

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Tense is a basic element of language system in English, which cannot be found in Indonesian and that is the specific difference between English and Indonesian language system. For example, when the students say “She goes to school every day” and “She went to school yesterday”. Based on the example, English has different context in time and verb form when someone wants to say habitual context and past context. Whereas Indonesian, present and past time have the same verb. According to Richards and Schmidt (2002) in Jabbari (2013), tense is relationship between the form of the verb and the time of the action. The times are present, past and future with difference rules and formulas.

The most problem which is faced by the students is how to make sentences with correct tense. In English there are 16 kinds of tenses. Two of them are Simple Present Tense and Simple Past Tense, and those two simple tenses are often introduced to the Indonesian students at an early stage.

Based on the observation which was done in October, most of second year students at SMA Muhammadiyah Tambak had some difficulties in using Simple Present Tense and Simple Past Tense, especially in applying verb and sentence pattern. For example; when a student wanted to say “She visited her grandma on the last holiday.” (true) but they said “She visit her grandma on the last holiday.” (false). The other example; when a student wanted to say “We sing a song every day.” (true) but they said “We sang a song every day.” (false).

Based on that explanation, the writer can assume that the students’ mastery of tenses especially Simple Present Tense and Simple Past Tense is lack of understanding because they still make some errors. They do not understand the tenses especially the rule.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

There are several reasons why the writer chooses the topic, those are :

1. Grammar is important to be learnt by the students because with it they can communicate understandably with others.
2. The writer wants to know the problem faced by the students in using simple present tense and simple past tense to give feedback and input for the teacher.

C. Problem of the Research

The problems of the research are formulated as follows :

1. What kinds of errors are made by second year students of SMA Muhammadiyah Tambak in using Simple Present Tense and Simple Past Tense ?
2. What are the highest error made by second year students of SMA Muhammadiyah Tambak in using Simple Present Tense and Simple Past Tense?

D. Aims of The Research

The aims of the research are :

1. To find out the kinds of errors made by second year students of SMA Muhammadiyah Tambak in using Simple Present Tense and Simple Past Tense.
2. To find out the highest error made by second year students of SMA Muhammadiyah Tambak in using Simple Present Tense and Simple Past Tense.

E. Scope of the Research

This research only to find out the kinds and the highest error made by the students in using Simple Present Tense and Simple Past Tense in written form.

F. Clarification of Terms

The title of the research is “An Analysis of Students’ Errors in the Use of Simple Present Tense and Simple Past Tense of Second Year at SMA Muhammadiyah Tambak.”

To understand the topic more easily, the term of the study are classified as follows:

1. Error analysis

Brown (2007 : 272), states that error analysis is the process to observe, analyze, and classify the deviations of the rules of the second language and then to reveal the systems operated by learner.

2. Simple Present tense

Simple present tense is used to express habitual or everyday activity (Azar, 1993 : 11). Besides, Murphy (1985: 6) states that simple present tense is used for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.

3. Simple Past tense

Simple past tense is used to describe event that happened in the past. According to Ward Beech, *et all.* (1984: 92) Simple Past Tense is tense that express action already happened.

G. Contribution of the Research

The contributions of the research are :

1. For the teacher

The teacher can anticipate the problems faced by the students about these tenses in teaching by knowing the errors made by them and can get input about how to avoid the students' errors.

2. For the reader

By reading this research, the writer hopes this research will be beneficial for the readers, then the readers can apply the tenses systematically and avoid the error that can happen.