

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Human life is always related to language. Without language people could not express their ideas, thoughts and feelings. If there is no language, it is so difficult to let other people know what is in one's mind. That is why language becomes so important in human life.

There are many languages in the world and one of them is English. All information that spread all over the world is mostly in English. So it is really important to study this language.

In learning English, we will recognize about language skills and sub skills. There are four English language skills, they are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The English language sub skills or language elements consists of vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, translation, and spelling. One of the five sub skills or language elements is grammar which is related to this study. Grammar as a sub skill of English which includes tenses, modals, preposition, direct and indirect speech, and so on should be learned or mastered by the students. By using direct and indirect speech, the students learn how to report their ideas and someone's ideas. This subject covers various kinds of speech such as commands or request, statements, questions, and exclamations. Both direct and indirect speech have rules which govern the speech being reported. Therefore to acquire direct and indirect speech, the learners must know the rules of reported speech.

The common mistakes appear in reported speech (repeat the speaker's direct speech) and the use of punctuation marks (in direct speech) as presented below.

Examples:

Direct Speech : *The teacher: "Dian close the door".*

Indirect Speech : *The teacher told, Dian close the door. (incorrect)*

The correct one should be: *The teacher told Dian to close the door.*

In relation with the explanation above, the writer is interested in learning about language, especially English as a foreign language. Related to the writer's experience in teaching practice, she found that the students still have difficulties in using direct and indirect speech.

In accordance with the study, the writer chose SMPK Santa Familia Kupang, especially the eighth grade students. This research is formulated in the following title:

A Study on the Ability in Using Direct and Indirect Speeches of the Eighth Grade Students of SMPK Santa Familia Kupang in the School Year 2014/2015.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The statement of the problems of this study are formulated in the following questions that should be answered in the data analysis and discussion:

- 1) What is the level of ability of the eighth grade students of SMPK Santa Familia Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in using direct and indirect speeches?
- 2) What particular areas of problems are faced by the eighth grade students of SMPK Santa Familia Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in using direct and indirect speeches?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems stated above the objectives of the study are formulated in the following statements:

- 1) To find out the level of ability of the eighth grade students of SMPK Santa Familia Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in using direct and indirect speeches.
- 2) To identify the problem areas that are encountered by the eighth grade students of SMPK Santa Familia Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in using direct and indirect speeches.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Significance of the study is actually the usefulness or the benefit of a study for human beings. Thus, this study has some benefits for the following persons:

- 1) For the English Teachers

This study will be useful for the English teachers to know the students' ability in using direct and indirect speech so he or she could improve or enhance his or her teaching ways.

- 2) For the Students

This research enables the students to improve their ability in using direct and indirect speech in sentence.

- 3) For the Writer

This study gave some inputs to the writer as a prospective teacher of English to be more effective in her actual teaching in the future. So the writer can learn a lot of things related to the subject matter.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is about grammar. There are many points in grammar that can be analyzed, such as tenses, modal auxiliary, direct and indirect speech, and so on. In this study, the writer limited her study on analyzing students' ability in using direct and indirect speeches in sentences forms cover commands, statements, questions, and exclamatory. The students that become the subject of the study was the eighth grade students of SMPK Santa Familia Kupang in the school year 2014/2015.

1.6 Definition of Terms

Definition of terms is important to help readers in avoiding ambiguous meaning that they may carry. The terms that should be defined are presented in sequence and in details below:

1) Ability

Ability is a basic power to do something or to overcome any problem which going on (Hornby 1972 : 2). In this study, ability means the students capacity or power of the eighth grade students of SMPK Santa Familia Kupang in using direct and indirect speech.

2) Direct Speech

It refers to reproducing words as they are originally spoken (Azar, 1981 : 139).

3) Indirect Speech

It is the speech of someone which is reported (Azar, 1981 : 244).

4) SMPK Santa Familia Kupang

It is a private junior high school located in Sikumana, Kupang. This was the place where the research was conducted.