CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background Of Study

English is an international language and it is very widely used by
million of people throughout the world. In Indonesia, English becomes
the first foreign language, it is which taught as the compulsory subject in
senior high school, junior school, even in elementary school and
kindergarten, although not as compulsory subject. In general students have
to master the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and
writing. The four skill should be introduced to students.

People who want to acquire technological and scientific advantages
have to master and know the elements of English language. One of the
language elements is grammar. Grammar is very crucial portion because it
is the basic knowledge for developing language skill. According to Swan
(1980:XVI), “The mastery of English Grammar is very important because
grammar is the rules about how forms change to show different meanings
and how words are combined into sentences”. Tenses are a part of
grammar. There are 16 tenses, one of them is simple past tense. Simple
past tense is used to talk about actions in the past (Raymond, 1985: 22).

The ability to understand simple past tense is very important.
Simple past tense is always found in English material and in final
examination. So the students should master it well. And it is necessary to
help them by knowing the problem faced by students in learning simple past tense. So the students can make better improvement.

Writing is a very important skill because with writing covey people can put their ideas in the written form. Students’ should develop and train to write their idea in the form of sentence, paragraph, or story. Meanwhile, written activity is regarded as merely a means of recording something that has spoken or that has been said. According to Nunan (2003: 88) writing is the mental work of inventing ideas, thinking, about how to express them, and organizing them into statement and paragraph that will be clear to a reader. In short, the process of organizing into the statement and paragraph is appropriate to the material such as narrative, report, analytical exposition, etc. Narrative is one kind if the writing material that is learned. Narrative is a text that amuse or certain the readers and to tell a story?

Writing is one of main skills that is taught as the centre of learning language. Writing also leads to guaranteed improvement in academic achievement. It means that the mastery of writing is very useful for enhancing students’ achievement. Allyn (2001: 1) states that writing helps kids develop critical thinking skills. Writing helps them understand and communicate complicate ideas. In the classroom writing activity, one of the goals of learning is to make the students able to write in a good way.
B. Reasons For Choosing The Topic

The reason why the writer choose the topic is to know whether good simple past tense students are good in writing narrative text.

C. Problem of Research

The problem of this research is:
“is there any correlation between students’ mastery of simple past tense and students’ ability in writing narrative text of students of MAN 1 PURWOKERTO”.

D. Aim of Study

The aim of the research is:
To find out a significant correlation between students mastery of simple past tense and students’ ability in writing narrative text.

E. Clarification of Term

1. Writing Ability

Writing can be defined by a series of contrast, it is both physical and a mental act, the purpose is both to express and impress, and it is both a process and a product, (Nunan, 2003:88).

2. Narrative Writing

Narrative writing is one of the most effective and creative ways to make students able to write but with clear instruction so that students do not feel depressed (Harmer, 2007: 336)

3. Narrative Text
is a kind of text which is tell about the story that happen in the fact.

4. Simple Past Tense

is a verb which explains to talk about activities or situation that began and ended in the past.