

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

There are four basic language skills, they are reading, speaking, writing, and listening. In language mastery, grammar plays an important role that cannot be ignored, as grammar will always exist in the four language skills. In addition the four language skills are necessary to be grammatically correct. Consequently in order to be able to produce good four language skills, a learner must have an adequate grammatical ability. One of the grammatical items that are commonly used is conjunction. Originally all conjunctions were other parts of speech. As it is stated in <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/grammar>, a conjunction is a joiner; a word that connects (conjoins) parts of a sentence. Conjunction may be employed to join sentences or even paragraph. Therefore conjunction is very important in connecting among the elements or words in the English sentences.

In fact, there are still many English learners that are often confused in using conjunctions in correct sentences because they will find many types of conjunctions that have different meanings and forms. The students usually have two main problems with conjunction. Firstly, they have to know whether in any construction, conjunctions are required or not and which conjunctions are used when one requires. Secondly, the students should note that many words that are used mainly as conjunctions could also be placed as prepositions.

It means that they should use good or appropriate conjunctions in constructing sentences so that their ideas are not misunderstood. Lingga (2006:109) states that conjunction is word that relate between two words and two group of word in a sentence.

Considering the fact, there are many students that are often confused in using conjunctions in constructing grammatically acceptable sentences. According to the writer's observation, most of the students in SMA Muhammadiyah 03 Kendal also have difficulties in using conjunction in sentences. That is why the writer chooses the title, **A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE CONJUNCTIONS' MASTERY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMA MUHAMMADIYAH 03 KENDAL IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/2006**

B. Previous Study

The writer did not find the other researchers who had conducted the research on conjunction at least in UMS.

C. Research Problem

Referring to the problem limitation above, the writer states the problems of the study as follows:

1. How is the students' mastery of coordinating, subordinating, and correlative conjunctions of the second year students of SMA Muhammadiyah 03 Kendal.
2. What are the students' difficulties in using conjunction in sentences?

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study in this research are:

1. To describe the students' mastery on conjunctions.
2. To describe the students' difficulties in using conjunction in sentences.

E. Benefits of the Study

The result of the study will give a description of the students' ability in conjunctions' mastery in sentences. Beside that the benefits of the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study give input to the teachers in constructing appropriate English teaching method especially in teaching conjunctions.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. The result of this study will be helpful for English teachers to know their students' ability in conjunctions' mastery in sentences, so that it can help the teachers in making the lesson plan well.
- b. The result of this study will be helpful for the English learners to know their ability in conjunctions' mastery in sentences, so that it can help the students in evaluating themselves and it can help them in developing their ability in English.

F. Limitation of the Problem

The subject of the study is limited to the students of SMA Muhammadiyah 03 Kendal. And the object of the study is limited on the students' mastery in applying conjunctions (coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and correlative conjunctions) of the second year students SMA Muhammadiyah 03 Kendal.

G. Research Paper Organization

Chapter I is introduction which includes the background of the study, research problem, objective of the study, the benefits of the study, the limitation of the problem, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory. It discusses conjunctions and sentence.

Chapter III is research method. This chapter consists of type of research, subject of the study, object of the study, method of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is data analysis and discussion.

Chapter V is dealing with conclusion and suggestion.

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