

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

As a foreign language, a lot of students still have some difficulties to learn English. One of those is Gerund. Gerund is one of the elements in English especially grammar. Gerund is verbal that ends in –ing and functions as noun. There are some positions of gerund such as gerund as subject, object, complement, preposition, possessive pronoun and verb preposition. It is a fact that to get an English mastery is difficult. Moreover, there are some kinds of gerund that should be remembered by the students. Sometimes, they can forget because of many kinds of gerund that they should remember. So, they need time and effort to achieve it.

One of the efforts is teaching learning using an interesting technique. The writer thinks that technique is one of effective ways to deliver the materials to the students. This technique is used to make the students more understand to the materials that are given by the teacher. The technique that can be used is mnemonic acronym.

When the writer conducted an interview to an English teacher in SMK N 2 Purwokerto, the teacher said that the students felt difficult to learn gerund because there were some rules that they should be remember, especially gerund as object. In gerund as object, there were some certain verbs that should be followed by verb-ing and they should be able to remember those

words. The students got bad mark and teacher also gave them remedial teaching to make them understand about gerund but the result still the same. In addition, the teacher did not use any media or technique. The teacher just explained the material and gave them the test.

Here, the writer has a technique to teach gerund in order to be more interesting. Acronym is one of mnemonic techniques. Mnemonic comes from Greek which means aid to memory. Sternberg (2006: 202) states that mnemonic acronym is a device of word or expression in which each of its letters stands for a certain word or concept and this technique is useful and it can be memorized and formed into a word phrase, even if the word or phrase is nonsensical. Kopf (2010) says that mnemonic technique revolves around manipulating the information into a more easily memorized acronym. In this case, mnemonic acronym combined with the diagram and some colors. Campbell, Bruce and Dee (2006: 127) say that anxiety and happiness in learning the material can be appeared by visual color, shape and image. Color is the important of visual component and can strengthen memory.

The writer had an experience in learning grammar. The writer remembered when Mr. Condro, the Lecturer of English grammar in Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto, gave us a formula to memorize word order of adjective. He gave us a simple technique. That was the acronym technique. It is useful to remember the list of things.

According to the problem above, the writer was interested in conducting a research entitled “The Effectiveness of Mnemonic Acronym for Teaching Gerund”.

#### B. The Limitation of the Study

Gerund has many functions which are usually used in English. In doing this research, the writer limits the study. Here the writer just discusses about gerund is used as subject, complement, object, after verbs + preposition, adjective+ preposition and noun + preposition.

#### C. The Statement of the Problem

Based on the problem above, there is a statement that can be used in explaining it.

Is mnemonic acronym technique effective for teaching gerund at the eleventh grade of SMK N 2 Purwokerto?

#### D. The Aim of the Study

The aim of this study is to know whether mnemonic acronym is effective or not for teaching gerund at the eleventh grade of SMK N 2 Purwokerto.

#### E. The Contribution of the Study

This research has some contributions for the English teacher of SMK N 2 Purwokerto, the students and the writer. The contributions of this research are:

1. It will be easier for teaching gerund because the teacher will have mnemonic acronym technique to teach gerund.

2. The students will be easier in learning gerund because mnemonic acronym will be able to help them in memorizing it.

#### F. The Clarification of Terms

The writer clarifies the terms of words such as mnemonic acronym and gerund. The explanations are as follows:

##### 1. MnemonicAcronym

It is a device that is used to improve memory. Mnemonic acronym is a technique to facilitate in memorizing words through initial letter of each the word.

##### 2. Gerund

Gerund is a word that ends in '-ing' which is made from a verb, and which is used like a noun.

