

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a system of sounds and words used by humans to express their thoughts and feelings (Hornby 1995:662). Through language human beings can exchange their ideas; express their feelings to other human beings. It is the main means for communication.

English is one of the languages in the world. It has become an international language and used by many people in the world. Besides, there are many countries and people in the world learn it. However, each country has its own reason to treat English whether as the first, second or foreign language.

In Indonesia, English is learnt as a foreign language and not as a second language. All Indonesian students learn English language. English language is taught as a compulsory subject for elementary school, Junior and Senior high school, and elective subject in the academics or universities.

In order to master and to be able to use a language for example English, people need to know all components of language skills and sub-skills. There are four components of language skills. The language skills are listening; speaking, reading, and writing and sub skills are grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary.

Someone is able to read, speak, listen, and write well, by having sufficient knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation as well. By mastering these sub-skills the speaker will speak and write well and the hearer and the reader can catch the meaning of the utterance without any doubt. (Murphy: 1994).

Using language with correct grammar is very important in communication. By using correct grammar, the hearer can catch precisely what the speaker means; so the communication of message could go its destination smoothly as long as both the speaker and the hearer use correct grammar. Therefore grammar should be learnt and mastered by the user of language.

There are many grammatical rules that have to be learnt by students. One among them is the use of passive voice in the sentence. Using passive voice is almost never heard in the spoken language. People prefer to use active sentences rather than passive sentence. In fact, however, in written language the writers often use passive voice to stress the things meant.

Based on the information from the English teacher of SMAN 6 KUPANG that most students cannot use passive voice form in the sentences, although it has been taught. The writer experienced when the writer interviewed them at the researched school, there were many students felt difficult to transfer active sentences into passive sentences, for example:

Active voice : Any is reading a new book

Passive voice : A new book is read by Any (Incorrect)

Passive voice : A new book is being read by Any (Correct)

As we see, in the second sentence of passive voice “A new book is read by Any” is incorrect. Because of the misuse of the tense. The sentence should use the *present continuous tense*. So, the correct sentence is “*A new book is being read by Any*”.

Based on the above statements, the writer tries to make a study under the title: “A STUDY ON THE MASTERY OF PASSIVE VOICE USE IN THE SENTENCES OF

ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMAN 6 KUPANG IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2014/2015.”

1.2 Problem Statement

With regards to the background state above, this study will be conducted to answer the following questions:

1. Have the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 mastered the use of passive voice in the sentences?
2. What is their level of mastery of the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in the use of passive voice in the sentences?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the problem above, the following are the objectives of the study:

1. To find out whether the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 have mastered the use of passive voice in the sentence or not?
2. To know students level of mastery of the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in the use of passive voice in the sentences.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The following are some benefits of this study that would be obtained:

1. **For the Students.**

This study is aimed to facilitate them to know their ability in using passive voice. And hence they might be motivated to study English grammar in general and passive voice in particular.

2. For the English teacher of SMAN 6 Kupang.

Through this study, he or she will know his or her result in teaching particularly in teaching of passive voice, based on which he or she can afford a better method of teaching English in general especially in the teaching of passive. Besides, they will get informed about their student's mastery of using passive voice in the sentences.

3. For the Writer.

To enrich the writer's knowledge and learning experience in conducting research about language particularly on the use of Passive Voice in the sentences.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

An idea can be expressed by using active sentences or passive sentences in various tenses. Passive voice occurs in sentences with various tenses and modals. There are some tenses in English grammar. So, in this study the writer only focuses on five tenses that have already been taught to the students namely; simple present, present progressive, present perfect, simple past and simple future in passive sentences. This study was conducted at the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 KUPANG in the school year 2014-2015.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In order to facilitate the readers to understand this writing, the writer presents some terms that need to be clarified. They are as follows:

1. Mastery

The word mastery is a “noun” which means complete knowledge, great skill of something (Hornby 1995:721). In this case, mastery means the ability of the second grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang to use of Passive Voice in the sentences

2. Active voice

Active voice in grammar is when the subject of the sentence performs the action of the verb. (Shaw, 1979 : 173).

In this study, active voice means the active sentences produced by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang.

3. Passive Voice

Passive Voice is the characteristic of a verb that tells the reader whether the subject does not perform the action but instead is performed by putting the auxiliary verb *to be* in some tenses and add the past participle.

(Shaw, 1979: 173).

In this study, passive voice means the passive sentences produced by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang.

4. SMAN 6 Kupang

SMAN 6 Kupang was built in 1995 which is a government policy Kupang municipality to address the lack of high school in the region.

SMAN 6 Kupang is a state senior high school located at HR Koroh Street, sikumana Rt. 22 / Rw: IX, sub Maulafa, Kupang, and East Nusa Tenggara.