

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some sub-chapters, such as background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, the significances of the study, scope and limitation and definition of terms.

1.1 Background of Study

English is an important means of communication which is used worldwide. It is an international language that is used in various fields. Realizing the importance of English, Indonesian government proclaimed that it is one of the compulsory subjects which becomes parts of national curriculum from junior, senior high schools to universities. The teaching of English in junior high schools should be emphasized at helping students to be able to communicate in English.

As stated in School-based Curriculum 2013 (K13) in senior high school, one of the English learning objectives is understanding and/or producing speech and/or written texts which are realized in four skills namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Among the four skills, speaking skill is considered as the most essential skill to be mastered because it is one of the indicators of successful language learning, which means that success in “language learning is often

measured in terms of the ability to carry out a conversation in the target language (Richards, 2008: 19).

In learning English, grammar is one of important aspects that students have to master. Because it is used either in written or spoken language and needed in all language skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. "grammar is partly the study of what form (or structure) are possible in a language. Thornbury (1999:1) Traditionally, grammar has been concentrate almost exclusively with analysis at the level of the sentences. Thus, a grammar is description of the rules that govern how a language is formed".

In other words, grammar is a study about how to form words into sentence in grammatical order. There is a statement about how important the grammar in language. It is stated by Ur (1988:4) that "there is no doubt that a knowledge implicit or explicit-of grammatical rules is essential for the mastery of a language, both in written and spoken language. Because of that, grammar is one of the most important factor in language.

Moreover, grammar has some topics that must be learnt by students. One of general topic in grammar is tense. Bauer (1983:157) states that "tense is usually defined as relating to the time of action, event or state". It is needed in forming sentence. The time of action is commonly expressed by the verb. According to Lock (1996:163), one of grammar aspects is tense. In making a sentence in English either written or spoken, a tense plays very important role. In English each sentence always contains tense. Tense form of a verb indicates distictions in time. With tense, the students can know when the time action occurs, and the correspondence between the form of the verb and their concept of time.

Hence, teachers role in SMA Negeri 4 Kupang is very important to make students be attentive and creative to improve their ability in using tense. As the writer experienced when doing teachers training or Praktek Pengalaman Lapangan (PPL) she found that students tend to interchange one tense to another which is not appropriate. They use present tense for past and past tense for present perfect as seen in the following sentences. Take for example :

They study English at this Campus

They studied English at this Campus last year

They have studied English at this Campus last year

She assumes that the same problem might be found in SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang because many students are confused when using tense.

Based on the problem mentioned above, the writer intends to analyse the students ability in using present perfect tense. Therefore, the writer will conduct a study under the title “ A Study On The Ability In Using Present Perfect Tense Of The Eleventh Grade Students Of SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang In The School Year 2019/2020

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the background described above, the writer would like to formulate the problem statement in the following questions:

1. Are the students able to use present perfect tense?
2. What is the level of the students' ability in using present perfect tense?

1.3 Objective of the Study

There are three objectives of the study, they are:

1. To find out whether or not the students able to use present perfect tense.
2. To find out the ability level of the eleventh grade students of at SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 in using present perfect tense.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of a study is actually the usefulness or the benefit of a study of human beings. Thus, this study has some benefit for the following persons :

- a. For students of SMK Kencana Sakti

The students will be informed of their ability in using present perfect tense.

- b. For English Teachers

This result of this study may become a source of information for them to recognize their students ability in using present perfect tense.

- c. For the writer

This study is an opportunity for the writer to implement her knowledge in doing a scientific research.

- d. For The English Study Program

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

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

English has a great many grammatical structures and one of them is tense. There are 16 tenses in English they are simple present tense, present continuous tense, present perfect tense, present perfect continuous tense, simple past tense, past continuous tense, past perfect tense, past perfect continuous tense, simple future tense, future continuous tense, future perfect tense, future perfect continuous tense, simple past future tense, past future perfect tense, past future perfect continuous tense, and one of them is present perfect tense. Doing a study on all tense need much energy, time and finance. That is why this study only focuses on present perfect tense.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

There are several terms that need to be defined as follows :

1. Ability

It is a potential capacity or power to do something physicaly or mentally (Hornby, 1987:2). Here in this study ability means the students ability in using present perfect tense in English sentences.

2. Tense

According to Ricard Viet, “ Tense is frequently described as the property that relates to the time a verb action performed”.

Based on the definition above, the writer can conclude that tense is a form of verb that is used to express or indicate the time of the action or activity.

3. Present Perfect Tense

According to Azar (1993:162), “the present perfect tense expresses the idea that something happened (or never happened) before now at an unspecified time in the past. The exact time it happened is not important. It also, expresses the repeated of an activity before now. It also used *for* and *since*, expresses a situation that began in the past and continuous to the present.

Present perfect is used to show a link between the present and the past. The time of the action is before now but not specified. Present perfect tense is used to describe :

- a. An action or situation that started in the past and continue in the present
- b. An action performed during a period that has not yet finished
- c. A repeated action in an unspecified period between the past and now
- d. An action was completed in the very recent past, expressed by “ just”.

From the explanation above the writer concludes that the present perfect is is a tense that is used to state a past and event or action occurred in the past but still continue in the present. Present perfect tense also used to indicate action in the past that has consequence/effect in the present.

In this reasearch, present perfect tense is topic which is learned by students at the first year student of SMK Kencana Sakti

4. SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang

SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang is one of senior high schools in Kupang. It is located at Jl. Karya kencana, No. 11. Kelapa lima. Kota Kupang.