CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. Linguistics analyzes human language as a system for relating sounds and meaning. It solves any problem relating to language. One of the problems is about sentence. Sentence is a group of words which is usually a grammatically complete statement tied together and conveys an idea, event or description. A sentence can include words grouped meaningfully to express a statement, question, exclamation, request, command or suggestion.

There are four different sentences types according to the number of clauses they contain: simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex. A simple sentence has the most basic elements that make it a sentence: a subject, a verb, and a completed thought. It has only one clause. Example of the simple sentence: Henny waited for the train. Henny is the subject and waited is the verb.

A compound sentence refers to a sentence made up of two independent clauses (or complete sentences) connected to one another with a coordinating conjunction. A coordinating conjunction is a word that glues words, phrases and clauses together. The coordinating conjunctions are easy to remember if you think of FAN BOYS.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{for} & \quad \text{but} \\
\text{and} & \quad \text{or}
\end{align*}
\]
An example of compound sentence: *Henny waited for the train, but the train was late.*

Complex contains an independent clause plus one or more dependent clauses. A dependent clause starts with a subordinating conjunction. Examples: *that, because, while, although, where, if.* For example: *I don't like dogs that bark at me when I go past.*

A compound-complex sentence contains three or more clauses at least two independent clauses and one subordinate clause. Example: I don’t like dogs, and my sister doesn’t like cats because they make her sneeze.

Syntax, which is studied in English major, deals with sentences, clauses, or clauses. It is important to readers to know why we study syntax is because it enables human beings to compose complex messages. Miller (2002) defined “syntax has to do with how words are put together to build phrases, and with how phrases are put together to build clauses or bigger phrases, and with how clauses are put together to build sentences.” The sentences structure are placed under the former heading and so are the types of substitutions (Chomsky 1965:141).

Sentences structure in syntax can be portrayed in two ways; constituent-structure and tree diagram. Constituent-structure is a formal representation of the grammatical structure of a sentence in terms of its individual constituents. While tree diagrams are the other way of graphically representing the sentence structure. Syntax and tree
diagrams are exist in the two different worlds. Wayne (2009) said that syntax is an important part of language and is usually difficult to grasp, then it is the tree diagrams which will be useful to make linguists understand the different types of sentence structure in a language.

As written language, novel has been very popular. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid : The Last Straw* is a novel written by American author and cartoonist Jeff Kinney, the third book in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. Diary of a Wimpy Kid has won an award in 2010 as the favorite book in Kids’ Choice Awards, USA. Since the release of the online version in 2004, the books have gained immense popularity, critical acclaim, and commercial success worldwide. For example, Diary of a Wimpy Kid was well received from the Princeton Review, Gold Card Association, The Dallas News, The TRR Editors, The NW Press, and The JJ Printing Company. As of February 2008, it has been purchased one million times.

Writing that contains mostly short, simple sentences can be uninteresting or even irritating to read. Writing that consist mostly long, complex sentence is usually difficult to understand. Good writers, therefore, use a variety of sentence types. They also occasionally start complex (or compound-complex) sentence with the dependent clause and not the independent clause (http://esl.fis.edu/learners/advice/syntax.htm). Someone can add interest to his/her prose by varying types of sentences you use in an essay (Grinnel college writing lab).

Based on the what the writer explained above the writer is interested in analyzing the novel according to its sentence structure. Therefore, the writer chooses this thesis

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entitled ANALYSIS OF SENTENCE STRUCTURE ON KINNEY’S DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LAST STRAW

Examples:

1. Dad didn’t even bother fighting it because he knew he wasn’t getting out of it, either. (Kinney 2009:205)

   a. Dad did not even bother fighting it (independent clause)

   b. Because he knew (dependent clause)

   c. He was not getting out of it (dependent clause)

1.2. The Scope of Study

While syntax discusses so many aspects that it is impossible to the writer to analyze it all. The writer realizes the knowledge is still limited. Thus, the main scope of this thesis is analyzing complex sentence that portrayed in tree diagram found in Kinney’s Diary of A Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw
1.3. Problem of the Study

Based on the background, the researcher tries to answer some questions below:

1. How many complex sentences are found in the novel?
2. How are complex sentences realized in tree diagram?
3. What type of clauses is the most dominant forming complex sentences in the novel?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problem, the objectives of the analysis are:

1. To find out complex sentences in the novel.
2. To realize complex sentences in the tree diagram.
3. To find out the most dominant clause in complex sentences.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This thesis hopefully gives clear information and understanding dealing with syntax. The writer divides into two significances, they are theoretical and practical. Theoretically, hopefully, this thesis could be useful to enhance study of syntax, especially about sentence structure. While practical purpose is dedicated to students of English Department who want to finish their study by analysing syntax. They can also use this thesis as one of the references.