CHAPTER II
A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS

Contrastive linguistics is the systematic comparison of two or more languages, with the aim of describing their similarities and differences. The objective of the comparison may vary: language comparison is of great interest in a theoretical as well as an applied perspective. It reveals what is general and what is language specific and is therefore important both for the understanding of language in general and for the study of the individual languages compared. The focus may be on general or on language specific features. The study may be theoretical, without any immediate application, or it may be applied, i.e. carried out for a specific purpose. The term 'contrastive linguistics', or 'contrastive analysis', is especially associated with applied contrastive studies advocated as a means of predicting and or explaining difficulties of second language learners with a particular mother tongue in learning a particular target language. (http://www.hf.uio.no/forskningsprosjekter/sprik/docs/pdf/sj/johansson2.pdf. Feb, 02/2010).

Contrastive linguistics is a practice-oriented linguistic approach that seeks to describe the differences and similarities between a pair of languages (hence it is occasionally called "differential linguistics"). 'Contrastive linguistics' (CL) is synonymous with 'contrastive analysis' (CA) but only the latter is a countable noun. It is a form of comparative linguistics, related forms being 'comparative diachronic linguistics' and 'synchronic linguistic typology'. Unique to Comparative Linguistics is that its purview is limited to a pair of languages. There is no requirement for the language pair to
be in any way 'related'. The development of Contrastive analysis has been viewed from an applied to a theoretical discipline.

Contrastive Analysis (CA) or Contrastive Linguistics (CL): "In the study of foreign language learning, the identification of points of structural similarity and difference between two languages." Contrastive analysis was developed and practiced in the 1950s and 1960s as application of structural linguistics to language teaching". Contrastive Analysis a describing similarities and differences among two or more languages at such levels as phonology, grammar, and semantics. (http://www.lotsofessays.com/viewpaper/1683824.html, Feb, 02 2010).

The study began in Central Europe before the Second World War and developed afterwards in North America. In the United States in the late 1950s, Robert Lado proposed contrastive analysis as a means of identifying areas of difficulty for language learners, although already in 1945 Charles Fries had formulated the theory. The earlier contrastive analysis research was language-focused. During the pre-Chomsky an structuralism period, linguists examined features of the native language which contrasted with features of the foreign language, indicating that these would be areas most likely to cause difficulty for foreign language learners.

By the early 1970s, this contrastive analysis theory had been to an extent supplanted by error analysis, which examined not only the impact of transfer errors but also those related to the target language, including overgeneralization structural linguists, though, consider this analysis theoretically impossible, because each grammatical or phonological system has to be defined in terms of the language for which it--and only it--has been developed. Transformational generative grammars assume the existence of
universals, so that, in theory at least, a complete transformational grammar is already a potential contrastive analysis with other languages. Before the writer is going further to analyses the contrast of question word between English and Mandailing languages, it is worth to know what contrastive study means.

Actually, contrastive linguistics has been related with comparative linguistic. Contrastive linguistics is a language science that observes the non- correspondences which consist in two or more language family and then comparative linguistics intends to search the correspondences and non- correspondences of the comparing languages, while contrastive analysis only observes the non- correspondsences, which are so different in two or more languages. But the correspondences are not so important and they are regarded as a general one. The similar is both of them doing a comparison between two or more languages.

Contrastive linguistics is the study to find out the similarities and dissimilarities between to different background language. The aim of this study is not merely to find the similarities and dissimilarities only, but the more important thing is to support the process of teaching and learning foreign language.

Ridwan.T.A(1998:17) says that contrastive analysis refers to correspondences between aspects of language. In other books Naibaho Jawasi (2006: 1) contrastive analysis is the method of analysis whereby the differences and similarities of two or more language (or sub-system of language) are made explicit. Then we can conclude that contrastive analysis is the comparison of the two language system, for the example the grammatical system of Question words between English and Mandailing language.
If we want to know the non correspondences between the two languages, so we have to find the description of two languages. There is no assumption that is agreed in contrasting two or more languages. It is “contrasting two languages is impossible, not practice, and too wasting time.

In accordance with the above idea, contrastive analysis is actually a working procedure where the activity or the duty is trying to compare the first language structure with the second language in order to identify the non- correspondence of two languages. The non- correspondences of two languages in the different language family that are got and produced by contrastive analysis can be used as the reason in predicting the difficulties in learning the languages that will be faced by the students, even for those who study language.