

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Research

English language has acclaimed as the international language of the world. As an international language, it used by most people around the world to communicate. In Indonesia, English also used as a language to communicate, but only used by a handful of people due to its status as a foreign language. The implication of English as a foreign language is, for anyone who wants to learn it, they must learn two components in order to successfully master the language, namely grammar and vocabulary.

The grammar is act as the skeleton of language while the vocabulary is the flesh. The grammar of a language is a description of the ways in which the language uses patterns of structure to convey meaning, so it would be impossible to learn language effectively without knowing the grammar, consciously or unconscious. According to Batko (2004: 24) grammar is the fundamental principles of the language, including clear and correct sentence construction and appropriate forms of words. After understanding the grammar, learners are able to become more accurate when using the language, both in written or spoken form. The reason of why grammar will help the learner to become more accurate when using the language is because, without good grammar, clear communication is impossible. Proper grammar prevents people from misunderstanding or being misunderstood.

Grammar is an important aspect when learning English language. According to Krashen in Barnard (2009: 248) grammar also become a very important aspect when it comes to language teaching. The teacher's teaching will determine the learners' success in learning English. In this case, the approaches of teaching grammar should be focused in the teaching and learning process. Focus in the teaching and learning process means, the way of teacher to deliver and guide the students in learning grammar will be very valuable aspect to support students successfulness.

In Indonesia, English is a foreign language which is taught from the start of the elementary, or from the start of the junior high school. On this stage of learning, the learners are introduced to the grammar aspect of English by the teacher as the base foundation, before introduced to other aspect of English language. Most of the time, when it comes to teach grammar, the teacher act as the facilitator for the learners. Moreover, in the curriculum of 2013, the government has made a revision in order to change the grammar aspect, from a main subject, to a material that is integrated with other language skills, namely listening, speaking, and writing. So, any school that use the curriculum of 2013 will not teach grammar exclusively within a specific time/specific schedule anymore, because grammar will be taught integratedly with other activity/skill like listening, speaking or writing activity. This means grammar is not a main subject anymore.

Based on the explanation above, the writer wants to find out the teachers' perception on grammar teaching in classroom. Therefore, the writer is

interested in conducting a research entitled “English Language Teachers’ Perception on Grammar Teaching in Classroom” both in state and private vocational high schools in Purwokerto.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

This research is conducted based on followings:

1. Grammar is essential in the expression and understanding of meaning.
2. Teachers’ perceptions on grammar teaching are necessary to know because it will determine whether or not there is grammar explanation.

C. The Problem of Research

The problem investigated is stated as follow:

What is English language teachers’ perceptions on grammar teaching in state and private vocational high schools in Purwokerto?

D. The Aim of the Research

Based on the problem of the research, the aim of the research is to know the English language teachers’ perceptions on grammar teaching both in state and private vocational high schools in Purwokerto.

E. Contribution of the Research

The result of this research is expected to give contribution both to teachers and researcher.

1. For the Teacher

By reading this research, the English teachers' will be aware of the importance of grammar teaching in the classroom.

2. For the Researcher

By doing this research, the researcher can improve the knowledge about the importance of grammar teaching for learners in classroom.

F. The Clarification of Terms

To avoid mistakes and misunderstanding in this research, it is necessary to clarify the key terms that used in this study, namely :

1. Perception

Perception is the process of involving message or information in the human brain. The brain receives information from the sense and organizes and interprets it into meaningful experiences-unconsciously. According to Mulyana (2007: 180) perception is a process that allows an organism to receive and to analyze information.

2. Grammar

Grammar is part of language that has an important role in learning English. According to Richards, Weber et al. in Nunan (2005: 2) Grammar is a description of the structure of a language and the way in which units such as words and phrases are combined to produce sentences in the language.

3. Teaching

According to Brown (2000: 7) teaching is showing or helping someone to learn how to do something, giving instruction, guiding in the study of something, providing with knowledge causing to know or understand. Based on the explanation, it can be concluded that teaching is an activity which is done by someone in order to make the students mastering and understanding the skills or materials.

