CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

Grammar is one of the important aspects that should be comprehended in learning English. Nunan (1991:153) says grammar exists to enable us to ‘mean’, and without grammar it is impossible to use language effectively. It means grammar is useful to communicate and it is extremely important because the mastery of English is not perfect without mastering grammar.

Meanwhile, Swan (1980: xvi) states grammar is the rules that say how words change to show different meanings, and how they are combined into sentences. It means grammar is a significant part of making sentences. Without grammar, words or sentences will be difficult to understand. In this case grammar should be mastered in order to be competent in English. One of the items in grammar that should be understood is relative clause.

Azar (1993:238) states that relative clause is also called adjective clause. Adjective clause is a dependent clause that modifies a noun. It describes, identifies, or gives further information about a noun. Based on the definition, relative clause can make the noun become more specific and avoid the repetition of certain words so relative clause is necessary to be mastered because it is important. Moreover, the frequency of the use of relative clause is high so it is crucial for the student to master it.
In this case, the researcher wants to know whether the students have mastered the material or not. So, the title of this research is “An Analysis of Students’ Mastery in Relative Clause at the Sixth Semester Students of English Department of FKIP UMP in Academic Year 2016/2017”.

B. **Reason for Choosing the Topic**

The reasons why the researcher chooses the topic is the frequency of using relative clause is high. Because, it is often used in all skills so it needs to be mastered. If the students do not master relative clause, they will not understand with what they read or what they listen if it appears in the text. Therefore, mastering relative clause is very important.

C. **Problem of Research**

Based on the background of the research, the problem is expressed in the question: To what extent is students’ mastery in relative clause of English Department of FKIP UMP in Academic Year 2016/2017

D. **Aim of Research**

This research aims at finding out the students’ level in mastering relative clause at sixth semester of English Department of FKIP UMP in Academic Year 2016/2017.

E. **Clarification of Terms**

In order to make the term clear, the meaning of the term used in the topic are clarified below:
1. Analysis
   Hornby (1995:38) defines analysis is the study of something by examining its part and their relationship.

2. Mastery
   Hornby (1995: 721) says mastery means complete knowledge or great skill.

3. Students
   Hornby (1995: 1187) states that student is a person, usually over the age of 16, who is studying at a university or college.

4. Relative Clause
   Mas’ud (1991:203) states relative clause is a clause used as adjective to modify noun or pronoun.

F. Research Contributions
   The contributions are as follow:

1. The result of this research will give information to English lecturer about students’ mastery level in relative clause so the lecturer can evaluate the teaching and learning relative clause.

2. The result of this research will be useful for the learner to know how to make sentences with relative clause or how to use relative clause correctly.