CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. It contains background of the research, statement of problem, research objectives, research signification, definition of key term, and organization of writing.

1.1 Background of the Research

There is no thing which will always be still the same. By the time, everything will change. Sooner or later changes must be appear around us, no matter how it comes. One such thing that changes is language. It is one of many human products that will always change. It will not be static, because it is on path of constant change. If a language did not change, it calls as a dead language. According to Baugh and Cable (2002: 2), when a language ceases to change, it is called as a dead language. The changes are constantly going on in a living language can be most easily seen in the vocabularies. Classical Latin is the example of dead language because it has not changed for nearly 2,000 years.

However, the change of languages will not happen overnight. There is a long process that will change languages. Commonly the changes of languages affect pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. New words are created, old words are forgotten and still other change in meaning those are the results of changes. Booij (2005: 256-7) argues what does change when new words or meanings of words get established is the lexical norm of morphology and mind that language, not the system behind it. The main reason for changing the lexical norm of a language is that language users need expressions for new concepts, or new things.

The study of language changes is essential as it sheds light on earlier periods of human society. It provides information about the identity of people. Thus, language is a reflection of the realities of the people that lived in these societies. Moreover, language change tells us something about our own reality; it conveys what is in fashion and what is about to fall into disuse as regards language. Bauer (2007: 3) says that a language can also be viewed as a mental reality. It exists in the heads of people who speak it. Therefore, there is an assumption that its existence is caused of people's ability to learn languages in general and their practice in dealing with at least one particular language.

A way to accumulate understanding of how the language has developed throughout the course of history is to compare parallel texts that originate from different time periods. One such text is *The Canterbury Tales*, a short story that was written by Geoffrey Chaucer probably at the early of the 14th century. Robinson (1957: 1) argues that there is also no sure indication of how long Chaucer worked on the Canterbury collection. Reasons have been found for dating certain tales in 1393 or 1394, and no tale has been definitely proved to be later. It is a collection of over 20 stories written in Middle English period.

Middle English is period of early fundamental changes of English language. van Gelderen (2006: 111) says that Middle English is usually considered around 1150-1500. It is begun since the synthetic character of Old English starts to change. There are several changes that can be seen in the text of The Canterbury Tales. This short story is still famous until` Modern English period because it has contributed

many literary values. Moreover, it becomes an object of literary analysis in English department major.

There are many developments in Modern English. van Gelderen (2006: 206) indicates that around 1700 English becomes more recognizable for speakers of Modern English. The spelling is relatively stable and changes such as the GVS (Great Vowels Shifting) are nearing completion in many varieties. Nowadays The Canterbury Tales is written in Modern English. Easily it can be found on internet or in guide book of literary course. There are two same literary works that written in two different periods. The differences of both texts are showed by several aspects such as pronunciation, grammatical and vocabulary. Certainly text in Modern English looks easier to be understood than Middle English.

In this case researcher aims to compare and analyze both different texts by morphological analysis, therefore the object of this analysis is five words classes in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. The most appropriate theory to expand this analysis is morphology. Booij (2005: 17) indicates that one of the main functions of morphology is to expand the set of available words.

It can be concluded, the focus of this research is each words that has different forms and characteristics from both texts. Researcher focuses to five classes of words, they are nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs and also the word changes itself. Those are the focus of this research, it will be a comparative linguistics of Middle and Modern English texts by using morphological analysis.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the explanation above, the problems which appear in this comparative linguistics is about the historical changes and comparison of words from texts of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* which is written in two difference periods. It is written in the Middle English and the Modern English. For focusing on this research, the inquiry would be guided by the following general questions:

1. What are the word changes that occurred in the Modern and Middle English as in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*?

2. What are the similarities and differences of the Middle and Modern English words in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*?

1.3 Research Objective

The significance of this research can be seen by two signification of the research as following:

1. To know the word changes that occurred in the Middle and Modern English as in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales.*

2. To know the similarities and differences of the Middle and Modern English words in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

1.4 Research Signification

Academically, this research has purposes to show and tell about the historical language changes in English especially from Middle English to Modern English and how the process of its words transformation. It also proves the application of morphological analysis to the texts. By this research, researcher hopes students of English Department know more about history and development of English language especially in pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. Comparative Linguistics

Keraf (1990: 3) says that comparative linguistics is a branch of linguistics that tries to put the basis of understanding about development and relationship between languages in the world. It tries to find out the elements that effected the interrelationship of languages that historically has ever made a contact.

2. Middle English Words

Middle English Words are the words which are used in Middle English period. According to Baught and Cable (2002: 46) Middle English Words are drawn by the inflection, which has begun to break down toward the end of the Old English period. For examples are *eagen* to *eyen* and *sunu* to *sonne*.

3. Modern English Words

Mostly words in Modern English lost a final -e, it is the result of Great Vowel Shifting. Barber et al. (2009: 211) explains by about in the year 1700 is known as Modern English. The main changes in pronunciation that made up the Great Vowel Shift are all completed, at least in the south of England is the beginning of Modern English. For examples are *eyen* to eyes and *sonne* to son.

4. Morphology

Morphology is the most appropriate theory to analyze the words. Booij (2005: 17) indicates that one of the main functions of morphology is to expand the set of available words.

1.6 Organization of Writing

The first chapter presents the introduction of the research. It contains background of research, statement of problem, research objectives, research significance, definition of key terms, and organization of writing. The second chapter presents the theoretical foundation. It can review the theory that relate with the research. The third chapter shows methodology of the research. The researcher devotes to further explanation of the research method and stages of research. The fourth chapter is about data analysis. It shows the analysis of the data. This chapter focuses to compare and analyze nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs. The fifth method is suggestion and conclusion. In this chapter the research will get the point of the research.