

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English is demanded to be used in communication by people throughout the world. Learning English involves four skills; they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Those skills are supported by English language elements such as structure or grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and spelling. Every language has its own grammar which is different one and another. Without grammar, it is impossible to communicate well. Grammar is one of the language components that have an important role in language. Learning grammar is for Indonesian learner who studies English, especially for junior high school students who have the first experience in learning grammar. The fact is that they seem to understand when the teacher explains about grammar in class room, but when they have to apply both in written or spoken English; they are not able to use it properly

One part of English grammar is degrees of comparison. Degrees of comparison are a part of grammar which is used in written and spoken language. Many students have problem with degrees of comparison. If the students master degrees of comparison of adjectives well, the students will understand and can identify sentences using degrees of comparison correctly as well as producing good sentences.

In English grammar the comparison degree of an adjective or adverb describes the relational value of one thing with something in another a sentence. An

adjective or adverb may simply describe a quality; (Azar, 1993: 328) defines comparison with as for the positive degree.

In relation to learning process, many students often have the problem as the writer mentioned by above. It can be understood that the students especially Junior High School students are in elementary level, but if this case is let, they will bring their wrong habit to the next level. As a result, they will have a problem in their use of language even though their mistakes or errors are in small quantity, but they can be the source of problem in communication.

There are many private junior high schools in Kupang, one of them is SMP Negeri 13 Kupang. The students of SMP Negeri 13 Kupang, especially in the eighth grade have problem. They feel difficult in arranging the comparison of degrees.

Based on the facts above the writer would like to conduct a study under the title; **A Study on the Ability in Using Degrees of Comparison of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 13 Kupang in the School Year 2015/2016.**

1.2 Problem Statements

The topic of the study is specified into three problem statements which are formulated in the following questions:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 13 Kupang in the school year 2015/2016 able to use degree of comparison of adjective?
2. What is the student's levels of ability in using degrees of comparison of adjectives?

3. What are difficulties area faced by the students in using degrees of comparison of adjective?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study has some objectives. The objectives are stated in the following part.

1. To find out whether the eight grade students of SMP Negeri 13 Kupang are able to use the degree of comparison of adjective or not.
2. To know the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 13 Kupang in the in using the degrees of comparison of adjective.
3. To know the difficulties faced by students in using degrees of comparison of adjective.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

This study has some significance for the English teacher, the students, and the writer.

1. For the English Teacher

This study will help the English teacher at the researched school to find out a good method in teaching degree of comparison of adjective if the result of study is bad but if the result is good the English teacher may retain his/her method in teaching degree of comparison.

2. For the Students:

The result of this study may inform the students act as subject of this study in improving their ability to use degrees of comparison of adjectives in sentences.

3. For the Writer:

This study will be a way in order to help the writer for expanding her knowledge about degrees of comparison.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study deals with grammar. There are many aspects of grammar that can be taken to be test to students and analyzed, such as tenses, preposition, modal auxiliary, degree of comparison, gerund, and so on. Yet, the writer limits her study in degree of comparison of adjective. They are positive degree, comparative degree, and superlative degree. The writer takes these three degrees but the materials are limited on students' handbook.

1.6 Definition of Term

In order to understand this study well, the writer provides some terms that are defined as follows:

1. Ability

Ability means capacity or power to do something physical or mental, (Hornby, 1989: 2). In this study "ability" means capacity of the students to use degrees of comparison of adjective.

2. Adjective

A word that modifies a noun by describing a quality of the named, indicating its quantity or extent, or specifying a thing as distinct from something else (Merriam-webbster). It is a word that indicates a quality of the person or thing

referred to by a noun, egg (Hornby, 1987: 5). In this study an adjective is a part of speech which describes, identifies, or quantifies a noun or a pronoun

3. Degree of Comparison

Comparison degree is adjectives which are used to clarify the difference between 2 objects or nouns. The comparison degree of an adjective or adverb describes the relational value of one thing with something in another a sentence. An adjectives or adverbs may simply describe a quality (Azar, 1993: 328) defines comparison with as for the positive degree.

4. SMP Negeri 13 Kupang

SMP Negeri 13 Kupang is one of the state junior high school in Frans da Romes street located in Maulafa Kupang City, East Nusa Tenggara Province.