

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. The Background of Study

Azar (1999: 27) states that the simple past tense indicates that an activity or situation began and ended at a particular time in the past. It is important for students to understand past tense well because it is often used in spoken and written form; for example when the students want to tell a story or an event that had happened.

Based on the interview with Mrs. Susmiati, S.Pd as an English teacher of MTs Ma'arif NU 2 Cilongok, it was revealed that there were many students who still got difficulties and confused in using simple past tense. Students' ability was still low in making simple past tense especially in using the verb of past tense. Most of them were confused to differentiate between regular and irregular verb. Regular verbs were easy to be learnt, while irregular verbs were difficult. Students also had difficulties in differentiating auxiliary of English grammar. It brought difficulty for the students to use simple past tense. Without having a good knowledge of sentence pattern, the students also have difficulty in constructing a good sentence.

If the students master in using simple past tense, they can easily express complete action, a series of complete actions and also single duration that happened in the past. Moreover, they can use simple past tense when they

have to collaborate with other English materials such as narrative and recount text.

Based on the fact and description above, the researcher was interested in having a research entitled “An Error Analysis of Students’ Mastery in Using Simple Past Tense at the Second Grade Students of MTs Ma’arif NU 2 Cilongok”. This study was intended to find out the place of the errors and the most error made by the students in using simple past tense.

#### B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The reasons for choosing the topic are as follows:

1. Mastering past tense is important for the second grade students of MTs Ma’arif NU 2 Cilongok in learning English because it is often used by the students both spoken and written.
2. Knowing the error is important to design the teaching which can improve students’ ability in using simple past tense.

#### C. Statement of the Problem

The statements of the problem are as follow:

1. What are errors made by the students in using simple paste tense?
2. What are the most errors made by the students in using simple paste tense?

#### D. Aims of the Study

The aims of the research are as follow:

1. Finding out the kind of errors made by the students in using simple past tense.
2. Finding out the most errors made by the students in using simple past tense.

#### E. Limitation of the Study

The researcher limited the study only to simple past tense in the form of positive sentence, negative sentence, and interrogative (yes/no question).

#### F. Clarification of the Study

The title of this study is “An Error Analysis in Using Simple Past Tense at the Second Grade Students of MTs Ma’arif NU 2 Cilongok”.

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

##### 1. Error Analysis

“Error analysis is a procedure generally used by researchers and language teacher involving collecting sample, identifying error in its sample, describing the errors, classifying the error based on the reason and giving evaluation about erroneous level” (Ellis in Tarigan, 1990: 68).

##### 2. Simple PastTense

The simple past tense indicates that an activity or situation began and ended at a particular time in the past Azar (1999: 27).