CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains introduction of the study. It consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of the key terms. These sub chapters are explained as below:

1.1 Background of the Study

The essential part of human behavior is a language which is very important for people to communicate each other in order to build an interaction. Language is used to express the thoughts, feelings, and desires by people to others (Bonvillain, 2003, p. 1). In the other word, language is a tool required by people to interact and communicate to one another.

The world has so many languages in which each of them can be identified at these four levels: text, sentence, word, and sound. These are the forms that language takes (Thornbury, 2001, p. 1). The researcher believes that all languages spoken in this world might be studied accordingly. This idea could be proven by the existence of the study of grammar.

This study of grammar consists, in part, of looking at the way these forms are arranged and patterned. One of language study is a grammar which is learned about pattern or structure of language. Basically, it focuses on the analysis at the level of the sentence (Thornbury, 2001, p. 1). Therefore, grammar is rules which give guidance to people to learn language, especially in correct English sentences.
Particularly, the languages are built in structural form. The people can be difficult to easily understand the meaning in both the spoken and written if it were not. In line with that, it is supported by the rules of language structure which allow people to say something acceptable or unacceptable within the structural framework of the language concerned (Arndt, Harvey, & Nuttal, 2000, p. 47). Then, it is vital that learners and teachers be aware that every language has its own structure for instance: Indonesian with Indonesian structure, English with English structure, and so on.

It cannot be denied if English is an influential language which is widely used in whole the world as an international language. It is supported by the facts in terms of the number of countries where it is the first or second language of the population, where English has some official status, or where it is the major foreign language taught at school (Arndt et al., 2000, p. 212). Therefore, English is an international language which allows people from different countries all over the world to communicate each other.

In Indonesia, English is a foreign language. It is taught since elementary school until university. The English taught is Standard English which deals with English spelling, pronunciation, grammar, etc which is believed to be correct and used by most people (Hornby, 2010, p. 1453). Generally, there are four basic skills which are both taught and learned, those are listening, writing, speaking and reading. It seems that Indonesian learners may take hard efforts to acquire English proficiency, because it both offers different structure between their mother tongue and four skills in English which are required to master.
The practice of Standard English in Indonesia can be found through the existence of some English newspapers established, such as *The Jakarta Post, The Jakarta Globe,* and *Tempo Interactive.* *The Jakarta Post* is a daily English language newspaper in Indonesia. The authors and the contributors of the newspaper are foreign people and Indonesian who are good at expressing their ideas or thoughts in English through their writings. It is targeted at foreigners and educated Indonesians, although the middle-class Indonesian readership has increased. Then, it is apparent that either the authors or the contributors apply Standard English. The contents of the articles can be easily understood by the readers, especially the students or people who are fond of reading English materials. Since the Standard English applied in this paper, there are a lot of English structures found, including referring to gerund. A gerund is a verb form, typically ending in *-ing,* but it functions as noun. Like nouns, gerund is used as subject, complement or object.

The topics are divided into several categories; “Headlines”, “National”, “Archipelago”, “Opinion”, “Reader’s Forum”, “City”, “World”, “Business”, “Entertainment” and “Sports”. The “Headlines” articles present current events which happen in Indonesia or other countries. The issues range from politic, economy, education, criminal, law, and natural disaster occurred in many countries. The researcher chooses “Headlines” articles because the news offered was the one which was phenomenal and kept up by most people.

There are a lot of *-ing* forms found; however, the researcher only focuses on the function of *-ing* form referring to gerund. The researcher is interested in analyzing gerund because there are some *-ing* forms of English structure; those are gerund,
present participle and progressive tense. Those forms often lead the English learners to confusion because the -ing forms in English structure have the same forms but different in meanings. As a result, Indonesian learners frequently have trouble distinguishing gerund and the other -ing forms which results in misunderstanding in doing English test such as TOEFL or TOEIC, writing English composition and speaking in English.

Therefore, the researcher is challenged either to analyze it or to provide some insights for learners how to understand gerund well. In addition, the researcher wants to disclose if there are new findings of the usage or function of gerund that researcher has never known before. By doing so, it is hoped that there will be new knowledge on the grammar points for language learners from the result of this present study.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of study above, the researcher might have one research question to focus the present study. The research question is formulated as below:

What are the functions of gerund in the “Headlines” article of The Jakarta Post which makes readers understand the use of gerund in the sentence?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In relation with the research problem formulated above, the purpose of the present study is:

To describe the functions of gerund in the “Headlines” articles of The Jakarta Post which makes readers understand the use of gerund in the sentence.
1.4 Significance of the Study

This study at least has four benefits to three parties. They are teachers, students, researchers, and the writers of The Jakarta Post. Firstly, it is intended for English teachers. It is expected that this result of the study can improve and enlarge their knowledge about gerund. Therefore, English teachers may implement better understanding when teaching and learning about form of –ing, especially gerund occurs in the class. Secondly, the results of the study are expected to be useful for the students of English Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education University of Muhammadiyah Malang. It is hoped from the findings of this present study, students will have new informations for their learning process in term of practicing the use of gerund. Thirdly, this study can give contribution as a reference for the next researchers to develop similar study in English structure. Finally, it is intended for the writers of The Jakarta Post. It is expected that the result of the study can give more motivation and new information about English structure to write more English articles in Standard English, especially by using gerund.

In addition, practically, the researcher expects that the teachers can teach gerund to the students clearly, related to its form, position, and function. The teacher can apply gerund in reading text or writing composition. For students, it is expected that they understand more about the function of gerund found in any English reading materials, therefore they can mastering the usage of gerund and get the exact meaning of any word attached by gerund. Furthermore, the students can practice writing English composition by using gerund. Then, for the next researchers, it is hoped that they can explore more about gerund in different object, such as speech, movie, novel,
song, and many more. The last for the writers of The Jakarta Post, it is expected that they can use a wide variety of gerund in their articles in order to minimize boredom to the readers.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is the function of gerund found in “Headlines” articles of The Jakarta Post. The researcher only focuses on “Headlines” articles of The Jakarta Post. The articles analyzed in this study are limited on the 9th-14th of March 2015 edition. The researcher chose those dates because there was a lot of phenomenal news happened. Each date presents 5-7 articles. The researcher, however, just took 2 articles which only happened in Indonesia per date randomly.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Certain key terms related to the problem of this study need to be defined in order to avoid misunderstanding. The terms which need to be defined are as follows:

1. Gerund is the -ing form of a verb used as a noun. A gerund is used in the same way as a noun, i.e., as a subject or as an object (Azar & Hagen, 2009, p. 301).

2. The Jakarta Post is a daily English language newspaper in Indonesia which provides readers with up-to-date news happened in Indonesia and other countries.

3. Headlines are articles written in the newspaper which present up-to-date issues in Indonesia and other countries. The issues range from politic,
economy, education, crime, law, and natural disaster occurred in many countries.

Following this section, Chapter Two would like to review some related literatures which are needed to expand researcher’s understanding and support the theoretical views of this topic. In the Chapter Two, the researcher discusses about forms of -ing, verb in progressive form, adverbial phrase, present participle, and gerund to understand further the analysis of gerund in “Headlines” article of The Jakarta Post and related study. Each of subchapter will be explained in details accompanied with examples in order that understanding of each subchapter may be comprehensive.