

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of terms.

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

The ability to communicate in multiple languages is becoming more important in the globalization era. Without this ability, people cannot get along with new people from other countries in various dialects, languages, and cultures. One of the important languages nowadays is English. English is an international language which plays significant role in the globalization era. In Indonesia, English is a foreign language that is taught from secondary school to university. It covers four basic language skills. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. In addition, language subskills such as pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and spelling are also taught in the schools. Among these skills vocabulary and grammar can be considered as the first skills students must master in order to use English well (Rumaidah, 2017). Mastering grammar is not easy for students because they think structure exercises are difficult to do. Byrd (2003) stated that grammar is the central to the teaching and learning of language and also becomes one of the most difficult aspects of language to teach as well as to learn. It shows that learning grammar is likely to be one of the

difficulties in learning English for the students. Naturally, students will be confused on the rules and then will avoid grammar itself. A lot of students have low scores in English, it is caused by the failure in grammar mastery (Ristibintari, 2009).

Grammar could be considered to be one of the important part in learning foreign language, without a good knowledge of grammar, learner's language development will be severely constrained (Richards and Renandya, 2002). There are many aspects discussed in English grammar. One of them is conditional sentence. Conditional sentence is one of the fundamental parts of English grammar.

Conditional sentences are among the most useful forms for communicating suppositions about events or situations that are contrary to reality (Azar, Matties and Hartle, 2001). Conditional sentences or clauses consist of an *if-clause*, named *sub clause* and this result found in the *main clause* that depends on the *if-clause*.

There are 4 types of conditional sentences, conditional type I (future possible), type II (present unreal, type III (past unreal) (Thomson and Martinet 1981), there is also another conditional sentence called conditional sentence type zero (Asa, 2003). Many researchers' stated that conditional sentence type III is the most difficult conditional , due to the lack of knowledge of past perfect tense and the inappropriateness in choosing modal (Saadillah 2014, Wijayanti 2016, Salamah 2014).

The lack of mastery of tenses could lead to the adversity of producing English conditional sentence type III incorrectly. And the students will be confused when they construct conditional sentence type III. From the explanations above the writer is interested to do a research under the title: **An Analysis on the Ability in Mastering Conditional Sentence Type III by the Twelfth Grade Students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in School Year 2019/2020.**

### **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

This study attempts to address the following research questions.

1. Are the twelfth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 able to master conditional sentence type III?
2. What is the level of ability of the twelfth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 in using conditional sentence type III?

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

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of the study in this research are:

1. To find out whether the twelfth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 able to master conditional sentence type III.
2. To find out the level of ability of the twelfth grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 in using conditional sentence type III.

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

This study is significant for people who really have concern in language learning especially the English teachers and the students in the school and the writer herself.

The findings of this study are expected to be beneficial for the following:

1. The English teachers

The results of this study are expected to help the English teachers to understand the student's mastery of conditional sentence type III. It is hoped that this study will be taken into consideration as the teacher's plan for their lessons.

2. The students

This study can be a source of information about the ability of the students to use conditional sentence type III. This could be used as a reflection so the students can try to improve themselves with the help from the teachers.

3. Other researchers

The results may serve as a guideline for the future study related to the subject in particular to improve on the limitation of the present study.

4. For the readers

It is expected through this study that they can broaden their knowledge of grammar especially about conditional sentences.

5. For the writer

This study will enrich her knowledge of grammar and in particular using conditional sentence type III

## 6. The English Education Study Program

This study also gives contribution to English Education Study Program of Teacher Training and Educational Science Faculty of Widya Mandira Catholic University. This research can benefit as a reference for another students especially in a study about conditional sentences.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study is related to English grammar. There are four types of conditional sentences namely conditional sentence type zero, type I, type II, and type III. In this study, the writer focuses on the ability of the students of SMA Negeri 2 Kupang in the school year 2019/2020 to use conditional sentence type III.

### **1.6 Definition of Terms**

There are some terms in this study that will be explained which can help the readers to understand the study.

#### **1. Grammar**

Richards and Schmidt (2010) describe grammar as “a description of a language and the way in which units such as words and phrases are combined to produce sentences in the language.”

#### **2. Ability**

Ability is the state of being able to do something, or your level of skill to do something (Burgh, 2007). So, from the definition above, the writer concludes that ability is someone’s capability in doing something well

by using knowledge and skill or something that people do very well because they have learned and practised the quality of being able to do something.

### **3. Conditional Sentences**

Conditional sentences are to express a fact in the predictable future events or untrue in the present and in the past. There are four types of conditional sentences: conditional sentence type zero, conditional sentence type I, conditional sentence type II, and conditional sentence type III.

Conditional sentences have two parts, they are *if clause* and the *main clause* (Martinet, 1986).

### **4. SMA Negeri 2 Kupang**

SMA Negeri 2 Kupang is one of the state schools which are owned by the government. It is located at S.K. Lerik Street Kelapa Lima Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara Province.