# CHAPTER ONE

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of the Study

It is undeniable that language holds an important role in communication. Language which is written or spoken can communicate more than what we acquire explicitly. People sometimes acquire the text given explicitly because it is expressed literally and unambiguously in a well-formed sequence of words. However, there would be something implicit behind the text given, something that must be inferred from the sentence, and it is implicit in meaning and context of the utterance (Kirsh).

In modern linguistics, a text can be both written and spoken. The text itself includes any types of utterances such as a television interview, a conversation, and many more. It is true that a *text* is everything that is meaningful in a particular situation: "By text, then, we understand a continuous process of semantic choice" (Halliday 137). We can show the certain meanings and aspects which cannot be understood only by syntactic analysis of sentences, and show the impacts of the grammatical choices that the speaker makes to convey meaning within his utterances.

Discourse analysis is the study of language in use, dealing with both text and context (Laura 17). It clearly emphasizes that the most important thing in doing a discourse analysis is not only to know what is in the text but also to discover what is not in the text. By discovering this matter, we can know exactly what the writer aims to convey or what the speaker really means.

One of the texts that can be analyzed by using instruments of Discourse Analysis is a speech. I am interested in a speech because it does not only offer some interesting matters to analyze but include the speaker's personal opinions about them. Thus, for this thesis, I choose to analyze Barack Obama's speech in his visit to Jakarta, in November 10, 2010. He addresses three main topics in his speech: human progress – development, democracy, and religion. However, I am focusing only on the third part for I think religion is the biggest issue connected with the context at that time, as Barack Obama is on his way to repair the relation between the US and the Muslim World (Doyle).

By applying instruments of Discourse Analysis to Barack Obama's speech as the text to analyze and the context in which the text occurs, I would like to show what the speaker means behind the text. Furthermore, by looking at both the text and context, I would like to show how the speaker represents the self and other in the speech. In addition, considering that Indonesia has a big Muslim population, Barack Obama's visit is considered nothing more than to realize one of his efforts in repairing the relationship between the US and the Muslim World.

Having been interested in that issue, I decided that my topic is Analysis of Cohesive Devices and Transitivity analysis on the third part of Barack Obama's

speech in Indonesia. Cohesive devices which are divided into grammatical and lexical cohesion are some of the instruments that can be used in a discourse analysis. As Halliday and Hasan believe that the function of cohesion is to relate one part of a text to another part of the same text (Halliday and Hasan 1976), it helps the reader or the listener to get closer with its interpretation. Even by doing so, I assume that the analysis has not been completed yet because cohesion is only a part in dealing with representation of the text. For that reason, I use another method named transitivity to help me go further in analyzing this topic.

As transitivity is concerned with the clause exploring in its "who=does=what=to=whom, who/what=is=what/who, when, where, why, or how function" (Gerot and Wignell 52), it helps us to find out how people and things are represented in the speech. Since the three semantic categories -circumstances, processes, and participants- can "explain in a general way, how phenomena of the real world are represented as linguistic structures," (Gerot and Wignell 52), transitivity helps us in the process of getting to know both positive and negative representation in details.

By this thesis, I hope that people who read this can be encouraged to think critically in understanding a text so that people will find out that it is true that someone cannot have the final truth of his or her interpretation about a text just by taking the text given for granted without any efforts to go further beyond the text.

737 words

**1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In this thesis, I would like to discuss the following problems:

1. How does Barack Obama represent the self?

2. How does Barack Obama represent the other?

3. What are the linguistic instruments used to reveal the representations?

**1.3 Purpose of the Study**

1. To find out how Barack Obama represents the self.

2. To find out how Barack Obama represents the other.

3. To find out the linguistic instruments used to reveal the representation.

**1.4 Method of Research**

I began the research with browsing Barack Obama's full speech for my linguistic material from the Internet. Then, I found some theories which are both from the Internet and some books for analyzing the chosen text. The books used for analyzing the data are *Making Sense of Functional Grammar* and *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. Then I browsed for some further explanation related to the topic discussed on the Internet. Finally, I started doing the analysis and writing the research report.

**1.5 Organization of the Thesis**

     I divide the thesis into four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction which consists of five parts, Background of the Study, Statement of the Problems, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the theoretical framework which is the elaboration of some theories and approaches used in analyzing the text. Chapter Three contains the analysis of the text, and the last chapter is the Conclusion of the analysis. Then, I provide the Bibliography and Appendix at the end of the thesis.