

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains six subchapters. They are background, problem statement, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of terms. The detail explanations are as follows.

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

Personal pronoun is part of grammar. It is very important in teaching and learning English. Grammarians classify pronouns into several types including the Personal Pronoun, Demonstrative Pronoun, Relative Pronoun, Interrogative Pronoun, Reflexive Pronoun, Reciprocal Pronoun and Indefinite Pronoun. From those types above personal pronoun is one aspect that should be mastered by the students or people who want to learn English (Azar, 1989: 5)

A personal pronoun refers to a specific person or thing and changes its form to indicate person, number, gender, and case. Personal pronouns are divided into two kinds they are: Subjective Pronouns and Objective Pronouns. Subjective pronouns indicate that the pronoun is acting as the subject of the sentence. *I, you, she, he, it, we, you, they* are subjective personal pronouns, which mean they are used as the subject of the sentence. For Example is: “*She* lives in Kupang” (Collins, 1990: 45).

Objective Pronouns indicate that the pronoun is acting as an object of a verb, compound verb, preposition or infinitive phrase. *Me, you, him, her, it, us,*

*them*, on the other hand, are objective personal pronouns, which mean that they are used as the object of a verb or preposition. For Example: "Fanny hates *me*".

Secondary high school students must know the use of personal pronouns in sentence correctly, but in fact some students didn't know how to use the personal pronouns correctly in sentence. For example:

1. The error in using personal pronouns of subject in sentence:

Student's sentence: "*Jenny has a new HP. Herbought it yesterday*"

The correct sentence: "*Jenny has a new HP. She bought it yesterday*"

2. The error in using personal pronouns of object in sentence:

Student's sentence: "*Rio is my friend, I know he well*"

The correct sentence: "*Rio is my friend, I know him well*"

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in the study of which analyzes the student ability in using personal pronouns in SMPN 1 Kupang. This study is entitled: "**A Study on the Ability in Using English Personal Pronoun of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang in the School Year 2015/2016**".

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

After studying the background of this study, the researcher determines the problem that will be investigated. From the statement of problem, the readers will not be confused about what the researcher is looking for in this research. The research problems are stated below.

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMPN 1 Kupang in the School Year 2015/2016 able to use "Personal Pronouns" in English sentences correctly?

2. What is the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMPN 1 Kupang in School Year 2015/2016 in using personal pronouns in English sentences?
3. What is the area of difficulties in using “Personal Pronouns” of the eighth grade student of SMPN 1 Kupang?

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

The objectives of the study obviously should be related to the statement of the problem above. The objectives of the study are presented in the following:

1. To find out whether the eighth grade students of SMPN 1 Kupang are able to use the “Personal pronouns” in English sentences correctly or not.
2. To find out the ability level of eighth grade students SMPN 1 Kupang in using “Personal Pronouns”.
3. To find out the area of difficulties in using “Personal Pronouns” of the eighth grade students of SMPN 1 Kupang.

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

Significance of the study is actually the usefulness or benefit of a study for human beings. The researcher chooses this study because he hopes that his study also gives some advantages or benefits to the teacher, the writer, the students and the readers.

#### **1. For the Teacher**

- a. To inform the English teacher especially the teacher at the researched school about the students ability in using “Personal Pronouns”.

- b. The writer hopes that the teacher will improve the student's ability in using correct "Personal Pronouns".

## **2. For the Writer**

This writing will provide many experiences for the writer, and particularly in accomplishing research and also will stimulate the writer to know more about "Personal Pronouns".

## **3. For the Students**

- a. The writer hopes that the students will understand more about the use of "Personal Pronouns".
- b. The writer hopes the students can express themselves especially when they use personal pronouns in better way both in spoken and written English.

## **4. For the Readers**

The writer hopes that this thesis can be a reference for the next research or just as knowledge.

### **1.5. Scope and Limitation**

This study is about grammar. There are many aspects of grammar. This study is focused on personal pronouns. It consists of three kinds, namely: Personal pronouns as subject, object, and genitive (possessive adjective and possessive pronoun). In this study the writer limits on personal pronouns as subject and personal pronouns as object. The discussions of personal pronouns are included in the level of junior high school in the eighth grade level. The writer knew this by seeing the English text book used by the English teacher of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang.

## 1.6. Definition of the Terms

To avoid some confusing understanding about this topic, the writer will explain the definition of some main terms. They are: ability, personal pronouns, and SMPN 1 Kupang.

### 1. Ability

Ability is potential capability or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1972: 2). In this study ability means that student's ability or potentiality in understanding and using "Personal Pronouns".

### 2. Personal Pronoun

Personal pronouns are words that are used to replace a person or thing (Riyanto, 2011: 46). There are two kinds of personal pronouns.

#### a) Personal Pronouns as *subject*.

The subject of a verb does the action of the verb. The personal pronouns **I, you, he, she, it, we** and **they** can all be used as the subject of a verb.

For example:

*"My name is Jojon. **I** am twenty years old."*

*"**I** have a dog. **It** names Rocky."*

*"**Lisa** likes cats. **She** has four cats"*

#### b) Personal Pronouns as *object*.

The object of a verb receives the action of the verb. The personal pronouns **me, you, him, her, it, us** and **them** can all be used as the object of a verb. For example:

*"I am doing my homework. Dad is helping **me**."*

*"The car is very dirty. Mom is cleaning **it**."*

*"Miss Grace is very nice. All the children like **her**."*

### **3. SMPN 1 Kupang**

SMPN 1 Kupang is public junior high school that is located at Prof. Dr. W. Z.

Johannes Street No. 30, Kupang – East Nusa Tenggara Province.