

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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

Language is surely important in our life because it is an essential means of communication. With language, we can communicate with others because we can express ideas, feelings and emotions. Sapir (1921: 8) defines language as a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbol.

Communication is the process of transferring message from one person to another. (Wewstrom and Keith Davis) Communication processes are interactions between at least two agents who share a repertoire of signs and semiotic rules. The word “communicate” is derived from Latin “communicatus”, which is translated literally to mean impart or participate. More specifically, it means to share by all (Schramm, 1973: 3). Communication is commonly defined as “the imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions or information by speech, writing or signs. Although there is such a thing as one-way communication, communication can be perceived better as a two-way.

Communication deals with the process of giving information or message to other people. In order to transfer the information accurately and effectively to the other people, the speaker needs a certain ability to transfer the message to the listener so that the listener or receptor is able to get the message as complete as it conveyed.

One of the languages being widely used all over the world is English. English is generally acknowledged to be the world most important language. That is why English is an important language to be learnt. As an international language, English plays an important role either in politics, sciences, or technology. Seeing the importance of the English language it has been adopted as a compulsory subject taught at the junior and senior high schools in Indonesia.

During the last few decades, English has come closer to be the single international language, and has achieved a greater world spread than any other language in recorded history. English as an international language is used in various fields. In education for example, many books are written in English. Therefore, students are expected to master vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation of English comprehensively. Having mastered these sub-skills, they can master four basic skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

In Indonesia, English is adopted as the first foreign language. It is taught as the compulsory subject in junior and senior high school even in elementary schools. It is also taught as general course in the universities and as an elective course in terms of English departments. However, the role of English proficiency for the students in senior high school is crucial for their English progress in university.

The aim of teaching English in Indonesia is to gain or to achieve language skills, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In other words to know those skills, students have to master the basic elements of language namely vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and spelling.

Grammar as a sub-skill of English that should be learned or mastered by the students. Grammar includes tenses, modals, preposition, reported speech, etc.

Direct speech refers to reproducing words as they are originally spoken (Azar, 1981: 139). The example is: *She said: "I have lost my bag"*. In this study, direct speech means, sentences or words as they originally spoken that is used in the test. Indirect speech is the speech of someone which is reported (Azar, 1981: 244). Example: *She said that she had lost her bag*. In this study, indirect speech means the speech or words which is reported.

By using reported speech or direct and indirect speech, the learners learn how to report what they have seen or felt and to report their ideas either in speaking or writing. In using direct and indirect speech, there are some mistakes in grammatical structure made by the students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui Kupang in the School Year 2016/2017.

Based on the description above the writer is interested to conduct a study with the title: A Study on the Ability in Using Direct and Indirect Speeches by the Tenth-Grade Students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui Kupang in the school year 2017/2018

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The topic of the study is specified into some problems. The problems of the study are formulated in the following questions.

1. Are the tenth-grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui Kupang in the school year 20167 – 2018 able to use direct and indirect speeches ?

2. What is the ability level of the tenth-grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui Kupang in the school year 2017 – 2018 in using direct and indirect speeches?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the problems stated above the objectives of this study are stated in the following.

1. To find out whether the tenth-grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui Kupang in the school year 2017-2018 are able to use direct and indirect speeches or not.
2. To find out the ability level of the tenth-grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui Kupang in the school year 2017 – 2018 in using direct and indirect speeches.

### **1.4.The Significance of the Study**

The study is expected to be valuable for school quality, English teachers, students, and for the writer...

#### **1. For school quality.**

This study is beneficial to improve school quality especially in English study because it aims at improving students' understanding on direct and indirect speech.

## **2. For the English teachers.**

The result of this study can inform the English teacher of SMAK Sin Carolus Penfui Kupang about his/her students' ability in using direct and indirect speeches. Based on this information he/she will find a good way of teaching English especially teaching direct and indirect speeches.

## **3. For the Students**

The result of the study can inform the students about the mistakes they make. Based on this information they can learn better English in general and direct and indirect speeches in particular.

## **4. For the writer**

By doing this study, the writer is able to improve his ability in English especially in using direct and indirect speeches. The writer is also trained in how to conduct a research and write a scientific report.

## **1.5.Scope and Limitation**

This study deals with ability analysis. In this study, the writer does not talk about all abilities, but the writer limits himself on the ability of the tenth-grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui Kupangin using direct and indirect speeches of commands or request, statements, question, and exclamatory. There grammar points have been taught before. In classifying the ability committed by the students the writer gave a test. To limit this test, the writer only arranges the test in two kinds of tense that is Simple Present Tense and Simple Past Tense.

## **1.6. Definition of Terms**

In this part, the writer classified some key words related to the topic of the study in order to assist the readers in understanding the meaning of the terms used in this study. They are explained in detail below.

### **1. Ability**

Ability is the physical or mental power or skill needed to do something (Mcintosh, 2012: 2). In this study, ability means power to do natural talent or acquired skill in using direct and indirect speeches, made by the tenth grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui Kupang in the school year 2017/2018.

### **2. Direct Speech**

Direct speech refers to reproducing words as they are originally spoken (Azar, 1981: 139). The example is: *She said: "I have lost my bag"*. In this study, direct speech means, sentences or words as they originally spoken.

### **3. Indirect Speech**

Indirect speech is the speech of someone which is reported (Azar, 1981: 244). Example: *She said that she had lost her bag*. In this study, indirect speech means, the speech or words which is reported.

### **4. SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui Kupang**

SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui Kupang is one of the private senior high schools, located in Penfui, Kupang.