

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, statement of the research problems, objectives of the study, the significances of the study, and the scope of the study

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a system of symbols for communication. The symbol of communication may be spoken, written or signed with the hands (Charles, 2001). People can communicate with many languages and with many ways like with spoken or written. In Indonesia, the people can communicate with many languages like Indonesian, Javanese, Chinese and English.

Nowadays, the Indonesian people are studying English. It is used in some media such as magazines, newspapers, scientific books, journals, or other information sources. Indonesian people study English language in the course of English or the school like elementary school until university.

Unfortunately, many people have difficulty to learn English as a second language because the mother tongue is more dominant in their speech. In learning English, people have to deal with a language which is socially or culturally different from their own languages. Learners are demanded to master four skills of the language. The four skills in English are listening, speaking, reading and writing. The learners should also enrich vocabulary and understand the grammar.

In the basic of English we can learn writing a text. Written text must be well-formed one when the clauses and sentences within the text link one to another. A well-formed text will be created if the texts are mutually relevant to each other reveal major factors about the standards of textually. Every word, phrase, clause, and sentence in written text has to be connected to each other. A text is the sequences of the sentences which connect each other make a unit.

Moreover, writing text must use correct grammar. Grammar is set of rule that allow us to combine words in our language into larger units (sentence). Harmer (2001) stated that the grammar is the set of rules, which is an explanation of how the form of words can be changeable and united into sentences in a language.

Richards (2002) stated that writing is the most difficult skill for second language learners to master. The skills involved in writing are highly complex. In line with Richard, Hamp-Lyons (1987) in Nunan (1991) stated that it is true that writing is commonly a difficult activity for most people, both in mother tongue and in a foreign language. The writing skill involves capabilities more than other language skills and it needs a special preparation. Therefore, it is acceptable that students often make errors or mistakes in writing and producing low quality of writing. The errors in writing could be in the form of grammatical errors. Grammatical error is an error of grammar in the sentences of text.

This study focuses on the grammatical errors in writing made by the students at SMA “Al-Islam” Krian. . SMA “AL-ISLAM” Krian is the private senior high school in Krian. It is located in Jl. Kyai mojo, Jeruk Gamping Village,

Krian district, Sidoarjo. This school uses bilingualism in the process of learning. In certain day all of the people around the school must use the English, especially the teacher and the students. At the school, there are 45 classes for tenth grade, eleventh grade, and twelfth grade. In the curriculum of tenth grade there is material of narrative text and students must write it be correctly.

The writer decides to analyse the grammatical errors in the writing of students at SMA “Al-Islam” because most of the students often make errors in producing English. The writer focuses of grammatical errors in the surface strategy taxonomy. Students who don’t comprehend the grammar well will get difficulty in arranging the words. They often make error in their writing. For example, a student may write “Yesterday, I go to Batu screet zoo in Malang city with my family. I and my sister is so happy because I can see many kind of animals, I play games”. This sentence is error because the sentence uses simple present. This sentence must use simple past sentence. It should be “Yesterday, I and my family went to Batu screet zoo in Malang city. I and my sister **were so happy** because we can see many kind of animals and play games”.

The reason why the writer uses the writing of Al-Islam senior high school students as found the grammatical error of essay text. As English is the second language of the students, the interferences of the native language may become the cause of error. For example, Indonesia students who are accustomed to use an Indonesian sentence pattern that is different from the English language may write “My car big” while it should be “my car is big”.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Based on the background of study above, the following research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of the grammatical errors made by the students in writing text at SMA “Al-Islam”?
2. What are the causes of the errors in the writing of the students at SMA “Al-Islam”?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statements of the research problem, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find and explain the types of grammatical errors produced by the students in writing text at SMA “Al-islam”.
2. To find and explain the causes of the errors in writing of the students at SMA “Al-islam”.

1.4 Significance of the Study

By conducting this study, theoretically, the writer expects to give an additional knowledge to help the readers to recognize the errors produced by the English learners. The writer also expects this study will help the readers to know the factors that cause the errors. Practically, the writer hopes the readers’ understanding to this study will be able to help them to pay attention more to the grammar when they apply English in their communication.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is in the field of error analysis focusing on grammatical errors in essay texts produced by the students at SMA “Al-Islam” Krian. Essay texts of 20 students of tenth grade will be analysed. The writer will analyse the types of grammatical errors and the causes of the errors in the writings of students at SMA “Al-Islam” Krian. Dulay’s (1982) theory about grammatical errors classification is used to help the writer in classifying the types of the errors. The writer limited to analyse types of grammatical error in the surface strategy taxonomy. The other theory that is used is Brown’s (2007) theory to analyse the causes of the errors.