

## **CHAPTER I**

### **Introduction**

This paper attempts to investigate students' grammatical errors of English essay through morpho-syntactic analysis. It presents numerical analysis of grammatical errors on students' essay as a mean of identifying errors of English grammar aspects which occur either in morphological level or syntactical level. As the result, this study will provide valuable insight for students regarding the errors and the factors in making the errors.

### **Basic Consideration**

Before conducting this research, the researcher had already completed the observation and preliminary study. The idea of conducting this research was started when the researcher discovered errors on students' writing. In the process of reading and reviewing students' writing, the researcher found that students produced good writing with poor grammar which caused the writing not understandable. Most of the writings they produced were not accurate according to the rules, principles and concepts of English grammar, therefore the errors occurred. Studying English grammar is undeniably difficult, so that making errors is considered as natural phenomenon because it is indicated that the process of learning is taking place. Making errors in the process of learning English as a new language is acceptable and tolerable, because English is not the mother tongue or even the second language of Indonesian people. That is why this research must be conducted because it is

interesting to know that even the final year of English Department students still have problem with grammar that leads them in making errors in their writing.

As the observation of this research finished, most of the students assumed that grammar was not the matter in a language; therefore, studying grammar was considered as unimportant for them. They argued that it was not important what kind of grammar people used, as long as people understood what they were saying, then Grammar was not a big deal. Whereas, grammar is one thing that determines the correct meaning of a sentence or utterance and it is also the basic rule in every language. In fact, the ability of communication cannot be fulfilled unless “the grammar” is there, in the competence of speaker or writer (Chin, 2000).

Further, talking about grammar means we talk about the arrangement in which words, phrases, clauses and sentences are organized. Grammar is supposed to be “the glue” that keeps the words sticking together to produce meaningful meaning. That is why we need to know how to stick those words by using “the glue”. Studying grammar is vitally important to avoid the students from making massive errors in their writing, as the errors can obstruct students to deliver the ideas.

Moreover, because of the invention of the experts in few past decades, the research scope of Grammar is not only related to the field of teaching, but also Linguistics; for examples Morphology and Syntax. It is very important for English learners to have adequate morphological and syntactical awareness in order to decrease the occurrence and frequency of morphological and syntactical errors in their English essay.

However, it is known that students make many errors in writing due to the violation of rules in Morphology and Syntax. As the examples, several cases happen. First in morphological level, students seemed ignore words construction. For instance, students tended to ignore about putting correct suffixes, and do misspelling. Second, in syntactical level, students tended to ignore about the formation of grammatically correct sentence.

The present situation shows that making errors in learning foreign language is a difficult thing to avoid. Because the errors cannot be self-corrected, so that students should pay attention more and have sufficient knowledge due to the issue of grammar, because the better the grammar students use, the clearer the message that will be conveyed. One of the reasons why students are not interested in studying about grammar also is that there are so many rules that must be applied to the sentence or utterance in order the language can be used properly. Furthermore, analyzing students' errors considered as a valuable source of information concerning to their competence and weakness.

Unfortunately, in academic environment nowadays, students do not have an adequate knowledge and understanding of English grammar. They lack of knowledge that can bring themselves up to the acceptable grammatical standards. That is why the students do really need to focus on the efforts of studying and understanding the using of correct English grammar.

### **Research Questions**

- What major grammatical errors do the students make in writing English essay?
- What are the factors that cause the students to make errors?

### **Research Objectives**

- To investigate the major grammatical errors on students' English essay
- To investigate the factors that cause the errors

### **Significances of the Research**

This research is expected to be essentially significant for students in terms of revealing the major grammatical errors in which the students always make with the highest frequency on their English essay, and also helping students to overcome their problems about grammar. In addition, for lecturers/teachers, it is required as the instrument for their self-evaluation whether they are successful or not in teaching English particularly about grammar, in order it can motivate them to enhance the effectiveness of their teaching. Additionally, the lecturers/teachers also can use this research to determine what students still need to be taught because it provides the necessary information related to students' problems about English Grammar. Further, for the future lecturers/teachers, hopefully this research contributes to give general ideas in which grammatical points to focus on in teaching English Grammar. Furthermore, by providing the result, this research is expected to be academically accepted and scientifically proved in order there will be innovation for the next

researchers in the field of linguistics. Consequently, the fundamental findings which cover students' grammatical errors and the factors which affect them to make errors are believed as the applicable contribution to English department in order to fix the major problem about the most frequent grammatical errors on students' English essay writing.

### **Delimitation of the Research**

This research is only focused on analyzing students' grammatical errors which occur in morphological level, specifically in forming the affixation (suffixes) of words, and also syntactical level, specifically in the level of sentence, which are analyzed through students' Argumentative and Descriptive essay by using the theory of Corder (1967) which states Omission, Addition, Selection and Misordering are four major errors on students' writing.