

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Language is a means of communication which acclaimed by a group of people which stays in certain area. People communicate with others using language. They share their thought and idea through language they have. By using language, people can understand what other want and they can tell other what they want.

In the world, there are so many languages used by people. One country usually has its own language. It becomes a problem if there is no international language. By using international language people can decrease the misunderstanding caused by the characteristic of languages which is used as the national language. One of the most famous languages is English. English is acknowledged as the international language. It means that we can communicate effectively with other country using this language. In Indonesia, English is put as the foreign language. It means that English is learnt by the people but not used as the main language in daily communication.

One of the requirements for being able to use language appropriately is mastering grammar. Grammar (Hornby, 1994: 176) states that grammar is a study of rule for forming words and combining them into sentences. By

mastering grammar, people can decrease the number of wrong meaning of the sentences they make. The meaning of sentence may be correct but it may wrong in the meaning based on grammatical rule. As the example: what time did you go to school every day? It is a wrong sentence based on the use of grammar. The meaning in Indonesia is “jam berapa kamu pergi ke sekolah setiap hari”. If we translate word by words and simple sentence pattern, it is correct in meaning of sentence. Yet, if we see this sentence grammatically, it is completely incorrect. The pattern is WH question using Simple Past Tense sentence which can not be applied to express idea as habit. The pattern should be in the form of Simple Present Tense. This is why learning grammar is important.

Here, the writer focused on the students' competence in WH question. WH question is a type of question which requires specific answer. As student mastering WH Questions is undoubtedly that it is necessary. Students always faced many questions using this type of questions. In the test given by the teacher, there must appear such question. Mastering WH Question is also useful for students to be able to be critical. This kind of sentence was needed by the students when they need to get specific information. In communication, WH question is also completely important. As the improvement of technology, the communication can be done with foreigners using a chat on the internet. This type of question must be needed to have this communication. If the students can

not use this question, they can not follow the communication done in a chat. It means that they are not able to exploit the technology available around them.

To know the description of the students' competence in using WH Questions, the writer has chosen a topic "A Descriptive Study in the Students Competence in WH Questions (A Descriptive Study of the Seventh Grade Students of MTs. Negeri Kawunganten, Cilacap in Academic Year 2010/2011)".

#### **B. Statement of the Problems**

1. How is the students' competence in using WH questions?
2. What kind of error do the students make in using WH questions?

#### **C. Aims of the Study**

The aims of the research are:

1. The writer wants to out how good the students competence in using WH questions.
2. The writer wants to know what kind of error do the students make in using WH questions.

#### **D. Clarification of the Terms**

1. Descriptive Research

According (Arikunto, 1995: 309) descriptive research which has an aim to collect the information about the status of the exist indication that is natural condition of indication when the research that categorized as descriptive research, surveys studies, case studies, development studies, follow up

studies, document analysis, and correlation study.

## 2. Competence

Competence is a condition of someone to do something correctly. Here, competence means being capable of using WH questions in any conditions.

## 3. WH Question

A WH Question is a type of questions which is used to request specific information (Marriane, et al., 1999: 241).

