CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Learning English in a University has many subjects that should be mastered by the students. As it is known the main four subjects, namely speaking, reading, writing, and listening are the compulsory subjects should be available in learning English. In addition, there are some components of English should be learned by students for supporting those four subjects in order that students can use English correctly and accurately. The main components are pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. Those components have respective role and are very important in English learning. Apart from the significance of each component, one of them must be mastered by students well is vocabulary.

Vocabulary plays such a big role in learning English. Vocabulary can be a word, a phrase, or group of words. Dealing with the English subject learned in university, students in the university have to master well about it to support students’ learning and develop students’ language. Vocabulary contains many lexical words that can be form inflectional and derivational suffix. One of them is derivational suffixes that should be known and mastered well by the students since derivational suffixes learned about word and its formation. It will be great benefit for students to help students develop their vocabulary.
Derivational suffixes are morphemes which are added to create separate word in the end of word. When the part of speech changes in this example, verb “argue” becomes noun “argument” this is as result of adding suffix –ment, and it is called derivational suffix because change the meaning and parts of speech of the word “argue”.

Based on the previous study in 2003 entitled “students’ competence in English derivation” that conducted in SMU Muhammadiyah 1 Purwokerto, it was found that students face difficulties in learning English that related to English’s words. The problems, which are faced by students, are not only caused by the limitation of their vocabularies, but also students’ confusion in word formation.

Based on the situation above, it seems interesting to conduct a study dealing with students’ competence of derivational suffixes in word classes. In this case the study will be conducted in second grade students of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto to find out whether second grade students have some difficulties on English words as Senior High School students or not.

Based on the explanation, it is interesting to know the students’ competence in applying derivational suffixes in word classes in second grade students of English Education Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto in Academic year 2013/2014. Then this research entitled “Students’ Competence of Derivational Suffixes in Word classes (A Descriptive Study on the Second grade students of English Education
Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto in Academic year 2013/2014).

B. Reason for Choosing Topic

The reasons of this research are:

1. Derivational suffixes are one of the vocabulary aspects that English students have to learn and master well.
2. Learning derivational suffixes are part of learning word formation.

C. Problems of Research

1. What is students’ level competence of derivational suffix in word classes?
2. What is the type of derivational suffix that mostly become problem for the students?

D. Aims of Research

1. To find out students’ level competence of derivational suffixes in word classes.
2. To know the type of derivational suffix that mostly become problem for the students.

E. Classification of Terms

To understand the topic, the writer classifies the essential terms of this research as follows:

1. Competence

   Competence means the state or quality of being capable or competent, skill and ability. Related to this research, competence is
indicator of making something. It defines that competence is person’s ability for making derivational suffixes by the second semester students of English Department in Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto.

2. Derivational suffixes

According to Macmillan (1996: 23), derivational suffixes is one that is added to the word base and change the meaning of word base in some important way, or else change into a different word classes. For example the word turns from noun into adjective such as: man is noun, the meaning is person, but when the word man is added by suffix -ly it will become manly that change the word classes into adjective. Manly have a meaning like a man.

3. Word classes

According to Brown (1995: 218), word classes are terms that used to classify word based on their functional categories which calls part of speech, which include nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverb.

a. Nouns

Noun refers to word which is used to name or identify any of class of things, people, places or ideas, or particular one of these.

b. Verb

Verb refers to word which is used to indicating an action, an event or a state.
c. Adjective

Adjective refers to word which is indicates a quality of the person or thing referred to by noun.

d. Adverb

Adverb refers to word which adds more information about place, time, circumstance, manner, cause, degree, acts to the verb, an adjective, a phrase or another adverb.

F. Contribution of Research

The following are some specific contribution of this research.

1. For students

To know the students difficulties on derivational suffixes and give the references in learning derivational suffixes.

2. For other researchers

This research can be used by other researchers in Muhammadiyah university of Purwokerto as a reference in making research.

3. For the writer

This research can improve the writer’s professionalism in measuring the students’ competence especially derivational suffixes.

4. For lecturers

The result of this research can be used by lecturers as a reference in making test to measure the students’ competence of derivational suffixes.