

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.1. Background of the Study**

In learning English, the learners will learn two aspects of language. Firstly, the four language skills namely: listening, speaking, reading, writing and secondly is English subs skills, such as vocabulary, sound, and grammar. Most of students think that writing is the most complex skill among the four basic language skills. In a writing process sometimes writers, especially foreign language learners make errors in grammar when they write a descriptive text.

Grammar is generally thought to be a set of rules specifying the correct ordering of words in the sentence level. Richard et al (1985: 126) defined grammar as a description of the structure of a language and the way in which linguistic units such as words and phrases are combined to produce sentence in language. Grammar is one of the sub-skills which support in writing but the problem is some of the students still make errors when they want to write a sentence until. It is known that English grammar is different from indonesia grammar. Consequently, it is difficult for students to develop their English proficiency. The difference between grammar of native language and target language is one of the factor which inducing the students to make many errors and it can affect the content of their writing.

Errors play important role in language acquisition and they are believed to contain valuable information about the strategies that learners use to acquire the

language (Lado, 1981: 124). Therefore errors always occur although learners have learnt, for years.

Based on the writer's experience when he did Teaching Practice Program at SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang, some students made many errors in learning foreign language both in written and oral forms. Some examples of grammatical errors in writing descriptive text can be seen in sentences below:

1. *My friends names Rano, Uzi and Riani.*
2. *Did you went there?*

The error in the first sentence is called "omission". The correct sentence must be *myfriends' names are Rano, Uzi, and Riani*, the absence of an item that must appear in a well- formed utterance. In the second sentence it is called "double marking tense". The correct sentence is *did you go there?.* It is only marker required in this sentence. The writer intends to carry out a study entitled:

**"A Study on Grammatical Errors in Writing of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019."**

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background, the writer formulates the problems in the following questions.

1. What are the grammatical errors made by the eleventh grade students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing descriptive text?

2. What type of grammatical errors made by the eleventh grade students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing descriptive text?
3. What are the most common grammatical error committed by the eleventh grade students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing descriptive text?

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

Based on the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows.

1. To find out the grammatical errors in writing descriptive text made by the eleventh grade students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the school year 2018/2019.
2. To find out what types of grammatical errors made by the eleventh grade students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the school year 2018/2019.
3. To find out the most common grammatical error committed by the eleventh grade students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 in writing a descriptive text.

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

This study will give concrete contribution to the teacher of English, the writer, and the students of the researched school in learning process of English

### **1. For the Teacher of English**

To inform the teacher of English in the researched school about the student's grammatical errors in writing descriptive text, so it might be a useful input for the teacher for the improvement of English teaching and learning.

### **2. For the Writer**

This study is meant to increase the writer's knowledge in writing English especially in how to write descriptive text correctly by avoiding the errors found in the study.

### **3. For the Students**

This study can help the students in how to develop their writing skill specially to avoid grammatical errors in writing descriptive text and their interest to study and learn English.

## **1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study analyzes errors in writing descriptive text, and the writer focuses on grammatical errors encountered by the eleventh grade students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the school year 2018/2019. The writer will use surface strategy taxonomy to classify the types of errors made by the students. This taxonomy covers omission, addition, misordering, and misformation.

## **1.6. Definition of Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding on the concepts used in this study, some definitions are provided as the following:

1. Descriptive text is a type of writing that is arranged according to what it looks like or where the objects being are (Smally and Ruetter,1986:89 ). Dealing with this study, descriptive text is the text produced by the eleventh grade students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the school year school 2018/2019.
2. Errors refer to wrong forms that the people could not correct even if their wrongness were to be pointed out, but it still evident what the learner wanted to say(James1998:80). Dealing with this study, errors refer to the wrong forms that might are used by the eleventh grade students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the school year 2018/2019 the in writing a descriptive text.
3. Writing is the act of forming graphic symbols according to certain conventions, to form words, and words has to be arranged to form sentences. (Penny Ur, 1996: 170). Writing in this study, means a descriptive text composed by the eleventh grade students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the year school 2018/2019.
4. Grammar is the patterns of arrangement of words in sentences and the patterns of arragements of parts of words into words ( Lado, 1961 : 142). This study will seek the patterns of grammar in writing descriptive text of the eleventh grade students of SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang in the year school 2018/2019.
5. SMA Katolik Sint. Carolus Kupang is one of privates senior high schools, located in Kupang City, East Nusa Tenggara Province.

