

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

English is the first foreign language and one of the main subject learned by Indonesian students. The aim of learning English is to develop students' ability to master the English language skills. As one of subject in schools, students consequently are required to learn English to achieve the mastery of the skills, but it is no easy to master them well, especially for the junior high school. In this case, the teachers should be able to guide the students in mastering all of materials related with English and based on curriculum.

Every language has the rules that must be followed by the user of a certain language. The rules of the language is called grammatical language, every language have it and so does English language. Using language is not as simple as we taught because there are some rules that must be followed. Actually, grammar means the structure of a language. The grammar of a language is a description of the ways in which the language uses pattern of structure to convey the meaning.

English language is unique, because there is one thing that very different from the other language in the world. It is called "tense", it is very important thing that should be known by the user of English language. Tenses are different form of verb and change their forms depending upon the time at the event. Tenses are the

verb shows the time when the action takes place, took place, and will take place in English sentence. (cryssco 2003).

From the explanation above, it shows that in English, the basic tenses are categorized into three parts; they are present tense, past tense and future tense. Each of them is used different time. Therefore rules in English language are principal. As a speaker of language we cannot ignore them, otherwise we could not be able to put words together in the meaningful way. But, in this research, the researcher only used one tense to analyze the students' ability. It is past tense consist of simple past tense, past continuous tense, past perfect tense and past perfect continuous tense.

In this research, the researcher used recount text as the instrument to analyze the students' ability. Because in this case recount text also used past tense consist of simple past tense, past continuous tense, past perfect tense, and past perfect continuous tense. Recount Text is a kind of English Text tell about past event or experience. The purpose of recount text is give information or to entertain the reader. Generic structure of recount text is orientation, events and reorientation.

In junior high school, learning language is very important, because there are some students still have low ability in learning basic tense especially in using past tense. So, the learning of basic tense is very necessary for the students. The use of basic tenses (simple past tenses, past continuous tense, past perfect tense, and past perfect continuous tense) is very important to be mastered by students, because

by mastering basic tense the students can state or give their opinion, ideas, activity by using basic tenses oral or written communication. However, in learning English structure, especially basic tenses, the students still find a great amount of difficult.

Based on explanation above the researcher will conduct the research about “An analysis of students’ ability in using past”. The researcher attempts to collect the data, identify the data, classify the data, and analysis the data based on the students answer.

### 1.2 Problem statement

Based on explanation above the problem statement of this research is how is the students’ ability in using past tense?

### 1.3 The Objective of study

Based on problem statement above the objective of study is to know the students’ ability in using past tense.

### 1.3 Reason for choosing the topic

Using tenses in writing is one important thing for the students to pay attention. Every student must have enough ability to arrange a text. Many students still find difficulty in using past tense in recount text and basic tenses are important to be mastered because it plays important role teaching and learning English.

#### 1.4 Scope and delimitation of study

The researcher focuses on the using of tenses particularly the past tense. the reseacher analyzed of the students' ability in using past tense in recount text.

#### 1.5 The significant of study

The researcher hope the result of this study will give much benefit information for the students, teacher and also for the researcher. For the students can realize their ability in using tenses. For the teacher will know how the students' ability in recount text is. The teacher can improve their ability if the students are low level. For the researcher can be basic information to conduct their research.