

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Writing is one of the language skills which are considered to be difficult to master by most of students (Javed, 2013). Everything can cause it and one of the causes is they cannot express their ideas into writing. They sometimes do not know what to write although their teacher has already given them a theme for writing. They need to pay more attention to grammar for a good result of writing. Moreover, they do not possess sufficient vocabulary so that they find it hard to improve their writing skill.

In constructing sentences in English, especially in written form, tenses do play the leading part. Tense is form of verb or verb phrase which expresses time connection. There are 3 kinds of simple tense which are commonly used. They are the simple present, the simple past, and the simple future. Students tend to make mistakes or errors in using the appropriate tense to write. They do not really understand when to use present, past, or future. As a result, they need to be very careful in using the correct grammar. In addition, their English is still influenced by L1, so there is such kind of problems in dealing with grammatical rules.

Based on the previous explanation, the researcher considered the problem as common difficulty, as Ibrahim and Fadi (2013) stated that EFL learners had difficulties in expressing their ideas into writing. Actually, as learners have various difficulties in writing English, they need more writing practice. This has become a serious issue for English teachers since they have to work harder. They

should motivate students by using interesting teaching technique and media so that students would more easily grasp the material. If they still failed, teacher should conduct remedial test (Ratnah, 2013).

As the researcher' experience in SMK N 2 Banyumas, where the researcher did teacher training for 3 months in academic year 2014/2015. The researcher found some students still had problems in understanding simple tense. They still did not understand in using the correct form of verbs. They have not understood it seriously. Meanwhile, the teacher has solved the problems by using an interesting teaching technique, but only few students who could enjoy the technique. Besides, the teacher also solved students who had low competence in learning English by doing remedial teaching. Contrary, it has not been able to apply it well. Therefore, the problems faced by Grade 11 SMK N 2 Banyumas in the academic year of 2014/2015 investigated. This investigation aimed at gaining information of the students' difficulties in writing simple tenses and the causes of the problems as well. Thus, the case would be proven by a research entitled "A Study on Students' Difficulties in Writing Simple Tenses"

A. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

The reasons of choosing the topic are:

1. Writing skill is one of the crucial skills has to be mastered in learning English.
2. Students' difficulties in learning writing in English must be noticed by the teacher so that the students can meet the intended outcome.

B. Problem Limitation

Considering the limited time, expense, and knowledge, the research would focus on students' skill in writing simple tenses, problems faced by students, and also the causes of the problems of writing by using simple tenses for grade II Welding Technique 1 SMK N 2 in the academic year of 2014/2015.

C. Problems of the Research

Based on the background of the research, the problems of the research were stated by the questions.

1. What are the common errors that students make in writing simple tenses?
2. What are the difficulties that students have in writing simple tenses?
3. What are the causes of difficulties in writing simple tenses?

D. Aim of the Research

The aim of the research was to gain the information about the errors made by students in writing simple tenses, the difficulties faced by the students in writing simple tenses, and also the causes of the difficulties.