CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of six parts. They are background of the study, problem statements, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of terms. The six subchapters are discussed in the following.

1.1 Background of the Study

English is one of the international languages. As an international language, English is used as a medium of interaction and communication among people in the world for education, business, politics, science, economy, and technology. In Indonesia, English is regarded as a foreign language (EFL), which is widely used in both formal and informal occasions and is learned as a compulsory at Junior High School, Senior High School and University level. Actually, in recent years, the English course has been started since primary school. Therefore, English as a major course must be learned and mastered by every student.

There are four skills in English language. Those are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Writing is one of the important and productive skills. Through writing someone can express ideas, opinions, thoughts, feelings and share information; these can be expressed by words, phrases, sentences or paragraph in a paper. Flynn and Stainthrop (2006: 23) stated that "writing is used by writers to translate their ideas into words on the page, so they can communicate their ideas to other people". However, as one of productive skills writing is still not easy to learn

for the foreign language learners because it takes time to do writing. In writing we have to think not only about the idea but also language components such as; punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. All of these components are the important parts in learning English.

Punctuation is the use of special marks that we add to writing to separate phrases and sentences. Spelling is the ability to spell words with the correct way. Vocabulary is the total number of words in a language; all the words known to a person or used in a particular book, subject, etc; list of words with their meaning.

Grammar is the study of the classes of words, their inflections, functions and relations in the sentence of language. Harmer (2001: 12) stated "grammar as the description of the ways in which words can change their form and can be combined into sentences in the language". For those who learn English as foreign language, understanding or using punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, and grammarare not easy. Therefore, there is still a possibility for them tocommit errors in writing.

In writing English subject in Junior High School, students need to learn certain kinds of text, they are: descriptive text., recount text, narrative text, report text and procedure text. As we know that, descriptive text is a text that describes the features of someone or something. Thus, students with poor vocabulary and grammar often commit mistake.

The explanation above is supported by the writers unstructured interview result with the English teacher of SMPK Saint Aloysius Niki-niki that the main problem faced by students in writing is grammatical rules. Most of students cannot construct the sentences into a good paragraph by using the appropriate grammar,

and students often commit error in selecting the appropriate words because lack of vocabularies. Moreover, they had difficulties in distinguishing the verb, noun, adjective, and adverb.

Basically, this study is conducted based on previous studies done by some researchers. For example, Wawo (2016) conducted a research entitled "An analysis on Grammatical Error in Report Text" and Kollo (2015) conducted a research entitled "An Analysis of Grammatical Errors in Writing Recount Text". Both of them used the same sampling. The differences between the writer and previous researchers is technique of data sampling. In this study, the writer will be using random sampling. In fact, random sampling (probability sampling or chance sampling) is more representative than purposive sampling because; it gives element in the population an equal probability of getting into the sample and all choices are independent of one another and it also gives each possible sample combination an equal probability of being chosen according to Kothari (1984: 60).

In this study, the writer intends to conduct the research in analyzing students grammatical error in writing descriptive text. Therefore, the writer is interested to carry out a study entitled **"An Analysis on Grammatical Errors in Descriptive Text of the Eighth Grade Students of SMPK St. Aloysius Niki-niki in the School Year 2018/2019".**

1.2 Problem Statements

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulated the problem statements in form of the questions:

1. What kinds of errors of the eighth grade students of SMP Katolik St. Aloysius Niki-niki in writing descriptive text?

2. What is the most common error of the eighth grade students of SMP Katolik St. Aloysius Niki-niki in writing descriptive text?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the questions in the problem statements above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. What To find the kinds of errors of the eighth grade students of SMP Katolik St. Aloysius Niki-niki in writing descriptive text.

2. To know the most common error of the eighth grade students of SMP Katolik St. Aloysius Niki-niki in writing descriptive text

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study gives beneficial contributions to the following parties:

1. For the English teacher

This study informs the English teacher at the researched school about the students' error in writing descriptive text.

2. For the students

   The result of the study will inform the students about errors that they commit and will give any consideration to the students that they will be aware of their errors in the purpose of improving both grammar skills and writing skills.

3. For the writer

   This study can give lots of knowledge for the writer about grammatical structure and also improve her writing.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

   This study is about an error analysis. There are some taxonomies used in analyzing errors: they are linguistic category taxonomy, surface strategy taxonomy, comparative taxonomy and communicative effect taxonomy. In this study the writer will only focus on surface strategy taxonomy which consist of 4 classification; omission, addition, misformation and misordering in writing descriptive text proposed by Dulay et al (1982; 150). Actually, there is an error that the learners make but it doesn't belong to any particular category, it called miscellaneous. In order to cover the errors that learners made which do not fall under any other classification. The writer would like to classify them into miscellaneous error.

1.6 Definition of Terms

   To help the readers to understand this study, the writer presented some definition of terms used in this study.

1. Writing

   Bram, (1995: 23) defined that "writing is producing or reproducing written message. It is an active process to organize and formulate the ideas on the paper". In this study, writing is the action done by the students to produce descriptive text.

2. Grammatical Error

   Grammatical Error is a term used in prespective grammar to describe an istance of faulty, unconventional or controversial usage, such as a misplaced modifier or an inappropriate verb tense (James, 1998:154).

3. Error Analysis

   Error Analysis is a type of linguistic analysis that investigate students learning process in acquiring second and foreign language by identifying, describing, analyzing and explaining the learners error (James, 1998: 1).

4. Descriptive Text

   Descriptive Text is a kind of text with a purpose to give information. The content of this kind of text is the description of particular thing, animal, person, place or others (Mukarto, 2007: 140).

5. SMPK St. Aloysius

   It is one of the Catholic Junior High School in Niki-niki, South Central Timor. The school located at Jalan Ratu Pecinta Damai.