

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study.

Language is known as a tool of human communication. It is true that communication cannot be separated from language. Language plays as very crucial role in human life. Hornby (2005: 862) says that language is a system of communication in speech and writing used by people in a particular country. There is no human life without communication: So they must communicate and in this case use language as the medium. Everyone who wishes to be part of human society has to be able to communicate.

English as a foreign language plays an important role in Indonesia. English is used in almost all aspects of human life, such as, education, business, trade, science, technology, and many others. English opens up the hurdle of people from different states and different languages to associate, to communicate, and to develop and to cooperate with each other.

In Indonesia, English is one of foreign languages to be taught in the school, since English has become an international language and used by most communities in the world.

English is taught at school from Junior High school (SMP), Senior High school (SMA), and University. There are four skills of language Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Besides those are, spelling, grammar, and pronunciation must which more to be taught to learners in order to be good at the four skills above.

Grammar is the basic knowledge of language. Students are hoped to have good knowledge of grammar. By this, students may produce good sentences and they are able to express ideas and feelings. Grammar covers tenses, words order, modals, preposition, adjectives and other structure items. There are 16 tenses in English.

Present Continuous Tense is one of the tenses. Azar (1989. 3) declares that present continuous tense is one of tenses which gives ideas that action is in progress during particular time when speaking is being done. The reason of choosing this tense in this study based on the syllabus that present continuous tense is one of the materials for the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang.

According to Brown (in Inayah 2010: 3) the English teacher may use charts and other visuals aid whenever possible to graphically depict grammatical relationship. The reason how important visual aids are in teaching grammar is that to make students more interested. English teachers are supposed to use some kind of media which can stimulate the learning. The media can be pictures, flashcards, songs, charts, newspaper, etc. For the purpose of this study flashcard will be used as media to improve students' learning on the Present Continuous. According to Merriam and Webster (2003), flashcard is a card bearing words, numbers, pictures that briefly displayed (as by a teacher to the class), use as a learning aid. In addition flashcards are very simple but very effective way for individuals to study a particular topic. Several previous studies reveal that teaching vocabulary using flashcard to Elementary students in Binjai has increased students' vocabulary achievement (Elsa, 2013). Similarly, Sity (2010) in her study "Using flashcard in teaching present continuous tense at the seventh grade of MTs Yamida Grobogan,"

shows that the use of flashcard can improve students understanding on what present continuous tense is. Furthermore, flashcard could reduce students' feelings of boredom, and stimulated students were low motivation.

Based on presented above, where the writer is interested to conduct a study focusing on the use of flashcard as media in teaching Present Continuous Tense. The study is entitled ‘ **The impact of Flashcard to Improve the Ability in Using Present Continuous Tense of the Eight Grade Students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang in the School Year 2016/2017.**’

### **1.2 Problem Statement.**

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

1. Is using flashcard effective in teaching Present Continuous Tense to the eight grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang in the school year 2016/2017?
2. What is the level of students' ability in using present continuous tense after being taught using flashcard?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study.**

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

1. To find out whether or not the use of flashcard in teaching Present Continuous Tense to the eight grade students of SMP Negeri 1 Kupang in the school year 2016/2017 effective.
- 2 To find out the level of students' ability in using present continuous tense after being taught using flashcard.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study.**

This study is expected to be useful for learners of English especially those at the researched school, teachers of English, and the writer.

##### 1. Students

The result of this study is expected to help learners of English especially the students at the researched school in learning English grammar especially tense.

##### 2. Teachers of English.

The teaching of grammar at school sometimes is challenging, therefore, it is expected this study helping the teachers of English at the researched school so that they will help their students in learning grammar using the media.

##### 3. The Writer.

As a prospective English teacher, it is important to find out media or techniques in teaching English. Therefore, this study helps the writer as prospective teacher to use the media as one of alternatives to help students learn English.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation.**

This study explored deeply about the use of flashcard in teaching Present Continuous Tense. There are a lot of media of teaching such as book, tape recorder, video camera, pictures, songs, and flashcards. However, the media used by the researcher in improving the students' ability in using Present Continuous Tense is flashcard.

#### **1.6 Definition of Terms.**

There are some terms in this study that the writer needs to define to help readers understand the study, they are;

1. Flashcard.

Flashcard is small cards that have pictures, words, text or symbols for individual to study a particular topic or describe something (Arsyad, 2002:119) in this study, flashcard is used as media in teaching Present Continuous Tense in order to make classroom situation more interesting.

2. Present Continuous Tense.

The Present Continuous Tense is called the present progressive. It describes temporary action happening at the moment of speaking or over a longer time in the present continuous tense (Azar, 1989: 3).

3. SMPK Negeri 1 Kupang it is a state Junior high school located in jln. W.Z Yohanes No.30 Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara Province.