

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Writing is one of the productive skills since the writer explores his mind and gives the information to the readers through his thinking. The writing activity is different from other activities. It is less spontaneous but more permanent since it takes much time and concentrated practice. Ann Brown in his book stated that writing is important in our lives and as a communicative act that transmits information and links people together (Ann Brown 1993: 2). It means that writing offers opportunities to increase students' vocabulary, knowledge of grammar and develops their understanding of how things are expressed and how well students' message is understood in the written form. The students are expected to extend their ideas, feelings, and knowledge in writing language and they have to apply in other language abilities such as grammar and vocabularies.

In writing, the students have to focus on grammar, vocabulary, content, organization and mechanics. All of them are essential aspects in producing a good writing. James C. Raymond (1980: 3) in Evayani (2013: 3) states that, "In writing, however, it needs other ways to signal the meaning; punctuation, attention to word order, even the use of blank space. These devices do not come naturally." Therefore, the students need to improve their writing skill and to practice a lot to make a readable and meaningful writing.

From James" statement above, it could be comprehended that the mastery of structure and material is the key to succeed for students in writing. One of the components which are also very important in making writing is grammar. Consequently, it is difficult for students to develop their English proficiency.

Based on the syllabus for Senior High School, there are four English skills that should be mastered by the students; one of them is writing. The eleventh grade students of SMA Diponegoro I Purwokerto also develop their writing skill in making short functional texts, such as: invitation, memo, email, letter, advertisement and announcement text.

Short functional texts which is chosen by researcher is personal letter, because in a daily activity, many workers around us are not apart from writing letter activity in every office. For example there is writing for corresponding. Through writing a letter, students will be able to tell their feeling and experience event they had to share with others. Furthermore, letter is one of media for communication to communicate between small members of people to get information. It based on (Tanzili, 2006) he stated that A letter is a piece of paper or more that is used as a communication tool to deliver the statement or information in written from one person to another. In the business area, letter is important media to commodity and service fluency, which influence for businessmen's success. The letter also important for the students which is have closed friendly to communicate with others.

Letter also the one of topic which is learned by the students at SMA Diponegoro I Purwokerto in eleventh grade. Therefore, it is interesting to

observe the grammatical errors in writing made by students and the writer is interested in conducting a thesis entitled “An Analysis of Grammatical Error in Student’s Writing on Personal Letter”

B. Reason for Choosing The Topic

The reasons of the writer for choosing the topic can be formulated as follows:

1. The researcher wants to know the kind of grammatical errors and the most common grammatical errors made by students at the eleventh grade of SMA Diponegoro I Puwokerto in making personal letter.
2. The teachers should know the kinds of grammatical errors often made by the students. By knowing the problem, the teachers are motivated to find the solution for the students, so the students will be more careful in writing personal letter.

C. Problem of The Research

Based on the research background, the problems of this research are:

1. What kinds of grammatical errors are made by the students in making personal letter?
2. What is the most common error are made by the students in making personal letter?

D. Aim of The Research

The aim of the research are :

1. To find the kinds of grammatical error in students writing a personal letter.
2. To find the most common error are made by the students in making personal letter.

E. The Limitation of The Research

It is important to make the limitation of the problem, to avoid misunderstanding and to clarify the problem. According to the curriculum of SMA Diponegoro 1 Purwokerto for class eleventh, the students learned and made a personal letter as a topic in english class. The writer focused her study on analyzing the student's grammatical error in writing personal letter. The writer just concerned in analyzing six of aspects there are tenses, pronoun, preposition, article, singular/plurals and word order.

F. Clarification of The Terms

The title in this research is “An Analysis of Grammatical Error in Student's Writingon Personal Letter (A Descriptive Study on The Eleventh Grade at SMA Diponegoro 1 Purwokerto in Academic Year 2016/2017). The title above is clear for the writer. However in order to avoid misunderstanding and also make the topic clearer, the writer clarifies the key terms of following:

1. Students' Ability

a. Student

Student is a person following a course of study in a school. Hornby (1989: 859) notes that Student means a people who are studying for a degree, diploma, and university or some other places of higher education or technical training. In this research the students means is the eleventh grade students of SMA Diponegoro I Purwokerto.

b. Ability

Ability means the quality of being able to do something. Whereas base on (Hornby 1989:2) ability is the potential capacity of power to do something physical or mental. In the other word, student's ability is the potential students who are studying.

2. Error Analysis

Error means that a thing done wrongly. The conditional of having on correct or false knowledge. Brown (1980) in Hasyim (2002: 2), hestates that error analysis is the process to observe, analyze, and classify the deviations of the rules of the second language and then to reveal the systems operated by learner. Because of that, the writer can observe and analyze the data that we get from the observation, so the research can be proved by doing error analysis.

3. Grammar

Hornby (1987: 357) in Oxford Learner's Dictionary defines grammar as study or science for combination of words into sentences (syntax) and form of word (morphology).

4. Writing

Writing is one of four skills in English besides speaking, listening and reading. In writing you can write down some ideas, your opinion that interest you. Writing also collection for many symbol. Arrange them into form of words and link together in a certain way to produce a logical sentences.

5. Letter

A written, typed, or printed communication sent in an envelope by post or messenger.

G. Contribution of the Research

1. Theoretical Contribution

The writer hopes that this research is useful to develop the teaching learning process especially in writing making a letter.

2. Practical Contribution

a. Students

The result of this research is hopefully can make students know how to create a letter with correct grammatical form. Therefore students can improve their writing skill.

b. Teacher

After the research the teacher knowing the students' problems, the teacher are expected to improve their teaching, use suitable method in teaching writing making a letter with good grammar and in the future the students do not make the same mistake

c. For the Researcher

The result of this research will be input for the researcher to develop the teaching learning in English subject. Also the researcher will get the scientific data of the students' writing making a letter, and it will be able to formulate new plans based on the findings.