CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some topics related to the background of the study, the statement of the problems, the purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a complex phenomenon that is owned innately by the whole human beings in this world. It has long been proven throughout history that language is the best tool or media of transferring information among people in order to communicate and to build relationship in their daily and social lives. Wardhaugh (2006:1) states that language is what the members of a particular society speak. In other words, language is the main tool of communication process in interacting and expressing ideas among people.

To push communication forward, it is generally known that nowadays we are living in gradually more internationalized and globalized world where multilingual and multicultural interaction between people are continuously happening day by day (Mustonen, 2010:5). This situation forces all people, let alone for the educated ones, to know more than one language to be able to interact in a global and multilingual environment. Accordingly, translation has a crucial role to overcome this problem by which it can enable us to build communication among different languages across cultures and countries all over the world. With the help of cross-languages translation, people are able to get new information and
knowledge which always be shared across all linguistic boundaries (Mustonen, 2010:6). Therefore, Mustonen (2010:5) is felicitous to point out that translation is an awfully topical issue in today's multicultural and multilingual world.

In connection with this, it is worth noting that translation becomes progressively more essential in this globalization era. It is dreadfully interesting to have a closer study on it. In the translation studies, there are many problematic aspects that should be paid a special attention to. One of which is having a comprehensible understanding about the characteristics of the language being translated. However, it has long been known that every language has its own characters in which it will lead us to confusion in translating them. Therefore, to have a good ability in translating a language, it is an obligation to learn and understand the whole aspects of language clearly. Noticeably, there are a large number of translational aspects that are interesting to become a topic of investigation in conducting a research (Mustonen, 2010:5). Hence, this present study is limited only on investigating the use of motion event which is one of translational aspects in Indonesian and English languages.

Motion event has been discussed since many years ago and it has been considered to become one of the most topical issues in the area of linguistic study. It is a study on finding out and classifying language typology based on how languages differ in expressing ideas about motion. One important point that makes it interesting to investigate is that having a closer look at motion events will make us a professional translator. Besides, it will also lead us to know and to understand the characteristics of the language in a comprehensible way. As what have been
mentioned above, knowing the characteristics of language is an extremely essential thing in translation studies. Each language has its own ways in expressing any events; the same exact way is highly unlikely to be found in other languages. Another important point is that based on the writer’s personal observation, it is shown that there are still very few researchers who study about motion events in Indonesian context.

In general, all languages across the world can be categorized into a certain typology. However, this study uses motion events’ framing as the foremost basis to categorize language typology. Recently, the interest in research of motion event keeps increasing in continuation. There have been many previous studies done by many linguists across the world about motion events such as: Talmy 2000, 2001; Matsumoto 2003; Slobin 2004, 2005, 2006; Sachs 2010; Fortis 2010; Toplu 2011; Furman 2012; and many others. However, the revised typology of motion of events proposed by Slobin (2006) is used in this present study since he has conducted many researches which have been published in journals and articles related to motion events. Therefore, the writer surely believes that Slobin’s Typology is more accurate and is the best choice to be taken into account for this present study.

After conducting many researches related to motion events, Slobin (2006) arrives at a conclusion that all languages across the world can be categorized into tripartite typology of language, they are: *Verb-framed language*, *Satellite-framed language* and *Equipollently-framed languages* (serial-verb-constructions). In *verb-framed languages*, it is more common to use bare verb--which means there
is no information about manner in a verb and the path is expressed by the main verb in a clause like; enter (to go in), exit (to go out), ascend (to go up), etc. In *satellite-framed languages* path is expressed by an element associated with the verb like; go in/out/up, get down, fall of, fall into etc.) and very much attention is taken to the use of manner verb like; walk, crawl, jump, etc. And in *Equipollently-framed languages*, the use of a verb in one clause or sentence is allowed for more than one or even two verbs successively.

Consider the following examples which are quoted from the Verkerk’s (2014:1) study. He takes two headlines reporting the crossing of the Niagara Falls by tightrope walker Nik Wallenda, one in English and one in French:

1. Nik Wallenda becomes the first person to walk on a tightrope across Niagara Falls.
2. Le funambule Nik Wallenda traverse les chutes du Niagara sur un fil.

The English headline refers to Nik Wallenda walking *across* the Niagara Falls on a tightrope, while the French headline indicates that he *crossed* the Niagara Falls on a tightrope. It is almost certain that the two headlines encode the same act in linguistically different ways. Therefore, Verkerk concludes that English headline falls into satellite-framed language because it uses a verb which signifies the manner of motion, *walk*, and a preposition, *across*. In contrary, French headline is considered to be verb-framed language for it features a bare verb that signifies the path of motion, *traverser* ‘to cross’ and the fact that Nik Wallenda walked on the tightrope is not indicated by the French headline.
Slobin (2006:4) takes an example in the use of Equipollently-framed language from Mandarin Chinese, as follows:

1. *fei1 chu1 lat2 yi1 zhi1 mao1 tou2 ying1*
   
   fly exit come one only owl → only one owl *exit fly come.*
   
   (serial-verb-constructions).

Although Equipollently-framed language typology is totally not allowed in English because the use of more than one verb in one sentence successively ruins the grammatical rule, it is commonly used for some other languages like Mandarin Chinese, Indonesian language etc. For a deeper understanding, see how Indonesian language freely translates those headlines in some versions as follows:

1. *Nik Wallenda menjadi orang pertama yang berjalan di atas tali melewati air terjun Niagara.*
   
   - Nik Wallenda becomes the first person to walk on a tightrope *pass* Niagara Falls. (satellite-framed)-manner is emerged explicitly.

2. *Nik Wallenda menyebargi air terjun Niagara menggunakan tali.*
   
   - Nik Wallenda *crosses* Niagara Falls on a tightrope. (verb-framed)-no information about manner.

3. *Nik Wallenda adalah orang pertama yang berjalan melewati air terjun Niagara dengan menggunakan tali.*
   
   - Nik Wallenda becomes first person to walk *pass* Niagara Falls on a tightrope. (equipollently-framed)-there are two verbs go together.

From the example versions above, it seems that Indonesian language is somewhat flexible. It can even use the three typologies for one sentence which is very unique. This case attracts the writer’s attention very much to conduct a research on motion events in Indonesian language. However, Slobin (2006:5) have classified some Austronesian languages in which Indonesian language falls within equipollently-framed language and English is considered to be a satellite-framed language. Therefore, one of the aims of this study is to prove whether or
not the classification is applicable both for Indonesian and English by analyzing the use of motion events in the English and Indonesian translation versions of Holy Qur’an Chapter 30.

In relation to this present study, there are some previous studies that are chosen as considerations and references about motion events. The first is Sachs (2010) who conducted a study on the analysis of the motion events of Seri (a language of the Mexican state of Sonora) using Talmy’s (2000) theory of motion events typology based on publicly available texts. Sachs found out that Seri language had a split system of conflation in the motion-actuating typology, with **Path, Figure, and Manner** verbs that were used in a different typology of motion events and the use of path verbs seemed to be the most characteristic. As a result, in the further investigation, it revealed that Seri appeared to be verb-framed.

The second is Slobin (2004) who has done a sublimely interesting study about motion events. The main focus of his study was on finding out the differences among languages in cross linguistic on **rhetorical styles**—“that is, the ways in which events are analyzed and described in discourse” (Slobin, 2004:5) and typological issues-based on motion events’ framing using a narrative picture’s story entitled “Frog, where are you?” as the object of analysis. From his study, Slobin found out that there were three major components of motion events such as; **manner of motion, path**, and **ground elements** (landmarks) that would make languages differ in ways of describing motion events and rhetorical styles.

Like Slobin’s research, this present study is also intended to identify the ways of describing motion events (rhetorical styles) and the typology of language
based on motion events’ framing between English and Indonesian language translation versions of the Holy Quran as an object analysis that makes this study different, unique and challenging.

Some linguistics studies have been done by many researchers using Holy Qur’an as the object of analysis because Holy Qur’an contains many figurative languages and other unique aspects of language which is roughly interesting to analyze. Maula (2011) analyzed two types of metaphor—lexicalized and non-lexicalized—using ten examples, the context of verses and the techniques used in translating metaphor based on four selected English translation versions of metaphor in the Holy Qur’an. Finally, Maula found out that the translators used different techniques in the same type of metaphors.

Last but not least, based on the writer’s personal observation, it comes to a conclusion that there are still very few researches conducted on the use of motion events in Indonesian and English translation versions of Holy Qur’an. Therefore, the writer believes that Holy Qur’an becomes the most suitable choice of being the object of analysis in this study.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the explanation above, there will be specific problems that are formulated in this study, as follows:

1. How are motion events formulated (according to Slobin’s typology of motion events) based on the English and Indonesian translation versions of Holy Qur’an Chapter 30?
2. Under which language typologies do both English and Indonesian languages (according to Slobin’s typology of motion events) fall into based on the translation versions of Holy Qur’an Chapter 30?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to answer the questions above satisfactorily. Therefore, the writer would like:

1. To investigate the formula of motion events (according to Slobin’s typology of motion events) that are used in both English and Indonesian translation versions of Holy Qur’an Chapter 30.

2. To find out the typology of both English and Indonesian languages (according to Slobin’s typology of motion events) based on the translation versions of Holy Qur’an Chapter 30.

1.4 Significance of the Study

It is expected that this study will be meaningfully able to give some contributions or significances for readers or learners, lectures, and other researchers:

1. For the readers and the learners.

Hopefully, the result of this study can give an additional knowledge to the students about language typology based on motion events’ framing across languages and is also expected to be able to help students deepen and strengthen their understanding in linguistics and translation studies.
2. For the lectures of linguistics and translation studies

   It is expected to become additional information and is able to increase lecturers’ knowledge that would be useful in teaching translation studies and linguistics particularly about motion events’ framing language.

3. For the next researchers

   It is expected to help the next researchers use this study as an additional reference in linguistic study and is able to attract their attention very much in order to conduct further researches on the use of motion events’ framing in many other languages.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

   The scope in this study is on investigating the formula of motion events and finding out the language typology in both English and Indonesian languages (according to Slobin’s typology of motion events). The limitation of this study is on the object that is the Holy Qur’an Chapter 30.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

   To make the readers understand the terms used in this study easily, the writer would like to present several definitions of the key terms as follows:

   1. **Motion events** is a “semantic domain that is important in all languages, and it is one that exhibits distinctive types of lexicalization patterns cross-linguistically” which focuses on the change of location—in Talmy’s terms, path (Slobin, 2003:4).

   2. **Path** is the trajectory or direction where the figure follows while moving (Verkerk: 2014:41).
3. **Manner** is “the way in which the action can be carried out” (Verkerk, 2014:44).

4. **Figure** is the entity (a person or object) that moves (Verkerk 2014:41), “whose site, path or orientation is conceived as a variable the particular value of which is the relevant issue” (Talmy, 2000:184).

5. **Ground** is a “reference entity, one that has a stationary setting relative to a reference frame, with respect to which Figure’s site, path or orientation is characterized” (Talmy, 2000:184).

6. **Language typology** is roughly equal with ‘taxonomy’ or ‘classification’, “a classification of the phenomenon under study into types,” which “refers to a classification of structural types across languages” (Croft, 2003:1).

7. **Verb-framed language** is a language typology which prefers “embedding the PATH element into the main verb” such as the French verbs *entrer* (to go in) or *sortir* (to go out). “The MANNER element is expressed by a gerund or an adverbial in the language” (Toplu, 2011:9).

8. **Satellite-framed language** is a language typology which prefers “integrating the MANNER component into the main verbs,” like; *crawl, stagger or limp* in the English verbs. “The PATH component is lexicalized with a satellite construction, such as a particle or an affix like crawl in, jump out, roll down, etc. (Toplu, 2011:12).

9. **Equipollently-framed language** is a language typology in which “manner and path are expressed by equivalent grammatical forms” (Slobin, 2004:25).
10. **Translation** is a way of rendering a source language (SL) text into the target language (TL) to assure that the main message of the two will be approximately similar (Bassnett, 2002:12).

11. **Holy Qur’an** is a “continuation of the previous divine Messages that Allah sent to people via His Messengers throughout history” (Fatoohi, 2004).