CHAPTER III

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC

3.1 Preposition

The word ‘preposition’ comes from the Latin and Greek words which mean “to put before”. The name ‘preposition’ (pre + position) means “place before”. Preposition usually comes before another words, it means that preposition cannot and will not ever stand alone. If we put the preposition alone in a sentence, the sentence will not show any message. Preposition cannot be part of a sentence by itself (Zugun,2003: 45). It means that preposition always contained within a phrase or a group of word.

From the classification point of view, preposition is a member of the word classes or part of speech. From the function point of view, preposition is a word that shows the relationship between two words in a clause, phrase, or sentence.

Jim Miller (2002: 40) states:

> *“All nouns meet the criteria of occurring to the left of a verb in an active declarative clause, of occurring immediately to the right of a verb in an active declarative clause or of occurring to the right of a verb but preceded by a preposition.”*

In other words, preposition is a connector. It connects the words which usually act as a noun or pronoun and followed by another words. Preposition reflects that noun or pronoun in a sentence is related to the other word.

Most often, preposition shows relationships of direction, location, and time, but it shows other relationships also (*but*, *except*, *without* show a relationship of exclusion). These are most commonly used prepositions:

above	behind	for	since
about	below	from	to
across	beneath	in	toward
after	beside	inside	through
against	between	into	under
along	beyond	like	until
among	by	near	up
around	down	of	upon
at	during	off	with
before	except	on	within

Let us take a look in the application of the use of preposition in a sentence.

- Lucy likes to play at the park.

"At the park" is the prepositional phrase since it modifies where Lucy likes to play.

Other examples of prepositional phrase:

1. Jane is falling **to the floor**. (direction)
2. He bought a new house **after his marriage** (time)
3. Adam is sitting **beside his girlfriend**. (location)
4. They arrived at the restaurant **within an hour**. (time)

According to The Cambridge Grammar for English Language Teachers (Parrott, 2000), preposition is a "major problem" for learners, and it is confirmed by the analysis of Calico Journal has created in which prepositions account for 12% of the errors. The Journal tells that the most common preposition errrors are *in*, *of,* and *to*. Since this report has to do with preposition *to*, so *to* will be the focus on this subject.

3.2 *To* as Preposition

To as preposition can be defined as expressing motion in the direction of a particular location. In other words, we use *to* when expressing movement toward a place. For examples:

1. She is going **to the station.**
2. John and Lucy are driving **to the baseball game.**

to the station and *to the baseball game* are a prepositional phrase preceded by the preposition *to* and followed by the noun phrase *the station*, and *the baseball game* which tells where the subject is going or directing to.

Besides expressing movement, *to* as preposition also identifying the person or thing affected. It is used when two objects are necessary by the verb of the sentence. For examples:

1. I give the book **to John**.

to John is identifying the person affected by the verb and it is called as the indirect object in the grammatical function. The verb *give* in the (1) needs the second argument, explaining to whom *the book* is given. If the indirect object is not written, the sentence will be left hanging. If the sentence only written I give the book, then to whom the book is given? Thus, it is necessary so that the message can be received clearly.

To as preposition also used in time expression. It indicates time and also has the same sense as the time expression 'till' or 'until'. For examples:

2. The time is fifteen to five. [04:45]
3. The dentist is open from Monday to Friday.

In the (2) *to* is referred to say time, while the (3) referred to say the day when the dentist will be opened. It still has the same sense if we change it to ‘until’:

The dentist is open from Monday until Friday.

For another function, we also can use *to* in showing purpose of the subject. For examples:

4. I spent much money to make her happy.

It shows that *I* has a particular purpose for spending much money, that is *to make her happy*. It also can be said:

I spent so much money (in order) to make her happy.

3.3 Gerund

First of all, let us discuss about gerund. Gerund is a basic types of verbals along with participles and infinitives. Gerund is a verbal that functions as noun and have an *–ing* ending, then it is formed as V+ing. Since gerund are derived from verb and ended with –ing, it does express an action, but still gerund is always used as a noun. In a sentence, gerund may functions as the subject, direct object, and object of preposition. For examples:

Gerund as subject

- *Swimming* is my favorite sport

Gerund as direct object.

- I like *swimming*.

Gerund as object of preposition

- I will pass the test *by studying*.

Still, not all the v-ing is a gerund. From the example below:

- I am running now.

This *running* has a same form as gerund; *v-ing*. However, *running* in this sentence is the application of what we call inflectional morphemes in the semantics. An inflection is a change that signals the grammatical function, it is

used to create a variant word's form to signal grammatical function. In short, *-ing* in that sentence signal that the verb is present participle, shows that the action *running* is being done by *I*, and *now* is the indication of time when the subject does that thing.

> *(Lester: 177) said:*
> *"To determine whether a word in a sentence is a gerund, look at the word(s) ending in –ing in the sentence. If this word can be replaced by the pronoun it, then the word is a gerund. If the word it replaces other words in addition to the gerund, then these make up the gerund phrase."*

- My sister loves walking together to the mall.
- My sister loves it.

3.4 The case of To + V-ing

Before this report is made, the writer did not even know that the *to* can be followed by *v-ing*. What has been learned is that *to* must be followed by simple present. So in this report, the writer will explain that there are few situations where we use to + v-ing.

There are 5 data used by the writer to make the analysis:

1. The dedication to increasing the nation competitiveness.
2. The researcher is looking forward to searching the valid reason.
3. The institution is commited to supporting our research.
4. The new compound is accustomed to having its own material.

5. The researcher is opposed to using the nuclear power.

The writer started to wonder whether the preposition, as seen, can be followed by the *v-ing.* At first, the writer thought that it was the writer of the book fault. So the writer started to analyze this case.

3.4.1 Preposition as a part of Phrasal Verb

First of all, to + V-ing is applicable if the *to* is a part of phrasal verb that followed by preposition combination:

- The researcher is *looking forward to* searching the valid reason.
- The institution *commited to* supporting our research.

As Radford (1988:257) remarks: ...”to the extent that i envisage any rule relating the two, it's one in which the P originates as part of the PP, but it is incorporated into the V by reanalysis.” It makes a conclusion that *to* in *the looking forward to*and *to* in the *commited t*o are the part of the words before, which called phrasal verb. Phrasal verb itself is a verb consists of verb and one more particles, which may be a preposition.

3.4.2 Preposition as a part of Adjective

The v-ing form, or what is called as gerund, as discussed above, also follow adjective and followed again by preposition combination. It has agreed that the preposition are followed by the gerund form. Look at the cases:

- The new compound is *accustomed to* having its own material.
- The researcher is *opposed to* using the nuclear power.

Those also indicate that the *to* is the part of the adjective words that precedes. Here is some another list of the adjective + preposition combination followed by gerund:

addicted to	Anna is addicted to reading books.
dedicated to	The government is dedicated to ending poverty.
devoted to	The money will be devoted to protecting the environment.
opposed to	They are opposed to building a new road in the park.

3.4.3 Preposition as a part of Noun

Here are some cases of the noun + preposition combination followed by gerund:

- His *addiction* to reading makes him smart.
- The *dedication* to increasing the nation competitiveness.

to in this case is a part of the noun *addiction* and *dedication*. As the analysis that the writer does regarding to the data, the answer of the ambiguity of the use of *to+v-ing* is finally answered. *To* can also be followed by *v-ing* if the *to* is part of noun.