human daily life since they can get any news whenever and wherever, which is usually they get from the limited access through printed newspaper or magazine and television. As for printed newspaper they have to wait in a certain time to be able to read as well as for television since the news program is not broadcasted any time. News in which people can find in internet is usually called online news.

As an international language, English is used in many online news in Indonesia. One of the most famous online news using English in Indonesia is *Jakarta Post*. For the international scope, there is what so-called *The New York Times* which the information displayed is from all around the world.

Regarding with online news, the researcher realizes that its advantage is not only to increase people’s information but also to enlarge their knowledge, especially for the EFL students. As for the EFL students, it can increase their vocabulary and provide them with the larger scope of reading material. Usually they only provided by local reading material and of course limited just about their surrounding, their own country. By reading a larger scope of article, in this case is article from New York Times they will get more vocabularies, they will also be able to figure out what happens outside around the world, and the important one, they will be able to easily understand those vocabularies that they previously think are difficult because they have not been used to.

Therefore, the researcher decided to conduct a research concerning online news. The researcher intend to analyze the online news specifically the headline. The news headlines that the researcher will analyze are from *The New York Times* as it covers many news around the world. *The New York Times* is an American daily newspaper, founded and continuously published in New York City since September 18, 1851. Its website is one of America’s most popular news sites, and the most popular among all the nation’s newpapers receiving more than 30 million unique visitors per month as reported in January 2011.

The researcher will analyze it using one of Linguistics branches, Syntax. Talking about Syntax means that we discuss about sentence constraction as Fromkin and Finegan (1997) proposed that Syntax is the study of structure of phrases and sentences. Syntax has to do with how words are put together to build phrases, with how phrases are put together to build clauses or bigger phrases, and with how clauses are put together to build sentences. We study syntax because it enables human beings to compose complex messages (Jim Miller, 2002).

There have been several researchs regarding Syntax. Lutfiatin (2006) had conducted a research about syntactic analysis in cigarette package language. So did Imam Masngud (2011) who analyzed the Structure of Modification of some textbooks. There is also Zeinuar (2009) who analyzed the syntactic structures on the song lyric of “Rage Againts the Machine”, particularly on its structural patterns. Nevertheless, the researcher finds out that this kind of analysis is still rare, here the researcher intends to enhance it by doing the research in the same subject but different field.

There are many to be analyzed regarding Syntax, such as syntactic structures including Structure of Modification, Structures of Predication, Structures of Complementation, and Structures of Coordination, sentence patterns of language involving Grammatical or Ungrammatical and what Grammaticality is not based on, and sentence structure covers Syntactic categories, Phrase Structure Trees, Phrase Structure Rules and many others. In this research, the researcher focused the analysis on the Syntactic categories, Phrase Structure Trees and Phrase Structure rules. As a very small piece of a sentence is a syllable that later forms a word. It is necesary to know the class word, what this certain word belongs to. This is to prevent the possibility of misunderstanding. As in communicating, a speaker and addressee should understand the other’s meaning, especially for EFL students since they are still learning. To communicate well, they have to be able to understand the class word or in syntax it addressed as syntactic categories. Phrase structure trees allow the students to break down a sentence until the very base construction, in this case is syntactic and lexical categories so that they will get better understanding on the headlines they are grasping. Later, the researcher expects to find out the trend of language structure used in the headlines of *The New York Times*.

1. **Statement of Research Problem**

Here are some research problems formulated by the researcher based on the background of the research above, in which this research tries to find the answers for the following problems.

1. What phrase structure patterns are found in *The New York Times* headlines?
2. What phrase structure patterns are most frequently occurred in *The New York Times* headlines?

**C. Objectives of the Research**

This research is conducted to

1. To know the phrase structure patterns found in New York Times headlines.
2. To know the most frequent phrase structure pattern occurred in New York Times headlines.

**D. Significance of the Research**

Referring to the objectives of the research above, the researcher expects the results of this research give some important contributions to the following parties.

1. Readers

By reviewing this study, the readers will acquire valuable information related to Linguistics branch especially Syntax that will enrich their knowledge. The researcher hopes it will help them learn about Syntax specifically about Phrase structure trees and Phrase structure rules.

1. Other researchers

It is somehow difficult for any researcher to decide what field they wants to study. Other researchers may use the findings of this research as a reference in conducting further studies about Syntax especially about Phrase structure trees and Phrase structure rules.

3. The body of knowladge

As for the EFL students, it can provide them with the larger scope of reading material. While for the teacher, the website can be a source for getting material and the articles themselves can be used as learning material. Usually the Indonesian EFL students only provided by local reading material and of course limited text or article just about their surrounding. By reading a larger scope of article, in this case is article from *The New York Times* they will be able to easily understand those vocabularies that they previously think are difficult because they have not been used to. They will also get used to the appropriate vocabularies used in a certain condition.

**E. Scope and Limitation of the Research**

This research was conducted to analyze the article headline based on linguistics, specifically syntax’s Phrase Structure Trees and Phrase Structure Rules. The news or article analyzed by the researcher was online news which could be accessed by connecting to internet usually referred as online news. Regarding nowadays technology improvement, there must be many websites provide an online news. So specifically, the scope of this research is in the website where the researcher found the news headline. Here, the researcher used the headlines in *The New York Times* on the first two weeks of May 2014, start on May 1st until May 14th.

**F. Definition of Key Terms**

The title of this thesis is “Syntactic Analysis on The Headlines in New York Times in The First Two Weeks of May 2014 (1st to 14th of May)”. Concerning with this title, to avoid misunderstanding the researcher would like to give definition to some terms that will frequently appear in this research.

1. Syntactic analysis is a process to break (a sentence) down into its component parts of speech with an explanation of the form, function, and syntactical relationship of each part. In this research, the researcher breaks down the headline using phrase stucture tree and phrase structure rule to find out the syntactic and lexical categories construct a pattern of sentence.
2. Newspaper is a periodical publication containing news, other informative articles, and usually advertising. A newspaper is usually printed on relatively inexpensive, low-grade paper such as newsprint. Most newspaper now publish online as well as in print. The online versions are called online newspaper or news sites.
3. *The New York Times* is an American daily newspaper, founded and continuously published in New York City since September 18, 1851. Its website is one of America’s most popular news sites, and the most popular among all the nation’s newpapers receiving more than 30 million unique visitors per month as reported in January 2011. It covers many news from around the world and the articles are also written by many writers.