

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of Study

Grammar is one of the keys to master English. According to Brown (2001: 362) “grammar is the system of rule governing the connection arrangement and relationship of words in a sentence”. Meanwhile, Williams (1999:5) as cited in Samira & Faizah (2015: 112) suggested that grammar is concerned primary with correctness and with the categorical names for the words that make up sentences. So, grammar deals with the rule which concerns about the correctness of sentences. If the arrangement and the relationship of the words are not correct, it will affect in the meaning of the sentence which means the meaning will be different or wrong. So, with grammar people can convey or achieve ideas easily and correctly. Therefore grammar has crucial role in English.

Grammar is the backbone of language. In reality, people produce or/and receive language and both of them need grammar. When people know grammar she/he will be able to deliver her/his ideas or may receive other’s ideas correctly. Otherwise, if she/he doesn’t know grammar they can’t understand each other. For instance, when someone says “He was given a lot of money” it is clear that sentence is in passive form which means “someone gave him a lot of money”. Meanwhile, when she/he doesn’t know grammar of passive sentences, she/he may interpret it as active form which means “ he gave a lot of money”. From this example, it can be understood that grammar prevent to lead misunderstanding in the meaning.

Furthermore, when the researcher study in English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto (UMP), the researcher and the other students were taught grammar lesson, namely structure 1 until 5. Those are taught in five semesters. In the end, grammar is important.

As well as the status of English in Indonesia as a foreign language, it means that English is not used in daily communication. Therefore, grammar needs to be learned explicitly and separately. According to Zheng Ling (2015) explicit learning refers to “learning the vocabulary and grammar in language material by dominant means, such as memory, grammar analysis, and so on, which is a process conscious and controlled.” When people rarely have interaction with foreigner to speak or listen they can't learn English grammar as easy as Indonesia grammar. So, it makes English grammar significant to be mastered.

In the view of the fact, it's also important to know the students' condition concerning grammar in English Department especially who is in the eighth semester. Based on documents which researcher gathered from administration office of FKIP, it can be seen that in academic year 2014/2015, 3.75% or 5 of 133 students retook structure 1 and 3. Furthermore, in academic year 2015/2016, 35.33% out of the students or 47 of 133 students retook structure 1, 8.27% or 11 of 133 students retook structure 3, and 6.76% or 9 of 133 students retook structure 5.

In addition, it's a fact that there are a lot of eighth students who retook structure 2 and 4 in this eight semester, academic year 2015/2016. In structure 2 there are 45 retakers and in structure 4 there are 41 retakers from eighth semester. It's also well known that they who retake grammar class/es are most of them who get score less than B. Therefore, it's important to know students' perception not only those who retook but also they who didn't retake grammar class.

To sum up, by knowing eighth semesters' perception, it's hoped that the reasons of their grammar mastery will be known. Since, perception can be one of the causes of their grammar mastery beside teaching method, the students' strategies in learning grammar, etc, which influence their grammar mastery. This research will show students' perception toward grammar whether they have positive or negative perception.

#### **B. Reason for Choosing the Topic**

The reason for the choice of this topic is because grammar is important, so it's crucial to know students' perception about grammar, whether it is positive or negative perception.

#### **C. Problem of the Study**

The problem that will be analyzed in this research is stated by question "What kind of perception do the students have towards grammar?"

#### **D. Aim of The Study**

The aim of this study is to find out students' perception toward grammar.

### **E. The Contribution of the Study**

The information of this research will show whether students' perception are positive or negative toward grammar. It's hoped that this research will give description about the real condition concerning students' grammar mastery and give input to all readers.

