

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The teaching-learning process of English language concentrates on the four skills, those are: listening, speaking reading and writing. According to Ramli (2013) writing is a way to express feelings, ideas, arguments, willingness and thoughts in the form of words in sentences. It means that students should be able to express their idea in written form as the result of their understanding of the text that they read. Because of that, writing is important skill to be taught to the students.

One of the texts that must be learned by the eighth grade students is descriptive text. Descriptive text is a type of text used by the writer when he/she wants to tell how something looks, smells, feels, acts, tastes, and sounds. Descriptive text is used to describe a particular person, place, and thing. The descriptive text has generic structure; first, identification is introducing where or who is the subject is being described. Second, descriptive text also describes qualities and characteristic or the supporting part of the paragraph which describes in detail to assist the reader to see and tell the subject.

A study conducted by Diharyono (1990: 1) indicated that students have known or had the ideas what they were going to write but they did not know how to put them into sentences. Based on the interview done by the researcher to the English teacher of eighth grade at that school, the English teacher said that most of the students in the eighth grade of SMPN 2 Bola made grammatical errors when they are writing a short descriptive text. The students often made errors in writing because they lack practice and they lack knowledge about vocabulary and grammar.

Based on the problem stated above, the researcher is interested in conducting a research with the title **“A Study on Grammatical Errors in Student’s Descriptive Writings”**

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background of the study above, there are two questions that will be answered in this study:

1. What are the kinds of grammatical errors made by the students of SMPN 2 Bola-Sikka in writing a descriptive text?
2. What is the most dominant kind of error made by students of SMPN 2 Bola-Sikka in writing a descriptive text?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Going in line with the research problem, there are two objectives of the study:

1. To find out the kinds of grammatical errors made by students of SMPN 2 Bola-Sikka in writing a descriptive text.
2. To find out the most dominant kind of error made by students of SMPN 2 Bola-Sikka in writing a descriptive text.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has some contributions that are explained in the following:

1. Theoretical Contribution

This study is expected to give contributions on the theories of error analysis and writing because because it discusses grammatical errors that occur in students writing.

2. Pedagogical Contribution

By understanding the result of this study, it is hoped that the teacher could develop the teaching and learning process better, especially in writing descriptive text.

3. Practical Contribution

The writer can advance to know how the errors made by student in writing a descriptive text from the result of study, and in the future the writer can find a better way to teach English especially in writing skill. In addition, the students will be informed about the errors they commit in writing descriptive text so they can improve their grammar knowledge.