

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Grammar is a basic element of English, which studies the structure of sentences. To make a good sentence requires a broad knowledge of grammar. Grammar helps and guides students to communicate, if they do not have adequate knowledge of grammar, they can have trouble in the process of communication. In other words grammar is important as basic element for students to master the language.

Grammar is constructed based on several components, tenses is one of them which is required in the communication process. According to Riyanto (2006) in Hutahean (2009) states that tense are used to indicate the relation of the act in the form of verb, and the time which displayed in the form of place, event, or state to a point of time. Tense are categorized into 16 tenses, there are simple present tense, present continuous tense, present perfect tense, present perfect continuous tense, simple past tense, past continuous tense, past perfect tense, past perfect continuous tense, simple future tense, future continuous tense, future perfect tense, future perfect continuous tense, simple past future tense, past future continuous tense, past future perfect tense, and past future perfect continuous tense. All of the tenses have to be mastered by the English learners in order to improve their English Skill.

Simple present and past tense are two types of tenses that are often used in various communication contexts, for example: simple present tense is always used to explain about some daily routines, and facts. On the other hand, past tense used to state about some activities or events happened in the past. Both of them have very essential roles to support the English Learners to have good English.

However, to master tense seems become a problem by students, based on researcher interview to students at English language education program in Universitas Islam Riau, some of them said, to master tenses is one of the most difficult matters for them in learning English. They often make problems in tenses when they do their communication in English, especially in written and verbal communication. In addition, a few of them said that their problem in grammar, especially in tenses that can make them getting problem in speaking.

In English Language Education program in Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Islam Riau. Grammar provided for the students, it means that the students have to study several grammar subjects which are Basic Grammar, Intermediate Grammar, and Advanced Grammar start from the first, second, and third semester.

In taking grammar subject, the students are prepared to be able to identify varieties of English Grammar to use their knowledge of grammar to communicate, and to analyze the use of grammar and meaning in different text-written and spoken.

Even though the students are prepared to have good understanding about Grammar Subject, the students seem getting problems in mastering the subject.

Based on Intermediate Grammar Syllabus, students learn tenses in section nine with topic Grammar in use: Time, Tense, and aspect Leech (2003). Usually, the students of the second semester English Language learn structure of sentence. They identify sentences and determine words function by words, such as part of speech material. Students give one sentence, and they suitable with kind of the words.

Some factors that probably influence the students' problem in tenses, such as : students mastery in using positive, negative, and interrogative sentences. The students might get problems to construct the sentences based on the correct forms.

Most of the common phenomena, the students get confused with the rules in constructing sentences. They really need to know and fully understand about the patterns. In short, simple present tense and past tense always used in written and verbal communication. Based on the explanation above the researcher is interested in conducting researchers entitle: **“A Study on Grammatical Mastery of Simple Present and Past Tenses of The Second Semester Students at English Language Education Program at Universitas Islam Riau”**.

1.2 Setting of the Problems

Based on the background of the problems and phenomena that have been presented, the second semester students at the English Language Education Program are learning about grammar. This subject is provided for the students in order to improve their grammatical understanding.

There are several topics that the students study in grammar subjects. One of the topics is about tense, especially about simple present and past tenses. In

learning about the simple present and past tenses, the students have to be able to use them correctly in daily communication context it is written or spoken. However, to master the two tenses seem challenging for the students.

First, to be a good English learners, the students should learn about grammar. The grammar helps the students understand in spoken and written communication. The grammar has some components. One of them is a tense. In English subject, the tenses has 16 tenses, but only two that always used by the students. The two tenses are simple present and past tenses. The simple present tense is a tense used in routine activity. In other hand, simple past tense showed activity, situation that happened in the past. The two tenses are important for English learners to support their knowledge to have good English.

Second, to have a good English, the students learn grammar subject. The grammar subject helps the students in analyzing structure in sentence. The students seem difficult to analyze word in sentence, but with grammar subject the students can minimize their mistakes and analyze sentences.

Third, to improve grammar ability, the students should master grammar especially in simple present and past tenses. With grammar knowledge, the students can identify varieties of English grammar in written and spoken. They easy in identify structure of sentences with their understanding about grammatical mastery.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Since having good grammatical mastery in communication context is importance, this research focused on a part of grammar, called simple present and past tenses. The researcher analyzed grammatical mastery of simple present and past tenses of An Analysis on Grammatical Mastery of Simple Present and Past Tenses of The Second Semester Students at English Language Education Program at Universitas Islam Riau.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The formulation of the research is as follow: How is the grammatical mastery of simple present and past tenses of the second semester students at English Language Education Program at Universitas Islam Riau?

1.5 Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is to find out the students grammatical mastery of simple present and past tenses of the second semester students at English Language Education Program at Universitas Islam Riau.

1.6 Significance of the Research

After this research the writer expected give good contribution and have advantages the following:

- 1.6.1 To give information for readers about research in a topic about simple present tense and past tense.
- 1.6.2 To help students who will learn about simple present and past tenses.
- 1.6.3 To inspires the teacher or lecturer who want to know about grammatical mastery especially in simple present and past tenses.

1.6.4 To give beneficence for reader or students of the English Language Education Program who want to increase their knowledge about the grammatical mastery especially in simple present and past tenses.

1.7 Assumption

In this study, the researcher assumes that the second students in English Language Education Program do not have grammatical mastery problems of simple present tense and simple past tense.

1.8 Definition of the Terms.

1.8.1 A Study : as stated by Hornby (1995), A Study is activity of learning of gaining knowledge or to give one time and attention to learn about the subject.

1.8.2 Grammar Mastery: In keeping with Brown (2007), Grammar mastery is a knowledge and ability to apply language's grammatical structures effectively in communication.

1.8.3 Simple Present Tense: as said by Lester et al, (2010) Simple Present Tense is expressing the factual statement and generalization, describing habitual action and describing predictable future events or actions.

1.8.4 Simple Past Tense: as stated by Haryanto (2004) simple past tense is a tense described action or event doing by someone in the past.