CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Language is the way of communication in social interaction. To communicate through language, people use sentence to give their own ideas. Comprehending of sentence will be reached by the listener or reader if he or she can understand what the speaker or write informs. Sometimes, there is one or move elements that can be omitted if the meaning of them has been understood, and it is called ellipsis. According to Halliday and Hasan (1994: 144-145) an ellipsis is something left unsaid but nevertheless understood; however what is unsaid is still understood since there is a presupposition of it in the structure; the presupposition refers to some preceding items which then serve as the source of the missing information.

In English, there are three kinds of ellipsis; nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clausal ellipsis. Nominal ellipsis is within the nominal group. The type of nominal ellipsis is determined by elements that replace the head. The second is verbal ellipsis, like nominal ellipsis, which always operates on the nominal group, verbal ellipsis, as the name implies, operates on the verbal group. There is omission of some words in verbal group. The last category is clausal ellipsis. Ellipsis in clausal is related to question-answer process in dialogue; and this determines that are two kinds; 1. Yes/No ellipsis and 2. WH ellipsis ((Halliday and Hasan, 1967:147,167,198)

Chaer (1998: 349) said that an elliptical sentence is formed from an incomplete clause. The English learners will always find incomplete sentence. Many parts of the sentence have been left out. An incomplete clause of an elliptical sentence may not have a subject and a predicate it's only an adverb of a sentence.

Michael McCarthy (2000:43) said that Ellipsis is the omission of elements normally required by the grammar which the speaker or writer assumes are obvious from the context and therefore need not be raised. It can be concluded that an ellipsis is omission of words because the words can be guessed. Ellipsis may happen in written or spoken language, in written for examples are the languages used in dialogue, advertisement, newspapers, and etc. While in spoken it can be found TV and radio advertisements. The researcher was learned about ellipsis. Normally, some people always use ellipsis when they have communication in their daily life. This not only happen in the formal but also in the informal situation. People usually used ellipsis to save the time or to avoid misunderstanding. On this way ellipsis is one of the best choices.

An Ellipsis does not occur only in English, but also in other languages, like Indonesian language as our first language. It can be seen that English is not different from that of Indonesian. The only thing that makes it difficult for student is that English grammar is more complexity than that of Indonesian's grammar. The complexity of the grammar may affect the mastery of ellipsis by the leaners of English. Ellipsis cases are various. Principally the elliptical

2

cases are the same that is leaving out some structural slots. Cook and Suter (1980), state that complexity in the grammar of English causes the problem to some people as they write or speak English. An ellipsis is important to examine whether in the form of speech or writing so that the actual context of ellipsis-containing sentences can be easily understood. In the research, the researcher need to analyze and clarification whether ellipsis is difficult to learn by the third year students of English study program through some tests. For further information of ellipsis, the researcher wills discuses in this paper. I should apply types of ellipsis to detail information.

Considering the reason above, the researcher interested to conduct the research which the title: **"A STUDY ON THE MASTERY OF ELLIPSIS BY THE THIRD YEAR STUDENTS OF THE ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM OF FKIP- UIR"**

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Grammatical device refers to the connection of terms sentence through the form of grammatical aspect. According to Haliday and Hasan (2013), there are four types of grammatical device; reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction. Meanwhile, Based on the background of the research above, the researcher only focus on an ellipsis as grammatical device. The reason is the researcher already observed that some people always use ellipsis when they have communication in their daily life. They often use sentences that are shorter but without knowing what it's called. Ellipsis used by some people to avoid misunderstanding, to save the time, gives detail information. For

3

example, someone who wants to offer some food to another person, they will say "do you want a sandwich?", and it can be shorten with as "sandwich?", this usually called ellipsis. But some of them did not know what ellipsis is and what types of ellipsis; ellipsis has several branches to be known, information of ellipsis, the researcher will discuss them in this paper.

1.3 The Focus of the Problem

Based on the background of the study and the identification of the problems. This study only focuses to students' mastery which learns about ellipsis based on three types of ellipsis. They are: nominal, verbal, and clausal ellipsis.

1.4 Research Question

Based on the problem limitation, this study is an attempt to answer the following questions:

1. How good is the mastery of ellipsis by the Third year students of the English Study Program of FKIP – UIR?

2. Which ellipsis is difficult or easy to understand by the students: nominal, verbal or clausal?

1.5 The Objectives of the Research

Corresponding to the Research Question, the objectives of the research are:

1. To find out ellipsis knowledge of the Third year students of the English Study Program of FKIP-UIR.

2. To find out which ellipsis is difficult or easy for the students.

1.6 Significance of the Research

1. The student of English may be to realize the learning ellipsis. Because, most of them, they often use sentences that are longer but without knowing its meaning correctly or it can be said that convoluted sentence when they communicate and have conversations. Actually, from a knowledge of learning ellipsis can make us achieve event, but we can use it in everyday life and also.

2. As complement task in meeting the needs of its latest research on English language courses FKIP UIR.

1.7 Definition of terms

1. **Ellipsis:** something left unsaid but nevertheless understood (Halliday and Hasan, 1985:144-5)Ellipsis (instead of) leaving out a word or words from the grammatical structure of a sentence when the meaning can be understood without it or them. In other words, in sentences, a word, or several words are omitted but their sense is clearly understood.

2. **Mastery:** Alqahtani (2015 : 26) defines mastery means complete knowledge or good skill toward one subject mastered by someone.