

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is very important in human life, without language people can not express their ideas, thoughts and feelings. One of the most important language in the world is English. English is a global language. It is spoken by more and more people in the world.

There are some language skills that need to be learned, such as : Listening, Speaking, Reading and writing. Also some English sub-skills, such as grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary. They are very important in learning English. In our communication we need to use correct grammar. Grammar is the rules that show how words are combined, arranged or changed to show certain kinds of meaning, (Swan, 2005). So grammar is very important to improve the students skills in using language for communication .

One of the topic of the English grammar is preposition. Preposition is a word which is usually placed in front of a noun to show certain relationships with other words in the sentence. (Kasmini and Kadarmo, 2015).

There are some prepositions such as preposition of time, place, measurement, direction, etc. Based on the writer's informal investigation it is found that students are often confused to distinguish the use of all prepositions when they want to write sentences, especially preposition *at*, *in*, *on* as prepositions of place and time. When I was teaching in SMPK St. Agustinus Adisucipto I found that it was not easy for the students to understand and to use prepositions of place and time

properly. Since the understanding of preposition is still problematic the writer is interested to study deeper about the *prepositions of place and time*.

Regarding on the problems above, the writer would like to conduct this study in order to know the ability of the first year of SMPK St.Agustinus Adisucipto in using prepositions of place and time in sentence. So the writer intends to make this study under the title: **“The Ability in Using Prepositions of Place and Time of the Seventh Grade Students of SMPK St. Agustinus Adisucipto Kupang in the School Year 2016/2017.”**

1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the background above, the writer would like to conduct the study in order to answer the following questions:

1. Are the seventh grade students of SMPK St. Agustinus Adisucipto in the school year 2016/2017 able to use the prepositions of place and time in English sentences or not?
2. What is the ability level of the seventh grade students of SMPK St.Agustinus Adisucipto in the school year 2016/2017 in using the prepositions of place and time?
3. What are that might be faced by the students in using prepositions of place and time?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To know the ability of the seventh grade students of SMPK St. Agustinus Adisucipto in the school year 2016/2017 in using prepositions of place and time in English sentence.
2. To know the students' levels of ability in using prepositions of place and time in English sentence.
3. To find out the area of difficulties that might be faced by the students in using prepositions of place and time.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of the study is expected to be beneficial for the following persons:

1. For the Student

The students of SMPK St. Agustinus Adisucipto. They will know their ability in using the prepositions of place and time. Through this study the writer expects the students to learn more in order to improve their knowledge regarding the prepositions of place and time, because one of the subject matters in English grammar which should be mastered by the student is preposition especially prepositions of place and time.

2. The Teacher at the Researched School

The English teacher might get particular information regarding his or her students' ability in using prepositions of place and time. By knowing the students' ability the writer expects the teacher of SMPK St. Agustinus Adisucipto will make review on teaching of the preposition especially prepositions of place and time, if the students' mastery level is poor.

3. For the Writer

Through this study the writer knows more about the used of preposition especially the used of prepositions of place and time.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are some kinds of preposition that can be classified: preposition of direction, preposition of purpose, preposition of manner, preposition of time, preposition of place. However, not all kinds of the preposition will be studied in this study; the writer only focuses on the use of preposition of place and time especially, *at*, *in*, and *on*.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In this part, the writer would like to help readers in understanding the writing well and the writer would like to provide the terms used in study as follows:

a. Ability

Ability is a potensial capacity or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby 1987 : 2). In this study, ability means the power and the skill of the seventh grade students of SMPK St. Agustinus Adisucipto Penfui in using prepositions of place and time in English sentence.

b. Preposition

Preposition is a word that cannot change the form and usually placed in front of a noun to show certain relationships with other words in the sentence. Noun is called objects (Mien Kasmini and Siwi Kadarmo 2015).

Examples:

1. The dog is **in** the garden.

2. We usually go to school **at** six o'clock.

3. The plane will arrive **on** Saturday.

c. Preposition of Place

Preposition of place is a kind of preposition, which used to show where something is located.

(Shepherd, Et al, 1984).

Examples:

1. The cat is **on** the tree.

2. I passed my holiday **at** puncak.

3. He is **in** his room.

d. Preposition of time

Preposition of time is a kind of preposition, which refers to a period of time.

(Shepherd et.al. 1984).

Examples:

1. I was studying **in** the morning.

2. She was born **on** 5th of July.

3. I will reach there **at** 6 o'clock.

e. SMPK St. Agustinus Adisucipto Kupang

SMPK St. Agustinus Adisucipto Kupang is one of the Catholic private Junior High Schools located in jln. Adi Sucipto No. 44 Penfui.