

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Indonesian students who want to communicate in foreign language correctly and appropriately should master grammar well. Grammar is the basic knowledge to understand language perfectly, without understanding the grammar, it is impossible for the students to understand English skills in writing, speaking, listening and reading.

In learning grammar, the students have to master the grammatical construction of the language and understand the meaning of a sentence since grammar has various types of study. Modal auxiliary verbs are the parts of grammar that are important to be learnt. It is because the students have to understand how to make modal auxiliary verbs in sentences.

From the interview with the English teacher at the second year students of SMA Ma'arif NU 1 Ajibarang, she said that there were still misconceptions in using modal auxiliary verbs. It can be proven when one of the students said; "I will meet my teacher tomorrow morning" but he said "I would meet my teacher tomorrow." It was caused by his ignorance on how to use modal auxiliary correctly. He did not use modal auxiliary "will" but "would". Other student wanted to suggest her friend. At that time, her friend was sick and she had to see a doctor for checking her illness. She suggested her by saying "you might go to

doctor.” She made error in using modal auxiliary usage. It can be seen from her misconception in using modal auxiliary verbs correctly.

In learning grammar, the students have to master the grammatical construction of the language to understand the meaning of a sentence. Grammar has various types of study. One of the grammars that must be mastered by the students is modal auxiliary verbs. Therefore, based on the interview with the teacher at the second year students of SMA Ma’arif NU 1 Ajibarang, the students felt difficulties in using of modal auxiliary verbs because there was much grammatical error in using it. The students did not comprehend the grammar properly. Hopefully by understanding grammar especially the use of modal auxiliary verbs, the students can use English well

Regardful of that explanation above, the writer takes the research that entitles The Competence of the Second Year Students of SMA MA’ARIF NU 1 Ajibarang on Using Modal Auxiliary Verbs in the Academic Year 2009/2010.

B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

Recently, English language is the most important language in the world. Since English language is spoken by most of the worlds. Yet, there are many students of the second year students of SMA MA’ARIF NU 1 Ajibarang regard learning English difficult. The students have problems in mastering grammar, particularly in using modal auxiliary verbs. Most of students still make mistakes and errors in using modal auxiliary verbs. Based on the explanation above, the

reason why the writer chooses the title is there are many students who still have difficulties in understanding and using grammar correctly, especially modal auxiliary verbs.

C. Problem of the Research

The problems discussed in this research are:

1. What is the level of students' mastery in using modal auxiliary verbs?
2. What kinds of errors do the students make in using modal auxiliary verbs?
3. What kinds of modal auxiliary verbs give the problems to the students?

D. Aims of the Research

The aims of this research are:

1. to know the level of the student's competence in using modal auxiliary verbs.
2. to find out some errors made by students in using modal auxiliary verbs at the second year students of SMA MA'ARIF NU 1 AJIBARANG in the academic year 2009/2010.

E. Contributions of the Research

The contributions of the research are as follows:

1. the research gives information about students' competence in using modals auxiliary verbs.
2. the research gives information about the common errors in using modals auxiliary verbs so that the teacher can make drills to eliminate the errors.
3. the result of the research can be useful for the learners to know how to use modal auxiliary verbs correctly.