

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The background of the problem

The coming up issues on the world globalization tend to be the major concern of people throughout the world. The common thinking of freely interacting among different nations is to be the prior consideration of the issues. Many people assume that there will be a lot of advantages by bringing up the concept of globalization into reality. The lack of cultural barriers in obtaining some information from various foreign resources will enable people to share their knowledge with their fellows from distances. This inevitably places language in a very prominent role to support human survival. Criper and Widowson (Allen and Corder.,ed.1975: 160) state that human can survive by communicating their attitudes, ideas, intention and even their desires to the other members oh their community. This is to say that language shores up human existence in terms of its communicative functions.

In today's modern life, the newspaper has been regarded as one of significant technological innovation in communicating human needs. It provides various essential information needed by human being. The contents of newspaper can somewhat satisfy human curiosity in recognizing particular subjects as people are usually eager to find something new in their life. Furthermore, a lot of information, either business, industry, sports, or even politic are also available to

be accessed easily. This shows how newspaper has become the basic needs in a modern lifestyle.

However, it is very obvious that newspaper writing is presented in a very stylistic manner. Indeed, Stratton (1984: 336) highlights that this has become the nature of popular writing to be less formal, more conversational, and more personal. That is why the author of newspaper article intersperses actual or slightly fictionalized descriptions with explanation and commentary on them.

The writer found that in English newspaper, the stylistic manner of the author presenting their words is mainly expressed by putting the idiomatic expressions in use. This is very natural since the author intends to personally communicate with the readers. Stratton (1984: 4) further explains that the purpose of writing is not only to provide information but also to make an impression to the readers. This comes up with consideration that the main thing in communication is that the readers can obtain the messages. In addition, Scovel (2000: 66) points out that in term of text comprehension our memory is rather poor for the structure but is comparatively very accurate for the meaning. Hence the readers do not really take the structure of the language into their consideration as they have already bore the content in their mind.

However, the writer found that the phrasal verbs are the idiomatic expression frequently used in the newspaper article. This phenomenon is very interesting to be studied since the meaning oh the phrasal verbs cannot be tracked through the meaning of its individual words. This will become a problem if the role of the phrases in the

sentence cannot be recognized both its structural or semantic features. The following examples illustrate the above cases, as follows :

She *looked on* her friends

Semantically the f sentence doesn't indicate that the subject "she" really makes a call on her friends, in this case the subject "she" is to make a visit to her friends' place. The above descriptions are very clear examples of the specific features of the phrasal verbs.

Hence, the writer found that it is very important to know the inner structure of the phrasal verbs by conducting a content analysis in the syntactic functions and categories of the phrasal verbs in the newspaper academic articles. The writer believes that the structural contents of the phrasal verbs will be very helpful as the basic clues to further understand the phrasal verbs, especially to recognize its irregular meaning.

B. The identification of the problem

To make clear the problems of the research, the writer has designed the problems in the following three sections as follows:

1. The formulation of the problem

The problems of the research are formulated in the sections as follows:

a. The field of the research

The field of the research is linguistics. It focuses on the structural identification from the perspectives of syntax and the identification of the semantics aspects of the phrasal verbs.

b. The approach of the research

The writer takes the descriptive approach as the research is designed to identify the structural and semantic contents of the phrasal verbs in Newspaper academic articles.

c. The main problems of the research

The main problem of the research is the irregular pattern of the phrasal verbs both from syntax or semantics overview. Hence, the writer is to bring up the inner structure of the phrasal verbs with its specific semantic content.

2. The limitation of the problems

To limit the problems of the research, the writer presents them in the sections as follows :

a. The scope of the research

The writer focuses the research on the identification of the syntactic structure of the phrasal verbs in the published academic articles of The Jakarta Post in the period of May 2004.

b. The clarification of main terms

The following items are the main terms used in this research

- Idiom: : - In general, idiom is expression which has special meaning, and their meaning can not be understood

completely by looking at the individual words in the idiom. (Ronald E Feare, 1980 :1)

- *“Konstruksi yang maknanya tidak sama dengan gabungan makna anggota-anggotanya.”*(construction whose meaning is not the same with the meaning of its constituent words). (Tim Balai Pustaka, 1988: 12)
- Phrasal verb : Combinations of a verb and a member of a closed set of adverbs. (Aarts and Aarts, 1988: 142)
- Syntactic function : A linguistic unit functioning as an element that plays role in a larger linguistic structure. (Aarts and Aarts, 1988: 13)
- Syntactic category : A linguistic unit functioning as something that has individual characteristics which it shares the other units of the same. (Aarts and Aarts, 1988: 13)
- Content analysis : A research technique for making replicable and valid references from data to their context. (Krippendorff quoted by Wimmer and Dominick. 1987:166)

3. Questions of the research

- a. How are the syntactic functions and categories of the phrasal verbs in sentence structure?
- b. How are the syntactic functions and categories of the phrasal verb constituents?
- c. How are the meanings of the phrasal verbs?

C. The aims of the research

1. To identify the syntactic functions and categories of the phrasal verbs in sentence structure.
2. To identify the syntactic functions and categories of the constituents of the phrasal verbs.
3. To identify the meanings of the phrasal verbs.

D. The framework of thinking

Obviously saying, the phrasal verbs are clear examples of language creativity. In this respect, Fromkin et.al (1999 :176) states that only by miracle can the laws of nature be broken but the rules of language are broken everyday by everybody. This lawlessness is not human perversity but rather another way in which language is creative. This is to say that the existence of phrasal verb in English language has shown its unique characteristics. Structurally, it consists of two different elements of linguistic unit, semantically, it has to be understood as a single item or as an independent meaningful unit of a language.

However the practical use of the English phrasal verbs in the newspaper articles can be viewed as part of an act of writing. In this respect, Stratton (1984: 393) declares that the work of writing can be seen from syntactic and semantic aspects. As it does in the process of its making it consists of two simultaneous acts. The process of conceptualizing the words as the contents of language and the process of putting

them into written form. In short, the concept involves the semantic aspects and the written form must also consider the syntax of the language.

Meanwhile Hufford (1989 :26) states that the same referring expressions can be used to refer to different things depending on the intentions of the speaker. It means that if syntactically it is similar with the ordinary phrase constructions, indeed, it may convey a very specific meaning. This comes up with a consideration that the understanding of the structural formation of the phrasal verbs is very important to recognize the inner structure of the phrasal verbs.

The structural analysis of the phrasal verbs in this research conducted in two levels of analysis. The first level of analysis deals with the syntactic functions and categories of the phrasal verbs in the sentence structure. It covers the structural formation of the phrase structure in the sentence level. In this stage, the sentences are segmented into phrasal categories that realize certain syntactic functions. This is further illustrated in the following example taken from the published academic articles of *The Jakarta Post* written by James Alderson entitled in “School Stress Quality Thinking” (updated on May 1st, 2004):

National plus schools came into being as a result of two factors

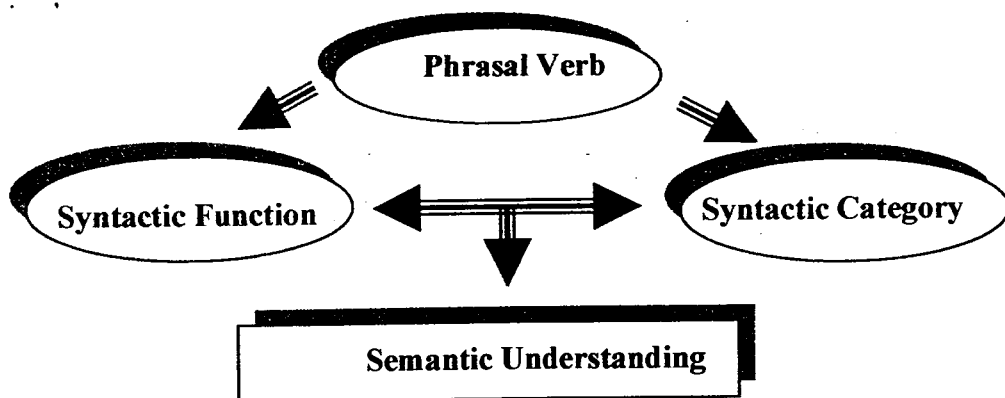
The above sentence contains the phrasal verb construction “*came into*” where it can be syntactically segmented into their structural constituent in terms their syntactic function and category. This is further illustrated in the illustration below:

National plus schools came into being as a result of two factors
 Subject:Noun Phrase Predicator:Verb phrase Complement:Gerund Adverbial:Adverbial Phrase

So far, from the above discussion, it can be concluded that the syntactic function and category of the phrasal verb are realized at the same time. In other words, the structural identification of the syntactic category comprises its syntactic function. However, the phrasal verbs realize their syntactic functions and categories when they are segmented into their basic constituents. This stage is very important to further understand the inner structural formation of the phrasal verbs that are very specific and are different with the other ordinary phrase constructions. This is further illustrated in the following examples :

<u>come</u>	<u>into</u>
Head of the phrase : Verb	Post modifier : Adverbial Particle

Based on the description above, it is very clear the phrase “come into” applies different syntactic function and category where the phrase “come into” is not a free combination of the lexical verb “come” and the preposition “into” as it cannot semantically understood only from the constituent of the phrase. Indeed, it is a new idiomatic vocabulary item. The following diagram shows the interrelation of the syntactic structure and the semantic association of the phrasal verb construction, as follows :



From the above diagram, it is very clear that the accurate semantic understanding or the identification of the correct meaning of the phrasal verb comes up based on the previous knowledge of its syntactic function and category. In this respect the syntactic analysis will lead to a level of understanding that phrasal verb cannot be treated as well as the other ordinary phrase construction. Obviously, the meaning of the phrasal verb can not be tracked through the lexical meaning of the phrase constituents. By contrast, it must be semantically identified as a new idiomatic vocabulary item. This stage of understanding is drawn from the analytic identification that it is syntactically different from the other ordinary phrase constructions.

Hence, from this perspective, the writer believes that by having understood the structural formation of the phrasal verbs, the identification of the phrasal verbs will be easily conducted. This comes up with a consideration that syntactic analysis of the structure of the phrasal verb leads to the level of semantic understanding. Hence, the final results of the analysis are the syntactic and semantic statements that the phrasal verb are not ordinary phrase construction but are idiomatic expressions that have their own syntactic and semantic properties.

E. The steps of Research

The following sections comprise the steps that are conducted in this research, as follows :

1. The data resources

The data in this research are divided into two categories, the theoretical and empirical resources. The following sections comprise the categories :

a. The theoretical data resources

The writer organizes some theoretical data either from syntactic or semantic point of views which are essential as the theoretical foundations of the research.

b. The empirical data resources

The empirical data in this research are the academic articles of The Jakarta Post which are published during the period of May 2004.

2. The population and sample determination

a. The population

As the population of the research, the writer took the academic articles of The Jakarta Post that were published during the period of May 2004. During this period, the writer found that The Jakarta Post published 88 articles along the months. Of the 88 articles the writer found that 20 articles are considered to be academic articles and the rest of 68 articles are non-academic articles. All of the articles are obtained from the host of the Jakarta Post in the internet website, namely <http://www.thejakartapost.com>. The writer accessed it on June 2004. The description of the articles is presented in appendices. The selection of the articles is carried out based on their relationship with the term academic. The writer has formulated the criteria for classifying the articles, these are as follows :

- 1). Of teaching, of schools, colleges, etc; scholarly, literary or classical (contrasted with technical or scientific).
- 2). To much concern with theory and logic; not sufficiently practical.
- 3). Of an academy.

The analysis focuses on the multi-word verb constructions that are available in the academic articles. The writer identified 18 sentences containing the phrasal verb constructions. The composition of the sentences are shown in the table below:

Table 1
The description of the sentences

No	The articles	The items
1	School stress quality thinking	1-5
2	Anyone may contribute to E-encyclopedia	6-12
3	Democratic government provides people with freedom of choice	13-15
4	New principles for strengthening market integrity	16-18

The more detail descriptions are shown in appendices.

b. The samples of the research

Of the 15 articles, the writer took 4 articles as the samples of the research. The amount of articles are taken as it comes to the percentage of 20%. This is in line with Arikunto's statements that the samples of the study can be taken in the percentage of 20% or more depending on the need of the research as she highlights that "... jika subjeknya besar dapat diambil antara 10-15%, atau 20-25% atau lebih (if the subject is large (the samples) can be taken in 10-15%, 20-25% or more) (Arikunto; 1986: 107). Based on the

writer's classification, the total number of the academic articles are 20 articles.

The writer randomly took 4 articles to be presented as the materials of analysis.

The academic articles which were analyzed are :

- 1). "*School stress quality thinking*" written by James Alderson
- 2). "*Anyone may contribute to E-encyclopedia*" written by Andrew Lih
- 3). "*Democratic government provides people with freedom of choice*" written by Patrick Guntensperger
- 4). "*New principles for strengthening market integrity*" written by Bill Witherell

However, the full compositions of the articles are presented in the appendices.

b. The unit of analysis

Of the 4 articles, the writer selected the sentences containing the phrasal verb constructions as the unit of analysis. In this case, the writer presented 18 sentences containing the phrasal verb construction.

c. The category of analysis

In line with the aims of the research, the writer states three categories of analysis, namely :

- 1) The syntactic functions and categories of the phrasal verbs in sentence structure.
- 2) The syntactic functions and categories of the phrasal verb constituents.
- 3) The meanings of the phrasal verbs

3. The techniques of data collection

The sections that follow comprise the procedures in which the writer collects both of the theoretical and empirical data.

a. The theoretical data collection

To obtain the theoretical data, the writer carries out a theoretical documentation to formulate and conceptualize the existing theoretical overviews in accordance with the related issues of the research. In this case, the writer analyzes some theories, opinions, or ideas, of some experts that are presented in various books and articles.

b. The Empirical data collection

To obtain the newspaper academic articles, in June 2004, the writer accessed the host of The Jakarta Post in the internet web site namely : <http://www.thejakartapost.com/> . Through this site the writer collects all the articles needed for the analysis

4. The techniques of data analysis

In this research, the main focus of the analysis is in the structural identification of the syntactic functions and categories of the phrasal verbs. Two levels of syntactic analysis are conducted along the research, the analysis in the level of sentence structure and the analysis of the structure of the phrasal verb constituents. This syntactic analysis is presented in two sections (section a and b). Meanwhile the last sections (section c) analyzes the meanings of the phrasal verbs. The procedures are as follows :

a. The analysis of the syntactic functions and categories of the sentence structures

In this stage of analysis, the writer takes the procedure of the sentence analysis quoted by Aarts and Aarts (English Syntactic Structures : Functions

and Categories in Sentence Analysis). However, this stage of analysis is intended to identify the phrasal syntactic functions and categories. It means that all the selected sentences are segmented into those classifications, for examples:

- 1). This report bears out the theory
 Subject:Noun Phrase Predicator:Verbphrase Complement:Noun Phrase
- 2). The promotion came up to his dedicated works
 Subject:Noun Phrase Predicator:Verb phrase Complement:Prepositional Phrase

The final result of this stage of analysis is the classification of the sentence constituents into the syntactic categories (phrasal categories : Noun phrase, Verb phrase, Adverb phrase, etc.) which realize certain syntactic functions (Subject, Predicator, or Complement)

b. The analysis of the syntactic functions and categories of the phrasal verbs

The second stage of analysis comprises the deeper analysis that presents the identification of the inner structure of the phrasal verbs. This means that the analysis is conducted to identify the syntactic functions and categories of the phrasal verb constituents. As in for examples :

- 1). Bear out
 Head : Verb Post Modifier : Adverbial particle
- 2). Come up
 Head : Verb Post modifier : Adverbial Particle

The final result of this analysis comprises the classification of the phrasal verb constituents into their syntactic functions (Head, Post-modifier, or Pre-modifier) and their syntactic categories (Noun, Verb, adjective, or Adverbial Particle).

c. The analysis of the meaning of the phrasal verbs

The final stage of the analysis in this research is the identification of the meanings (semantic) of the phrasal verbs. This stage of analysis is intended to find out the appropriate meaning of the phrasal verb since it is very possible that one phrasal verb may have more than one meaning. As it is illustrated in the following examples :

- 1). *To bear out* means to confirm (Thomson and Martinet; 1995: 38)
- 2). *To come up to* means to be equal to (Wilson and Burks; 1980: 321)

In a case of the multiple meanings of the phrasal verbs, the writer related it to whole sentence contextual meaning. The appropriate meaning of a phrasal verb must be equivalent to the whole sentence meaning. However, The results of the semantic analysis are the prime outcomes to be achieved from the analysis. The ability to obtain the correct meaning of the phrasal verbs is the expected achievement in the attempt of recognizing the functions of the phrasal verbs in their practical use, especially in the academic newspaper articles.