CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

There are many languages in the world. Every country has its own national language. Language plays a great role in people’s life, especially for communication. English is used as an international language, which is very popular all over the world among other languages and many countries use it as a means of communication.

Learning English is very important, because English has became an International language. One country needs foreign language for communication with another country. Realizing the importance of English, the government stimulated that English must be taught as a compulsory subject in our country since at elementary school. English is used in many fields of life such as science, arts, technology, culture, politics, and medicine.

Seeing the importance of English, Indonesian students learn English as a foreign language in their formal education. The similarities of the rule found during their English study will bring them of study English easily. They will meet difficulties when they face differences in the term of comparison. The mistake or problem can occur in the structure. One of the structure grammar problems is the adjective degrees of comparison, which covers a large number of adjective together with the rules and inflection. This attracts the writer so
much. In Indonesia, there is no such a complex regulation as it is found in English.

English adjective degrees of comparison is really different from Indonesian adjective degrees of comparison. There are three forms for adjective degrees of comparison. Positive form, the type we have already looked at, does not express comparison, the comparative form which is made be adding \(-er\) or precending \(more\) to the positive form, shows either a greater degree than positive form or make a comparison between two persons or things, the superlative form, which is made by adding \(-est\) or precending \(most\) to the positive forms, shows the greatest degree of quality or quantity among three or more person form. (English department university of calgary; 1998)

Based on the explanation above, it is realized that learning foreign language is not easy. It is more difficult than mother tongue in learning English. Someone will face many difficulties, because there are many differences between native language and foreign language. Human learning is misjudgment, miscalculation, and erroneous assumptions form an important aspect of learning virtually any skill or acquiring information (Sujoko, 1990: 3).

Based on the problem, the writer is very interested in writing this thesis proposal entitled “A Descriptive study on the mastery of adjective degrees of comparison of the eighth grade students of SMP Yaa BAKII 2 Kesugihan in academic year 2014/2015.
B. The Reason for Choosing the Topic

The reasons that encourage the writer to choose the topic are as follows:

1. The English comparison is quite complex, especially the inflectional forms of adjective.
2. The adjective degrees of comparison is taught in the eighth grade of junior high school.
3. The writer thinks that contribution is needed to solve the problem in teaching and learning the adjective degrees of comparison.

C. The Problem of the Study

In this case, the writer has a problem that must be solved. The formulation of the problem of the study is as follows:

1. How good is the students mastery of degrees of comparison of adjective?
2. What kind of errors which are made by students in using adjective degrees of comparison?

D. The Aim of the Study

Based on the problem of the research, the aim of the research is to find out the students mastery of the adjective degrees of comparison and to find the kind of errors, which are made by the students in using adjective degrees of comparison.
E. The Contribution of the Study

The writer hopes the result of the research will be valuable contribution to the development of teaching English in general and teaching English adjective degrees of comparison. Besides that, this research will be useful to evaluate the students error in applying the adjective degrees of comparison in order to motivate the teachers to find out the better solution in minimizing the students difficulties in applying this material.

F. The Clarification of the Key Terms

In this study, the writer would like to clarify the terms to make them clear. The key terms which are clarified are proposed in the title “A Descriptive Study on the Mastery of Adjective Degrees of Comparison of the Eighth Year Students of SMP Ya BAKII 2 Kesugihan in Academic Year 2014/2015.”

1. Descriptive Study

“Descriptive” is giving a picture in words, describing something without expressing or judging (Hornby, 1995: 314). Descriptive study, generally, is a study of non-hypothesis. This study can be classified as: explorative and developmental (Arikunto, 1993: 194-198). In this research, the writer wants to discuss the explorative description. It describes a certain situation or certain case to know the things that have
relation with the research. The first thing that the researcher has to do is collecting data to be classified into groups, qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative description is done by analyzing, words, sentences, clauses, etc, as the data, while quantitative description in analyzing score collected as the data. The process of this analyzing can be done by using a certain formula to get the status of the material presented. Sometimes, to make the analyzing more clearly understood, it can be described by tables, polygon graphic bar diagram, etc.

Descriptive research is concerned with providing descriptions of phenomena that occur naturally, without the intervention of an experiment or an artificially contrived treatment (Seliger & Shohamy, 1989: 116). So, descriptive study is a research done by giving the pictures of certain phenomena. In this case, the writer would like to clarify the term descriptive study as describing the students' mastery of adjective degrees of comparison of the eighth grade students of SMP Ya BAKII 2 Kesugihan in academic year 2014/2015.

2. Mastery

The word mastery means complete control or knowledge (Hornby, 1995: 532). In this study mastery means students’ knowledge in answering the task concerning with adjective degrees of comparison.
3. Adjective Degrees of Comparison

It belongs to grammatical structure. One of the three forms, positive, comparative, or superlative, is used in the comparison by the modification of an adjective or adverb to express degrees of quality, quantity, or intensity (Webster, 1992: 107). Adjective is a word that names a quality; or defines or limits about a noun (Hornby, 1995: 11). The adjectives have three degrees of comparison; they are positive comparative and superlative (Bhartia: 1978: 89). Adverbs is word that answers question with how, when, where, and modifies verbs, adjectives and another adverbs, such as soon, here, well, quickly (Hornby, 1995:14). From the explanations above, the writer concludes adjective degrees of comparison is modification of word that names quality and word that answers question with how, when, where to express highest degree of quality, quantity, or intensity.