

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the research foundation including background of the study, statement of problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definitions of terms. The keys of comprehending this research are provided in this chapter.

1.1. Background of the Study

Language is used as a medium of communication and interaction among the members of a society. People use it to express their needs, idea, feeling, attitude, knowledge, opinions, etc. English has been very popular as an international language. An important task of language teacher is to present clear information to the students about the language that students are learning. This involves what a language means, how it is said or written (Hammer, 1991: 65).

Basically, language is a system and means of communication to other people. It means that, every language has been arranged by a role or pattern system. The system itself deals with the rule or structure of how language forms are organized to convey meaning.

In Indonesia, English has a very important role in technological and scientific advances. Several countries like Indonesia use English as their second language beside their mother tongue so English is so familiar for them. In Indonesia, English is still as a foreign language which is taught as compulsory subject at elementary school, junior high school, senior high school and elective

subject for many University students except those majoring in English. The government of Indonesia has adopted English as the first foreign language to be compulsory subject taught and learned in Junior high School.

In learning English, the learners will learn two aspects that must be mastered about language skills and sub skills. Firstly the four language skills namely: listening, speaking, reading, writing and secondly is English competence such as vocabulary, pronunciation, spelling, and grammar. As one of the four skills, writing is important for us, because by writing we can express our mind also interact with readers. Through writing we can share our feeling. These can be expressed by words, phrases, sentence, or paragraph. In general, people tend to express what they see or feel about something or someone through writing as well as talking/speaking. Most of students think that writing is the most complex skill among the four basic language skills. In a writing process sometimes writers, especially foreign language learners make errors in grammar when they write a descriptive text.

Writing is one of the language skills. In the distribution of language skills, writing is always placed last after listening, speaking, and reading. Although always written recently, it does not mean writing is a skill that is not important. In writing all the elements of language skills should be fully concentrated to get excellent result. Henry Guntur Tarigan (1986:15) stated that writing can be interpreted as an activity to pour ideas by using written language as a medium conveyor.

According to Heffement and Alfian (Paji, 2010:2), good writing requires good knowledge of grammar as well as the art of using the rhetoric or arranging

word, phrase, sentences, and paragraph in such a way that it can engage the reader's attention. A good writing must enable the readers to understand what the writer intends to communicate. A good writing should embrace the following elements such as grammar, vocabulary, mechanic, style, case of communication and the form of organisation. Everyone can express his or her feeling, ideas or emotion in correct English written form if he or she mastered English grammar.

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. Grammar is one of the sub-skills which support in writing but the problem is some of the students still make errors when they want to write a sentence until its sentences become a good paragraph. It is known that English grammar is different from Indonesian grammar. Consequently, it is difficult for students to develop their English proficiency. The difference between grammar of native language and target language is one of the factors inducing the students to make many errors and it can affect the content of their writing.

Language learning usually begins with the study of grammar elements which are then linked to learning the structure of language. At the beginning of the lesson, the teacher usually explains a grammar and provides practice to the student to make a sentences based on the sentence pattern has been taught. Some students may able to master the material quickly and can use the grammar pattern in speaking when they really pay attention (noticing) carefully. However, failure to master the material well may also occur in some students so mistakes in

language cannot be avoided. Analyzing the error is to know what factors the students experience in creating a paragraph.

The problem to be analyzed in this research is how much grammatical error done by students in making a paragraph in English. The focus of this research is to analyze grammatical errors students make in a paragraph about descriptive texts in English. The authors are interested in doing this research because they want to know what parts of the students often do errors in composing sentences, and analyze the grammatical mistakes made by the students.

To make a good descriptive paragraph, the students must be able to master and apply the structure correctly. In this case, the tense used is simple present if they cannot do that, of course errors will arise. Automatically their writing will cause misunderstanding for the readers, because the readers cannot receive the message or expression of their idea well.

Based on the description above, the writer wants to find out the error made by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 KUPANG. The writer wants to know whether the students of SMPN 10 KUPANG commit errors. Therefore, the writer would like to conduct the study with the title: “ **An Analysis of Grammatical Errors in Writing Descriptive Text of the Eighth Grade Students of SMPN 10 KUPANG in the School Year 2018/2019**”.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, the statement of the problems are as the following:

1. What are the types of grammatical errors committed by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing descriptive text?
2. What is the most type of grammatical error committed by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing descriptive text?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as following:

1. To find out the types of the grammatical errors in writing descriptive text made by the eighth grade student of SMPN 10 KUPANG in the school year 2018/2019.
2. To find out the most common grammatical errors in writing descriptive text by the eighth grade student of SMPN 10 KUPANG in the school year 2018/2019.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The result of this study has some significance for the English teacher, and the writer, as explained below:

1. For the Writer

This study is meant to increase the writer's knowledge in writing English especially on how to write descriptive text correctly by recognize the errors found in the study and the students can be informed about their grammatical mastery especially applying it to write descriptive paragraph

2. For the Teacher at Research School

To inform the teacher of English about the student's grammatical error in writing descriptive text, so the teacher can improve the teaching learning process based on students' need in order to minimize students' grammatical error in writing descriptive text and with errors we get feedback that enables us to find out in what way students are still having difficulty understanding the specific material in English learning.

3. For the Students at Research School

This study can help students how to develop their writing skill using correct grammar, students will know what kind of error that appear when they write especially in writing descriptive text and to inform the students in the school about their ability in writing descriptive text.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study does not describe all aspects in writing paragraph. It only focuses on grammatical aspect. This study relates to the Error analysis. There are some taxonomies used in analysing errors. They are linguistic category, surface strategy taxonomies, comparative taxonomy, and communicative effect taxonomy. However, in this study the writer only analyzes the errors committed by the students based on the surface strategy taxonomy which refers to omission, addition, misformation, and misordering in writing descriptive text.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In this section, the writer would like to give the definition of some terms in order to help the reader to understand this study.

1. Errors

Error refers to the student's mistake in understanding. So, the error that appears here is not because students experience technical factors such as 'slip of the tongue' but the errors that illustrate that students have not recognized, understood, and understood the language patterns used (Brown,2000). In this study, the meaning of error refers to the deviated form of grammar that would be made by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 KUPANG in writing descriptive text.

2. Grammar

According to John M. Echols dictionary version grammar is a grammar book. While, the grammar sense according to oxford learner's pocket dictionary is book that describes the rules for forming words and making sentences.

Summarizing from the above definition of grammar is a collection of grammatical structures of language. *"The grammar of language is the set of rules that govern its structure. Grammar determines how words are arranged to form meaningful units* Coghill and Stacy (2003:26) ".in this writing particularly, will seek the patterns of grammar in writing descriptive text of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri10 Kupang.

3. Writing

Writing means pouring the mind into writing or telling something to others through writing. Writing can also be interpreted as an expression or expression

of feelings poured in the form of writing. In other words, through the process of writing we can communicate indirectly.

4. Descriptive Text

Stanley (1988) mention that description presents the appearance of things that occupy space, whether they are objects, people, buildings or cities. Dealing with this study, descriptive text is a text which says what a person or a thing is like. Its purpose is to describe and reveal a particular person, place or thing.

5. SMP Negeri 10 Kupang

SMP Negeri 10 Kupang is one of Junior High Schools located in Prof. Dr. Herman Yohannes Street, Kupang East Nusa Tenggara Province.