

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

Grammar is one the important aspects of English which cannot be separated from learning English. Grammar of a language is the description of the ways in which words can change their forms and can be combined into sentences to form meaning add more explanation about grammar (Harmer, as cited in Alfiyani, 2015). Grammar becomes one of the major components in writing. In writing, sentence structure really determines the meaning of the sentence. When students want to express their ideas or feeling, they must convey the ideas through words and the words should be arranged in a certain structure, so that other people can understand what they mean. However, if the ideas do not be arranged in well structured it will be difficult to understand the exact ideas.

Students sometimes make grammatical errors in writing. Corder (1967) in Putri (2014) states that errors are things made by beginner of second or other language learners who do not yet have a full command of target language system. English is not their mother tongue, they may get difficulties in learning the language. It is possible for them to make errors either in speaking or writing. Grammatical error is normal for learners because it helps learners to avoid the same errors and improve their grammar.

English education students are prepared to be English teachers. They should have an ability to transfer spoken and written material to students, which requires them to master the four skills of English. In English education department, students will study five levels of grammar/structure. Those are Basic Sentence Structure, Pre-Intermediate Structure, Intermediate Structure, Pre-Advanced Structure, and Advanced Structure. All grammar materials are taught from the 1st semester to the 5th semester. Each level of those structures also has different difficulties. Therefore, students must understand the previous structure course to master the next course.

Considering the importance and characteristics of writing, it will show whether the students' ideas are supported by the use of the right grammar or not. In this case, the research focuses on finding out grammatical errors of the first-semester students' writing because based on the researcher's unstructured interview of some of them about grammar in writing, they still got difficulties with grammar. They also have not studied the five levels of grammar.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, the questions of this study are as follows:

1. What types of errors are made by the first-semester students?
2. What is highest frequency of grammatical errors types?

C. Aims of the Study

Based on the background of the study and the research questions above, the aims of this study are as follows:

1. To describe the types of errors made by the first-semester students.
2. To find out the highest frequency of grammatical errors types.

D. Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to give useful contributions to:

1. English Teachers

The result of this study can help English teachers to know the possible grammatical errors made by the students and to recognize students' grammatical problems in writing. It also can be a beneficial feedback for teachers in order to teach writing better.

2. Further Researcher

★ The result of this study will give information for future researchers. It also can be guidance for them in conducting and modifying a deeper research about this topic.

E. Limitation of the Study

Based on the background of the study, it is impossible for the researcher to discuss all problems above. It is also necessary to make limitations in order to draw up the problem. This study is limited to discuss:

1. Grammar

The grammar item that the researcher wants to analyse is grammatical errors that happen in the first-semester students' writing. The researcher will analyse the grammatical errors using Surface Strategy Taxonomy by Dulay et al (1982).

2. Writing

The researcher focuses on analyzing grammatical errors made by first-semester students in simple text writing. The writing is descriptive writing about family.

