CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Problems

Linguistics is a scientific study of human language, linguistics is very wide because it doesn't only study about one language but many human languages. Linguistics is used to uncover general principles underlying human language and to provide reliable descriptions of individual language.

Linguistics can be divided into phonetic (the study of human speech sound), morphology (the formation and composition of words), phonology (study of what sounds a language has and how these sounds combine to form words), syntax (study of words combined into sentences), semantics (study of meaning).

One of the semantics phenomenon is aspect. Aspect is closely associated with tense, but it is conceptually distinct from tense. Aspects are different ways of viewing temporal constituency of a situation (Comrie, 1976: 3) Generally aspect is understood as the non deictic structure of an event, as compared to tense (Frawley, 1992: 295). Related to this, there are some types of aspect such as: six major aspects and five minor aspects.

For example:

a. John ran (Frawley, 1992:295).

b. John was running (Frawley, 1992:295).

Both expressions represent the same active motion event, 'run' in the past tense but they differ in the way that event is put together within the past time frame. Example (a) simply expresses the motion event as a completed act. In (b), however, the event is necessarily extended or stretched into a continuous event, even though it is still relegated to the past. Examples (a) and (b) differ not on their temporal framework (their event properties), but on their patterns within their temporal frames (their aspectual properties). Aspect thus operates on an event structure like mathematical procedure that adds properties to basic expressions to derive new ones. In a sense, *was running* is a semantic equation run + extension (Frawley, 1992:295)

From the explanation above, we know that learning about linguistic semantic is not easy as we think, especially Aspect in English because we have to concentrate on basic form and meaning of the sentences. Based on the examples and its explanation in above, I am interested in analyzing aspect in English.

1.2 Scope of Discussions

Based on the problems which are mentioned in my background above, it seems that aspect of English has many interesting problems to be discussed. The scope of problem that may be arisen includes:

1. What kinds of aspect are found in the The Casual Vacancy novel by J.K. Rowling?

2. What are the characteristics of each aspect?

1.3 Aims

In writing this paper, there are three aims to be achieved. Those three aims are general aim, specific aim, and academic aim. In general this paper is aimed to increase the knowledge in English and also to develop my ability and skill in doing a research by applying the theory that I have got at English Department Faculty of Letters Warmadewa University.

Specifically, the aim of this paper is to analyze Aspect in English. It is important to do this research because we can know aspect markers in English. Beside the writer also tries to make the paper in good English.

Academically, the aim of this paper is also intended to fulfill one of the academic requirements in getting the S1 degree at the English Department Faculty of Letters, Warmadewa University.

1.4 Theoretical Basis

In every scientific writing needs theoretical basis in order to make it valid. Since this paper is considered to be scientific, this paper also needs theories to support the analysis. The main theory that I used in this paper is taken from Comrie in his book entitled *Aspect.* He stated that:

One of the semantic phenomenon is aspect. Aspect is closely associated with tense, but it is conceptually distinct from tense. Aspects are different ways of viewing temporal constituency of a situation (Comrie, 1976: 3)

The supporting theory that I used in this paper is taken from Frawley in his book entitled *Semantic Linguistics.* He stated that :

Aspect is the way that an event is distributed through the time frame (Frawley,1992:295)

1.5 Method of Research

Method of research gives us some guidance to do research and understand the object which is observed. Method of research is a way which is used to get a purpose. This is related to data source, data collection, and data analysis.

The data of this research are taken from the novel The Casual Vacancy that has a relation to the topic of this research. In collecting the data I use deservation method. The first thing I did in data collection was reading the data source in English edition, selected the data and made a note of data, then I quoted the sentences which have relationship to the topic. The data that had been collected were analyzed based on the theory that is related to the topic that is observed. And then after it had already been done, the writer gave the comment on the problem found in the data.