CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Analysis

Language plays a very important role in the life of human beings. Language is used as medium to communicate one another, to express our personal reaction towards situation and to stimulate our response in someone else. In short, language is used in order to communicate one with another. They communicate in both spoken and written language.

Language has several functions in human life. Language is used as a mean of communication and to share information. Crystal (1974:3 and 30) says; “Language is most frequently used and most highly developed form of human communication…An act of communication (done by language) is basically the transmission of information of some kind or establish social phenomena, and if it is used, there will be a relationship between an individual and others as well as his or her environment.” Every time we use language (in case to communicate), we are faced with a large array of choices: not only choices of what to say but of how to say it. “How to say” is influenced by many elements in language. One of those elements is Grammar. It is a set of rules that take an important item (Biber, Conrad, and L Backle 2002:2).

One part of Grammar is Phrasal Verb. Biber, Conrad, and Leech (2002:124) says: “Phrasal verbs consist of a verb followed by an adverbial particle (e.g. carry out, find out, or pick up)”. Particle is a word or a part of a word which has a grammatical purpose but often has little or no meaning. When these adverbial particles are used independently, they have literal meanings signifying location or direction (for examples: out, about,
around, up, down, on, off). However, in Phrasal verbs they are commonly used with less literal meanings. For example, the meaning of find out does not include the “place” meaning of out. There are two major subcategories of phrasal verb: intransitive and transitive. With transitive phrasal verbs the particle can be placed after the direct object. This is the normal word order then the object is a pronoun. For examples:

- I went to Eddi’s house to get back wool plaid shirt.
- I’ve got to get this one back for my mom.
- So, she got it back.

Phrasal verb is different from Prepositional verb. Prepositional verbs consist of a verb followed by a preposition, such as, look at, talk about, listen to. Preposition is a word which is used before a noun, a noun phrase or a pronoun, connecting it to another word. For example: “We jumped in the lake”. The work “in” is a preposition. All Prepositional verbs take a prepositional object, i.e. the noun phrase that occurs after the preposition.

Phrasal verb could have difficult meaning because the meaning of the compound is often different from the meaning of the individual parts (Allosop, 1982:210). Phrasal verb sometimes has idiomatic meaning. That is why sometimes it is difficult for us to understand the meaning of a phrasal verb. In order to avoid misunderstand in speaking or writing something, it is very important to understand phrasal verbs. Besides, people can not speak or understand English well without knowing phrasal verbs. The increase of using phrasal verbs will obviously enrich the vocabularies of the learner. Moreover we sometimes find that a phrasal verb has more than one meaning in any context. For examples:

1. One time Poppy got us a puppy, hoping Summer would get over her terror.
2. We couldn’t get over it. We wondered how many bricks it took to do that.

In the first sentence “get over” means overcome. And in the second sentence ‘get over’
means understand. We can find that one phrasal verb may have more than one meaning in
different context. Studying the meaning of phrasal verb and analyzing phrasal verb that
has more than one meaning are an interesting case for the writer to analyze since the
writer read one student’s thesis that took this topic in her thesis. She is Fatimah Hanna
Hsb (Reg No 960705016) and the title of her thesis is “An Analysis Of Phrasal Verbs
Used In Bill Manhoff’s Play The Owl And The Pussy Cat”. As it is stated in her
suggestions, whoever interested in analyzing Phrasal Verb, he/she can do further analyses
in more detail then she has done. And in this opportunity, the writer tries to analyze the
same topic, Phrasal Verb, in her thesis.

Conversation and Fictions use Phrasal verbs much more frequently than news and
academic prose do (Biber, Conrad, and Leech 2002:128). In analyzing Phrasal verb, the
writer pays attention to Fiction. One kind of fiction is novel. Here, the writer tries to
analyze the kinds and meaning of phrasal verb in the “Jodi Picoult”s novel “My Sister’s
Keeper”. The writer chooses this novel because this novel is one of the bestseller in New
York Times and is written by a bestselling author, Jodi Picoult.

1.2 Problem of the Analysis

In this analysis, there are some questions or problems that needed to be answered.

These questions are:
1. What is the meaning of phrasal verbs found in Jodi Picoult’s novel “My Sister’s Keeper”?  
2. What phrasal verbs have more than one meaning found in Jodi Picoult’s novel “My Sister’s Keeper”?  
3. Which particle is dominantly used in Jodi Picoult’s novel “My Sister’s Keeper” in order to know whether the particle used can be related with the title.

1.3 Objectives of the Analysis

By doing this analysis the writer wants to achieve some objectives stated as follows:

1. To identify the meaning of phrasal verbs in Jodi Picoult’s novel “My Sister’s Keeper”, whether they are literal or idiomatic meaning.
2. To get the phrasal verbs found in Jodi Picoult’s novel “My Sister’s Keeper” which have more than one meaning.
3. To find the most dominant particle used in Jodi Picoult’s novel “My Sister’s Keeper” in order to know whether the particle used can be related with the title.

1.4 Scope of the Analysis

In analyzing the problems, some aspects can be discussed. But in this thesis the writer makes a limitation to the analysis. Here, the writer only focuses on the analysis of the use of phrasal verbs found in Jodi Picoult’s novel “My Sister’s Keeper”. This analysis deals with the meaning, kinds of phrasal verbs and frequency of particles used.