CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is a system for human communication. All of symbols phenomenon which occurs in the universe is described by language. By language, people can get information. In the universe, there are many languages. Such as Indonesia, English, Arabic, Mandarin, etc. but from all of those languages, English is the language that used as an international language. According to Hadely (2001) in Javed et al, language is a set of sound by means of which feeling, thoughts and sentiments are conveyed to other human beings.

In Indonesia, English is taught as a foreign language. There are four skills in English learning that should be mastered by learners, they are: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Listening and reading are receptive skills; speaking and writing are productive skills.

In the process teaching and learning English, writing is the most difficult and complicated language skill, because learners need to reading as much as possible and sometimes the learners have not ideas to write. Besides that, writing needs well knowledge and hard thinking when students produce words, sentences, with right English grammar. According to Jack Richard writing is the most difficult skills for second language learners to master of putting together strings of grammatically correct sentences. It is means that error in grammatical aspect is the common for learners. And according to

(Chen, 2007) English writing is a very important skill which is widely used as a device to facilitate and present students' educational knowledge and occupational opportunities.

Grammar is sometimes defined as the way words are put together to make correct sentences. English grammar is more complicated than Indonesian grammar. Some mistakes are made when the learners do not understand well about the English grammar. Many of learners commonly make grammar mistakes in their learning especially in writing. Unfortunately, sometimes the teacher did not aware about learners' mistakes. Then the learners make their mistakes repeatedly because they do not have the correction and it was what we have called as error.

Based on the researcher's interview, the third students of FKIP Islamic University of Riau are asked to write by lecturer during the class and there are some students cannot write English well during the session because they have some problem such as they do not have idea to write, they cannot master grammar yet.

The researcher presents some grammatical errors. These grammatical errors analysed based on the theories presented by the linguists. This analysis aimed at showing the students' grammatical errors in writing. By this way, the students have to increase their knowledge on the English grammar.

Error analysis is different from error correction. Error analysis makes a scientific study of errors made a group of people who share the same mother tongue when they study a second or a foreign language. Sobahle (1986) stated

that error analysis indicates all errors produced that are common to that group of people.

Corder suggested that students' errors have positive value for teachers, student and researchers. Errors can give the indication for the teacher of how far the learner has come and what he still must learn.

The researcher chooses students third semester at Islamic University of Riau, because they have taken the grammar subject (Grammar Structure III), also Scientific Writing. Therefore, the third students have capabilities to do a good essay. That is why the researcher chooses this problem.

Based on the explanation above the writer is interested in researching students' grammatical error in writing of the third students' semester at Islamic University of Riau. Finally, the researcher decides the research title is: AN ANALYSIS OF GRAMMATICAL ERRORS IN THE STUDENTS' WRITING OF THE THIRD SEMESTER AT ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF RIAU.

1.2 Identification of the Research

There are some problems faced by the students fourth semester at Islamic University of Riau in writing based on researcher's interview such as: students fourth semester have lack of vocabularies, they do not have idea to write, they cannot master grammar yet. Likewise in Sermsook et al (2016) categorized the errors found in her study into two main types. The former type dealt with errors at the sentential level which were fragments, run-ons,

subject-verb agreement, word order, tenses, capital letters and punctuation. The latter one was errors at the word level, such as articles, prepositions, word choices, nouns and numbers.

1.3 Focus of the Research

Since the topic discussed in this research quiet large, therefore the writer thinks that it is needed to limit the problem. The research selects grammatical errors to minimizing the research, it's specified into: subject-verb agreement, tenses, capitalization, punctuation, article, word choice, word order and preposition.

1.4 Formulation of the Research

The problems of the research can be formulated as follow:

What types of grammatical errors were made by the third semester students at Islamic University of Riau?

1.5 Objective of Research

Doing this research, some objective is achieved to answer the research analysis:

To identify and analyse the types of grammatical errors were done by third semester students at Islamic University of Riau.

1.6 Significance of The Research

The writer hopes that this research will give benefits as follow:

1. For the English teacher, this research is expected could be a reference as the way in avoiding error in writing. This research expectedly could open all teachers' point of view about grammatical errors especially in writing.

2. For students, this research is expected for giving a more understanding about grammatical errors in writing.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Several words in the study need to be defined in other to avoid misinterpretation and ambiguity in title above. This is study briefly clarifies and species each terms as follow:

1. Language

   According to Hadely (2001) in Javed et al, language is a set of sound by means of which feeling, thoughts and sentiments are conveyed to other human beings.

2. Writing

   According to Jack Richard writing is the most difficult skills for second language learners to master of putting together strings of grammatically correct sentences. It is means that error in grammatical aspect is the command for learners.

3. Grammar

Sometimes defined as the way words are put together to make correct sentences.

4. Error Analysis

Sobahle (1986) stated that error analysis indicates all errors produced that are common to that group of people.