

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

In Encyclopedia Americana volume 13, (1980: 151) grammar is defined as the study of how language works; more specifically it is the study of those systems and patterns that operate in a language to give meaning to an utterance. Because the language systems and patterns that operate in English are different from those meaning of English utterances, the English learner should know the English system and pattern or the English grammar.

Grammar is one of the language focuses, which have to be mastered by language learners besides writing, listening, speaking and reading. It is known as language component. The four skills product is necessary to be grammatically correct. So, in order to have a good four language skills, students must have a good grammatical ability. One of the grammatical items that will be commonly used is preposition.

Preposition is a part of a sentence or a simple everyday speech, even though preposition is short word but it has big function. Because of only the preposition change but that is enough to change the meaning entirely.

Prepositions are used to express a number of relationship, kind, location (place), manner, means quantity, purpose, state, condition,

position, etc. Based on the writer experiences and survey, it was found that many students were often confused in using preposition in the correct sentences because they often find the same different kinds of preposition.

It was also found from the writer's observation at SMP N 2 Buayan. It was found that most of the students still confused in using preposition, for example:

1. *I met him on August.* But, it should be *I met him in August.*
2. *I will see you at the morning.* But, it should be *I will see you in the morning*

To solve that problem, the writer would apply Tic Tac Toe game.

Tic Tac Toe is a game in which two players alternately put crosses and circles in one of the compartments of a square grid of nine spaces; the object is to get a row of three crosses or three circles before the opponent does.

From the background above, the writer would make a study on the students mastery in teaching preposition in, at and on using Tic Tac Toe game at seventh grade of SMP N 2 Buayan in Academic Year 2009/2010.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The reason why the writer was interested in conducting this research was because many students of SMP N 2 Buayan, especially at the seventh grade, was still confused in learning English preposition in, on and at, since they did not know to differentiate it and how to use it to made a

good sentence. This condition had become the basic reason for the writer to do the research.

C. The Problem of the Research

In the study, the writer focused the problem on “Whether Tic Tac Toe game is effective or not for teaching preposition especially for the seventh grade students of SMP N 2 Buayan?”

D. The Aim of the Research

Based on the problem above, the research aimed to know whether Tic Tac Toe Game is effective or not for teaching prepositions for the seventh grade students of SMP N 2 Buayan.

E. Clarification of the Terms

The title of this research is “The Effectiveness of Tic Tac Toe Game in Teaching Preposition In, On and At (A Study at the Seventh Grade Students of SMP N 2 Buayan in Academic Year 2009/2010).

1. Effectiveness

According to Oxford Advance Learners Dictionary stated that the word “effective” means: having an effectible to bring about the result intended, making a sticking impression, actual or exciting, fit for service (Oxford University Press, 1974: 288)

2. Tic Tac Toe

Tic Tac Toe is a game in which two players alternately put crosses and circles in one of the compartments of a 3-by-3 board; the object is to get a row of three crosses or three circles before the opponent does (JFree Chart, <http://www.jfree.org/>).

3. Teaching

Teaching is a process of spilling the information from teacher to the students. But it needs many activities, which must be done to achieve the good result of teaching. Teaching has the same meaning as seen in Webster (1986: 955) which said the word “teach” has a wider use in formal and informal situation to convey some information to develop skill of other in posturing learning. In Oxford Advance Learners Dictionary of Current English, It is stated that teaching is work of teacher, interaction that which is thought.

Teaching is an extended symposium on some issue of public concern conducted by faculty and students of a university, especially when organized as a protest against government policies (Pei, 1971: 1007).

4. Preposition

Oxford Advance Learners’ Dictionary defines that preposition is a word or group of words used especially before a noun or pronoun to show place, position, time, method, etc (1995: 911).

F. Contribution of Study

The result of the study was intended to describe the ability in using preposition. The results was useful for students, teachers and also other researches.

1. The seventh grade students of SMP N 2 Buayan

Giving motivation to the students could increase their ability in using preposition.

2. The teacher

Giving and showing an alternative way of teaching preposition in, on and at that is using Tic Tac Toe Game, so that teacher c vary their teaching technique as well as develop the media used in the classroom.