

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of six subchapters. They are the background, problem statements, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and the definition of terms.

### **1.1 Background of the study**

Grammar is basic for language learning. Moreover, grammar is the structural foundation for someone acquiring language competence especially English. According to Harmer (2001), the grammar of a language is the description of how words can change their forms and can be combined into sentences in that language. In other words, grammar is an explanation about how to form sentences. Therefore, grammar is an important element to construct a good sentence in both spoken and written communication. Grammar or grammatical structure in English has a variety of important elements such as nouns, verbs, adverbs, gerunds, active and passive sentences, participles, pronouns, and possessive adjectives. For pronouns and adjectives as parts of grammar, there are some parts including possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives. These parts of grammar are important for students who learn English as a foreign language.

Personal pronoun is a pronoun that is associated primarily with a particular person, in the grammatical sense. Moreover, the personal pronoun is important because it is usually used such as in conversation, sentences, and storybooks to change a word that names a person, place, or thing.

According to Azar and Hagen (1992), possessive pronouns are not followed immediately by a noun, it stands alone (mine, yours, hers, his, its, ours, and theirs). A possessive pronoun is used to show possession, or to point out the person who owns the object.

The possessive adjective refers to words that modify a noun by showing possession or a sense of belonging to a particular person or thing. According to Azar and Hagen (1992), Possessive adjective is followed immediately by a noun, they do not stand alone. A possessive adjective (my, your, his, her, its, our, and there) is similar or identical to possessive pronouns. However, it is used as an adjective modifies a noun or noun phrase, as in the following sentences.

1. *My bag is blue. Your house is the biggest.*
2. *Her face is beautiful.*
3. *His name is Rey.*
4. *I have a dog named Heli.*
5. *Our family is friendly.*

Based on the researcher's experience during teaching practice (PPL) in SMP Negeri 5 Kupang, she found out that the students were difficult to use a correct possessive adjective in conversation. So she is interested to conduct a study with the title: **"A Study on the Ability in Using Possessive Adjective of the Seventh Grade Students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in the School Year 2019/2020"**. The importance of research in this title is the writer would like to know the ability and the level to use the possessive adjective of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang especially in class seven I.

## **1.2 Problem Statements**

Based on the background the writer formulates the problems in the following questions:

1. Are the seventh-grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in school year 2019/2020 able to use possessive adjectives?
2. What is the ability level of the seventh-grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in school year 2019/2020 in using possessive adjectives?

### **1.3 Objective of the study**

Based on the problems the writer states the objectives of the study as the following

1. To find out whether or not the seventh-grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang can use the possessive adjective.
2. To find out the level of ability of the seventh-grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in using a possessive adjective.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study is useful for the writer, English teacher, and the students of the researched school.

1. For the English Teacher.

Through the study, the English teacher of the researched school will know the ability of the students in using possessive adjectives and to know the level of the difficulty of the students in mastering possessive adjectives.

2. For the Students

The result of the study can inform the seventh-grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang about their ability in using possessive adjectives so they can improve their English.

#### 1. For the Writer

This study gives more information and knowledge about a possessive adjective to the writer to become an English teacher in the future. The writer can apply her knowledge and experience in finding out the ability of the students in using possessive adjectives with study grammar, especially possessive adjectives.

#### 4. For the English Education Study Program

The result of the study can give information to the lecturer and students of the English Educational Study Program of Teacher Training and Educational Science Faculty of WidyaMandira Catholic University Kupang.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

There are some kinds of personal pronouns. They are pronoun as Subject, Object, Possessive pronoun, Possessive adjective pronoun, and Reflexive. This study focuses only on possessive adjectives.

### **1.6 Definition of Terms**

Concerning this study, some important terms should be defined.

#### **1. Ability**

Hornby (1995: 2) defines ability as mental, physical capacity, power skill required to do something. Ability in this study means the student's skill to use possessive adjectives.

#### **2. Grammar**

Grammar is the study of the rules about how words change their form and combine with other words to made sentences (McIntosh, 2013: 676).

### **3. Possessive Adjective**

According to Betty Schramper Azar (2003), Possessive adjective is "Modify" nouns. "Modify" means change a little". An adjective changes the meaning of a noun by giving more information about it.

### **4. SMP Negeri 5 Kupang**

SMP Negeri 5 Kupang is one of the state junior high school located on Jl. Frans Seda Kel. Kelapa Lima, Kec. Kelapa Lima, Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara Province.