

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some aspects related to the topic being studied. It consists of the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, and the definition of the key terms.

A. The Background of the Study

Language is a human system of communication that uses arbitrary signals, such as voice sounds, gestures, or written symbols. The study of language is called linguistics.¹ Language made us easy to communicate with other people, so language has many functions for us. People use language to convey their aims both verbal and non-verbal. People need to communicate with each other either through speech or writing to convey their intention. So every people express their intention by starting with word which then becomes a whole sentence.

Discourse is a stretch of language larger than a sentence². It is natural spoken or written language, with meaning being transferred through a sentence of a text, in context. Discourse analysis is concerned with the study of the relationship between language and the context in which it is used. It can show the connection between what has already been written or said and what is going to be

¹ <http://grammar.about.com/od/il/g/languageterm.htm> (accessed on Saturday, 07 December 2013)

² Crystal, David. A First Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics. Great Britain: Cambridge University Press. 1980.

written or said. They can indicate what speakers think about what they are saying or written. One of linguistic devices is discourse markers.

This study is concerned with discourse markers. Discourse marker is a word or phrase that marks a boundary in a discourse, typically as part of a dialogue.³ According to Schiffrin, discourse markers are sequentially dependent elements that group units of talk. Discourse markers have function in relation to enduring talk and text.⁴ In other word, discourse markers could be considered as a set of linguistic expressions comprises of members of word classes as varied as conjunctions such as “*and*”, “*but*”, or interjections such as “*oh*”, adverbs “*now*”, and “*then*”, and lexicalized phrases as like “*you know*” and “*I mean*”.⁵

Furthermore, the fundamental point of view concerning with the discourse markers is that, discourse markers such as “*well*”, “*but*”, “*oh*” and “*you know*” are sets of linguistic items that function in cognitive, communicative, social, and textual domains. According to Fraser, discourse markers are practical markers which provide a remark to show the way of an utterance indicates how the speaker intends basic message to relate to the previous discourse.⁶ Therefore, discourse markers are used as pointer of chronological discourse in social interaction.⁷ Further, Schiffrin explains that the important thing of the analysis on discourse markers is to know how speakers and hearers jointly integrate forms, meaning, and actions to make overall sense out of what is said. Then, Schiffrin also states

³ www.Discourse marker - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.mht 3103 2009.

⁴ Schiffrin, D. 1987b. *Discovering the context of an utterance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 11.

⁵ Ibid.p.32.

⁶ Fraser,Bruce.1990. *An Approach to Discourse markers*. Jurnal of Pragmatics.p.383

⁷ Ibid.p.383.

that discourse marker is a linguistic device in which speakers use it to indicate how the approaching unit of speech or text relates to the current discourse situation.⁸

The purpose of analyzing discourse markers is to perform an important role in establishing cohesion in speech. They often have the anaphoric and cataphoric character thus pointing backward and forward in discourse at the same time. Secondly, they are used for organizing and monitoring the topic development. As such they open or close a topic, mark topic boundaries, and attract listeners' attention. They introduce reformulated utterances and make reference to shared knowledge. Finally, on a more pragmatic level, they may function as markers of the speakers' view points, their emotional reactions, or to tone down the utterance's effect. The main question in analyzing discourse markers is how speakers distinguish between different discourse and pragmatic functions of the same lexical item. In other words, how speakers know when *well* is used as a topic opening or closing device or as an introduction to a reformulated utterance, or when *I mean* is a face saving expression or a marker that the following statement is a rewording or a clarification of the previous one. So discourse marker is important in any discourse.

As English language learners, students of English Department of STAIN Kediri should be aware of the importance of discourse markers in their text production. Especially when they make a thesis, they need those discourse markers. Whereas, it can be put when they make a research background coherence

⁸ Schiffrin, D. 1994. *Approch to Discourse*. Cambridge: Blackwell publisher. p.46

and unity. As we know that without discourse markers, texts are nothing because when we make a sentence and want to connect it, we need discourse marker. Without discourse markers sentences did not become whole sentences. So, it means that discourse markers are really important as part of text to make sentences concord. Then, discourse markers are really important too because it can connect one sentence to other sentences. So, it can make those sentences become concord and easy to understanding.

In this research, the researcher chooses undergraduate theses of English Department students as the object of the study because the researcher wants to know how the discourse markers are used in undergraduate theses of students of English Department. Because thesis is one of the important things for the requirements of student's graduation, so we have to make sentences in thesis concord especially in the writing of research background. Therefore, the theses might portray the student's skills in writing, especially how they maintain the coherence and unity of the text.

With the description above, the researcher aims to describe the discourse markers usage in the undergraduate theses of English department student of STAIN Kediri. The researcher chooses it because research background in thesis is one of an essential part of a thesis, providing a brief summary of the thesis. Students often do not recognize the importance of the research background and thus do not spend the required time in order to produce a well defined research background. So in this research the researcher wants to analyze their background of the study in terms of the discourse markers usage.

B. Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the researcher has two problems to be discussed through this thesis namely:

1. What discourse markers are typically used in research background of undergraduate theses of English Department Students?
2. Does the usage of discourse markers concord with the meaning of the sentences they connect ?

C. Objectives of the study

A research is carried out to develop science and to invent some new invention. The objectives of the researcher are to find answer of the problem of study after the research activity is completely done. The objectives of the study in this research are:

1. To know the discourse markers those are typically used in the background of the study of under graduated theses of English Department Students of STAIN Kediri.
2. To know the concordance of the discourse markers used in the research background of under graduated theses of English Department Students of STAIN Kediri with the sentences they connect.

D. Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is to develop the reader's knowledge in the study of discourse analysis, especially for English Department Students. It can improve writing skill of the English Department Students especially focusing on the usage on discourse markers. Because, discourse markers connect between one sentence to other sentences when we write. So, it can make our writing are concord and can maintain the coherence and unity of the text. In addition this study is expected to give a beneficial contribution and relevant reference for the next researcher who will analyze the same case.

E. Scope and Limitation

Every research has scope and limitation. The scope of this study is discourse analysis. It can help the researcher in determining the specific object studied. In this research, the researcher just focuses on the usage of discourse markers in the research background of undergraduate theses of English Department Students of STAIN KEDIRI in 2012 and 2013.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

In this section, it is important to know the definition of the key terms in order to avoid interpretation about the explanation of the topic discussed.

1. Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis focuses on knowledge about language beyond the word, clause, phrase and sentence that is needed for successful communication. Discourse analysis also considers the ways that the use of

language presents different views of the world and different understandings.

2. Discourse Marker

Discourse markers are linguistic elements that signal relation between units of talk, relation at the exchange, action, ideational, and participation framework levels of the discourse. This is the expression like *well, but, oh, you know, because*, and etc.

3. The Research Background

Research background is one of important part in a thesis. Because, in the research background explain about the reason of researcher why they do a research. Then, because of research background is important in a thesis we have to make it better. One sentence to another sentences must be concord. So, we need discourse markers to connect it and make our sentences are concord. Then, what is the reason of the researcher do a research can easy to understand and easy to explain.