

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of study, problem of the study, objective of the study, limitation of the study, and benefit of the study, and also the research paper organization.

A. Background of the Study

The development of mass media in Indonesia gets increased. One of the developments can be seen from the using of English in some mass media. The kinds of mass media are electronic media and printed media like magazine, newspaper, broadcasting, etc. English use in mass media is used by people to communicate with others, especially in newspaper. By reading newspaper, people know everything happened in the world.

Jakarta Post is an example of English newspaper consisting of some columns like headlines, national, archipelago, opinion, readers' forum, etc. Jakarta post serves many kinds of information about Indonesia and other countries. The models of text serving information in the Jakarta Post are examples of discourse. There are many various discourse in the newspaper such as on readers' forum, headlines, opinion, national, etc. There is a part on readers' forum containing many interesting discourse called "Your Letters".

The researcher observing the column of "Your Letters" does not only view it as a letter but also as a discourse because sentences in "Your Letters" have a unity and show cohesion and coherence in context. As a typical discourse, the unity among sentences on "Your Letters" can be seen from the using of some conjunctions and substitutions as the types of cohesion like in the example entitled Annoying SMS Message below:

Annoying SMS Message

- 1 *I have been trying to inform Telkomsel to stop sending me text messages*
- 2 *about their various plans, promotional, business partners or even their*
- 3 *reminders to subscribers to pay their bills.*
- 4 *Customer care made it seem that it was difficult or technologically*
- 5 *unviable to time the transmission of such messages. I could only*

6 *begrudgingly accept such reasoning but felt helpless not knowing what to do*
 7 *next and they would not let me meet anyone higher to take this complaint to*
 8 *them.*

From the text entitled “Annoying SMS Messages” above, there is coherence between the topic of the text with the contents where the text told the writer’s complaint because of the Telkomsel programs that are annoying. Then, in the context, the cohesion can be seen from the using of the word “but” in line 6 as the conjunction connecting two sentences which are contradictory. Besides, the pronoun “it” in line 4 which refers to the sentence of paragraph one is called substitution. So, the “Your Letter” here has unity among sentences that can be seen from the cohesion and coherence in the context.

Yule (2006: 124) states that “the word ‘discourse’ is usually defined as ‘language beyond the sentence’”. It means when describing a particular language, it concerns more than on the form and structure used in that language. The following example, provided by Eric Nelson, is from an essay by a student learning English and contains all kinds of errors, yet it can be understood.

My Town

My natal was in a small town, very close to Riyadh capital of Saudi Arabia. The distant between my town and Riyadh 7 miles exactly. The name of this Almasani that means in English Factories. It takes this name from the peopl’s carrer. In my childhood I remmeber the people live. It was very simple. Most the people was farmer.

This example may serve to illustrate a simple point about the way we react to language that contains ungrammatical forms. Rather than simply reject the text as ungrammatical, we try to make sense of it. That is, we attempt to arrive at a reasonable interpretation of what the writer intended to convey. It is this effort to interpret (or to be interpreted), and how we accomplish it, that are the key elements investigated in the study of discourse. To arrive at an interpretation, and to make our messages interpretable, it is needed certainly rely on what we know about linguistic form and structure. But, as language-users, it has more knowledge than that.

“Discourse studies is the discipline devoted to the investigation of the relationship between form and function in verbal communication.” (Renkema, 1993: 1). For example:

A : Say, there's a good movie playing tonight.

B : Actually, A have to study.

A : Too bad.

B : Yes, I'm sorry.

A : Well, I guess I don't need to ask you if you want me to pick you up.

In this example, A's first utterance is the form of statement that there is a good movie playing at night. The function of that statement, however is that of an invitation to B. B could have responded by simply saying, “That's nice” or “I didn't know that.” But B responds with the statement in turn expressing a need to study that evening. B's response counts as refusal of the invitation. A's statement of regret shows that this interpretation is not mere conjecture. In this fragment the form ‘statement’ has the function of an ‘invitation’ (first utterance of A) and a refusal (first utterance of B) (Renkema: 1993: 1-2).

Nunan (1993: 5-6) states “Discourse can be defined as a stretch of language consisting of several sentences which are perceived as being related in some way.” Discourse brings together language, the individuals producing the language, and the context within which the language is used. For example on two texts below:

1a

BUJUMBURA – It said in a statement on Sunday that 135 people were killed in the capital Bujumbura and surrounding areas and 137 more in the northern provinces of Citiboke and Bubanza. The government said order had been restored but security forces were still on alert for attacks from rebels of the party for the Liberation of the Hutu People. Burundi has said 272 people were killed in clashes between security forces and rebels which flared a week ago in the central African nation.

1b

At least 14 people died on Saturday after drinking a cheap alcoholic beverage, raising to 20 the number of people killed by the poisonous brew

in two days, news reports said. The quake measured 5.7 on the Richter scale and was felt shortly before 10.50 am (0850 GMT) Bucharest radio quoted an official report as saying. Judge Neil Dennison said Robert Phee, 23, a technician on the hit musical “Miss Saigon”, was “gripped by the excitement and theatricality” of his eight robberies which netted him 15,000 pounds.

From both of the texts can be seen that the sentences in text 1a do seem to relate to each other in some way because on the first sentence the word “It” can be determined clearly as the reference of the word before “BUJUMBURA”. But, the sentences in text 1b do not seem to relate to each other at all because in text 1b contains some different subject that are reported.

Halliday and Hasan (1976: 10) stated that cohesion is a semantic relation between an element in the text and some other elements that is crucial to the interpretation of it. It means that the elements in a text must have relationships between each other and refer to the same thing. A discourse needs to have a tie between the elements and cohesion here is used to tie the elements. The example is:

(I: 3) Wash and core six cooking apples. Put them into a fireproof dish.

The interpretation of the word “them” in the second sentence just can be done by relating it with the first sentence. In the example above there is a cohesive relation between “six cooking apples” and “them” because the word “them” in the second sentence refers to “six cooking apples” in the first sentence.

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976) cohesion is divided into two types that are grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion is a cohesion that has direct relationship with the form or structure of a discourse physically while lexical cohesion is a cohesion relating to the meaning or structure of discourse essentially. The types of grammatical cohesion are: 1) reference that is the identity of the particular thing or class of things that is being referred to; 2) substitution that is a replacement of one item by another; 3) ellipsis that is the omission of an item or that is described as a form of substitution in which the original item is replaced by zero; 4) conjunction that is a cohesive device because it signals relationships that can be fully understood through reference to other parts of the text. The types of lexical

cohesion are: 1) reiteration that is divided into repetition, synonym (or near-synonym), superordinate and general word; 2) collocation that can cause major problems for discourse analysis because it includes all those items in a text that are semantically related.

Halliday and Hasan (1976: 288) said that the effect of lexical, especially collocational, cohesion on a text is subtle and difficult to estimate. With grammatical cohesion the effect is relatively clear: if one comes across the word *he*, for example, there is no doubt that some essential information is called for, and that the identity of the *he* must be covered from somewhere. Reference items, substitutes and conjunctions all explicitly presuppose some element other than themselves. Then, in lexical cohesion, however, it is not a case of there being particular lexical items which always have a cohesive function. Every lexical item may enter into a cohesive relation, but by itself it carries no indication whether it is functioning cohesively or not. That can be established only by reference to the text.

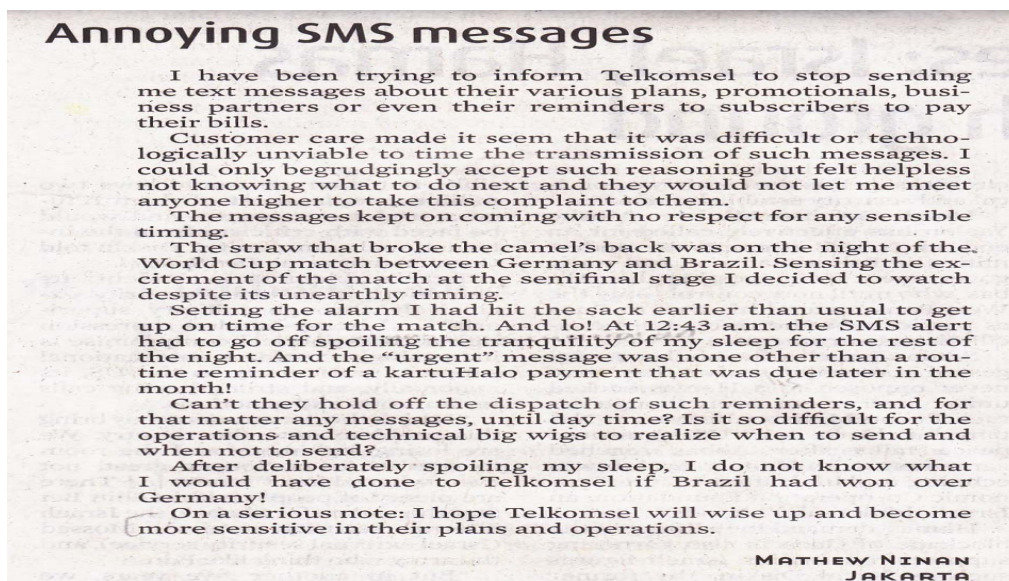
From the explanation above, to make the readers of the discourse of “Your Letters” become easier in understanding the cohesive relation in a discourse, the researcher just gives the explanation of grammatical cohesion. It is because grammatical cohesion is cohesion of form or structure of physical discourse so that it will be more clear and easier to be understood by the discourse’s readers. Then, it is enough to know the cohesive relation in a discourse just through the grammatical cohesion because the important point in a discourse actually is the coherence. It means although a text does not have a good cohesion or even does not have cohesion but it still becomes clear when it can be understood well. The example is:

Fried died last week. The neighbors attended the funeral.

Both of the sentences above do not have good cohesion, but the semantic relationship still ties the two sentences above so that it still has a unity of meaning in a context. Furthermore, Nunan (1993: 7-8) said that context is an important concept in discourse analysis. Context refers to the situation giving rise to the discourse, and within which the discourse is embedded. There are two different types of context. The first context is linguistic context - the language that surrounds or accompanies the piece of discourse under analysis. The second is non-linguistic or experiential context within which the discourse takes place. Non-linguistic context include: The

type of communicative event (for example: joke, story, lecture, greeting, conversation); the topic; the purpose of the event; the setting; the participants and the relationships between them; and the background knowledge and assumptions underlying the communicative event.

For example on the “Your Letters” below:



There are elements of discourse on the “Your Letters” above, such as: the writer of the letter is Mathew Ninan who the victim of the Telkomsel program sending various messages in inappropriate time. Mathew Ninan could be called as the writer and the victim because the writer uses pronoun “I” in telling the experience. So, the story is the real experience from the writer (Mathew Ninan). Besides, the readers and their relationship are included in the element of discourse. The readers here as the listeners of the writer’s disappointment and maybe there are some readers who have been the victim too. Then, the purpose of the letter is to make critic for Telkomsel operator because the writer’s complaint did not get a response. Here, the writer wants to influence the other readers, so that the other readers do not use the Telkomsel operator. Besides, there are many interesting elements again in the discourse, such as the topic, the type of communicative event, and the setting (non-linguistic context). The non-linguistic context as stated by Nunan shows the coherence of a discourse because it is the element configuring a discourse that related to the context.

So, when the reader reads the “Your Letter”, the reader does not only get information from that letter but also know and understand the cohesion especially in grammatical cohesion and the elements configuring the discourse of the “Your Letter”. From the grammatical cohesion and non-linguistic context, it will be known that “Your Letters” can be viewed as a discourse that has cohesion and coherence.

From the early phenomenon, the researcher gets interested to make a research entitled “A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF *YOUR LETTERS* ON READERS’ FORUM IN THE JAKARTA POST”.

B. Problem of the Study

The researcher formulates the problems as follows:

1. How are the discourse of “Your Letter” explained in terms of grammatical cohesion?
2. What are the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters” on readers’ forum in the Jakarta Post?

C. Objective of the Study

The researcher formulates the objectives of this research as follows:

1. To explain the discourse of “Your Letters” in terms of grammatical cohesion.
2. To describe the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters” on readers’ forum in the Jakarta Post.

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of this study is only on the explanation of the discourse of “Your Letters” in term of grammatical cohesion on readers’ forum in the Jakarta Post and finding the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters”. This research also focuses on “Your Letters” in the Jakarta Post published on August 2014 as the data. The data will be analyzed using Discourse Analysis theory written by Nunan (1993).

E. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of this research are divided into two types:

1. Theoretical benefit

The theoretical benefit of this research shows the explanation of the discourse of “Your Letters” in terms of grammatical cohesion and also shows the clear description of the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters” in the Jakarta Post. This is beneficial for the enlargement application of discourse analysis especially in written media.

2. Practical benefit

The practical benefit of this research is to add the knowledge of the researcher and readers about the explanation of the discourse of “Your Letters” in terms of grammatical cohesion and the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters” in the Jakarta Post. Besides, this research helps the readers to get more information that “Your Letters” not only can be read as a letter but also can be read as a discourse that contain some types of cohesion and elements configuring the discourse.

F. Research Paper Organization

The researcher creates a formula in five chapters. The aim is to make this research easy to follow. The formulas are:

Chapter I is introduction. This chapter consists of background of study, problem of the study, objective of the study, limitation of the study, and benefit of the study.

Chapter II is underlying theory. This part discusses about theories that are used in analyzing the data. They are previous study, notion of discourse, scope of discourse, the theory of context, the theory of context by Nunan, and theory of cohesion.

Chapter III is research method. This chapter presents type of research, object of the study, data and data source, method of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is data analysis and discussion. It discusses data analysis and discussion.

Chapter V is dealing with conclusion and suggestion.