

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

English is considered as a compulsory subject and the first foreign language to learn from the elementary school, junior high school, senior high school up to university in Indonesia. It is because English, nowadays, becomes an International language.

Learning about language means learning the sub-skills of language, such as: vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and language skills that consist of: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The students who want to have a good command of English should master grammar, because mastery of English can improve the students' skill in using language for communication.

One of the subject matters of English grammar is preposition which is taught to the junior high school students. Preposition is one of the important things in grammar. Especially a preposition has its function to connect a noun or pronoun to another word in sentences. It also shows how that noun or pronoun is related to other word. Consequently, a preposition can never stand alone; it must always be connected with a group of words.

Robins (in Nasr.1980 : 74) asserts that if language has no grammar has no systematic order of word in sentences, it could never be learned either by a native speaker or by a foreigner and it could not be understood. Either indeed a language without grammar is not a language at all. It is clear that grammar is important in

language. Even though preposition looks small, short and insignificant look but it is enough to change the meaning of the sentences entirely.

It is important to learn about the prepositions because preposition can tell us where things are in relation to other things and we can make it in a good sentence. There are some prepositions such as preposition of time, place, manner, direction, etc. In this study the writer only discusses the use of preposition of place and time. Because informal investigation shows that students are often confused or feel difficult to distinguish the use of all prepositions when they want to write sentences, especially preposition *at, in, on, to and from* in preposition of place and time. Since the understanding of preposition is still low, because of this situation the writer is interested to study deeper about the prepositions of place and time.

Regarding the problems above, the writer would like to conduct this study in order to know the second year students' ability in using preposition of place and time in sentence. So the writer intends to make this study under the title: THE ABILITY IN USING PREPOSITION OF PLACE AND TIME OF THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMPK ST.THERESIA KUPANG IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2012/2013.

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 eighth grade students of SMPK St. Theresia Kupang in the school year 2012/2013 able to use the preposition of place and time in English sentences or not?
2. What is the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMPK St. Theresia Kupang in the school year 2012/2013 in using the preposition of place and time?
3. What are the areas of difficulties that might be faced by the students in using preposition 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 eighth grade students of SMPK St. Theresia Kupang in the school year 2012/2013 in using preposition of place and time in English sentence.
2. To know the students' levels of ability in using preposition of place and time in English sentence.
3. To find out the area of difficulties that might be faced by the students in using preposition 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. Theresia Kupang. 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 preposition of place and time, because one of the subject matters in English grammar which should be mastered by the student is preposition especially preposition 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 preposition of place and time. By knowing the students' ability the writer expects the teacher of SMPK St. Theresia Kupang will make review on teaching of the preposition especially preposition 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 preposition 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, on, to and from*.

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 potential or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1987:2). In this study, ability means the student's capability in using preposition of place and time in English sentences.

b. Preposition

Preposition is a word used to show the relationship of the noun or pronoun to some other words in the sentences (Warriner S, 1959;67).

For examples:

1. The dog is *in* the garden.
2. We usually go to school *at* six o'clock.
3. She runs *into* the room.

c. Preposition of Place

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

(Shepherd, Et al, 1984)

For examples:

1. A boy is *in* the room.
2. Henny's house is *next to* my house.
3. The cat sat *on* the mat.
4. Bran is standing *beside* the car.

5. Someone is *at* the door.

6. The car park is *behind* the building.

d. Preposition of Time

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

(Shepherd et. al.1984).

Example:

They arrived *at* 2 o'clock.

The boy was born *on* Friday night last week.

e. SMPK St. Theresia Kupang

SMPK St. Theresia Kupang is one of the Catholic private Junior High Schools

located in Kupang City