CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter will discuss the background of the study, the statement of the problems, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and the limitation, and the definition of the key terms.

1.1. The Background of the Study

Every human being speaks everyday by using language. People use language to express inner thoughts and emotions, to make sense of complex and abstract thought, to learn to communicate with others, to fulfill our wants and needs. They use language to produce phrase or sentence then use it to tell each other in order to know what they speak about.

Collins (2003) states that a sentence is sequence of words that capable of standing alone to make an assertion, ask a question, or give a command, which usually consist of a subject and a predicate containing a finite verb. A sentence is the basic unit of language which expresses a complete thought. A complete sentence has at least a subject and a main verb to state a complete thought. Furthermore, a subject is the noun that is doing the main verb. The main verb is the verb that the subject is doing.

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According to Megginson (2013), there are four different sentence types according to the number of clauses they contain namely simple, compound, complex, compound-complex sentence. A simple sentence has only one independent clause and
no dependent clause. A compound sentence consists of two or more independent clauses (or simple sentences) joined by coordinating conjunctions like "and," "but," and "or. A complex sentence includes one independent statement and at least one dependent statement, which cannot stand alone. A compound-complex sentence contains three or more clauses at least two independent clauses and one or more subordinate clauses.

When discussing about sentence structure, it is explained more deeply in syntax because syntax is often equated with the study of sentence structure. Harris (2013) defines that sentence structure is the order and arrangement of the clauses in a sentence, which is a group of words that express a complete thought. In linguistics, the term syntax comes from the Ancient Greek *syntaxis*, a verbal noun which literally means ‘arrangement’ or setting out together. Traditionally, it refers to the branch of grammar dealing with the ways in which words are arranged to show connections of meaning within the sentence, Radford (2003). So, syntax is concerned with the ways in which words can be combined together to form phrases and sentences.

Analyzing sentence is the process of identifying subjects, predicates, direct and indirect objects and the various types of clauses and phrases. The wrong structure of sentence in conversation can make the communication lack of effectiveness. In order to make effective communication, we have to know about understanding of the constructions of grammar, of what a rule are, of what is accepted usage and how to interpret constructions and its significance.
Moreover, sentences can be analyzed by using Chinese box and tree diagram. Chinese box and tree diagram are the way of representation of grammatical structure: clauses and groups in sentences. Both of them contain exactly the same information, but tree diagram is much easier to interpret the form of sentence. Sometimes the people find ambiguous sentence and have difficulty in understanding the meaning of the sentence, such as, when read the foreign magazine, by using a tree diagram to analyze sentence structure, they can easy to understand and get the point of that sentence.

Magazine is one of written media which is usually published periodically to get some information. According to Baran (2008), there are two kinds of magazine as mass media: they are printed magazine and online magazine. Printed magazine is chosen in this study because it is superior to online magazine when the online publication is unable to reach the target reader due to them not being online. According to Assegaff (1983) printed magazine is divided into fifteen categories. They are pictorial, children magazines, news magazines, culture magazines, monthly magazines, scientific magazines, religious magazines, family magazine typical magazines, fashion magazines, company magazines, teen magazines, essence article magazines, literary magazines, and women magazines. Family magazine is chosen in this study because this magazine contains about essays for the whole family, from reading light for children to households, such as Reader’s Digest magazine.

*Reader’s Digest* magazine is one type of family magazines and the world’s best-loved magazine (*http://www.rd.com*). It can be seen from Global editions of
*Reader's Digest* reach an additional 40 million people in more than 70 countries, with 49 editions in 21 languages. There are many types of *Reader’s Digest* magazine, such as, *Reader’s Digest Asia, Reader’s Digest Australia, Reader’s Digest Canada, Reader’s Digest Arab*, etc. *Reader’s Digest Asia* spread over in many Asian countries including Indonesia. Therefore, the researcher chooses *Reader’s Digest Asia* in analyzing sentence structure.

By location, the researcher chooses *Reader’s Digest Asia* in analyzing sentence structures. In this magazine there are many rubrics, they are “Have Your Say”, “Letter from the Editor”, “Unbelievable”, “Everyday Kitchen”, “Health Smart”, “My Story”, “Power of Good”, “Smarts Animal”, “Puzzles”, “Trivia and Word Power” and many more. The researcher chooses “Health Smart” rubric because it has important issue that contain about newest health research article. In “health Smart” rubric there is article entitle “High-tech Breakthroughs for Eyesight” which talks about a new technological invention for help eye disease. This article uses more various types of sentences and many words are difficult to understand for common people, especially assimilation in the field of health and technology. So, the researcher is interested in analyzing sentence structures that will be portrayed in tree diagram to help the readers to understand what the article talks about easily.

In the previous research, Ginting (2009) also used tree diagram in her thesis entitled “An Analysis of Sentence Structure in Tennessee William’s *A Street Car Named Desire*”. She found that 54,96% or 205 sentences is simple sentence. Second, 29,69% or 107 sentences is complex sentence. Third, 9,38% or 35 sentences is compound sentences. The last, 6,97% or 26 sentences is compound-complex
sentence. While the previous research focuses on drama script, this study highlights on an article in Reader’s Digest magazine.

1.2. Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the study, the problems of the study can be formulated as follows:

1. How sentence structures are portrayed in tree diagram “High-tech Breakthroughs for Eyesight” article on Reader’s Digest magazine?
2. What types of sentence structures exist in “High-tech Breakthroughs for Eyesight” article on Reader’s Digest magazine?

1.3. Purpose of Study

Based on the problem above, the purposes of the study can stated as follows:

1. To describe sentence structures through tree diagram “High-tech Breakthroughs for Eyesight” article on Reader’s Digest magazine.
2. To figure out types of sentence structures exist in “High-tech Breakthroughs for Eyesight” article on Reader’s Digest magazine.

1.4. Significance of Study

Theoretically, this study can give a contribution for the English grammar lecturers in university. The lecturers can teach students how sentences are constructed and how different types of sentences are formed. It also shows how to punctuate each type of sentence correctly and how to combine different sentence types for effective written communication.
Practically, firstly, this study is useful for the students who learn about sentence structures on morph syntax subject. Secondly, English magazine can be used as a learning media for the university students who take English subject because article in the magazine usually contain many words that can be analyzed in sentence structures. Nowadays, magazine as one of the information centers can be a fresh material that motivates the students in learning English.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

There are many articles on Reader’s Digest Magazine published on March 2014. The scope of this analysis is “High-tech Breakthroughs for Eyesight” article. The researcher limits this analysis on the sentence structure portrayed in tree diagram and the type of sentence structure.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

1. **Sentence Structure**: is the order and arrangement of the clauses in a sentence, which is a group of words that express a complete thought (Harris, 2013). In this study, they are categorized into four kinds: simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence, and compound-complex sentence. To find out of types of sentence structure, the researcher uses tree diagram based on Carnies’ Theory.

2. **Syntax**: is the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages. Syntactic investigation of a given language has as its goal the construction of a grammar that can be viewed as a
device of some sort for producing the sentences of the language under analysis (Chomsky, 2002).

3. **Reader’s Digest**: is an American family magazine and distributed in Indonesia by Media Tool International Company since in 2004. *Reader’s Digest* magazine is published worldwide. There are *Reader’s Digest Asia*, which is published in Asia, *Reader’s Digest Australia*, which is published in Australia, *Reader’s Digest Canada*, which is published in Canada, and some more ([http://www.rdasia.com](http://www.rdasia.com)).

4. **Tree Diagram**: is systematic diagram to represent sentence structure by marking which sequences of words in a sentence are its constituent phrases. It consists of multiple choices or sub-parts, which come under one broad category (Wayne, 2009).