

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer would like to discuss the background of the study, statement of problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definitions of terms. Those are explained in detail below.

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, English has a very important role and has become an important language. This is because English as an international language used by people to communicate with other people from different countries around the world. Syafi'i (2007: 97) also points out that, nowadays, the mastery of English is a must if one does not want to be left out, especially, in terms of information and technology.

In learning English, there are four skills which is very important to be learned by students such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These skills should be emphasized by the teacher in the process of teaching and learning. Besides, there is one basic element which is really important that should be mastered in learning the four skills, it is called grammar. According to Manser (1991:182), grammar is rules for forming words and making sentences. It means that, grammar is one of the important language components which cannot be ignored in learning English. By studying grammar, the students are not expected to make mistake instead to use English correctly.

By mastering grammar, a learner will perform better in listening, speaking, reading and also writing. It means that mastery of English grammar is necessary in

developing English skills. According to Hornby (1986:51) the learners who wish to speak and write in English are concerned with grammatical correctness. Swann (1980:456) states that grammar is the words change and show different meanings and how they are combined into sentences. One of the topics in grammar in English language is passive voice. Furthermore, Samelson (1980: 160) passive voice is the original receiver becomes the subject and the original doer of the preposition by. In other explanation, passive voice is a grammatical construction in which the subject as receiver of action by the doer of action (Kasmini and Siwi: 2016).

The use of active and passive sentences should be balanced. A speaker or a writer should use both types of sentences. The use of active and passive sentences in learning is to create a variation of the sentences produced. Besides, the students will not depend on using active sentences dominantly because it will be better if an active sentence and a passive sentence are combined. Moreover, passive sentences create a fusion of creativity in learning.

Based on the writer's experience in learning process when he was in junior and senior high schools or even in the University, active and passive voices are one of the challenging materials to learn. It also happened to the school that where based on the observation done by the writer when doing the teaching practicum, students still found it challenging to learn the active and passive voice. For example the students were not able to do the daily tests, especially in changing the subject, object and the use of Be (am, is, are and was, were) in form of active and passive voices. However, there are some students who were able to use the passive voice both in writing and speaking.

Studying this phenomenon, the writer would like to conduct a research so he can scientifically find out the ability of the eleventh grade students of SMA Bina Karya Atambua in using active and passive voices.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study the writer formulates the problems in the following questions:

1. Are the eleventh grade students of SMA Bina Karya Atambua in the school year 2019/2020 able to use active and passive voices?
2. What is the ability level of the eleventh grade students of SMA Bina Karya Atambua in the school year 2019/2020 in using active and passive voices?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems stated above, the objectives of this research are to investigate:

1. Whether or not the eleventh grade students of SMA Bina Karya Atambua in the school year 2019/2020 are able to understand active and passive sentences.
2. The eleventh grade students' ability level of SMA Bina Karya Atambua in the school year 2019/2020 in using active and passive sentences.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The results of the study are expected to be useful for the writer, the teacher and the students.

1. The Writer

The result of this study can be useful for the writer as the prospective teacher in preparing himself to become a teacher in the future. The writer is also trained in how to conduct research and to know how to use active and passive sentences.

2. For the English Teacher

To inform the English teacher at the researched school about the ability of the students in using active and passive sentences, so that the English teachers can improve or maintain the method of teaching English, especially the teaching of active and passive sentences.

3. For the Students

The results can inform the eleventh grade students about their ability in using the active and passive voices which is expected that they can be motivated to study English better, especially in using active and passive sentences.

4. For English Study Program

The result of this study will be beneficial for English study program in terms of giving good information or contribution about the teaching of active and passive voices at research school.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are many aspects of grammar that can be tested, yet the writer focuses on finding out the use of active and passive voices. Besides, active and passive voices can be constructed into any tenses. However, the writer only focused on the active and passive voices constructed in both simple present tense and simple past tense.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In this part, there are some terms used in this study that should be defined. The definition may help the readers to understand the study as a whole. The writer would like to describe the basic theory in this study. The terms which should be defined in this research are as follows:

1. Ability

It is a capacity of someone physically or mentally that can develop through optimal exercise (Homby: 1987). In another explanation, ability is the capability of someone in doing something such as exercise, task or work to measure how good the result is.

2. Active sentence

It is a sentence which the verb has active sentence and reveals that the subject does the activity (Hartanto, 1986: 318). It means that, in an active sentence the subject of the sentence be the actor and performs the action, work, activity and it is stated by the verb.

3. Passive sentence

It is a sentence which the activity is done toward the subject (Murphy, 1990: p.68). It means that the object of the active sentence becomes a subject in a passive sentence and the subject of the active sentence becomes an object in a passive sentence. The activity is done toward the subject.

5. SMA Bina Karya Atambua

It is one of the private schools located on Jalan Gajah Mada, Atambua, Nusa Tenggara Province.