CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Basically, a clause is the central processing unit in the lexico-grammar in the specific sense that it is in the clause that meanings of different kinds are mapped into an integrated grammatical structure (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004:10). It is known that a clause has contained a complete unit of grammatical structure in which the meaning of the message is able to be acquired.

Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) views a clause as the highest unit of grammar and if there is a group of words consisting of two or more clauses, then it is called as a clause complex. Clause complexes are not limited to two clauses. They can be extended to more clauses, both in written and spoken discourse. Regarding to clause complex and its relation to meaning, Halliday (1985:193) states “we shall interpret the relations between clauses in terms of logical component of the linguistic system: the functional-semantic relations that make up the logic of natural language”. It concludes that a clause complex should have a cohesive unit in which there is a logical relation regarding to a semantic view mentioned as logical semantic relation.

The study of taxis and logical semantic systems relates to the term of metafunction. This metafunction is divided into ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning and textual meaning. However, taxis and logical semantic systems belong to the ideational meaning. The ideational meaning covers not only the logical function but also the experiential function. This research paper limits itself to the analysis of
logical function. Those are taxis and logical semantic systems between clauses in a clause complex.

Clause complexity is related to inter-clausal relations (logico-semantic relation), coordination (parataxis) and subordination (hypotaxis) (Matthiessen & Thompson, 1988:275-329). These three meaning relations are main points of studying a clause complex proposed by many linguists. Gerot & Wignell (1994:89) outline that a clause complex is a sequence of processes which are logically connected. These processes are verbs linked between clauses. The clauses can be combined through one of two logico-semantic relations: expansion or projection. Expansion links processes by providing additional information. It involves three types of relationship: elaboration, extension, and enhancement while projection links clauses by having one process projected another either by quoting or reporting. Both meanings (ideas) and wordings (locutions) can be projected. This projection closely relates to the system of transitivity or a clause as a representation.

Gerot & Wignell (1994:92) also argue that expansion and projection combine with systems of interdependence, or taxis, to make up the systems for joining clauses. This taxis is divided into two kinds of relationship: parataxis and hypotaxis. Parataxis is a logical interdependency between clauses where the interdependences are of equal status meanwhile hypotaxis is logical interdependency between clauses where the independences are of unequal status (Halliday, 1994:216). In this regard, logical semantic relation focuses on the relationship: causality and projection of clauses, and taxis: parataxis and hypotaxis focuses on the interdependency and equality of clauses but both taxis and logical semantic relation are relatable.

Regarding to the study, the analysis of logical semantic relation is presented on the media reports or news. Charnley (1975) states that news is a timely report of
facts or opinions that holds interest of importance, or both for a considerable number of people. This news is a product of journalism. Journalists are constantly faced with problems of reporting facts and opinions. They must be able to distinguish between them. This is important in both gathering and writing news. It affects how it deals with anything it is told and also how it passes the information on to readers or listeners (Henshall & Ingram, 1991).

The logical semantic relation of a clause complex brings some problems. These problems relate to the facts and opinions contained in newspaper texts. Based on a preliminary observation, there is a different distribution of logical semantic relation between articles of Malaysian newspaper and Indonesian newspaper reporting about AirAsia QZ8501 accident. A Malaysia’s New Straits Times’ article Indonesia naval captain says may have located missing plane tail’s section shows more hypotactic locution of projection type relation rather than the other types. This relation is shown by a verbal process say connecting an independent clause and a dependent clause. For instance, in a clause complex Singapore’s civil aviation authority and its Changi Airport Group said AirAsia has the necessary approvals to operate a daily flight between Surabaya and Singapore, hypotactic locution is identified from the verbal process said. On the other hand, an Indonesia’s The Jakarta Post’s article AirAsia tail section located, blackbox still missing shows more hypotactic elaboration of expansion type compared to other type relations. This relation is marked by a non-restrictive relative clause in a clause complex. For instance, in a clause complex the second priority zone, which is 10 by 10 nautical miles in size, is outside the initial search area, the hypotactic relation is marked by a word which of non-restrictive relative clause preceded by a comma. This difference between two articles leads the initial observation step up to a further research to see
the description of logical semantic relation both newspaper texts. However, it is commonly but unrestrictedly known that the logical semantic relation technically relate to the facts and opinions in newspaper texts. The facts tend to be expanded or elaborated in experiential information using expansion type. Otherwise, the opinions are commonly argumentations and realized in reported speeches using projection type of logical semantic relation.

So, this study is important to see the portion of facts and opinions in both newspaper texts and to see the grammatical construction of messages which are realized in clause complexes. However, if this logical semantic is not figured out well, the problem will go to the practical issue that the readers will not understand how to distinguish the facts and opinions in newspaper texts. On the other hand, the writers or the editors of the news will find difficulty to produce good works through constructing sentences regarding to logical semantic relation.

1.2. Problem of the Study

By considering the main focus and the whole elements of this research, the study answers the following questions:

1. What type of taxis and logical semantic systems does appear in both Indonesian and Malaysian newspapers about AirAsia QZ8501 accident?

2. How is the dominant type of taxis and logical semantic systems interpreted in both Indonesian and Malaysian newspapers about AirAsia QZ8501 accident?
1.3. Objective of the Study

The study serves the following objectives:

1. To describe type of taxis and logical semantic systems appears in both Indonesian and Malaysian newspapers about AirAsia QZ8501 accident?

2. To describe how the type of taxis and logical semantic systems is interpreted in both Indonesian and Malaysian newspapers about AirAsia QZ8501 accident?

1.4. Scope of the Study

This research primarily focuses on two fundamental relationships of logical semantic relation: expansion and projection. Since this relationship closely relates to the systems of interdependence, taxis relation is also elucidated within the analysis.

The scope of the study applied is based on the paradigm made by Gerot & Wignell (1994:92-93). The choices involved in the system network are summarized as follows:
Figure 1. System Network of Clause Complex (Halliday 1985; Gerot & Wignell, 1994:93)

The network system explains a paradigm at which expansion and projection combined and cross-classified with taxis or interdependence systems, it is:

Figure 2. Paradigm of Taxis and Logical Semantic Systems (Halliday 1985; Gerot & Wignell, 1993:93-95)
1.5. Significance of the Study

Over the objectives of the study realized as the visible outcomes, this research is theoretically expected to be useful and be significant that this analysis may help and support a study of logical semantic relation of clause complexes in the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). This research is also expected to give a deeper understanding to everyone who wants to learn about clause complexes.

Practically, this study will become a reference for students in writing a paper on logical semantic relation. Furthermore, this study will give significant contribution and guidance for journalists or media workers to write their reports considering the logical semantic relation and its interdependence. Thus, their reports will elaborate information or facts and project opinions.