

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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

Language is a means of communication. Human beings as social creatures need to communicate and interact with others. Of course many countries in the world, including Indonesia have to study English if they want to communicate with the international relationship because English is an international language.

In Indonesia, English is considered as a first foreign language. English is taught or learned as a compulsory subject from elementary until the university levels. In order to master English, people need to have English skills and sub- skills. The English skills include listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Whereas the English sub-skills including grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary.

Man is a social being. He must build- up relationships with other human being with the aim to share his ideas, emotions, desires, and expectations. To do this he uses a language as a tool of communication. To support the success of the communication process he must understand how the language works which will enable him to interact with his fellow creature. Language is a system of symbols designed for purpose of communication as a tool of communication; language influences all aspects of human life.

In globalization era, English plays a very important role in overcoming the problems in all fields, which will be faced by each country in the world such as

economy, politics, tradition etc. In a writing process sometimes writers, especially foreign language learners, make errors in grammar especially when they write a descriptive text. In writing, the learners commonly do not know the appropriate expression or structure but since they wish to communicate their ideas, they will fall back on the language system with which they are not familiar.

Grammar is generally thought to be a set of rules specifying the correct ordering of words in the sentence level. Richard et al (1985; 126) define grammar as a description of the structure of a language and the way in which linguistic units such as words and phrases are combined to produce sentence in language.

Based on the experience of the writer when she did teaching practice in SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui, she found that many students committed grammatical errors. Some examples of grammatical errors in writing descriptive text can be seen in sentences below.

1. *My friends names Roni, Dion and Siska*
2. *Do you went there?*

The error in the first sentence is called “omission”. The correct sentence must be *my friends’ names are Roni, Dion and Siska*, the absence of an item that must appear in a well- formed utterance. In the second sentence it is called misformation. The correct sentence is *do you go there?* It is only required in this sentence. The writer intends to carry out a study entitled **“A Study on the Grammatical Errors in Writing Descriptive Text of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui in the School Year 2016/2017”**

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background, the writer formulates the problems in the following questions.

1. What are the grammatical errors made by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui in the School Year 2016/2017 in writing descriptive text?
2. What are the most common grammatical errors committed by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui in the School Year 2016/2017 in writing descriptive text?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows.

1. To find out the grammatical errors in writing descriptive text made by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui in the School Year 2016/2017.
2. To find out the most common grammatical errors committed by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui in the School Year 2016/2017 in writing a descriptive text.

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

This study will give concrete contribution for the teacher of English, writer and the students of the researched school in learning process of English:

### **1. For the Teacher of English**

To inform the teacher of English in the researched school about the student's grammatical error in writing descriptive text, so it might be useful input for the teacher for the improvement of English teaching and learning.

### **2. For the writer**

This study is meant to increase the writer knowledge in writing English especially on how to write descriptive text correctly by avoiding the errors found in the study.

### **3. For the students**

This study can help students how to develop their writing skill especially in writing descriptive text and their interest to study and learn English.

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

This study is about error in writing descriptive text, and the writer focuses on grammatical error in classifying the errors that might be encountered by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui in the School Year 2016/2017, the writer uses surface strategy taxonomy. This taxonomy covers omission, addition, misordering and misformation.

## **1.6 Definition of Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding of the concepts used in this study, some definitions are provided as the following:

### 1. Descriptive text

It is a type of writing that is arranged according to what it looks like or where the objects being are (Smally and Ruetter,1986 : 89). Dealing with this study, descriptive text is the text produced by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui in the School Year 2016/2017.

### 2. Errors

They refer to wrong forms that the people could not correct even if their wrongness were to be pointed out, but it still evident what the learner wanted to say (James1998:80).Dealing with this study, errors refer to the wrong forms that might be used by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui in the School Year 2016/2017 in writing a descriptive text.

### 3. Writing

It is the act of forming graphic symbols according to certain conventions, to form words, and words has to be arranged to form sentences(Penny Ur, 1996: 170). Writing in this study, means a descriptive text composed by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui in the School Year 2016/2017.

### 4. Grammar

It is the patterns of arrangement of words in sentences and the patterns of arragements of parts of words into words (Lado, 1961 : 142). This study will seek the patterns of grammar in writing descriptive text of the eleventh grade students of SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui in the School Year 2016/2017.

5. SMAK Sint Carolus Penfui

It is one of private senior high school, located in Kupang City, East Nusa Tenggara Province.