

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is primary instrument of communication among human being in community. Trough, language wJe can express our ideas, feeling or emotions to other people. Without language, it is difficult to share knowledge between generations which is one of the biggest reasons why human develop through centuries. It means that, language has a big role in human life.

Edward sapir (1949: 8) says that language is purely human and non instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desire by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols. Language is purely human and non instinctive method because language is the most frequently used and most highly developed form of human communication. And language is a distinctly human instrument, although other animals produce sounds and noises, the human language alone is articulated into words and alone is capable of expressing and infinite variety of thought.

Considering the important role of English, the Indonesian goverment has determ need to put English as a compulsory subject and as the first foreign language to be learnt. Therefore all students from junior high school up to senior high schools, even nowadays many elementary school have already treated it as one of their subjects.

Learning a language means learning the language skills and sub skills. The language skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing and language sub skills are grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary.

Collin and Hermen (1975: 15) defined grammar as the discovery and description of the language form and structure that serve as clues to meaning in communication. When one studies grammar he will encounter a great variety of sentences patterns that make up the language and describe the form and function of word used in sentences. The knowledge of grammar will help the language user understand how to communicate the language and how they communicate without too much trouble. Language has a role to govern the use of language. To be able to choose words to be employed and to be able to place them where they ought to be placed, a learner must be acquainted with language rules. The rules of language can help language users to express themselves more meaningfully.

The 1994 curriculum states: foreign language learning to communicate through the languages as the target language, either orally or in writing. Learning to communicate like that, need to be supported by learning the elements of the target language (Depdikbud, 1995: 2).

From the writer's experience learners of English do commit errors in grammar and vocabulary, and mechanics. For examples:

1. *He did not went to school yesterday (grammar)*
2. *He said" will you come tonight (mechanics)*

In this study errors committed by learners in their use of English are observed. The writing will be the source from which errors are to be identified. Inspired by those ideas above, the writer intends to carry out the study entitled **"A Study on the Grammatical Errors in Writing of the Eleventh Grade Students of SMA Negeri 6 Kupang in the School Year 2014/2015"**.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study as described above, the writer formulates the problem of the study in form of questions as follows:

1. What kinds of grammatical errors are made by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in writing?
2. What are commonest grammatical errors made by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in writing?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is the aim of doing this study; they are formulated in the following statements:

1. Identify kinds of errors made by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in writing.
2. Identify the areas of grammatical errors encountered by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in writing.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this study is expected to be significant for the following persons:

1. To inform the teacher of English at the researched school about the result of this research of the students errors in grammatical knowledge of English.
2. For the eleventh grade students by reading this study, it can improve their mastery of the target language particularly in writing.
3. Finally, the result of this study can also be used as a source in further researches.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The study is focused on the grammatical errors in writing of by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 which is analyzed based on surface strategy taxonomy by Dulay, (1981: 13). With this taxonomy, the writer will find the errors of the students in four types: omission, addition, misformation, and misordering.

1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms that should be defined or conceptualized in this writing namely study, errors, grammar, grammatical error, writing, and SMAN 6.

1. Errors

Errors are actually the flawed side of learners' speech or writing (Dulay, 1982: 138). Error in this study means the error in writing committed by the eleventh grade students of SMAN 6 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015.

2. Grammatical Error

The root word is "grammar". Grammar covers the whole rules of language. In some specific cases, grammar can be identified as a structure of language. Grammatical is an adjective word which has something to do with grammar. In this study it is all words, phrases, clauses, or sentences" which are acceptable because they are correct according to the rules of language (Hornby, 2005: 675).

3. SMAN 6 Kupang

It is a state senior high school located on Jln. H.R. Koroh Sikumana, Kupang, Nusa Tenggara Timur.