

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Francis (1958:13) defined language as an arbitrary system of articulated sounds made by a group of human beings as a means of carrying on the affairs of their society. Thus language is a system of communicating or expressing ideas or thoughts with other people using sounds, words, and etc. indeed, language plays an important role in human life. Language enable someone to make statements, to convey facts and knowledge as well as to explain or to report something and to keep social relation among the language users. Hornby (2005:862) says that language is a system of communication in speech and writing used by people in particular country.

This study is focused on the grammatical errors in English conversation. Errors are the flawed side of learner speech or writing. Errors are parts of the second language learning process (Politzer and Ramirez (1973).

Conversation takes place when two or more people have the right to talk or listen to one another. conversation has a set or form of as the way to exchange information (Holasco and Arthur (1987:5).According to O Grady (1987:1) communication is not restricted to a fixed set of topics, but to enable us produce and understand new words, phrases, and sentences as the needs arises. In short, human language must be creative allowing novelty and innovation in response to a new experiences, situations and thoughts”.

When the writer was still at Junior High School, he found that most students were difficult in English conversation skill. The writer assumes that the same difficulty might be faced by many Junior High School students including the students of the ninth grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui–Kupang.

In attempting to use English grammar in conversation, the ninth grade students are taken as subject to find out how good they use grammar that have been learned and how could they put it in practice particularly in speaking. Therefore, this study was carried out under the title:

“AN ANALYSIS OF GRAMMATICAL ERRORS IN THE CONVERSATION OF THE NINTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMPK ADISUCIPTO PENFUI–KUPANG IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2014/2015”

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The writer conducts this study to answer the questions below:

1. What are the types of grammatical errors made by the ninth grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui–Kupang in their English conversation?
2. What grammatical errors are the most frequently made by the ninth grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui–Kupang in their English conversation?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To describe types of errors occurred in the conversation of the ninth grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui–Kupang.
2. To describe the most common type of error occurred in the conversation of the ninth grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui–Kupang.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer considers that the result of this study provides valuable information for the following parties:

- a) For the English teachers at the researched school

The teachers can identify the students' speaking competence especially when the students make the conversation, she/he can improve the teaching learning process by applying a method which is based on students' need in order to minimize students' error in speaking.

- b) For the students

The finding of this research can be useful for the students of the SMPK Adisucipto Penfui–Kupang to improve their speaking competence especially in making conversation.

- c) For the writer

This study can broaden his knowledge to conduct a study on grammatical errors about conversation and also to implement his knowledge that he got during his study.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on grammatical errors in conversation made by ninth grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui–Kupang in the academic year of 2014–2015. There are some taxonomies used in error analysis. They are linguistic categories taxonomy, surface strategy taxonomy, comparative taxonomy, and communicative effect taxonomy (Dulay 1982: 189). However, in this study the writer only analyzed the errors based on the surface strategy taxonomy. Surface strategy taxonomy highlights the way surface structures are altered. The surface strategy elements of a language are altered in specific and systematic ways. Among the common errors are: omission, addition, misformation and misordering.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms dealing with the study to help the reader understand the meaning of this study.

1. Analysis

It is the detailed study or examination of something in order to understand more about it or a careful examination of a substance in order to find out what it consist (Hornby, 2005: 49). A way of determining or describing something by separating it into component parts (Gunn, in Malelak 2007). Related to this study, it tends to analyze about grammatical errors in the conversation made by ninth grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui–Kupang in the school year 2014/2015.

2. Grammatical

Grammar is the rules in a language for changing the form of words and joining them into sentences (Hornby, 2005: 675). It relates to the students' grammar when they try to produce their own language into form of conversation made by ninth grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui–Kupang in the school year 2014/2015.

3. Errors

Errors are indispensable to learners since the making of errors can be regarded as a device the learner uses in order to learn (Selinker 1992: 150). In this study, it relates to the students' errors in their conversation. It is about the omission, addition, misformation, and misordering made by ninth grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui–Kupang in the school year 2014–2015.

4. Conversation

Conversation is the informal interchange of thoughts, information by spoken words; oral communication between persons; talk; colloquy. In other words, conversation is association or social intercourse; intimate acquaintance (Ammer, 2010:1). Related to this study, it tends to analyze about grammatical errors in conversation made by ninth grade students of SMPK Adisucipto Penfui–Kupang in the school year 2014–2015.

5. SMPK Adisucipto Penfui- Kupang

It is a Junior High School which is located in Penfui.