CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents introduction of study consisting of background of the study, research question, research objectives, significance of the research, scope and limitations, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Cook's theory of formal links reinforces the unity of the discourse. Some researchers already conducted researches about formal links, for instance: English reading text of examination (Kulsum, 2008), English translation text of Shahih Bukhari (Maharlika, 2010), and absolutely literary works like short story can be included. A short story is shorter than a novel, the authors sometimes make sentences with brevity and succinct form. Short story also gives difficult sentences, because it can be lyrical. That makes sentences difficult to understand. This present study intends to fill in this gap to make short story easier to understand.

Short story is one of literary works. It is a brief work of prose fiction, and most of the terms for analyzing the component elements, the types, and the various narrative techniques of the novel are applicable to the short story as well (Abrams, A Glossary of Literary Terms p:286). Short story is a piece of fiction that has a limited number of words, only a few characters and one theme. Short story is a kind of story shorter that a novel or a novelette. Characteristically

developing a single central theme and limited in scope and number of characters (Webster's New World College Dictionary).

Commonly, people who love reading fill their leisure time by reading a short story. Sometimes they need to learn to understand the text, because the language in a short story is not easy and simple. There are many possible interpretation of a text by different people in this world. In order to explain what exactly the meaning of the text is, we need to analyze the text. Sometimes we need to look at features inside the language or we can call it formal links that refers to facts inside language. We can do this through knowledge of our grammar in some text. In this case, the way we recognize whether sentences are correct or incorrect is different. Misunderstanding might occur in reading and comprehending some text since they have different way to recognize sentence whether is correct or incorrect.

In this study, the writer focused on monologue and dialogue which are regarded as the text of short story to avoid misunderstanding. A short story contains any information of formal links which are interesting to analyze. The writer used Guy Cook theory in 1994, Cook states that we can describe the two ways of approaching language as contextual, referring to facts outside language, and formal, referring to facts inside language. In approaching language is not easy as it looks. It is not simply a sequence of sentences or utterances (the form) by which a sender communicates a message to a receiver (the function) (Renkema, 1993). Contextual features are somewhere outside this physical realization of the language. Stretches of language treated only formally are referred to as text. The

formal link is a way of getting text hang together or has unity. "Formal link between sentences or clauses is known as cohesive devices", (Cook, 1989, p.14). "Analysis of cohesive links within a text gives us some insight into how writers structure what they want to say, and may be crucial factors in our judgments on whether something is well-written or not" (Yule, 1985, p.106). The writer is interested in choosing formal links because, it has considered helping the readers to be able to recognize correct and incorrect sentences whether the text is well-written or not. The kinds of formal links are; verb forms, parallelism, referring expressions, repetition and lexical chains, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction (Cook, 1989). Formal links can help well in communication and language learning. Formal links are needed in order to enable the reader to comprehend the meaning of the text.

In this study, the writer is interested in choosing the Willa Cather's *Double Birthday* as his source of data. This short story is one of the best American short stories. Willa Cather has a unique trick in writing short story. She uses brilliant details and human understanding in one tidy paragraph. So many short stories made by Cather, but the writer takes one of them the success one that is *Double Birthday* 1929. The writer considers the short story worth analyzing because it contains many formal links existing in the text. The writer has some reasons to choose this text. There are many formal links underlying in each paragraph of the text.

In the same field of discourse, the writer analyzes formal link by Guy Cook's theory. This study is different from the previous studies, the previous

studies using English Translation of Shahih Bukhari and English Reading Texts of National Examination of Senior High School (2007 edition) as their object research. The first is Ummi Kulsum from State of Islamic University Malang also "Study of Formal Links used in English Reading Texts of National Examination of Senior High School (2007 edition)" (2008) and the second is Nurma Maharlika from State of Islamic University Malang "An Analysis of Formal Links Used in the English Translation of Shahih Bukhari" (2010).

In both previous studies, the first writer focuses on analyzing formal links in English reading section of National Examination 2007 edition. She considers choosing the text of reading of National Examination because she thinks it is important to understand the reading text to help them who held a National Examination. National Examination is a test that is given for students of Senior High School before they pass from the school which is held once a year. The formal links were found included verb form, parallelism, referring expression, repetition, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction that is commonly used in the English reading Text of National Examination of senior High School (2007 edition). She also found the functions of formal links in them.

The second writer chooses the English Translation of Shahih Bukhari because she thinks that there are Arabic words that cannot be translated into English. They usually explain the difficult verses of holy Qur'an to be easier to understand, especially, in Chapter 8 that explains about prayer. There are many variations of formal links than those in other chapters. The researcher thinks that it is very important to study formal links in the written text especially in the

English translation of Shahih Bukhari. Shahih Bukhari consists of hadiths which are collected by Al-Bukhari.

In the present study, the writer chooses the short story because the writer has an experience of stumbling in problems in understanding literary works such as short story and some students sometimes cannot understand what the author means in the short story. Considering to the reason above, the writer needs to strengthen the importance of this study which discusses formal links in the "Double Birthday" short story.

In conclusion, the writer describes the sentences in Willa Cather's *Double Birthday* through Cook's theory of formal links. Then, the writer identifies it using formal link theory to know what the functions in each kind of formal link in Willa Cather's *Double Birthday*.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on background of the study, there are problems related to the study, which leads to the following research question:

- 1. What are the formal links used in Willa Cather's *Double Birthday*?
- 2. What are the functions of formal links used in Willa Cather's *Double Birthday*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study is to find out the answer from the following problems:

- To describe the kinds of formal links used in Willa Cather's *Double Birthday*.
- 2. To explain the function of formal links in Willa Cather's *Double Birthday*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is the writer wants to discover the use of formal links in Willa Cather's *Double Birthday*. The writer hopes to get some advantages and well understanding of language use in a short story text. By knowing formal links, the writer is able to figure out the use of formal links in plain language and share the ideas of the short story to be easier to understand. And, the writer hopes this study may be a reference for the readers to gain knowledge about formal links especially students of State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya and the other English Department. The writer hopes this study might get useful in understanding texts and make a good text.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is an approach in a language with the focus on formal links that found in Willa Cather's *Double Birthday*. This writer limits on theory formal links by Cook (1994). The writer limits the data of the kinds of formal links and function that used in the Willa Cather's *Double Birthday*.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

Formal Link is a link that can help understand and comprehend texts, from inside the language. Cook states that formal link is referring to facts inside language.

Willa Cather is one of the most important American novelists of the first half of the twentieth century, critics have increasingly identified Cather as a canonical American writer, the peer of authors like Hemingway, Faulkner and Wharton (The Willa Cather Foundation).

Double Birthday is a short story by Willa Cather. It was first published February 1929. This short story is one of the best American short stories of the Century.