

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is images of the human existence because without language the human beings cannot interact, communicate, and give ideas to each other. Hornby (1989: 473) defined language as human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, feelings, and desires by means of system of sound, and sound symbols.

One of the languages used widely in the world is English. It becomes an international language. In Indonesia, particularly in education institution, English is taught as the foreign language, beside Chinese, Japanese, German, Arabic, and France.

English is taught as a compulsory subject from the junior to the senior high school in Indonesia. Although English is taught from junior to senior high school, sometimes the students or learners still find it difficult to learn. This problem becomes big challenge for the teacher, and it is the lack of system using the method in teaching learning process, the teacher doesn't correct the mistakes by students repeatedly so, becomes errors. The learners made errors in structure, vocabulary, lexical, grammar, etc. Repeatedly the students make errors in many aspects of language and one of the aspects is grammar. Grammatical errors may appear in skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. The writer focuses on grammatical errors that appear in one of the skills: writing, particularly writing "Personal Letters".

Personal letters is a letter that is sent from one individual to another individual or organization in order to address matters of an informal nature.

Examples of these can include:

- a. Apologies
- b. Thanking
- c. Personal reference
- d. Congratulations
- e. Invitations
- f. Condolences

They differ from formal types in that, they can be used to express personal feelings, and depending on the relationship between the sender and receiver, do not require formal concise language, and based on own's experience. Sometimes people made mistakes when writing personal letters, especially in grammar, structure, and lexicon for example: "**I'm happy did received your letter**". The error is on **I'm and received**. It is double marking of the use of simple past tense and the correct one is "**I was happy to receive your letter**".

Aimed with these, the writer would like to make a study related to the title: **"Analysis of Grammatical Errors in Writing Personal Letters of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMAK Warta Bakti Kefamenanu in the School Year 2014/2015"**.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the description above, the problem of this study was stated as follows:

1. What are the types of grammatical errors that occur in writing personal letters of the eleventh grade students of SMAK Warta Bakti Kefamenanu in the school year 2014/2015?
2. What is the most grammatical errors made by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Warta Bakti Kefamenanu in the school year 2014/2015 in writing personal letters?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the questions in the statement of the problem, the objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To find out the types of error that occur in writing personal letters of the eleventh grade students of SMAK Warta Bakti Kefamenanu in the school year 2014/2015.
2. To find out the most grammatical errors made by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Warta Bakti Kefamenanu in the school year 2014/2015 in writing personal letters.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this study was significant for the following persons: the writer, the teacher of English, and the students.

1. The Writer

By doing this study, the writer can increase her knowledge in conducting grammatical error analysis, especially in writing personal letters, and give some

inputs to the writer herself, as a prospective teacher of English, to be more effective in her actual teaching in the future.

2. The English Teacher

To provide information for English teachers regarding the student's grammatical errors committed in writing personal letters, and very useful as the base, or step for the teachers to teach well and know the best ways to indentify student's error.

3. The Students

The students of SMAK Warta Bakti Kefamenanu especially the eleventh grade students will know what kind of errors that appear when they write personal letter and they can improve their mistakes in learning English.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of Study

The errors that might be encountered by the learners are of various kinds. The study focuses on the grammatical error in writing personal letters produced by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Warta Bakti Kefamenanu in the school year 2014/2015. In analysing the errors of this study, either one of the error taxonomies can be applied. The writer applied surface strategy taxonomy covering omission, addition, misordering and misformation.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms dealing with the study need to be defined to help the readers understand the meaning of this study:

1. Grammatical

It is derived from the word “grammar”. Grammar is the patterns of arrangement of words in sentences and the patterns of arrangements of parts of words into sentences (Lado, 1961: 142). This study deals with the grammar in writing personal letter of the eleventh grade students in SMAK Warta Bakti Kefamenanu.

2. Error

Error is any deviation from a selected norm of languages performance (Dulay: 1982). Related to this study, errors refer to the wrong forms that might be made by the eleventh grade students of SMAK Warta Bakti Kefamenanu in writing personal letters.

3. Writing

Writing is a task which involves the students in manipulating words in grammatical correct sentences. Those sentences are in form of writing which successfully communicates the writer’s thoughts and ideas on certain topic (Heaton, 1975: 127). Writing in this study means the act of writing personal letters of the eleventh grade students of SMAK Warta Bakti Kefamenanu.

4. Personal Letters

Personal letter is a letter that is sent from one individual to another individual or organization in order to address matters of an informal nature. In this study, it means the act of writing personal letters.

(<http://www.goodletterwriting.com/formalletters.html>)

5. SMAK Warta Bakti Kefamenanu

It is one of the private senior high schools located in North Central Timor Regency, especially Kefamenanu.