

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is the main tool in human communication, and each language has its own structure and rules that distinguish one from another. Humans will not be able to continue their survival properly and regularly without language.¹ Language is used by people from different countries to communicate with each other. Communication between people is very important for people and it gives them a wealth of information. Almost everyone in the world speaks English and learning it. English has some educational specification such as grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.² Individuals utilized language as a device to do numerous things. It implied that language be a portion that exceptionally imperative in human's life to communication among individuals within the world, additionally gets to be binding together drive in each segment of human's life.³

Linguistics is the science of language, including language form,

¹ Apriyanto, "Language as a Communication Tool in Human Life," *Journal Ilmu Hukum* 10, no. 2 (2022): 46, <http://ejournal.seaninstitute.or.id/index.php/Justi/index>.

² Dwi Putri et al., "The Analysis of Prepositional Phrases Found in the Carlo's Short Story Pinocchio and Its Application in Teaching Writing," *Scripta: English Department Journal* 9, no. 1 (2022): 79.

³ Revina Dwi Orizka, Ayu Oktaviani, and Agus Triyogo, "An Analysis of Speech Act Used in Peter Rabbit Movie," *E-Link Journal* 8, no. 2 (2022): 150.

language meaning, and language in the context, and analyzes the social context, cultural, historical, and political factors that influence language. Because linguistics is multidisciplinary, specialist in many disciplines bring their own expertise to the study of language.⁴ Linguistics can be divided into two main branches, they are micro linguistics and macro linguistics. Micro linguistic generally focuses on small details such as phonology, morphology, and syntax. In contrast, macro linguistic includes broader studies such as sociolinguistics, pragmatics, discourses analysis which look at how language is used in a larger social context.⁵

Syntax is a branch of linguistics that studies the structure of sentences and the rules that govern the combination of words to form meaningful sentences. Syntax is the study of how words are combined to form a sentence and the rules that determine the formation of sentences themselves. Syntactic categories or word classes will always exist in any languages. Fundamentally, syntactic categories comprise of verb, noun, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction and determiner. Each of them its claim certain position and work in a sentence.⁶

⁴ Charles F. Meyer, *Introducing English Linguistics*, (New York: Cambridge university Press, 2009), p. 2.

⁵ Umul Khasanah, "Micro and Macro Approaches in Linguistics for Method Development," *Journal of Language and Ubiquitous Learning* 2, no. 3 (2022).

⁶ Lilik Damayanti and Ramli Ramli, "A Comparative Function And Position Of English And Indonesian Preposition (Comparative Linguistic)," *JST (Jurnal Sains Terapan)* 1, no. 2 (2015): 66.

Syntax involves the analysis of how words, such as subjects, predicates, objects, and phrases, are organized and ordered within a sentence. In syntax, there are various syntactic categories, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and determiners. Each category has a specific function and position within a sentence. For example, in English, the common word order is subject-verb-object (SVO), as seen in the sentence "John (subject) eats (verb) an apple (object)". However, in other languages, such as Japanese, the typical word order is subject-object-verb (SOV), which can result in sentences like "John (subject) ringo (object) tabemasu (verb)". This variation illustrates how syntax can differ across languages and how it affects our understanding and construction of sentences. Additionally, syntax plays a crucial role in determining the meaning of a sentence, where changes in word order or sentence structure can lead to different interpretations. By understanding syntax, we can better analyze and produce clear and effective sentences in communication.

One important element in syntax is the Prepositional Phrase, which consists of a Preposition and the word or Phrase that follows it. Proper use of prepositions is very important in academic writing as it can provide clarity and precision of meaning in conveying information. Basically, a Prepositional Phrase is a phrase that starts with a preposition and is

followed by a noun or pronoun as a modifier. There are various types of combining phrases like noun phrases, adjective phrases etc. But this study will focus only on phrases where a preposition heads the phrase or usually called Prepositional Phrases. It is also important to know prepositional phrases as they help you understand exactly where the noun or pronoun is located.⁷

One of the relevant studies is a study conducted by Yuli Eka Putri, Hermawati Syarif, and Refnaldy at Universitas Negeri Padang. In the research, they analyzed the types of prepositional phrase structure are mostly found on students' Thesis in Graduate Program at Universitas Negeri Padang. The result of this study provide a strong basic for this research which will explore the use of Prepositional Phrases in a different context, especially in UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten.

This study "Investigating of Prepositional Phrases Used in Student's Abstract Thesis of English Education in UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten (A Study of Content Analysis)" analyzes the application of Prepositional Phrases, a core element of english syntax within the field of linguistics. As highlighted by research, the ability to integrate a variety of

⁷ Bilal Amru, Nurjanah Nurjanah, and Nina Dwiasatuty, "The Analysis of the use of Prepositional Phrase in National Column of the Jakarta Post," *Deiksis* 15, no. 1 (2023): 3.

linguistic constructs, including prepositional phrases, is positively correlated with the overall quality of academic texts.

English education students at Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Islamic State University are trained to engage in rigorous academic research and writing. The thesis is a culminating element of their educational experience, representing not just a summary of their academic journey but a demonstration of their ability to contribute to the field of education through original research. Given the significance of the thesis as a formative academic piece, analyzing the use of prepositional phrases employed by these students especially in A-rated can reveal key insights into their writing proficiency and the pedagogical approaches that have shaped their development.

In Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin State Islamic University, English Education students are expected to achieve a high level of proficiency in academic writing, as evidenced through their scholarly work. Thesis as one of the final works, is a representation of their understanding of the material they have learned as well as their ability to develop arguments based on the research they have conducted. Therefore, it is important to analyze the use of prepositional phrases in their writing to find out the extent to which they are able to apply the skills of the stages of learning that have been undertaken.

B. Focus of the Study

This research only focuses on prepositional phrases in the theses abstracts of students in english education department, so it does not consider other aspects of writing style or sentence structure in the thesis.

The criterion for abstract that will be researched are:

1. Students of english education department in UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten, class of 2019-2020 graduated in August and December 2024
2. Students with the final GPA of 3.60 until 3.80
3. The thesis has been published in the repository UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten

C. Research Questions of Study

1. How the use of Prepositional Phrases in the theses of English Education students at UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin?
2. What the types of Prepositional Phrases are most frequently used in the students abstract thesis?
3. What the functions of prepositional phrases used in the students abstract thesis?

D. The Purposes of Study

1. Identify and describe the use of prepositional phrases in the theses abstract of English Education students at UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin.
2. Determining the types of prepositional phrases that are most often used in the theses abstract.
3. Explaining the function of prepositional phrases usage in academic writing of thesis abstract.

E. Significances of Study

Hopefully, this study is useful for teachers, students and also researcher.

1. For teacher, this study will helps understand the correct application of syntactic structures in academic writing
2. For students, this study will helps to find out the pattern of using prepositional phrases in the thesis abstracts.
3. For researchers, this research can provide an understanding of how prepositional phrases support clarity and structure in academic writing.

F. Previous of Study

First, The research by Yuli Eka Putri, Hermawati Syarif, and Refnaldy (2020) with the title *“An analysis of Prepositional Phrase used in the thesis at graduate program of Universitas Negeri Padang”*. This research

aims to present the types of prepositional phrase structure are mostly found on students' Thesis in Graduate Program at Universitas Negeri Padang. The researcher used descriptive qualitative method. It can be concluded that establishing the structure of prepositional phrase (S.1) has already been stated in all of the documents analyzed.⁸

The second, research by Bilal Amru, Nurjanah, and Nina Diastuty (2023) with the title *"The Analysis of the use of Prepositional Phrase in national column of the Jakarta Post"*. This research investigate points to know the utilize of prepositional phrases especially of the use of Adjectival Prepositional Phrases and also Adverbial Prepositional Phrases. The researcher used descriptive qualitative method. It can conclude that from the 1st, to the 2nd, to the 3rd, to the 4th edition of the news accessible in National Column of "The Jakarta Post" newspaper that the amount of the existence of the adverbial prepositional phrases are higher than the amount of the existence of the adjectival prepositional phrases.⁹

The last, research by Moh Yusril Jaya, Siska Bochari, Hastini, and Ferry Rita (2023) with the title *"An analysis of using Prepositional Phrase in student's writing"*. This research aims to ascertain the functions

⁸ Yuli Eka Putri, Hermawati Syarif, and Refnaldi, "An Analysis of Prepositional Phrase Used in Thesis at Graduate Program of Universitas Negeri Padang" 463 (2020): 241–247.

⁹ Amru, Nurjanah, and Dwiasatuty, "The Analysis of the Use of Prepositional Phrase in National Column of The Jakarta Post."

of prepositional phrases within students' writings and determine the prevailing prepositional phrase type utilized by the students in their writing. The researcher used descriptive qualitative design. Based on the findings of the study, the function of prepositional phrase could be adverbs and complements, in the case of adverbs, they can indicate time, place, manner, reason, degree, and frequency.¹⁰

Three of studies above discussed about the use of prepositional phrase in writing, such as student' thesis, student's writing and newspaper. But in this study, the researcher want to know the use of prepositional phrases in student's abstract thesis. The place of research in this study also different. This study conduct in UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten.

¹⁰ Moh Yusril Jaya et al., "An Analysis of Using Prepositional Phrase in Students' Writing," *Jurnal Onoma: Pendidikan, Bahasa, dan Sastra* 9, no. 2 (2024): 1671–1677.