

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

The skills and components of English must be mastered by someone who teaches and learns English because English is the key to interact with people in the world. However, English is not our own language; everyone will find it difficult. In high school, students learn four language skills. The skill cannot stand alone. They need other language components such as grammar to support them. Without grammar, this skill will not be completed.

English is a foreign language in Indonesia that is taught from Elementary School as Local Content, and Junior High School to High School as a compulsory subject, to the University. People are well aware that teaching English is very important now and requires a lot of attention. In Learning English, there are four skills (writing, listening, reading and speaking) and other complements, namely: grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary to support the development of that skill. In addition to these four skills, grammar is also mastered by students. Grammar is needed even in communication, without proper grammar knowledge students will find many difficulties in building sentences and expressing their ideas for communication activities, if the grammar is good, they will be confident and fluent in speaking English with each other. According to Penny Ur, "there is no doubt that implicit knowledge of grammar rules is very important for language acquisition, you cannot use words unless you know how they should be put together. Without proper knowledge of grammar, students will find many difficulties in building sentences and expressing their ideas for communication activities.

Actually, many middle school students have some difficulties in learning English and English language skills. According to them, these problems can be known from the results of student achievement and teacher evaluation. So the teacher's role is very important to make students creative to solve their problems. The author chose SMP N 1 BAKI as a case study because the author conducted a study on Some of the Difficulties Faced by Students in Learning Simple past tense.

To measure the ability and get data on students in SMP N 1 BAKI, the initial step of the author decided to give the test as a basis for determining what difficulties were faced by the students. After that, observations and questionnaires were held, like the reason why students find difficulties in learning simple past tense. Some authors believe that in learning English as a foreign language or a second language learners must, first of all, master the system of grammatical structures, basic structural patterns of simple past tense.

Grammar is one aspect of language taught to every language learner. This has an important role in understanding English. As W. Stannard Allen said in the structure of living English states: "English has three main divisions, past, present and future ...". Naturally, verbs in English are influenced by "time", when that happens or will happen (past, present, or future). So the verb must be appropriate or related to time. According to Raymond Murphy: We use the simple past tense (**Auxiliary 'Did'/ Was/ Were**) when we talk about a time to declare events that happened in the past and have ended in the past, for example : Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was the president of Indonesia.

In this writing, the author would not discuss grammar in general. Tense is one discussion of grammar in general. According to Laurie Bauer the word tense is usually defined as relating to time or actions, events or countries. Time of action is usually expressed by a verb. Almost all verbs can show the difference between past and present with changes in the form of verbs. Tense, students can find out when the action occurred, and understand the correspondence between the form of the verb and the concept of their time. According to Richard Viet, "Tense is often described as a property related to the timing of the verb action performed". Some grammar experts say that English has many variations in tenses. This is one of the reasons why Indonesian students experience difficulties in understanding tenses, because there are no words in Indonesian. Simple past tense is one of the tenses that must be mastered by students.

When students wanted to tell a verb that "is used to show an action that happened in the past, it still happens in the present". We called it simple past tense. Even though the second grade students of junior high school have learned it, they

still find difficulties in learning simple past tense, especially in using forms and usage. This is the reason, why the author was interested in writing about problems in grammar at simple past tense for second grade students of SMP N 1 Baki.

Based on all the statements above, therefore, the author tried to analyze the difficulties faced by students in teaching simple past tense. The author looks at "AN ANALYSIS OF THE DIFFICULIES FACED BY THE STUDE IN LEARNING SIMPLE PAST TENSE IN EIGHT GRADE OF SMP N 1 BAKI IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2018/2019

B. Scope of the Study

The study focused on the analysis of the difficulties are faced by the students in learning simple past tense for the eight grade of SMP N 1 Baki in The Academic Year of 2018/2019

C. Problem Statement

Based on the writer formulated the problem as follows:

1. What kind of difficulties are faced by the students in learning simple past tense in eight grade students of SMP N 1 Baki who have the score under the minimum passing grade?
2. What kind of difficulties are faced by the students in learning simple past tense in eight grade students of SMP N 1 Baki who have the score above the minimum passing grade?
3. What difficulties are frequently most faced by the students of SMP N 1 Baki in learning simple past tense?

D. Objective of the study

The purposes of this study were to analyze the difficulties faced by the students in the eighth grade of SMP N 1 Baki in learning simple past tense. Based on the research problem above, the objectives of this study were as follows:

1. To find out the difficulties faced by the students in learning simple past tense in eight grade of SMP N 1 Baki who have the score under the minimum passing grade.

2. To find out the difficulties faced by the students in learning simple past tense in eight grade of SMP N 1 Baki who have the score above the minimum passing grade.
3. To find the difficulties most frequently faced by the students of SMP N 1 Baki in learning simple past tense.

E. Benefit of Study

1. Theoretical

This research can give some information about the difficulties that are faced by students in learning simple past tense, to explain about the difficulties and how to resolve the problem that possibly happen by the students in learning simple past tense.

2. Practical

a. The writer

The research can be a reference to the way they teach about simple past tense, The teacher will know the difficulties faced by the students in learning simple past tense.

b. The students

The result of this research will make the students able to solve their problems in learning simple past tense.

c. Other Researchers

The result can be a good source for a new research to apply this analysis in conducting thesis or journal. It is one of an important knowledge for researcher who want to be a teacher soon.