1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is a communication tool for people, because with language people can inform many things and express what they want to show of their feeling. By using language someone could make statements, convey facts and knowledge, explain or report something, and keep social relations among the language user.

It is essentially important to know what language is and why and how we should learn a particular language. There are many languages in the world and English is one of these languages.

Language also is a matter of common knowledge, is the medium of communication through which we express our ideas, feelings and thoughts to our fellow people. Pike (1975) says that for the structuralism, language is continuous segmental speech used as tool of communication. Language plays important role in every aspect of human being in term of communication. Therefore, there is no activity done without language such as: communicating, conveying, or exchanging ideas one and other.

These indicate that by means of language, people can express their ideas, feeling, information, and message through communication. Languages are different between one region with another; each of them is different in grammar, not only in writing but also speaking.

Grammar is a body of rules specifying how meanings create in English. Veit (1986:6) states that grammar is a person’s subconscious language
knowledge. To be a good sentence in English we have to know the grammar because it is one of the basic elements in English. To make a good and correct writing, we should use correct grammar. Some terms included in grammar are part of speech. Frank (1972:1) states that words can be classified into eight parts of speech such as noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, conjunction, preposition, and interjection.

Talking about grammar we have talk about the structure, especially modals. Modals are a type of auxiliary verb that is used to indicate modality that is, possibility, ability, permission, polite request, and obligation.

Biber (2002:174) states that there are nine modal. As their name suggests, they are largely concerned with expressing ‘modality’, such as possibility, necessity, prediction, and volition. The modals are: can, could, may, might, must, will, would, shall and should. Each modal in the lower row is historically the past tense of will, can to could, shall to should, may to might but must has no matching historical past tense.

In practice the modals can be regarded as invariable functions words, with no inflections such as –ing and –ed. The modals will and would have contracted forms (‘ll and ‘ed), and most modals have a contracted negative form ending in n’t, such wouldn’t. Modals occur as the first verb in a clause, and are followed by the base form of another verb, usually the main verb.

The writer used this novel because it is most found the modals. Besides that, to find out modals used n dominant modals of each sentences that finding in this novel.
1.2 The Problem of the Study

The problems of the study are:

1) What are the modals used in Philip Margolin’s The Associate?

2) What are the functions of the modals in Philip Margolin’s The Associate?

3) What are the dominant modals in Philip Margolin’s The Associate?

1.3 The Scope of the Study

This study is focused on modals, limit the analysis based on modals used and functions in the novel.

1.4 The Purpose of the Study

The purposes of the study are:

1) To find out the modals used in Philip Margolin’s The Associate.

2) To find out the functions of modals in Philip Margolin’s The Associate.

3) To find out the dominant of modals in Philip Margolin’s The Associate.

1.5 Reasons for Choosing This Topic

To describe about what are the modals used and dominant in this novel.

1.6 Methods of Research

In writing this paper, the writer used the method of library research by reading, learning some books, collect all the information from books, internet and the data from novel. To get the dominant modals used in the novel, the writer following formula the Junaidi and Suwono’s (2004:40).
The formula:

\[ X = \frac{Y}{N} \times 100\% \]

X = frequency of modals

Y = number of modals obtained based on their kinds

N = total of modals