

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Language is a tool for communication. With language people can express ideas, thoughts, feelings, and other things, or what they want to do or what they want others to do. There are so many languages in the world. One of so many languages is English.

English is one of the international languages that is widely used every day. Because of its role in international communication many countries and people in the world learn it. However, each country has its own reason to treat English whether as a first or as foreign language.

In Indonesia, English is learned as first foreign language by the Indonesian students from elementary up to university level. It is taught as a compulsory subject at junior and senior high school, and also as an elective subject at some elementary and universities.

In teaching and learning process, the students are expected to communicate with one another not only in choosing the right words out of the stock of vocabulary that they have but also knowing how to formulate and arrange them appropriately in a sentence.

However, it is also not easy to reach the said goal of teaching and learning English. There are three basic components of English that the students should be

able to master, namely the structure of expression or pronunciation, the structure of content or grammar, and vocabulary (John, 2008). Almost all utterances are in the form of sentences. To produce correct English sentences, the students should, at least, master three basic elements (affirmative, negative, and imperative) of English in order to achieve a deep and comprehensive understanding of English.

The students still face difficulties in learning English. The student's main problem is on the grammar, because it is a fact that English grammar is different from that of Indonesian language.

One of the aspects of English grammar is Question Tag. It should be taught to the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Soe. The reason is that the materials regarding Question Tag are not given more specific attention. The student's errors in using question tags. Some examples are quoted in the following.

- 1) *I am a student, aren't me?*
- 2) *He isn't a teacher, does he?*
- 3) *Open the door, can you?*

The correct sentence must be:

- 1) *I am a student, aren't I?*
- 2) *He isn't a teacher, is he?*
- 3) *Open the door, will you?*

Based on the problem above the writer is interested in conducting a study under the title **“A Study on the Ability in Using Question Tag of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 1 Soe in the School Year 2014/2015”**

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The problem is specified from the topic. The problem of this study is formulated in the following questions that should be answered in data analysis. The problem statements in details are presented below.

1. What is the level of ability in using question tag of the eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Soe?
2. What is the area of difficulties in using question tag of the eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Soe?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Objective is actually the aim of doing the study that goes in line with the problem statement as stated in previous subchapter. The objectives in details are presented in the following:

1. To describe or explain the level of ability of the eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Soe in using Question Tags.
2. To describe or explain the area of difficulties in using Question Tag by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 1 Soe.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The significance of a study is actually the useful roles or benefit of a study for human beings. The writer considers that the result of the study will give a great

contribution to the students, the English Teacher of SMAN 1 Soe, and the writer herself.

### **1. For the Students**

Knowing the result of this study might help the students to learn more about Question Tag.

### **2. For the Teacher**

The result of this study might help the English teacher of SMAN 1 Soe to know the result of their teaching learning process, whether they are successful or not.

### **3. For the Writer**

This study is expected to help the writer in developing her knowledge and skill of descriptive study on grammatical structure, in general and the use of Question Tag, in particular. The writer is also trained in writing a scientific report.

## **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

There are many grammatical structures in English. One of them is Question Tag. This study only focuses on English Question Tag. The question tag covers affirmative, negative, and imperative forms. The three forms were involved in the test.

## **1.6 Definition of Terms**

In the following, the writer would like to define some terms which have to be clarified from the title of this writing. They are as follows:

1. Ability

Ability is potential, capacity, or power to do something physically or mental (S. Hornby, 1987; 2). In this study it means the students' capacity in using English Question Tag.

## 2. Question Tag

Question Tag as a phrase which is added at the end of sentence (Azar, 1989).

Question Tag in this study expressed in positive question tag, negative question tag and imperative question tag.

## 3. SMAN 1 Soe

SMAN 1 Soe is a public Senior High School which is located in Soe. The capital city of South Central Timor Regency. It located at Jl. Prof. W.Z Yohanes No.33 Soe, South Central Timor.