CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Grammar is one of important points in learning a language. It is a component of a sentence. Through using grammar appropriately, it will make the language learners able to comprehend the material. Therefore, language learners should master grammar well.

Grammar has been separated from other elements of language. It is known from many English structural features “the tense” is the one of the most difficult point to be learn, it is very complicated. The biggest problem is how to use the tense correctly in given situation. In order to use these tense correctly the students should know the meaning of every tense. It helps them to be aware in any mistakes that they have made in grammar and to support their writing ability.

In the fact that many students have problems in using good grammar in carrying out communication in English. There are students think that learning English is difficult and it is not surprising because every language has own system, especially grammar. The system of English is different from that of Indonesian. The differences in the system bring about problems for students in learning of English.
Based on pre interview with some students at SMP N 3 Kesugihan Cilacap, it is revealed that they got difficulties in using grammar. The students have difficulty in constructing the simple sentences.

Students who are learning English as a foreign language usually make some mistakes in constructing sentences. Their arrangement in English simple sentences is not satisfying yet because they do not really master the tenses. Their Indonesian sentences are still reflected in their English sentences and make their English sentences ungrammatically arranged and difficult to be understood.

Based on the description above, the writer wanted to know and done a research about Eighth Grade Students’ Ability in Constructing Simple Sentences at SMP Negeri 3 Kesugihan, Cilacap.

B. Reasons of Choosing the Topic

The reasons why the writer chooses this topic are:

1. The writer wants to know the students’ ability in constructing simple sentences.

2. The writer wants to reveal the common error in constructing simple sentences.

C. Problems of The Study

To improve the process of teaching learning of students’ ability in constructing simple sentences, it is necessary to know:
1. What is the eighth grade students’ achievement in constructing simple sentences?
2. What errors are made by the eighth grade students in constructing simple sentences?

D. Aims of the Research

The aims of this research are:
1. to know the students’ ability in constructing simple sentences.
2. to reveal the common errors made by the students in constructing simple sentences.

E. Contribution of the Research

The result of the research is expected to be useful for English teacher:
1. To help them to solve the problems.
2. to anticipate the problems found in teaching simple sentences.

F. Limitation of the Problem

The focus of this research is for measuring the students’ ability in using simple present tense, simple past tense, simple future tense in simple sentences which are covered in eighth grade curriculum.

G. Clarification of the Term

To understanding the keywords used in this report for readers to be familiar with the following terms:
1. Students’ Ability

Students were one of the human components that occupy the central position in teaching learning process. Sardiman (2007:111) said that students are one of the components in teaching besides teacher, lesson objective, and method of teaching.

According to Pei (1972:2) “Ability is the state or condition of being able, attitude, competence, capability, power to do something, whether physical, mental, and legal, talent or acquired proficiencies, power of the mind, mental gift to endowments”.

From the statement above, the writer could conclude that; ability was potentiality to explore their knowledge in doing a test which is given and the skill power to do something that could be shown by students’ scores obtained from the test.

In this study, the term ability is defined as the students’ skill in using substitution in English tenses.

2. Simple Sentences

A simple sentence was a sentence that has one subject and one verb. The subject tells who or did something. The verb told the action or condition. Simple sentence is a sentence having no coordinate or subordinate clauses (Swan, 1980:529)