

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a tool of communication. People use language to express their ideas, intentions, and needs to other human beings. Through language we are informed clearly about the world. Without language it is hard for people to know what happens both in their country and other countries. It means that language has a crucial role in human activity.

In Indonesia, English is treated as the first foreign language. It means English is only taught, used, practiced in the classrooms. In teaching English, teachers need to improve student language skills and sub-skills. Language skills consist of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and language sub-skills consists of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.

There are many problems encountered by students and one of them is grammar. In order to master English grammar, the students should learning grammatical structure such as sentence patterns, sentences, etc. Learning grammar means learning the form and function of words and how they are combined into sentences (Homby 1995: 517).

Grammar as one of the English sub skills comprises many aspects such as tenses, gerunds, and many others. The writer chose one aspect of the grammar as her study. It is simple past tense.

According to Hadfield (1987) crossword puzzle has some advantages, like to improve students's interest structure learning process, students are not bored in learning English. In addition, Dhand (2008) stated that the use crossword puzzle in teaching and learning can be easily made by teacher and presented to students, students can construct, after a little practice their own crossword puzzle and exchange them with other students.

Based on the writer experience when the writer did teaching practice in SMA Negeri 7 Kupang, many students were not able to learn structure because the grammatical rules of Indonesian language are different from those of English. For example when the writer gave the task, the writer found that many students still made an errors in making sentence. Some of the errors committed by the students in using simple past tense are shown in the following:

- *I see David yesterday (incorrect)*

- *I saw david yesterday (correct)*

- *He goes to Bali last week (incorrect)*

- *He went to Bali last week (correct)*

The first sentence is incorrect because the verb “ see” is indicates the present situation. While the time signal in the sentence is yesterday. So the sentense should be as second sentence, the verb should be changed in the simple past “saw”. Third sentence is also incorrect because the verb ‘ goes’ is for present.

Based on the explain above the writer would like to practice different way in learning English specially simple past tense that is by using game, and the game used by the writer is crossword puzzle.

Based on the baground above, the writer is interested to conduct a study and come up with the title “ A Study on the Effectiveness of Using Crossword Puzzle in Teaching Simple Past Tense to the Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in the School Year 2014/2015”.

1.2 Problem Statements

Based on the problem, the writer tries to find out the effectiveness of using crossword puzzle in teaching simple past tense to the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang.

To achieve this aim, the writer proposed the questions to be answered. The questions are as follows:

1. Is Using Crossword Puzzle effective in Teaching Simple Past Tense for the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the questions in the statement of the problem, the objective of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the effectiveness of using crossword puzzle in teaching simple past tense to the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is actually the benefit of doing the study for people such as the writer, teachers, and students.

1. For the Writer

By doing this study, the writer may develop her skills in grammar, particularly in doing a research on teaching past tense by using crossword puzzle.

2. For the Teachers

This study is hoped to increase the teachers motivation in teaching English, especially those who are interested in teaching English to the very young learners. And hopefully, the result of this research will be used by English teachers in creating a great deal of creativity in helping their students to learn English.

3. For the Students

This study will be a tool for motivating the students to eagerly study grammar, and hopefully it may help them to improve their mastery in learning simple past tense.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study deals with the language teaching media. One of them is using crossword puzzle. There are also many aspects of language that should be taught to the students. One of them is grammar. There are many grammatical structures in English that should be taught by teachers to students learning English. One of the grammatical structure of English is simple past tense.

This study is going to describe about the using of crossword puzzle in teaching simple past tense. The simple past tense involved in this study is only related to action words. The materials focus on regular and irregular verbs of simple past tense.

1.6 Definition of the Terms

In order to help the readers easily understand the idea of the study, the writer tries to elaborate the meaning of some terms existing in this study. Such terms include study, effectiveness, games, crosswords puzzle, teaching, simple past tense, and SMA Negeri 7 Kupang.

1. Study

Study is devotion of time and thought to getting knowledge of, or to a close examination of, a subject, especially from books (Hornby, 1987: 859).

2. Effectiveness

Effectiveness is determined without reference to cost and, whereas efficiency means “doing the thing right. Effectiveness means doing the right thing. Borich (1992; 56) says that an effective teacher is one who had achievement motivated personality with a strong commitment and rich teaching experiences.

3. Games

According to Haldfield (1999), a game is an activity with rules, a goal and element of fun.

4. Croosword Puzzle

Crossword puzzle is an arrangement of numbered squares to be filled in with words, a letter to each square, so that a letter appearing in a word placed horizontally is usually also part of a word placed vertically: numbered synonyms and definitions are given as clues for the words (webster 2004).

In this study, crossword puzzle is a technique used to teach past tense to the eleventh grade students of SMA N 7 Kupang.

5. Teaching

Teaching is “showing or helping someone to learn how to do something, giving instructions, guiding in the study of something, providing with knowledge, causing to know or understand.”(Brown, 2000: 7). In this study teaching means teaching simple past tense by using crossword puzzle to the students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015

6. Simple Past Tense

Simple past tense is one of the tenses used to talk about what happen in the past. Swan (1980: 469) states that simple past tense is the one often used to talk about the past. It can refer to short, quickly, finished actions, and situations and to repeat happenings. In this study the research teach simple past tense to the students of SMA Negeri 7 Kupang in school year 2014/2015.

7. SMA Negeri 7 Kupang

It is a state senior high school located in Frans Daromes Street Tofa-Maulafa, in Kupang of East Nusa Tenggara Province.