

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Studies on text types have been focused on identifying similarities and differences in textual features of different text types. Text types represent the most common ways in which language is structured to achieve a particular purpose. Crimmon (1984:23) defines a purpose is the overall design that governs what writers do in their writing. So, when writers have determined their purpose, they know what kind of information they need, how they want to organize and develop their information and why they think it is important. And on the other hand, purpose will determine which strategy or strategies the writers need to impose on their information in order to sharpen and strengthen their writing. For example, if the writer wants to inform the readers how to make a delicious cheese cake, his/her dominant strategy will be procedure, while if his/her purpose demonstrate a romance story, his/her dominant strategy will be narrative.

To meet the writer's purpose of communicating the message he or she is writing, the written texts are composed and arranged in certain ways. This means, texts with different purposes will be organized in different ways. Each text types then will show specific characteristics. Langan (2005) said that each pattern of the text has its own internal logic and provides its own special strategies for imposing order on the writer's idea. Thus, when constructing a text, a writer has to make choices about the words to be used and how these words will be put together. The choice of words

will depend on the purpose and context of the text. Moreover, to achieve his/her goals, the writers have to use a common strategy in order to help the readers understand the text. A narrative for example, will be organized chronologically. A narrative text such as short story, novel and folk tales are used to tell us about human experiences in imaginative way. Their purpose is to make the readers think, laugh, cry, or be entertained. It is common for this type of texts to have such textual characteristics as events being organized in chronological order, the introduction of names or characters in the story, and order of serial events or plot in certain organization. A narrative text may show these features in some linguistic markers to signal movements of events from one phase to another. To signal such a purpose, a writer usually uses conjunctions such as *and*, *then*, *after*, and other forms indicating movement in time, as shown in the following text.

(1) **Along time ago** there was a man **and** his wife whose names were Rakian **and** Sumundok. On the day **when** they married many others **also** had married **and** each couple had at least two children, **but** Rakian **and** Sumundok had none, **though** Sumundok was expecting a child. Rakian fell ill, **and** he said to his wife, “Perhaps I shall die before I see my child, **but** you must bring him up well, for we are not wanting in possessions.” **Then** Rakian died **and after** a time Sumundok gave birth to a male child, **and** she said to it, “I will give you a name; your name is Ginas, **but** I will not bring you up, I will put you in a box.” **So** Sumundok put the child into a box, **and after** two or three months she went to look at it **and** found that it had grown **and** could walk. (Thomas A. Green’s *The Greenwood Library of the World Folktales*, Volume Two)

Another type of text, such as factual text and scientific text, be it in the forms of journal, thesis, articles, and even popular scientific texts such as encyclopedia, are used to tell readers about present information or ideas and the purpose of this text is to inform, instruct, educate or persuade the readers. In such a type of text, it is more

likely that the text is organized in a logical order of ideas and arguments, signalled by such linguistic items as *because*, *thus*, and other items indicating the function, as shown in the following text.

(2) One can classify bilinguals in two groups. Spolsky wrote on bilingualism in *Sociolinguistics* (1998) (...) *compound bilinguals whose two language were assumed to be closely connected, because one language had been learned after another.* (Spolsky 1998:48). A different term used in opposite to compound is co-ordinate. Co-ordinate bilinguals, again from Spolsky, are supposed to have learned the two languages separately (48). **Thus** L1 and L2 are treated by that person as two different entities. (*Omniglot the Language Encyclopedia Online*)

Despite the differences, both of these texts also have similarities. Both texts are organized to serve their specific purposes. The narrative text is telling a story in a sequence of events, while the scientific text is presenting information in a logical order. Interestingly, each purpose is signalled in the text with a set of function words to show how the writers' ideas are linked to one another. These function words are known as transition signals or transitions.

Basically, transition signals provide the readers with directions for how to place together the writers' ideas into logically coherent argument. Transitions are not just verbal decorations that embellish their writing better. They are words with particular way in their writers' idea. Kane (2000:70) states that transitions link a paragraph to what has immediately preceded it. They occur at or near the beginning of the new paragraph because it represents a turn of thought, needing to be linked to what has gone before. Transitions act like railroad switches, smoothing and easing the turn from one track to another. Hence, it is clear that transition signals will help the writers achieve their goals by establishing logical connection between words, phrases,

sentences or even paragraphs. Furthermore, transitions also tell the readers what to do with the information that the writers present to the readers. They function as sign that tell the readers how to think about.

The present study aimed at examining transition signals in different text types. There are many kinds of transitional signals are employed by some authors. According to Oshima and Hougue (1998:44) transitional signals can be divided into three groups, namely sentence connectors, clause connectors and a mixed group called others, while Kirszner and Mandell (1978:93) arrange some functions of transition signals in a sentence, namely as a time, a contrast, a cause and effect, as a general to specific, an addition, a reference, a summary and an attitude.

Specifically, this study focuses on the kinds and functions of transition signals in narrative and popular scientific texts. For the purpose of the study, the data sources are taken from articles in *Omniglot the Language Encyclopedia Online* for the popular scientific texts, and selected folktales from Thomas A. Green's *The Greenwood Library of the World Folktales*, Volume Two, for the narrative texts. The data sources are selected based on the consideration that these two types of texts have different styles in writing and contain a number of transition signals. It will be interesting to analyze the use of the transition signals in the articles and in the folktales. This study is also expected that it can help English readers to improve their English skill, especially in writing.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the problem statements as follows:

1. What are the types and functions of transition signals used in Thomas A. Green's *The Greenwood Library of the World Folktales, Volume Two*?
2. What are the types and functions of transition signals used in articles *Omniglot the Language Encyclopedia Online*?
3. What are the similarities and differences of the types and functions of transition signals that are used in the texts from Thomas A. Green's *The Greenwood Library of the World Folktales, Volume Two* and *Omniglot the Language Encyclopedia Online*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

After identifying the problem statements, the writer wants to find out:

1. the types and functions of transition signals used in Thomas A. Green's *The Greenwood Library of the World Folktales, Volume Two*.
2. the types and functions of transition signals used in articles of *Omniglot the Language Encyclopedia Online*.
3. the similarities and differences of the types and functions of transition signals that are used in the texts from Thomas A. Green's *The Greenwood Library of the World Folktales, Volume Two* and *Omniglot the Language Encyclopedia Online*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study on the types and functions of transition signals in different text types, i.e. narrative and popular scientific texts, contribute to the knowledge on textual features of texts and can be useful for English learners, especially to those who want to study about types and functions of transition signals in different text types.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is types and functions of transition signals in two text types, namely, narrative and popular scientific texts. The study, however, is limited in the kinds and amounts of data source, that the analysis is focused on the transition signals found in the articles from *Omniglot the Language Encyclopedia Online* and Thomas A. Green's *World Folktales*. With this limitation, generalization that is made from the study is applied to the two groups of data source.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction that consists of the background of the study, statements of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and organizational of the study. The second chapter is the review of related literature that contains a theory used by the writer to analyze the topic. The third chapter discusses the research method. The fourth chapter is the result of analysis and finding of the data and the last chapter is the conclusion of the study.