

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer would like to present the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definition of terms.

1.1 Background

Language is a means of communication. Human beings as social creatures need to communicate and interact with others. Of course many countries in the world, including Indonesia have to study English if they want to communicate with the international relationship because English is an international language.

In Indonesia, English is considered as a foreign language. English is taught or learned as a compulsory subject from elementary until the university levels. In order to master English, people need to have English skills and sub- skills. The English skills include listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Whereas the English sub-skills including grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary.

Man is a social being. He must build- up relationships with other human being with the aim to share his ideas, emotions, desires and expectations. To do this he uses a language as a tool of communication. To support the success of the communication process he must understand how the language works which will enable him to interact with his fellow creature. Language is a system of symbols designed for purpose of communication as a tool of communication; language influences all aspects of human life.

In globalization era, English plays a very important role in overcoming the problems in all fields, which will be faced by each country in the world such as economy, politics, tradition etc. In a writing process sometimes writers, especially foreign language learners, make errors in grammar especially when they write a descriptive text. In writing, the learners commonly do not know the appropriate expression or structure but since they wish to communicate their ideas, they will fall back on the language system with which they are not familiar.

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) define 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. Some examples of grammatical errors in writing descriptive text can be seen in sentences below.

1. *My friends names Roni, Dion and Siska*

2. *Did you went there?*

The error in the first sentence is called “omission”. The correct sentence must be *my friends’ names are Roni, Dion and Siska*, 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 “An Analysis on Grammatical Errors in Writing Descriptive Text of the Eighth Grade Students of SMPN 2 Kupang in the school year 2020/2021”

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 eighth grade students of SMPN 2 Kupang in writing descriptive text?
2. What is the most common grammatical error committed by the eighth grade students 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 eighth grade students of SMPN 2 Kupang.
2. To find out the most common grammatical error committed by the eighth grade students of SMPN 2 Kupang in writing a descriptive text.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

This study will give concrete contribution for the teacher of English, 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 error in writing descriptive text, so it might be 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 on how to write descriptive text correctly by avoiding the errors found in the study.

3. For the students

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

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is about error in writing descriptive text, and the writer focuses on grammatical error in classifying the errors that might be encountered by the eighth grade students of SMPN 2 Kupang, the writer used surface strategy taxonomy. This taxonomy covers omission, addition, misordering and misformation.

1.6 Definition of Terms

To avoid misunderstanding of 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 eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Kupang.
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 (James 1998: 80). Dealing with this study, errors refer to the wrong forms that might are used by the eighth grade students of SMPN 2 Kupang 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 eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Kupang.
4. Grammar is the patterns of arrangement of words in sentences and the patterns of arrangements of parts of words into words (Lado, 1961 : 142) This study will seek the patterns of grammar in writing descriptive text of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Kupang.
5. SMP Negeri 2 Kupang is one of state junior high schools, located in Kupang City, East Nusa Tenggara Province.