

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains about the introduction of research, there are: background of research, problem statement, the objective of study, scope and delimitation of study, and the significance of study. This research discusses about “*A Study of students’ competence in using simple past tense*”.

#### **Background**

Nowadays, many people want to learn English for many reasons. For instance, the students want to learn English because it is in the school curriculum. They have to learn it whether they like it or not. In different case, some people want to study English because it offers a chance for advancement in their professional lives. In addition, many people want to learn it because they live in target language community; so they have to learn it in order they could communicate with the others.

English is one of the main subjects that are less interested to learn for students. The aim of learning English is to develop students’ ability to master the English language skill. 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 rule of the language is called grammatical language. Every language has 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 for example in explaining the material about tenses. Tenses are the verb shows the time when the action takes place, and will take place in English sentence. (Manurung, 2001 p: 87). Tenses are different form of verb and the forms are change depending upon the time at the event.

In junior high school using tenses in writing in one important thing for the students to pay attention, because based on my experience when the writer was teaching in teaching practice 2 and also 1 do the observation in SMPN 1 Batudaa there are some students still have different competence in learning especially in using simple past tense in Narrative text. This is due to a low competence by the student's lack of concentration when given the task of simple past tense. 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 sate or give their opinion, ideas, activity by using basic tenses oral or written communication. (Martinet, 1986 p: 62)

From the explanation above, it shows that, the basic tenses in English are categorized into several parts. 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. According to the curriculum KTSP 2007 the aim of studying English for the students of junior high school is to master, the text used in the eighth grade and that is Narrative or Recount. Both the texts tell the events and the past tense is used especially the simple past tense about regular and irregular verb. In this research, researcher only used one tense to describe students' competence and also used narrative text as the test to find the students' competence. Because in this case the language feature of narrative text also used past tense consist of simple past tense.

So researcher conducted the research about "A study of students' competence in using simple past tense". According Riyanto (2002, p.60) simple past tense is used to express that something happened, took place, or was finished at some time in the past. Simple past tense is used to express past event and it cannot relate with this time. Simple past tense is used to express some actions that happened at the specific time in the past. Explains frequent activities and has become the primary moment in the previous time. The researcher attempts to collect the data based on the students answer or students writing response in test. In this case, students who are learning to complete narration may produce many mistakes. Such as in structure, they often make mistakes in forming simple past tense. Based on writer's experience when teaching English at SMPN 1 Batudaa, most of them also get difficult when they have to make the correct form of simple past tense in narrative text. They make mistake because they do not master the

grammar well, especially in simple past tense. They also make mistake because their way of thinking is still affected by their answer. For example:

- Once, when a lion *is* a sleep, it should once, when a lion *was* a sleep. This is the example of students mistakes in irregular verb.
- Then Snow white and the seven dwarfs *live* happily ever after, it should then Snow white and the seven dwarfs *lived* happily ever after. This is the example of students mistakes in regular verb.

Most students commonly make some mistakes in their learning, but it is logically acceptable. The teacher should be aware of this problem and prevent students from making some mistakes by analyzing the students' answer itself.

### **Problem statement**

The problem statement of this research is what is the level of the students' competence in using simple past tense?

### **The objective of study**

The objective of study in this research is to figure out students' competence in using simple past tense.

### **Scope and delimitation of study**

The researcher focuses on the using simple past tense in regular verb and irregular verb. The researcher described of the students' competence in using simple past tense, especially in narrative text.

**The significance of study**

The significances of this study are:

For the researcher, this study provided to describe of student's (class VIII B SMPN 1 Batudaa) competence in using simple past tense. For the students, this study will help them to consider about their level in using simple past tense in narraative text. Indeed, they will increase their abilty in using simple past tense.

For the teacher, this study will provide the information of student's competence as their basic consideration to improve their competence if the students are low level and the last for the next researcher this study can be basic information or reference for further research.