

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the writer would like to present the background of the study, statements of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definition of terms.

### **1.1 Background of the study**

Writing is one of the language skills that can be used as a tool to produce language in written form. According to Harmer (2001: 79) writing is a form of communication to deliver thought or to express feeling through written form. Moreover, writing is an activity expressing one's thoughts, ideas, and feelings expressed in written language. In another sense, writing is an activity to express thoughts, and feelings in written form which is expected to be understood by the reader and functions as an indirect means of communication. Actually, writing is not easy to learn because writing is not only about how to express ideas. In writing, students have to learn some sub-skills such as grammar, punctuation, vocabulary and spelling.

As we know that in writing it is inseparable from the structure of language. The structure of language or grammar is one of the important sub-skills of English and also becomes an important aspect of writing that has to be mastered by a language learner well. It is the set of formal patterns in which the words of a

language are arranged in order to convey larger meanings (Francis 1954). Having a good grammar of a language can help the learners of a language to be easier in delivering their ideas, thoughts, messages and feelings and make the writing more coherent. Though sometimes their ideas are not well understood because of some errors found in their writing.

Dulay et al. (1982 :138) argue that errors are the flawed side of learner speech or writing. Error is ungrammatical utterances which are produced by the learners of English. Ungrammatical utterances mean the sentences or utterances are not based on the structure or the rules of English. Based on the writer's experience in SMPN 10 Kupang, he found that most of the problems faced by the students in writing are their poor mastery of vocabulary and the lack of knowledge of grammar. Therefore, the students make some errors in grammar and in choosing the correct words in writing a simple and a short kind of writing.

This study focuses on the analysis of grammatical errors committed by the eleventh grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang using surface strategy taxonomy proposed by Dulay et al ( 1982: 145), while descriptive text functions as the media or instrument to obtain data from the subject of the study. So, the writer is interested to find out the errors made by the students and decides to conduct a study entitled: **“An Error Analysis on Writing Descriptive Text of the Eighth Grade Students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the Academic year 2019/ 2020.”**

## **1.2 Statements of the Problems**

Based on the background above, the writer identifies into two problems, formulated in questions below:

1. What are types of errors made by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the academic year 2019/2020 in writing descriptive text?
2. What is the most common error made by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the academic year 2019/2020 in writing descriptive text?

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

Related to some problems above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out types of error made by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in writing descriptive text.
2. To figure out the most common error in writing descriptive text committed by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study will give significance to some sides, as explained in the following section.

### **1. The English Teachers of the Researched School**

To inform the English teacher about the students' errors in writing descriptive text, so that the teacher can improve the teaching learning process on students' needs in order to minimize students' errors in writing descriptive text.

## **2. The students of the researched school**

This study can help the students how to develop their writing skill especially in writing descriptive text and use the correct grammar in their writing.

## **3. The Writer**

By doing this research the writer can enrich his knowledge on the theory of grammar, errors and in particular how to analyze the students' error in writing descriptive text.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This study was about students' error in writing descriptive text. The writer focused on students' error in writing descriptive text made by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in the academic year 2019/2020, and the writer limited his main attention to the errors in writing descriptive text made by the students based on surface strategy taxonomy which consists of omission, additions, misformation and misordering, proposed by Dulay et al ( 1982: 145).

### **1.6 Definition of Terms**

To help the readers to understand this study, the writer provides definitions of the terms related to this study.

#### **1. Errors**

Error is the flawed side of learner's speech or writing. They are those parts of conversation or composition that deviate from some selected norm of mature language performance (Dulay et al.,1982). It simply means the

incorrect forms that some produce. In this study error means the wrong construction of sentences that are made by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang in writing descriptive text.

## **2. Writing**

According to Tarigan (in Faisal & k. Suwandita, 2013). Writing is one of the language skills which is used to communicate indirectly, without having face to face with other people. In this study, writing related to the act of writing descriptive text made by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang.

## **3. Descriptive Text**

Descriptive text is a text that describes a particular thing or object, place or person (Wyrick, 1987: 227). Dealing with this study, descriptive text is the text produced by the eighth grade students of SMPN 10 Kupang.

## **4. SMPN 10 Kupang**

SMPN 10 Kupang is one of the state junior high schools in Kupang city that is located in Jl. Prof. Dr. Herman Johanes, Kelapa Lima, sub-district, in which the writer uses as the location of the study.