

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains six subchapters. They are background of the study, statement of problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of terms.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Language is basically used for communication. It facilitates people to communicate, to deliver opinions, ideas, information and feeling. In building up communication language plays an important role. It means that to be able to communicate with other persons, we use language, which is acquired through a process of learning.

There are so many languages in the world and one of them is English. English is an international language that is used in various aspects of life such as politic, economy, education, commerce, and technology.

In Indonesia, English is taught treated and learned as a compulsory subject at all levels of schools from elementary school up to university. In order to master English, students need to master language skills and sub-skills. The language skills consist of listening, speaking, reading ad writing. Whereas language sub-skills are vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. To master the grammar is very important for someone who is learning a language. It is important because it facilitates learning the four language skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing will be hard or difficult without mastering grammar.

Raja Nasr (1980:74) asserts if language had no grammar, no systematic ordering of its words in sentences, it could never be learned by a native speaker or by a foreigner, and nor could two people understand one another in it. Indeed, a language without grammar is no language at all. It is clear that grammar is important in language. One of the areas of English grammar is preposition.

Preposition of time as one kind of prepositions is not given much time allocation for practice. Based on the writer's experience during the teaching practice at SMPK Sta.Familia, she found the students' mistakes in using preposition of time like "*Marry was born **on** 1997*". The correct one is "*Marry was born **in** 1997*" or "*I go to bed **in** night*". The correct one is: "*I go to bed **at** night*".

Based on the discussion and problem mentioned above, the writer comes out with the tittle "**A Study on the Ability in Using Preposition of Time the Seventh Grade Students of SMPK Sta.Familia Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019**".

## **1.2 Statement of Problems**

The statement of the problem of this study is formulated in the following questions.

1. Are the seventhgrade students of SMPK Sta.Familia Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 able to use the preposition oftime in English sentences coreectly or not?
2. What is the ability level of the seventh grade students of SMPK Sta.Familia Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in using preposition of time?

3. What is the most difficult preposition of time found by the seventh grade students of SMPK Sta. Familia Kupang in the school year 2018/2019?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To know the ability of the seventh grade students of SMPK Sta.Familia Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in using preposition of time in English sentence.
2. To know the student's levels of ability in using preposition of time in English sentence.
3. To know the difficult preposition of time found by the seventh grade students of SMPK Sta.Familia Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in using preposition of time in English sentences

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Significance of the study are actually its usefulness or benefit for human beings, it is actually the contribution of a study for human beings. In line with this the significance of this study is stated in the following statement.

1. For the Students

Knowing the result of this study might help the students to learn more about Preposition of Time.

2. For the Teacher

The result of this study might help the English teacher of SMPK Sta.Familia Kupang to know the result of they 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 learning experience in conducting research about language in general and the use of preposition in particular.

### 4. English Study Program

The result of this study may give information of the preposition of time to put the correctly. It goes in line with the vision and mission of the Teacher Training and Educational Sciences Faculty.

## **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This study is about the ability in using the preposition of time particularly, the use of the following preposition: On, at, in, since, by, from, to, until, till, for, during, before and after.

## **1.6 Definition of Terms**

There are some terms used in this study that should be defined. The definition will make the readers understand well about the content of this study. Those terms that should be defined are ability, preposition of time, SMPK Sta.Familia Kupang.

### **1. Ability**

It is a potential capacity of power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby;1987:2). In this study, ability means the students capability in using preposition of time in English sentences.

## **2. Preposition**

It is a word used to show the relationship of a noun or pronoun to some other words in sentence. For example “ the book is on the desk”. The prepositions “on” shows the relationship between the desk and the noun“ book”.

## **3. Preposition of Time**

It is a kind of preposition which refers to period of time (Shepherd et, al, 1984).

For Example : “ I go to school everyday at 07.00 o’clock”.

## **4. SMPK Sta.Familia Kupang**

SMPK Sta.Familia Kupang is one of the Catholic private Junior High Schools

Located in street Oebolifo III sikumana Kupang City.