CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Grammar is one of the most important language components for forming words and constructing English sentences. Grammar is a system of rules organizing the common arrangement and relationship of words in a sentence (Brown, 2001: 362). All the four basics components of listening, writing, reading, and speaking need grammar. It is impossible to explore the function of words and the part in forming meaningful language without a grammar (Dykes, 2007: 5).

In short, grammar is very important for the students to improve their achievement in making English sentences and reduce misunderstanding in English communication. If one use correct grammar when one speak or write something, the listener or the reader will be easy to understand what one is saying or writing.

For students, learning grammar especially in tenses is not easy and some of them believe that learning grammar is a difficult, boring, and tedious task (Mahmoudian, Ramezaney, Safari, and Rezvanifar, 2011: 28). It is because tenses are taught seriously. Teacher only explains the pattern or theories of grammatical structure and asks the students to memorize that theories and it will be hard to memorize the theories. The teacher has the important roles towards students' grammar comprehension.

Grammar is sometimes defined as the way of arranging words into the correct sentences (Ur, 2009: 75). The students' grammar mastery can be measured with how well students arrange sentences into good order sentences based on the

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rules of English grammar. Grammar mastery is the ability to recognize and produce the distinctive grammatical structure of a language and to use them effectively in communication (Yufina, 2010: 5 as cited in Eko, 2014: 2). Based on these opinions, grammar mastery is the capability to produce sentence correctly by combining words component to use in communication. Therefore, the students have to master grammar well.

Based on the tutor's information, the first semester students of English Department are still confused in arranging sentences depending on the tenses used. When they learn grammar particularly tenses, they will understand the tenses taught by the tutor in that day but they will forget it in the other days. It occurred because they are not familiar to use such tenses which they have learned in their daily life. They also have not understood in applying verb for singular and plural subject yet. They do not understand the basic concept of teaching grammar. From the obtained data the students' grammar comprehension is still poor. It is because English Grammar is different from their first language (Indonesian language as a mother tongue). Students also have assumed that learning grammar is the most difficult subject. And it is hard to memorize grammar pattern. (Sulistyorini, 2013: 1).

To make the students are able to master grammar well, the teacher should do one of action that can make the students master grammar well. One of the actions that can make the students master grammar is conducting IET Program. IET stands for Intensive English Tutorial. IET is a regular program held by English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto. The

participants were the students of the first semester of English Department. The most activity of the program is drilling grammatical structure guided by a tutor. The way used in the program is by giving exercise or assignment that should be done by the students. The exercise is usually done by the students in the beginning of the learning or used Inductive Method. It makes us know the students ability in interrelating learning material between the theory and the exercise. The main goal of the program is to increase students' English achievement particularly in grammar.

This program focuses the teaching learning process on grammar. Most of tenses are taught by the tutor; meanwhile there are only six tenses which become the focus of this research. They are simple present tense, present continuous tense, simple past tense, past continuous tense, present perfect tense, and present perfect continuous tense. They become the focus of this research because they have been taught by the students in IET program.

There are some expectations by conducting this program. By using drilling technique in teaching grammar, the students will be easier in catching the material and their knowledge of grammar will be better. In this program also applying contextual learning, the students will be more understand about the material. Besides, it will be easier to remember the material given by the tutor.

This program is expected to make the English students more interested and motivated in studying English. In addition, they should recognize their needs in learning English in order to maximize their English achievement. The other expectations, since it is the first time in conducting IET, this program hopefully

can be conducted in the next semester, during the semester break or follow the structure class schedule. It can be the effort to maximize the students who have low-standard graduation score. For English Department, hopefully this program can be put into English Department Program.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

The reason in choosing the topic of this research is the quality of students' grammatical structure is low. IET program is held for maximizing students' mastery in grammar. Because of the existence of IET program, this research is triggered to find out the influence and the result of IET Program towards students grammar mastery.

C. Problem of the Study

The problem of this research is:

Is there any significant difference on students' grammar mastery between students who join IET program and those who do not?

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. to find out the students' grammar mastery in IET Program at Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto.

2. to find out the students' grammar mastery of students who do not join IET program.

3. to know whether there is significant difference on grammar mastery between students who join and those who do not join IET program.

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