

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background

Language is very important for communication in daily life. Human being uses language, both in written and spoken form, to express their ideas. Language functions as a means of international communication by at least two people or more. In a smaller group whose members share the same language, for instance, there are likely no difficulties in using the language since the people involved in the process of communication to speak their own native language. Otherwise if the people taking part in the conversation speak different languages, they must have difficulties or obstacles in getting along with each other. One of the problems to the difficulties is the language used.

English as an international language is very needed and widely spoken in the world. In this world, many countries use English in different sectors, such as in politics, business, tourism, education and diplomatic circles. English is also important to promote the richness and the beauty of Indonesia to the world. Accordingly, many tourists and investors will come and invest their money, so English is a language of high importance in the international relationship either formally or informally.

There are four skills in English language namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students must master those four skills. Nevertheless, mastering these is not easy. To be a master in English, mastering grammar is a very essential part. Mart (2013:125) said that mastering English without grammar will be confusing. Learners will fail to use the language correctly without grammar mastery.

In learning a language, we often get some words that have the same meaning but different functions. In English grammar, we also find a verb that occupies the function of a noun. It can be formed by adding the suffix – *ing* to the verb that is called *gerund* (Azar ,2003:368). Zandvoort (2000:17)

mentioned the *-ing* form may be used as verbal noun that is as nouns with verbal meaning. While, Kurniady (2004:49) says that gerund is the verb which ends in *-ing*, and has the force of a Noun and a Verb. Similarly, Pyle (2001:72) says that a gerund is a verb + *ing* that is used as a part of noun phrase. Then, Azar (2003:368) also states that a gerund is the *-ing* form of a verb used as a noun. A Gerund is a verb which ends in *-ing*, but which is used in a sentence as a noun (Richards, 2002:225). Meanwhile, the gerund phrase is composed of the gerund and any words organized with it.

In general, many students make a mistake with gerund because they don't know about an *-ing* form in gerund and an *-ing* form in present participle. Both the gerund and the participle are verbs with an *-ing*.

Regarding to the background above, in this final project the writer wants to make an error analysis on the use of gerund among the sixth semester students of the English Language Education Study Program of Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto in the academic year of 2021/2022. Here, the writer limits the discussion on the use of gerund only, gerund as a subject, gerund as direct object, gerund as complement, and gerund as object of preposition.

## **B. Research Questions**

Based on the background above, the researcher plans to analyze the students' errors in using gerund. Therefore, to prevent this research becoming from either too narrow or too broad, the researcher makes some general questions to guide him. The general questions of this research are:

- 1) What kinds of errors are made by the students of the sixth semester of English Language Education Study Program at Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto in the academic year of 2021/2022 in using gerund?
- 2) What is the most dominant error of using gerund made by the sixth semester students of English Language Education Study Program at Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto in the academic year of 2021/2022 in using gerund?

Based on the questions above, the writer is enthusiastic to learn about the problems and make an error analysis on gerund and could find the kinds of errors and most dominant error on the use of gerund.

### **C. Purpose of the Study**

Using language well and correctly is important. If the habit is carried out again and again, the use of good and correct language will be automatic. To do so, a writer or a speaker of the language should know the systems the language has. One of the systems that ought to be mastered is the grammatical system that deals with structure and its operation.

On the basis of the explanation above, the writer can elaborate the purposes of the study as follows:

- 1) To find out the kinds of errors made by the students of the sixth semester of English Language Education Study Program at Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto in the academic year of 2021/2022 in using gerund.
- 2) To find out the most dominant error of using gerund made by the students of the sixth semester of English Language Education Study Program at Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto in the academic year of 2021/2022 in using gerund.

### **D. Significance of the Study**

The results of this research will be expected to be useful information for many people in learning process, such as:

- 1) For the teachers, this research is expected to add information and valuable source about gerund and to encourage their teaching, especially for teaching English. It will provide information to the teachers on student's errors. This research will help the teacher to improve their teaching and to motivate students to improve their writing skill especially in using gerund.
- 2) For the students and the learners, this research is expected to increase the students' and the learners' motivation in learning English.
- 3) For the next researcher, this research is expected to give information or

contribution especially in descriptive research.

#### **E. Scope of the Study**

In this study, the researcher will limit the problem of the research to just focus on the use of gerund as a subject, gerund as direct object, gerund as complement, and gerund after preposition. This study will involve the English students of the sixth semester at Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

