CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology applied in this study includes research design, participants of the study, type and sources of data, research instrument, methods and technique of data compilation, methods and technique of data analysis and methods and techniques of reporting the result of data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

This study was conducted to investigate the ability level of the students in using simple past tense. This is a descriptive research. It was intended to estimate the nature and the degree of existing conditions (Eichelberger, 1998:173). In this study, this is related to the students' ability level both as an individual and as a class in using simple past tense. In other words, here the writer described the students' ability level shown in the grades of the students as a result of answering the test in simple past tense. It was also described the most frequently using simple past tense encountered by the students.

3.2 Participants of the Study

The participants of this study were a class of 29 of eighth grade students of SMPN 2 Kupang.

3.3 Research Location

This research was conducted in SMP Negeri 2 Kupang. It was located in Tompelo street, Oebobo, Kupang – East Nusa Tenggara.

3.4 Research Instrument

The instrument used in this study was a test. The test consisted of two sections:

1. Section 1 consisted of 10 items which asked the students to underline the correct answer to complete the sentence.

2. Section 2 consisted of 10 items which asked the students to translate Indonesian sentence into English in simple past tense.

3.5 Techniques of Data Compilation

The procedures of the data compilation are desribed bellow:

1. Getting the recommendation letter from the Head of English Education Study Program of FKIP of Widya Mandira Catholic University Kupang.

2. Getting recommendation letter from the Dean of Teacher Training and Educational Sciences of Widya Mandira Catholic University.

3. Getting the permission of the Principal of SMP N 2 Kupang

4. Making an appointment with the English teacher of SMP N 2 Kupang

5. Observing the researched school

6. Preparing the test

7. Administering test to the eighth grade students of SMP N 2 Kupang

8. Giving the instruction to the students

9. Collecting the result of the students

10. The time allocated for the test is 80 minutes

3.6 Techniques of Data Analysis

There are some techniques in analyzing the data are presented below:

1. Numbering the students' answer sheets

2. Correcting the students' answer sheets to know the correct answer and the wrong answer.

3. Counting the correct answer of each student.

4. Classifying grades according to the standard of measurement used in the school.

5. The data was described, explained, interpreted and concluded.

3.7 Standard of Measurement

Students answer sheets were graded based on the following standard of measurement that was provided by the school where the study took place.

91- 100   : Excellent

81- 90   : Very Good

71- 80   : Good

61 – 70   : Fairly Good

51- 60   : Average

41- 50   : Below Average

31- 40   : Poor

21-30   : Very Poor

11- 20   : Bad

0- 10   : Very Bad

The students' answer sheets grouped on the basis of the standard of measurement. Here it can be seen whether the students are able to use simple past tense sentences correctly. There are two formulas. The first is the individual grade and ability level and the students grade and ability level as a class. The two formulas can be seen in the following:

1. The formula used to compute the individual grade and ability level :

   a. $\dfrac{individual student's correct answer}{total test items} \times 100\% = \ldots$

   b. $\dfrac{percentage}{10} = \cdots$

2. The formula used to compute the student grade and abilty level as a class:

   a. $\dfrac{total student's correct answer}{total response} \times 100\% = \ldots$

   b. $\dfrac{total grades}{total student's} X\ 100\% = \cdots$

3.8 Methods and Techniques of Reporting the Result of the Data Analysis

The result of data analysis is presented in scientific writing that is called a Thesis. The presentation of the result of the data analysis in a scienfic writing, including a thesis is described in formal and nonfprmal ways (Sudaryono, 1993: 145). The presentation of data analysis in this study is informally and formally. Informal way is of verbal desribtion.Formal way is writing data in tables.