

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a means of human communication. Language has an important role in all human activities. Language is system of sounds, words etc used by human to communicate thoughts and feeling (Hornby,1989; 472). With language people can easily communicate, one with another. English is one of the languages in the world which plays big role in communication of human being for international relationship. Considering the importance of English, our government in permendigbud nomor 81A tahun 2013 lampiran II has decided to treat English as a foreign language that should be taught at junior high school up to universities (www. Sribd.com).

There are two pillars of English namely skills and sub- skill. The language skills consist of speaking, listening, reading and writing meanwhile the language sub-skill covers grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. In order to understand English the learners should be good at both skills and elements of the language being learnt.

Grammar is the one of the important aspect in English. If the students want to know more about English, they must study the grammar. One aspect of grammar that should be learnt is elliptical sentence. The elliptical sentences aim to avoid sentence repetitions when two sentences have the same predicate or subject, for example:

*I like play soccer.*

*Aldo likes play soccer.*

These two sentences can become a simple sentence by using word *too* or *so*, like: *I like play soccer, and Aldo does too* or *I like play soccer, and so does Aldo*.

The writer chooses elliptical sentences because based on her experience many students do not understand well about elliptical sentence. Whereas, elliptical sentences are always used in writing and speaking. Less attention of the students in learning elliptical sentence makes them doesn't understand well when they find elliptical sentence in a book or when other people talk to them. Some students even make mistakes when they make an elliptical sentence. For example:

*Donny is not going to the church.*

*Susan is not going to the church*

The sentence is: *Donny is not going to the church and Susan is either*. It is a wrong answer because the pattern of using *either* for two negative sentences is

... (+) ..., and + S + to be / do, does/modals + not + either

So the correct form of the answer is *Donny is not going to the church, and Susan is not either*.

Based on the problem above, the writer is interested in analyzing the ability of the students in using elliptical sentence under the title **“A Study on the Ability in Using Elliptical Sentences by the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 8 Kupang in the School Year 2014/2015”**.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background discussed in the previous section, the writer would like to formulate some problems in the following questions:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 able to use elliptical sentences?
2. What is the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in using elliptical sentences?

### **1.3 The Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To know whether the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 are able or not to use elliptical sentences.
2. To know levels of ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 to use elliptical sentences.

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

This study is expected to be beneficial for the following person:

1. The English teacher

The English teacher of the researched school might get particular information regarding his or her students' ability in using elliptical sentences so he or she might improve or enhance his or her teaching technique.

2. The student of SMP Negeri 8 Kupang.

They will know their ability and they can learn more about the elliptical sentence.

3. The writer.

The writer could enrich her writing and develop her knowledge particularly in using elliptical sentences.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This study is about grammar. There are many aspects of grammar that can be analyzed such as tenses, modal auxiliaries, elliptical sentence and so on. Yet, in this study the writer focuses on analyzing the ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 8 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 in using elliptical sentence which covers the use of *too, so, either, neither, but, both ... and* in simple present tense, past tense and future tense.

### **1.6 Definition of Terms**

To avoid misinterpretation of the readers, the writer attempts to clarify or to define the meaning of some terms used in this writing.

#### **1. Ability**

According to McIntosh (2013: 2), ability is the physical or mental power or skill needed to do something. In this study, ability refers to the capacity of students in using elliptical words in sentence.

#### **2. Elliptical Sentence.**

An elliptical sentence refers to a sentence with information intentionally missing when the meaning can be understood without them. (Swan, 2005: 188).

For example:

*She studies English every day.*

*I study English every day.*

The elliptical sentence using *too* and *so*.

**She studies English every day and I do *too*.**

**She studies English every day and *so* do I.**

### **3. SMP Negeri 8 Kupang**

It is one of the state junior high schools that is located in SK Lerik Street, Kelurahan Kelapa Lima Sub-district, in Kupang.