

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

Language is a tool that is used by someone to communicate with other people. By using the language, someone can show the intention, emotion, idea and desires. In learning English, people know the four components such as reading, listening, writing and speaking are the basic skills that used and understand by the users of language. Generally, the conversation will be running well if the sentences are clear and utter fluently. However, if in the conversation or essay, there are unfamiliar or weird English especially in choice of combination of words, the misunderstood and ambiguity will happen to the person who knows the appropriate combination words or the native speakers themselves. As stated by Attar (2013) that one of the most difficult task of English Foreign Language students' are about picking the appropriate word in writing an assignment, but if in a conversation or text people use a good language with good choice of words, the message will be delivered well .

Discussing about components of language, there are many subjects on it, one of them is the term “collocation”. McCarthy and O'Dell (2014) stated that collocation is a combination of word that consist of two words or more which is used together. Nattinger and DeCarrico (1992:21) outline collocations as “strings of words that appear to have sure ‘mutual expectancy’, or a greater-

than-chance probability that they will co-occur in any textual content. For instances :

1. *Family tree* , not a ~~*family hierarchy*~~. In the family, the choice of words of showing the diagram is family tree. In this case, the word tree collocates with family.

2. Close friend, not a ~~near~~-friend. In this case, close does not mean *not open* but an explanation of a relationship, and near means position. Close and near have the same meaning but the word “friend“ collocates to close, not with near.

3. Junk food, not a ~~rubbish~~ food. Although junk and rubbish have the similar meaning but in this case, the word *junk* collocates to food, not with rubbish.

Also the definition of collocation is given by McCarthy and O'Dell (2005) that is as “a set of words that commonly occur together”. Some authors claim collocations as a group of words that have ‘mutual expectancy’ (Jackson, 2007, p.106). It means that words have the capacity to foresee the probability of the occasion of another word. According to Ghazala (2006), collocations are the words that are normally found close to different words, and the word that goes together in one sentence or is ‘co-located’ with one another. From those definitions, the researcher conclude the collocation is actually only one among other terms for similar concept : word combination or two words which are usually go along, these combinations will just sound “right” to native

English speakers who use them all the time. On the other hand, other combinations by some people who are not a native English speaker often do a mistake, it may be unnatural, weird, funny or cannot be understood and just sound “wrong” and it is known as collocation clash or collocation error.

As one of the international test to measure one’s ability in English, IELTS test is widely used nowadays. It is used from many different purposes such as for gaining admission to the university in English Speaking Country, for applying a scholarship, for applying for a job or for migrating to English speaking country. The IELTS test has the four skills, namely speaking, listening, reading and writing. Among the four skills, test takers tend to get lower score in writing. That is one of the reasons why the researcher is interested in analyzing IELTS test takers writing test.

One of the problems faced by non-native language speakers in writing is that writing a correct collocation. The problem occur because one word may collocate with different words in different language. This is one of the reasons why researcher wants to analyse collocation in English Writing Task 1 in IELTS simulation is to know how good the students and people who join the test as not a native speaker of English in choosing of combination words or using collocation. Because of that, the use of collocation influences the score of IELTS.

1.2 Research Question

This research aims at answering the following research questions:

1. What types of Lexical Collocation are found in IELTS Simulation Writing Task 1?
2. What are the collocation clashes found in IELTS Simulation Writing Task 1?
3. What are the causes of collocation clash found in IELTS Simulation Writing Task 1?

1.3 Purpose of The Research

Based on the previous problems above, the researcher would like to answer the aims of the study, as follows:

1. To find out the lexical collocation found in IELTS Simulation Writing Task 1
2. To find out the collocation clash found IELTS Simulation Writing Task 1
3. To discover the causes of collocation clash found in IELTS Simulation Writing Task 1

1.4 Limitation of The Research

The discussion of collocation is quite broad. In this research, the researcher limit collocation used by the test takers of IELTS simulation writing. IELTS Writing consists of two Task, Task 1 in which test-takers are required to describe table, chart, diagram and map, while task 2 asks students to write a short essay based of the question given. Looking more closely at IELTS writing Task 1, the question may be required by test takers to write by using the language expression to describe trend (increase, decrease and fluctuation), comparison, or using the language to describe process. In this research, the writer limits only on the two types of Task 1, namely the tasks which requires the test-takers to use language to *describe trend* and to *describe comparison*

1.5 Significance of The Research

This research will bring some significant impacts especially for the improvement of students' writing. By knowing which type of collocation students tend to make mistake, both students and teachers can focus more on this. In general, it will help a lot of the test takers who want to improve their score in writing. With good score of IELTS students may be granted a lot of opportunities, especially in this global world.

