

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language is a means of communication. Human beings as social creatures need to communicate and interact with others. Many countries in the world, including Indonesia have to study English if they want to communicate for the international relationship because English is an international language.

In Indonesia, English is considered as a foreign language. English is taught or learned as a compulsory subject from elementary until the university level. In order to master English, people need to have English skills and sub- skills. The English skills include listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Whereas the English sub-skills including grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary.

In globalization era, English plays a very important role in overcoming the problems in all fields, which will be faced by each country in the world such as economy, politics, tradition etc. In a writing process sometimes writers, especially foreign language learners, make errors in grammar especially when they write a descriptive text. In writing, the learners commonly do not know the appropriate expression or structure but since they wish to communicate their ideas, they will fall back on the language system with which they are not familiar. Grammar is generally thought to be a set of rules specifying the correct ordering of words in the sentence level. Richard et al (1985; 126) define grammar as a description of the structure of a language and the way in which linguistic units such as words and

phrases are combined to produce sentence in language. Some examples of grammatical errors in writing descriptive text can be seen in sentences below.

1. *She speak English.*
2. *Did you went there?*

The error in the first sentence is called “omission”. The correct sentence must be *She speaks English (-s in word speak is omitted)*. In the second sentence it is called “double marking tense”. The correct sentence is *did you go there?*. It is only marker required in this sentence. Based on the explanation above the writer wants to analyze the errors done by students in writing descriptive text. Thus, the writer intends to carry out a study entitled “A Study on the Students’ Grammatical Errors in Writing Descriptive Text of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in the School Year 2015/ 2016”

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background, the writer formulates the problems in the following:

1. What are the kinds of grammatical errors committed by the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in writing descriptive text?
2. What are the most common grammatical errors committed by the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in writing descriptive text?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows.

1. To find out the kinds of grammatical errors committed by the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in writing descriptive text.
2. To find out the most common grammatical errors committed by the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in writing a descriptive text.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

This study gives concrete contribution for the teacher of English, The writer and the students of the researched school in learning process of English:

1. For the Teacher of English

To inform the teacher of English in the researched school about the student's grammatical error in writing descriptive text, so it might be useful input for the teacher for the improvement of English teaching and learning.

2. For the writer

This study is meant to increase the writer knowledge in writing English especially on how to write descriptive text correctly by avoiding the errors found in the study.

3. For the students

This study can help students how to develop their writing skill especially grammatical errors in writing descriptive text and their interest to study and learn English.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is about analyzing grammatical error in writing descriptive text made by the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang. In analyzing grammatical error there are four taxonomies that can be used as proposed by Dulay (1982) such as; surface strategy taxonomy, linguistic category, comparative taxonomy, and communicative effect taxonomy. The writer used surface strategy taxonomy to classify the errors. This taxonomy classifies the errors into the following categories: (1) omission, (2) addition, (3) misformation, (4) misordering.

1.6 Definition of Terms

To avoid misunderstanding of the concepts used in this study, some definitions are provided as the following:

1. Descriptive text is a type of writing that is arranged according to what it looks like or where the objects being are (Smally and Ruetter, 1986 : 89) Dealing with this study, descriptive text is the text produced by the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang.
2. Errors refer to wrong forms that the people could not correct even if their wrongness are to be pointed out, but it still evident what the learner wanted to say (James 1998: 80). Dealing with this study, errors refer to the wrong forms that might be used by the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in writing a descriptive text.

3. Writing is the act of forming graphic symbols according to certain conventions, to form words, and words has to be arranged to form sentences.

(Penny Ur, 1996: 170) Writing in this study, means a descriptive text composed by the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang.

4. Grammar is the patterns of arrangement of words in sentences and the patterns of arrangements of parts of words into words (Lado, 1961 : 142) This study will seek the patterns of grammar in writing descriptive text of the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang.

SMA Negeri 7 Kupang is senior high school, located in Kupang City, East Nusa Tenggara Province