CHAPTER FIVE
CONCLUSIONS, DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the five key aspects of the study which are (5.1) the summary of the study, (5.2) summary of the findings, (5.3) discussions, conclusions and implications of the study, and (5.4) recommendations for further research.

5.1 SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

According to the principle that the distinction between the internal phrases of a grammatical system can be employed to test the accessibility of universal grammar through X-bar theory, and because studies with respect to the availability of UG through the internal phrases are still small in number, especially in an English language classroom, in this study, Thai learners' judgments on complement and adjunct structures in English simple sentences was examined to find if subjects were able to judge complements more accurately than they were able to judge adjuncts, and if judgment on interrogatives irrespective of the complement and adjunct status was less accurate than judgment on declaratives.

The subjects of the study were 20 eighth graders, 20 tenth graders and 20 twelfth graders who were studying at Assumption College, Bangkok, Thailand, in the academic year 2008. The same grammaticality judgment task composed of 48 sentences, including 6 fillers which were irrelevant to the point tested. Six transitive verbs, *check, meet, watch, find, hit,* and *sell*, were employed in the study.

The GJ task was administered to the first, the second and the third groups respectively at Assumption 2003 Building, Assumption College. Subjects were told they were allowed 15 seconds to choose the correct answer from each item. Since there were five items on each page, they were told to open each page at the same time every one minute and fifteen seconds. The score was assigned to only correct choices and no score was assigned to the wrong choices. The data was analyzed by using the ANOVAs with repeated measures in the SPSS program version 11.5.

5.2 SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

The following are the results of the study:

1. With respect to the difficulties between complement and adjunct structures, according to the result from ANOVAs with repeated measures comparing between all groups' judgment on declarative complements and declarative adjuncts, Mean correct percentages at the three proficiency levels were $48_{(24)}$, $81_{(14)}$, and $86_{(20)}$ for complement structures and $43_{(23)}$, $65_{(23)}$, and $69_{(15)}$ for adjunct structures ($F(1,57) = 25.07$, $p<.001$). Therefore, the subjects were able to judge complement structures more accurately than adjunct structures; however, their judgments on both aspects were very slightly different.

2. In terms of the difficulties between complements and adjuncts in interrogative and declarative types, the result from ANOVAs with repeated measures comparing between all groups' judgment on declarative adjuncts and interrogative adjuncts confirmed that the subjects were able to judge interrogative adjuncts more accurately than declarative adjuncts ($F (1, 57) = 30.459$, $p<.001$). Mean correct percentages at the three proficiency levels were $50_{(22)}$, $76_{(23)}$, and $88_{(19)}$ for adjunct structures in interrogatives and $43_{(23)}$, $65_{(23)}$, and $69_{(15)}$ for adjunct structures in declaratives. However, their judgments on both aspects were very slightly different.

5.3 DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

5.3.1 Difficulties of the Judgment on Complements and Adjuncts in English Simple Sentences

As reported earlier, there was no significant difference found between the average of the judgment on a complement and one on an adjunct. However, significant correlation was found on both aspects compared in the study. The conclusion that complements are easier than adjuncts to judge in English simple sentences supports the theoretical framework of generative grammar by Chomsky.

According to the grammatical principles, a complement which is the sister of V under the node V' is obligatory or required by the head. Therefore, it should be seen next to the verb of the sentence. An adjunct, the sister of V', is an optional modifier, so it might either appear or disappear in the sentence. However, when it is seen after the verb which requires a complement, it is usually farther and outside the complement.

The distance or hierarchy of both aspects indicates its necessity in the sentence. As a result, Thai learners should be able to detect the lack of a complement more easily than the lack of an adjunct. The result of the study supports this perspective.

5.3.2 Difficulties of the Judgment on Complements and Adjuncts in Declaratives and Interrogatives

On average, Thai learners' judgments on both aspects in declaratives and interrogatives were not significantly different at the significant level of 0.05. A significant correlation was also found on both aspects. However, the result of the study contrasts with the hypothesis of the study that asserts that judgment on interrogatives irrespective of the complement and adjunct status is less accurate than judgment on declaratives.

Due to the distinction of the interrogative formation in Thai and English, the researcher assumed that when Thais employ question particles instead of auxiliaries, the Subject/Aux Inversion in main verb Yes/No questions and the raise of past tense to C via I-to-C movement after the insertion of I might be an obstacle to the learners' judgment. The learners should then be able to detect the complements and adjuncts in declaratives more easily than ones in interrogatives.

Nevertheless, based on the result of this study, Thai learners were able to judge the complements and adjuncts in interrogatives more accurately than they were in declaratives. This might come from the fact that Subject-Verb Agreement (SAI) in English requires I-to-V, and the morphology includes either the –ed affixation for regular verbs or the change in the verb from for irregular verbs.

This includes either the association of –ed on a regular verb or the morphological change on the verbal stems for irregular verbs. The subject-verb agreement morphological system of English that appears in declaratives might be a major obstacle for the subjects to make a correct judgment whereas the insertion of 'do' might be helpful to the judgment on both complement and adjunct structures when the insertion of 'do' carries tense or past tense in this study. After the insertion of 'do', the main verb is bare, which in turn, makes the verb head and its complement more noticeable than when the verb head is fully inflected.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

    1. Since the result in terms of the judgment on complements and adjuncts in declaratives and interrogatives contrasts to the hypothesis, further study of Do-support affecting Thai learners' judgment on complements and adjuncts should be conducted.

    2. As the distinction of complements and adjuncts is a key concept underlying many structures of grammatical system, it should explicitly be exposed and taught to students in an English class so that students perform better when they read or write English sentences.

    3. Thai learners' intuition on other syntactic constituents of the grammatical system should also be examined in further studies so that the results from the studies can assist both Thai teachers and students in English language acquisition.