CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

English is an international language becomes a foreign language in our country. As a consequence, the students join some colleges for English program to have good skill in speaking, reading, listening and writing.

Learning English will be influenced by student mother tongue (Indonesian) too. When the students write some sentences in the second language (English), they need vocabulary and grammar in order that they can send the information to others.

Grammar is one of the important language components to support the mastery of the language skills in English. Without understanding grammar, the students will find out many difficulties to arrange English sentence well, and gerund is one of the aspects of grammar.

Gerund is the -ing form of verbs used as a noun. In Oxford Advance Learner Dictionary “Gerund” means a noun in the form of the present participle of a verb (that is ending in -ing). Whereas Anggawirya (1982: 114) states that gerund is the –ing form of verb and functions as a noun. Because of its function as a noun, gerund can function as subject, object of the verbs, object of prepositions and also complements. Because gerund has several functions as mentioned above, it is possible that there are some errors that are made by students if students have no mastery of gerund.
Therefore, in this research, the writer wants to know the students’ errors in mastering gerund whether they have good mastery or not. This is the reason why the writer is interested in doing this research on the gerund mastery of eleventh grade students of SMK Purnama 2 Banyumas in the academic year 2011/2012.

Based on the explanation above, the writer chooses the topic, “The students’ competence in mastering gerund (A descriptive study of the eleventh grade students of SMK Purnama 2 Banyumas in the academic year 2011/2012 )”.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The reasons of choosing the topic are as follows:

1. Grammar is very important to support the students’ competence in English.
2. The writer wants to know the students’ errors in mastering gerund.
3. The writer wants to know how far the students’ of SMK Purnama 2 Banyumas especially in eleventh grade in mastering gerund is.
C. **Problems of the Research**

The problems of this research are as follows:

1. How good is students’ competence in mastering gerund?

2. What kind of errors is made by students in mastering gerund?

D. **Aims of Research**

The aims of the research are as follows:

1. To find out the students’ competence in mastering gerund of the eleventh grade students of SMK Purnama 2 Banyumas.

2. To find the students’ errors in mastering gerund of the eleventh grade students of SMK Purnama 2 Banyumas.

E. **Contribution of the Research**

The writer hopes that this research will give information in mastering gerund and they are for teachers and for students:

1. The teacher can predict the students’ mastery or difficulties and help them to solve gerund by making them understand how to answer the question correctly.

2. It can be useful for the learners to know how to use gerund correctly.

3. It can be a reference for teacher in education.

By understanding the result of this research, English teachers are expected to have the most suitable method in teaching to limit learners’ error, to develop their grammatical competence in English learning, and to improve
the students’ competence in mastering gerund. So the learners will be able to produce sentence and speak correctly.

F. Clarification of the Terms

To understand the topic more easily, the terms of the research are clarified as follows:

1. Student

   a. Students is a person who is studying; one who is devoted to learning; a learner; a pupil; a scholar; especially, one who attends a school, a university, or collage (Google. Com, 2011).

   b. Hornby (1995: 1187) gives definition that “students” are persons usually over the age 16, which is studying formally at school, university, or collage.

   In this research, the students refer to the eleventh-grade learners’ of SMK Purnama 2 Banyumas.

2. Competence

   a. Competence is the state or quality of being capable or well qualified (answer. Com, 2010).

   b. Competence means “Person’s knowledge of his language or the mastery of the system of rules of his language” (Ramelan, 1992: 46).

   From the explanation above, the students’ competence is the eleventh grade students’ of SMK Purnama 2 Banyumas have the quality or competence in mastering the system of rules of their language.
3. Mastery

a. Mastery means complete control or knowledge (Hornby, 1989: 523).

b. According to Ramelan (1992: 46), “Mastery” refers to a person’s knowledge, skill, or the power of competence in mastering the rules of language, possession or display of great skill or technique that makes one master of subject.

4. Gerund

a. According to Nunan (1998: 248), Gerund is the -ing form from verb used as a noun.

b. According to Azar (2002: 297), Gerund is the -ing form of a verb used as a noun.

c. Gerund is called “verbal noun” (englishclub.com, 2011).