

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a means of communication for transferring information, ideas, and feelings from one person to another. It can take the form of both written and spoken. There are many languages used as a means of communication by people around the world. One of them is English as an international language. Considering the importance of English, our government has set English as a foreign language to be mastered by the students, starting from elementary school up to university, because it is important for developing their science or their communication which English is acknowledged as one of the general basic course.

In Indonesia, English teaching aims at mastering four basic skills of language, namely: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The students are expected to master those four skills in order to be able to use English communicatively. The aim of KTSP (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan) will not be successfully achieved if the language teaching does not consider the language components such as grammatical structure, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

Based on information obtained from the English teacher at SMA Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang, it was found that many students still encounter difficulties in mastering grammar, especially in mastering Simple Present Tense.

Simple Present Tense is important as the basic rule for the students to make and use sentences to communicate in daily life. Besides that, by mastering this rule of language, the students can identify and make descriptive texts and procedure texts in which Simple Present Tense is used.

According to Azar (2002: 2), "in general, the simple present expresses events or situations that exist always, usually, habitually; they exist now, have existed in the past, and probably will exist in the future". It can indicate that Present Tenses is very important to be mastered because present tenses is used to express the activities often happens, habitually occurs.

I found that many students often did not understand why some sentences used auxiliaries, *is*, *am*, and *are* instead of auxiliaries *do* and *does*. Some students still chose "*She is speak English well*" instead of saying '*She speaks English well*'. This sentence uses third person singular. Moreover, some students were confused in differentiating which subject used auxiliaries *do* and which one used *does*. For example, '*He do not meant to hurt you*' which should be '*He does not meant to hurt you*'. All the problems above happened because the students did not understand the right rule of Simple Present Tense. Many students in SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang often find grammar, especially simple present tense difficult in these aspects to create the sentences structure.

Based on what has been described above, the writer would like to make a study to the students of SMA Terakreditasi PGRI KUPANG just to make sure whether they still have the same difficulties concerning the simple past tense or not. The writer is interested to do his research entitled:

“A STUDY ON THE ABILITY IN CONSTRUCTING SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE OF THE ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMA TERAKREDITASI PGRI KUPANGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2015/2016”.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The problems of the study are formulated in the following questions:

1. Are the eleventh grade students of SMA Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang in the school year 2015/2016 able to use the simple present tense?
2. What is the students' ability level in using simple present tense?

1.3 Objective of Research

Based on the research question above, the writer states that the objective of the research is as follows:

- 1 To find out whether or not the eleventh grade students of SMA Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang in the school year 2015/2016 are able to use simple present tense.
2. To know the ability level of students in using simple present tense.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

There are many elements which are related to grammar. The writer only chooses and focuses his study on the tenses particularly on the simple present tense, because in reality we know some students still commit mistakes in the

use of the simple present tense in sentences. For the simple present tense, the study is limited to:

1. Affirmative.
2. Negative.
3. Interrogative (yes/no question).

This study will be conducted at the eleventh grade students of SMA Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang in the school year 2015/2016.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is actually the usefulness and the benefit of the study for human beings. So the result of this study might give benefit for the following persons:

1. For the English teacher of the researched school. This study is expected to give some information to teacher of English at SMA TERAKREDITASI PGRI KUPANG about students' ability in using simple present tense in English sentences. The result of the study will be references for the teacher whether do improve her teaching or not.
2. For the students, through this study students will know their ability in using simple present tense. They could take benefit from the result, particularly for those whose ability is low. They could motivate themselves to learn more.
3. For the writer, this study is expected to help the writer to know more about the use of simple present tense.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms used in this study, some terms should be defined to make the readers understand the study. The following terms will be explained and presented.

1. Tenses

Tenses itself, according to Hornby (1989: 1324), it is the form of the verbs that may be used to indicate time or action expressed by the verb.

2. Ability

Ability is potencial capacity or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1987: 2). In this study, ability means the students ability in using simple present tense in English sentence.

3. Simple Present Tense

Simple present tense is used to say something is true in the present; it was true in the past and will be true in the future. It is used for general statements of fact and to express habitual or everyday activity (Azar, 1992: 11). In this study, simple present tense is the tense used by the eleventh grade students of SMA Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang in sentence in the form of Possitive, Negative, and Interrogative sentence.

4. SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang

SMA Swasta Terakreditasi PGRI Kupang is a private Senior High School located on Jl. Swakarya I, in Kupang Municipal, East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia.