

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter comprises some points including background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

English is used almost exclusively as a international language. In Indonesia, English is one of the subjects that is stated in curriculum. In addition, English is also a foreign language that is used to communicate with people who have different language background in most countries. In studying English, there are four skills that should be learned by the students. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. They are related to each other. The students have to learn all of the these skills to master English well.

In addition to those skills, the students should have knowledge of language components. The components are vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar. Grammar is the system of language. In addition, grammar is also an important language component in teaching and learning English. According to CoghillandMagendanz (2003:19), “ grammar is the set of rules that govern its structure. Grammar determines how words are arranged to form meaningful units”.

Connecting to this research, the researcher focuses on tag question. Tag question is one of the grammar rules that learner should know. According to Hermawan (2015:141) “question tag is a statement that is made in the sentence to confirm”. There are two forms of questions tag; they are affirmative and negative form. When a statement is positive, the tag is negative and the response is positive. And when a statement is negative, the tag is positive and the response is negative.

“Question tag is a statement followed by question form” Goridus (2007:145). In addition, according to Lado (1986:81) “question tag is used for asking affirmation from listeners about something who doubt speaker and or asking for listener’s agreement. So question tag must be used in conversation confirm or ask the listener an agreement in order to make sure the listener agrees with our agreement.

There are several considerations why the researcher chooses this topic. First, students have to know how to use question tag properly. So the researcher would like to know their ability in using question tag. Second, question tag is included in 2013 English curriculum so it is important to know how far they understand about question tag. In conducting this research, the researcher chooses eighth grade of SMPN 5Kupang as the participant of the study. The writer chooses this title because there are many students still faced difficulties in learning question tags, the writer tries to identify and analyze them. The writer hopes it can make the teaching and learning activities better and can give a new idea for teacher how to teach Question tags well.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problem is specified from the topic. The problem of this study is formulated in the following questions that should be answered in data analysis. The problem statements in details are presented below.

1. What level of ability do the eighth grade students of SMPN 5 Kupang have in using Question tag?
2. What is the area of difficulties in using Question tag of the eighth grade students of SMPN 5 Kupang?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Objective is actually the aim of doing the study that goes in line with the problem statement as stated in previous subchapter. The objectives in details are presented in the following:

1. To describe or explain the level of ability of the eighth grade students of SMPN 5Kupang in using Question tag.
2. To describe or explain the area of difficulties in using Question tag by the eighth grade students of SMPN 5Kupang.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of a study is actually the useful roles or benefit of a study for human beings. The writer considers that the result of the study will give a great

contribution to the students, the English Teacher of SMPN 5 Kupang, the writer herself and English Education Department.

1. For the Students

'Knowing the result of this study might help the students to learn more about Question tag

2. For the Teacher

The result of this study might help the English Teacher of SMPN 5Kupang to know the result of their teaching learning process, whether they are successful or not.

3. For the Writer

This study is expected to help the writer in developing her knowledge and skill of descriptive study on grammatical structure, in general and the use of Question tag, in particular. The writer is also trained in writing a scientific report.

4. For English Education Study Program

The result of this study is useful to give the information to the English Education Department about ability in using Question Tag of the students of the junior high school.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is limited in students ability in using question. There are some kinds of question. Such as: Yes-no questions, WH questions and tag questions. Here, the

researcher focused on question tag. The focus is on how the students can create sentences using a question tags which will be grammatically correct or not.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Ability

Ability is capacity or power to do something physical or mental (Hornby, 1989).

Ability in this study is ability in using question tag in of the eighth grade students of SMPN 5Kupang in the school year 2018/2019.

2. Question Tag

It is a kind of reply question. It is made up of auxiliary plus personal pronoun. It is used at the end of sentences, to ask for confirmation of something we are not sure about or to ask for agreement. A question tag means something like “is this true?” or “do you agree?” (Swan, 1989).

3. SMP Negeri 5 Kupang

It is one of the States Junior High Schools in Kupang, located at Jl. FransSeda-Kelapa Lima, East Nusa Tenggara Province.