

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.7 Background of the Study

Nowdays along with the development period, English has become very important in education and social life. It is used and taught as one of the lessons in school starting from the elementary until the high level of education. For example : the one who wants to have job in abroad firstly, she or he should learn the language used in the target the country or at least she or he should know English.

Being aware of the importance of English for communiacion in this era there are many people including students are interested and enthusiastic in learning english. In learning English, there are main skills and sub skills, that should be mastered by the students. The four main skills are listening, speaking,reading, and writing. The students must master four skills in the language learning process. All these language skills related to each other. The students must be trained adequately in all the four basic skills to make them easily practice and use the language. Beside those four main skills the students should also master the sub skills, namely vocabulary, grammar and pronounciation.

Writing is one of language skills. It has taught from Primary school to senior high schools. Moreover, it has also been taught at play group students, although they only study to write and to pronounce a single word. It shows that this aspect is very fundamental, where the students start writing words and then arrange them into sentences and the last making paragraphs. Surely, writing is not easy as

the students think, because they should use correct dictions, chronologies, and spelling of word. Students express their feelings, thinking, share opinion or idea and state willingness by writing. Writing refers to the students activities in classroom.

Writing is the ability of the students to arrange the idea from one paragraph to others and make efforts to connect the idea cohesively and coherently so that is meaningful. Sometimes, many students write text, but not many of them are able to write the text based on the correct structures and features of the text itself. Therefore, the teachers are expected to be able to guide the students when they study to write. For example the use of simple past which often makes students confused with its complexity, especially for the eighth grades of junior school.

Grammar is the structural foundation of our ability to express ourselves. The more we are aware of how it works, the more we can the meaning effectiveness of the way we and others use language. It can help foster precision, detec ambiguity, and exploit the richness of expression available in English. And it can help everyone not only teacher of English but teacher of anything, for all teaching is ultimately a matter of getting to grip with meaning. That is grammar which support the mastery of certain english main skills especially writing. The use of simple past tense often makes students confused with its complexity, especially for the eighth graders of junior high schools. Comrie (1985: 41), states that :The meaning of the past is this location in time period to the present moment and any further deduction about temporal location that are made on the basic of individual sentences in the past tense are the result of factors other than simply the choice of

tense. Although the learners have mastered the rules, they have not learned the correct use of rules yet.

In fact, some students in Indonesian get a lot of difficulties in learning English. Including the students of SMAK Giovanni Kupang. The writer wants to know the student's ability in grammar especially in simple past tense and to use it in writing recount text.

Based on the reason above the writer would like to choose the title "A Study on the Ability of Tenth Grade I Students of SMAK Giovanni Kupang in the School Year 2015/ 2016 in Writing Recount Text".

1.8 Statement of the Problems

In this study, the writer formulates the problem of the study as follows:

1. Are the tenth grade students of SMAK Giovanni Kupang in the school year 2015/2016 able to write recount text?
2. What is the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMAK Giovanni Kupang in the school year 2015/2016 in writing recount text?

1.9 Objectives of the Study

Based on the question stated above, this study will be carried out with the following objectives.

1. To find out whether the tenth grade students of SMAK Giovanni Kupang in the school year 2015/2016 are able to write recount text or not.
2. To find out the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMAK Giovanni Kupang in the school year 2015/2016 in writing recount text.

1.10 **Significance of the Study**

This study is significant for those who have great concern in language teaching or language learning particularly the English teacher of the researched school, the students, and the writer herself.

1. The students

Through the result of the study the students can be informed about their ability in using simple past tense so that they can improve or increase their ability.

2. The teacher

The result of this study can be input for the teacher of English at the researched school so that they know the ability of the students in using simple past tense.

3. The writer

By doing the study, the writer can know how to conduct a research and implement the knowledge got when having Research Method class.

1.11 **Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study concerns with skills of language. There are four skills that can be analyzed, such as listening, speaking, reading, writing. Here, the writer limits her analysis on the ability in writing recount text.

There are two elements that the writer would like analyze, they are grammar and content.

1.6 Definition of the Terms.

Concerning of this study, there are some important terms that should be defined. Those terms are present in the following.

1. Ability

Ability is potential or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1987:2). In this study, ability means the student's capability to write recount text using simple past tense.

2. Writing

Lexically, writing means any work done by someone using letters of words and tool in hand and putting them in piece of paper (Hornby 1987: 12). In this study, writing means the work done by the tenth grade student's using simple past tense in writing recount text.

3. Recount Text

According to Djuharie (2008), Recount is the tenses used a reconstruction of something which happened in the past. It is the unfolding sequence of event over time and the purpose is to tell what happened. In this study recount text is piece of writing produced by the tenth grade students of SMAK Giovanni Kupang in the school year 2015/2016.

4. SMA Katolik Giovanni Kupang

SMA Katolik Giovanni Kupang is a private senior high school which is located at Jl. Jend.A.Yani No. 48 Kupang, where this study will be conducted.