

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the writer presents some subtopics, as follows: background, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definitions of terms.

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

Human is the smartest creature on this planet that is able to develop knowledge and civilization for centuries. The capability of a human to do such things cannot be separated from the use of language as the only tool to convey great ideas, to share information, and knowledge. Meriam Webster dictionary defines language as the system of words or signs that people use to express thoughts and feeling each other while Richards and Rodgers (1986: 101) state that language is seen as groups of sound arbitrarily associated with specific meanings and organized into sentences or strings of meaningful units by grammar rules.

Language unites human from various background, social environment, and culture. In the daily routine, the use of language as the tool of communicative interaction is unique. It is used to extend a certain meaning. At the same time, it is also used to hide meanings. Consequently, it creates a traffic jam of the communicative interaction. The participant of a communicative interaction is necessary to consider the pragmatic aspects, such as the speech act, the conversational principles, and the presupposition to bridge the gap of the interaction (Mill in Siahaan 2008: 79). The fact that language plays an important

role in human life leads to the demand to learn it especially an international language like English.

Nowadays, English is not only used to break communication gap, but it has become one of the qualifications to continue the study, to get a job even it has also become the national language in several countries. Although not all of countries use English as their national or second language, English is still taught in order to prepare people to face the global challenge, especially in this modern world where internet and technology have dominated half of human's life. This further reinforces the importance of the position of English.

In Indonesian education system, English is taught in order to fulfil four basic skills like listening, speaking, reading and writing. Among the four skills, writing is one of the most difficult as Richards (1970) explains that there is no doubt writing is the most difficult skill for L2 learners to master. The difficulty lies not only in generating and organizing ideas but also in translating these ideas into readable text. The skills involved in writing are highly complex. On the other hand, Serrano et al (1971: 38) explain that writing is an art, and like any other art, it has to be learnt. Indonesian government realizes how important writing skill is because despite sharing ideas, feelings, and opinions through writing, this skill can be turned into a productive skill so, every school gives some texts such as descriptive text, narrative text, procedure text, in order to improve students' writing skill. Among the texts mentioned above, procedure text is an interesting text that is taught to the tenth grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019.

Procedure text is a text that gives instructions to do something by series of steps or sequences. This kind of text is very close to human's daily activity and can be found everywhere, for example, food recipes and instructions to operate a computer or tv.

In composing a procedure text, the students must obey a conventional rule called grammar. Veit (1986: 6) states that "A grammar is a person's subconscious language knowledge. You use your English grammar whenever you speak or write English or understand someone else's speech or writing. A grammar consists of principles or *rules* that allow you to create an infinite number of possible sentences out of a finite number of number of words." Grammar protects the quality of a language, particularly in a writing, grammar prevents any misunderstanding. However, in English learning process, teacher frequently find many students experience difficulties to apply grammar properly. Finally, errors are made.

According to the Oxford dictionary, error is the state or condition of being wrong in conduct or judgement. Some people see error as human nature even as a bad thing, but some see error as a part of learning process. Error in writing will never end before students are able to master English but error can be analyzed according to its types. Error analysis presents as the way to identify, analyze and give feedback or solution in students writing. James (1998) states that error analysis is the process of determining the incidence, nature, causes, and consequences of unsuccessful language.

Based on the interview with the English teacher of the tenth grade of at SMAN 2 Kupang, the writer received information that, students make errors

repeatedly in writing because of mother tongue interference, lack of knowledge, no self motivation and social influence.

Therefore, the writer wants to analyze the errors made by the tenth grade students and explore students' capability to apply grammar into a writing because grammar is the crucial thing to avoid error by making a study under the title “ **An analysis of grammatical errors in writing procedure text by the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019**”

### **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

Based on the background above, it is important to answer several vital questions as follows:

1. What are the types of grammatical errors encountered by the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing procedure text?
2. What is the most frequent grammatical error made by the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing procedure text?

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

Based on the statement of problems above, here are the objectives of the study:

1. To identify and describe types of grammatical errors encountered by the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing procedure text.

2. To identify and describe the most frequent grammatical error made by the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing procedure text.

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

The significance of this study is important for many people especially for English teachers, students, and for the writer herself as explained below :

1. For the English Teachers

This study is expected to help English teachers of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 to improve their teaching strategy and help students to detect errors in a writing.

2. For the Students

By reading the result of this study, the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 are expected to receive many information about grammatical error that happens in writing procedure text, and help them to improve their grammar.

3. For the Writer

Through this study, the writer can improve her writing skill especially in writing a scientific study and pay more attention to grammatical aspects in writing.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

There are some aspects of writing in general, they are grammar, vocabulary, word order, and spelling. In this study, the writer only focuses on analyzing grammatical errors that are written in the procedure text.

In the theory of error analysis, there are some error taxonomies offered to analyze errors, they are based on linguistic category, surface strategy, comparative analysis, and communicative effect. The writer chooses to only use surface strategy taxonomy that is proposed by Dulay et al (1982) which consists of omission, addition, misformation, and misordering, to analyze grammatical error in procedure text. However, if there are some sentences which cannot be analyzed using surface strategy taxonomy, those errors will be classified into miscellaneous errors.

## **1.6 Definitions of Terms**

Definition of terms is a useful way to aid a communication with the reader(s) Eichelberger (1989: 243). This subchapter helps readers to know and understand this study by providing and describing some terms as the following.

### **1. Analysis**

According to the Merriam Webster electronic dictionary, analysis is a detailed examination of anything complex in order to understand its nature or to determine its essential features.

### **2. Errors**

Errors are flawed side of learner's speech and writing. They are those parts of conversation and writing that deviated from the selected norm of mastering language performance (Dulay, 1982: 13). Based on the writer's experience during teaching practice at SMAN 2 Kupang, errors have been made by students because of the lack of knowledge and it mostly happens in writing.

### **3. Error Analysis**

James (1998: 1) defines error analysis (EA) as “the process of determining the incidence of occurrence, nature, causes, and consequences of unsuccessful language learning”

### **4. Grammatical Error**

Grammatical error is a term that commonly used to describe faulty, mistakes in the application of the rules of language. In this study, grammatical errors are found and analyzed in the procedure text written by students.

### **5. Writing**

Writing is the act of forming graphics symbols according to certain conventions, to form words, and words have to be arranged to form sentences (Ur, 1996: 170). In this study, students are expected to express their feelings and ideas in forming procedure text.

### **6. Procedure Text**

Procedure text is a text that is designed to describe how something is achieved through a sequence of actions or step.

### **7. SMA Negeri 2 Kupang**

SMA Negeri 2 Kupang is one of the public schools in Kupang which is located on Jl. S.K. Lerik in Kupang city, East Nusa Tenggara Province.