

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of six parts. They are background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and the definition of terms. The six subchapters are discussed in the following.

1.1 Background of the Study

English is one of the languages being widely used and learned all over the world. As an international language, English plays important role in all aspects of human life, such as in education, economics, politics, and technology. English is a language now spoken in many other countries and used as a language of international communication through out the world (Hornby, 2005: 506).

In Indonesian education system, English is taught as a compulsory subject at all schools from the primary level up to the university. The main goal of teaching English in Indonesia is to help the students obtain science and technology as much as possible sources written in English. In order to master English, students need to master language skills and sub-skills. The language skills include listening, speaking, reading and writing. Whereas language sub-skills are vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. Since grammar is important, grammar is used to know the structure of the sentences words formation and words class so the sentences will be well organized and meaningful.

Nowadays, the 2013 curriculum English is being applied in many schools around Indonesia. As one of the junior high schools in Kupang, SMP Negeri 5 Kupang is currently using this curriculum. In this curriculum the students also learn about the preposition of *place*. One point of grammar that sometimes makes students confused is the use of preposition. It is important to learn about the prepositions because preposition can tell us where things are in relation to other things and we can use it in a correct sentence. There are some prepositions such as preposition of time, place, manner, direction, etc. In this study the writer only discusses the use of preposition of *place*. Because informal investigation shows that students are often confused or feel difficult to distinguish the use of all prepositions when they want to write sentences, especially preposition at, in, on, to, from, below, beside, in front of, above, behind, over, next to, under, near, opposite, outside in preposition of *place*.

Commonly, the students has difficulty in using preposition of place in the sentences. Take for example: *Elisa lives at Surabaya* but it should be *Elisa lives in Surabaya* or *there is a goat at the field* but the correct sentence is *there is a goat in the field*. (Manuela, 2013)

Regarding the problems above, the writer would like to conduct this study in order to know the eighth grade students' ability in using preposition of place. So the writer intends to make this study under the title: **“Ability in Using Preposition of Place of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019”**

1.2 Statement of the Problems

This study will be conducted in order to answer the following questions:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang able to use preposition of *place*?
2. What is the level of ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in using preposition of *place*?
3. What are the areas of difficulties encountered by the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in using preposition of *place*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To find out whether the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 are able to use preposition of *place*.
2. To find out the eighth grade students' levels of ability in using preposition of *place*.
3. To find out the areas of difficulties that might be encountered by the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in using preposition of *place*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is as follows:

a. For the students

The result of this study can inform the students in the researched schools about their abilities on the use of preposition of *place*. They also can be motivated to study English grammar, especially preposition more intensively.

b. For the English Teacher

The English teacher might get particular information regarding his or her students ability in using preposition of *place*. By knowing the students ability the writer expects the teacher of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang will make review on teaching of preposition of *place*.

c. For the writer

Through this study the writer will know more about the use of preposition of *place*.

d. For the English Study Program

The result of this study can give information about the ability of the students of junior high school on English to the lecturers and the students of English study program.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is about the ability in using preposition of place particularly the use of the following prepositions: *on*, *at*, *in*, *from*, *to*, *below*, *beside*, *in front of*, *above*, *behind*, *over*, *next to*, *under*, *near*, *opposite*, *outside*.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In this part the writer would like to clarify some terms used in this study in order to help the readers understand this writing:

1. Ability

Ability is a potential capacity or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1987: 2). Dealing with this study, ability means the student's capacity in using preposition of *place*.

2. Preposition

Preposition is a word to show the relationship of noun and pronoun to some other words in sentences, (Brown, 1984:134). For example *the book is on the table*. The preposition "on" shows the relationship between the *table* and the *book*.

3. Preposition of Place

Preposition of place is a preposition which is used to refer to a place where something or someone is located, (www.gingersoftware.com). For example *Jessie waited for Gilbert at the corner*. The preposition of place is "at".

4. SMP Negeri 5 Kupang

It is one of the public junior schools in Kupang city, especially in Jl. Frans Seda, Kayu Putih, Oebobo, Kota Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara.