

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a communication tool that has a very important role in human life. Without language people cannot communicate with others in social environment. Through the language people can obtain information. Besides that language has two forms that can be used to convey an idea or opinion they are orally and writing. Language is needed to communicate because the language is seen as one inseparable part of life.

In the current era of globalization many languages are used to communicate. One of them is English. English is an international language and known as the language that can be used among fellow nations. Aside from being the international language, English has become the language of the world and the first foreign language to be taught in Indonesian. English becomes the primary choice in Indonesian country it is because English has a very important role. One of the important role of English is in the world of education. It is because English becomes one of the subject taught in Indonesia starting from Elementary School to university level. In learning English we would need to know the basic skills and sub skills. The basic skills include listening, speaking, reading, and writing. While the sub skills are vocabulary, spelling, pronunciation, and grammar. One important sub skill is grammar.

Grammar is one of the sub skill that is very important to be learned. Without grammar one cannot use English properly. Grammar is a way to construct

a sentence to be good and true. One element of grammar that makes students difficult to learn English is direct and indirect speech. Based on the writer experience while doing the teaching practice she gets one mistakes made by students as in the example below: Direct speech: *He said, "I have a new bike.* Indirect speech: *He said that I have a new bike.* (Incorrect). The correct sentence is *He said that he had a new bike.*

Based on the problem above, the writer is interested to conduct this study under the title “ **A Study on the Ability in Using Direct and Indirect Speech of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMAN 2 Kupang in the School Year 2016/2017.**

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the problem above the writer wants to answer some questions as follow:

1. What is the ability level of the eleventh grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang in the school year 2016/2017 in using direct and indirect speech?
2. What is the area of difficulty of the eleventh grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang in the school year 2016/2017 in using direct and indirect speech?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statements above the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To find out the ability level of the eleventh grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang in the school year 2016/2017 in using direct and indirect speech.

2. To find out the area of difficulty of the eleventh grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang in the school year 2016/2017 in using direct and indirect speech.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has some significance for the teacher, students and the writer.

They are as follows:

1. The English Teacher

Through the result of the study the English teacher knows the ability of his/her students in learning English, particularly the use of direct and indirect speech.

2. For the Students

The students can know their grammar abilities in learning English, especially about direct and indirect speech.

3. The Writer

Based on the result of the study the writer can gain knowledge of grammar in the use of direct and indirect speech.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In this study the writer focuses on one of the sub skill that is grammar. Grammar is one of the main parts in learning English. One part of grammar that is done in this study is the use of direct and indirect speech by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 2 Kupang in the school year 2016/2017. The writer only uses one tense namely simple present tense.

1.6 Definition of Terms

Some definitions are divided to facilitate the readers in understanding well the study. They are as follows:

1. Ability

Ability is potential or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1978: 2). Dealing with this study the writer means that the students capacity in using direct and indirect speech.

2. Direct Speech

Direct speech is a speaker actual word or the use of these in writing (Hornby, 1998: 326). For example: *He said "I am very busy now."*

3. Indirect Speech

Indirect speech is reporting what someone has said which does not reproduce their exact word (Hornby, 1998: 326). For example: *He said that he was very busy then.*

4. SMAN 2 Kupang

SMAN 2 Kupang is one of the state senior high school located in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara Province.