

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, I present basic consideration, reasons for choosing the topic, problems statement, objectives of study, scope of study, and significances of study that related to my research.

1.1 Basic Consideration

In learning language, students must be able to understand the words that they use. At least, they recognize the words and how to use them in a rule of language, especially English. Words are divided into different kinds or classes, called parts of speech. There are eight parts of speech, they are: noun, adjective, pronoun, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection. Childs (1998, p.03) stated that the system of classifying words based on their function is known as the parts of speech.

Adjective is one of the parts of speech. It is used to talk or write about a person, place or thing, by using nouns like *girl*, *house*, or *tree*, descriptions need to be added to those nouns, by adding detail of words in front of the noun like *little*, *blue*, *rich*, and *old*. It can give the reader a clearer picture of what speaker or writer mean.

According to Palmer (2003, p.22) “adjective is a word that qualifies (describes) a noun.” Adjective is words that describe or modify a noun (person or thing). In the sentence *they are good teachers*, the adjective is *good*. Sometimes two or more adjectives are used together. It is because, the noun

that is described can be more than one adjective. When a number of adjectives are used together, the order depends on the function of the adjective.

To describe a thing like noun, person, animal, place and others, opinion adjectives will be put firstly before fact adjectives. For example, Tom lives in *a nice new house*. To identify these words, opinion adjective is *nice* and fact adjective is *new*. Using two or more adjectives is called word order of adjective. The fact adjective include size, age, color, nationality, and material adjective. The usual word order of adjectives as follows opinion, size, age, color, nationality, and material.

Word order of adjective is one of the materials that learned in vocational high school. Every student is expected to able to use word order of adjective in phrase, sentence or in their English simple communication. However, the fact is that most students can describe person or thing correctly if they only use one adjective. When they are asked by a teacher to make a phrase or a sentence by using two or more adjectives, some of them could not do it. The students still confused to order the adjectives even the teacher had explained the material. I got this problem when I taught in class X at SMK Negeri 2 Gorontalo.

Based on my experience in teaching practice 2, I asked every student to put the correct adjectives with the word order of adjectives in a sentence, for example:

1. *I have apencil case. (new, small)*

- Students' answer is *I have a new small pencil case.*
- The correct sentence is *I have a small new pencil case.*

2. *Ivann buys abag. (white, big, nice)*

- Students' answers are:

Ivann buys a big nice white bag

Ivann buys a big white nice bag

Ivann buys a white big nice bag

Ivann buys a white nice big bag

Ivann buys a nice white big bag

- The correct sentence is *Ivann buys a nice big white bag.*

In the first sentence of the examples above, “small” (size) and “new” (age) are including types of *fact adjectives*. Based on the order, *size* comes first before *age*. The second one, “nice” is *opinion adjective* and “big (size), “white” (color), are *fact adjectives*. *Size* comes first before *color* in fact adjectives. From the example, it is known that a few of them could describe but the adjectives not put in order correctly and the other students do not know what adjective is exactly. It is difficult that students got in learning word order of adjective. Eventually, they must able to use word order of adjective.

From the explanation above, I formulate my research entitled “A Descriptive Study on Students’ Difficulties in Using Word Order of Adjective”.

1.2 Reasons for choosing the Topic

The reasons why I choose the topic are word order of adjective is one of material in learning of vocational high school, and it had been learned by the students. Besides that, there are some students that do not recognize opinion and fact adjectives. And then, students still confused to define and order the fact adjectives based on the rule of the order. Thus, it is interested for me to do this research.

1.3 Problems Statement

The problems statements of this research are:

1. What are the students' difficulties in using word order of adjective?
2. What are the causes of students' difficulties in using word order of adjective?

1.4 The Objectives of Research

The objectives of this research are:

1. To find out the students' difficulties in using word order of adjective.
2. To describe the possible causes of the students' difficulties in using word order of adjective.

1.5 Scope of Study

Generally, adjective enlighten about classes, types, degree, and order (Wren and Martin, 2000). I limit on classes of adjective that is pre-modifier of noun or is called as attributive. In word order, the adjective are used attributively. And also, I limit on one of the adjective types that is descriptive adjective. Descriptive adjectives show the kind or quality of thing. It related to the word order the adjectives is used to describe the thing. Thus, this research is focused on using word order of adjective; they are opinion and fact adjective.

1.6 Significances of Study

The significances of this research are for the teacher, the students, and for the next researcher:

1. For the teachers, they should try to find the students' difficulties in using word order of adjective may help English teacher to make their students more creative in learning process.
2. For the students, by knowing difficulties that they do in using word order of adjective, it will give motivation to the student to learn the use of adjective word order.
3. The last one is for the next researcher; this research will be used as a basic research or reference.