

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Language is system of sounds and words used by human to communicate their thoughts and feelings (Manser, 1991:233). It is said as a primary means of human communication. So, briefly we can say that language is a tool of communication.

There are many languages in the world. One of them is English. As an international language, English plays important role in many aspects of life such as in science, commerce, and politics. For instance, there are many books or sources written in English. Realizing the important role of English, the Indonesian government treats it as a compulsory subject at school starting from elementary level until senior high school.

As a language, English has its own basic skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The only way to master those four skills is: to listen more, to speak more, to read more, and to write more. We have to make all those skills as a habit in our daily life. Besides that, English also has its own sub skills to help people in mastering the language; they are vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar. These sub skills are very urgent to be learnt before mastering the basic skills.

Grammar as a sub skill of English has an important role in supporting a good communication.

Grammar is the rule of how words are combined, arranged and changed to show different meanings (Swan, 1995: xxiii). While Richard et al (1985:125) says that grammar is a description of the structure of a language and the way in which linguistic units such as words and phrases are combined to produce sentences in the language. In addition, Manser (1991:182) said that grammar is rules for forming words and making sentences.

Grammar consists of many topics. one of them is WH-question. which begins with who, when, where, which, why and how. In other word, WH question is a kind of questions that uses question words. focusing on subjects, predicates, object or complements. All kinds of WH-question should begin with a question word, such as who, what, when, where, how, which and whose.

Based on the writer's experience during teaching practice at SMP Negeri 10 Kupang, he found out that some students committed errors in using WH- question words. For example: *Where do Jacky come from?* This sentence is incorrect. The correct one should be: *Where does Jacky come from?*

Here, in this study the writer focuses on WH- questions because there are many problems faced by the students in using this grammatical point. The problem is that the students cannot differentiate in using question word, and in using copula BE. For example: *Siapa namamu?* They translated: *Who is your name?* The correct should be: *What is your name?* And other example: *Apa yang sedang kau lakukan?* They translated "*What you doing?*" This sentence should be: *What are you doing?* These questions look simple but they cannot answer them correctly.

Inspired by ideas and evidences above the writer is interested in conducting a study under the title: “A STUDY ON THE MASTERY IN USING WH-QUESTIONS BY THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP NEGERI 10 KUPANG IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2014/ 2015”

1.2 Statement of the Problems

This study conducted to answer the following questions:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 able to use WH- question words?
2. What is the level of ability in using WH-Questions of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 ?
3. What is the area of difficulties encountered by the students in using WH-Questions of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were as follows:

1. To find out whether the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 are able to use WH-Question words in their sentences.
2. To know the level of ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in using WH- Question words.
3. To know the area of difficulties encountered by the students in using WH-Questions of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in the school

year 2014/2015?

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study was beneficial for the teacher of English and the writer:

1. For the English teacher of the researched school

The result of the study expected to help the English teachers of the researched school to know about the level of ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in using WH-Question words.

2. For the writer himself:

- a. By doing this study the writer learned more about the English grammar particularly the use WH- question words.
- b. This study is also a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Pendidikan.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study was about questions, there were three types of questions namely Yes/No Questions, WH-Questions and Tag Questions. However in this study, the writer focused only on WH- Questions words. The WH-Questions: What, when, where, who, whom, whose, which, why and how investigated here were those used in the simple present tense, simple past tense and simple future tense taken from the handbook of eighth grade students of junior high school.

1.6 Definition of Terms

The following are some terms that need to be defined to help readers understand this writing easily.

a. Mastery

It means complete knowledge (Hornby, 1989 : 125). Here in this study means knowledge of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 10 Kupang in using WH-questions words in sentences.

b. WH-Question

It means that a question that asks for information starting with *What, Who Whome, When, Where, Whose, Which, Why and how.*

and *How* (Richard et al 1985: 311).in this study the writer wants to know the students ability in using WH-Question.

c. SMP Negeri 10 Kupang

It is a State Junior High School located in Lasiana – Kupang City. In this study SMP Negeri 10 Kupang is a school where this research will be conducted.