

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Writing is one of the four language skill, which is taught in the school. According to Ann Brown in Bustomi (2009) stated that writing is important in our live and as a communicative act that transmits in information and link people together. In writing students can express their feelings, idea, though, and their opinions in written language and they have to apply their other language abilities such as grammar and vocabularies.

Application letter is being taught in sixth semester students of Management Program. Application letter is one of business letter which is usually used as a document to be included when will apply for a job. It is usually accompanied by resume as a requirement for taking one of the positions offered. The attractive application letter with its resume can do much to help the applicant secure the job of the applicant's choice. Application letter plays important roles in getting the job. If the application letter is written in good grammar and format, it is quite possible that the reader may bring the applicant to the next step of hiring process. Therefore, writing effectively is perhaps the most demanding work to do.

In regard to the writing skill, it cannot be denied that writing a foreign language (English) is not always as easy as writing in own language since there are some different rules in the writing systems

sometimes causing you to write many errors in sentence. Brown (1980:165) says “an error is noticeable grammar from the adult of native speaker, reflecting the inter language competence of the learners. Because English has its own grammatical or structural system in conveying an idea, therefore the grammatical differences between Indonesian and English cause the learner to produce some grammatical errors in writing and it occur in writing application letters.

Furthermore, to produce a good application letter not only well-organized sentences should students write but also students should perform well-arranged formal letter layouts with its right expression as stated by Geffner (1995) that the physical condition of a letter make the first impression of the reader. It means students should also control organization of the letter appearance with its expressions written in each part of the letter.

From the reason above, the writer is motivated to know about the students’ writing non English department students. It is to know about the students’ mastery of English and find the kind of errors that the students do.

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

There are some reasons for choosing the topic, the reasons are as follow:

1. Students still make grammatical errors in writing application letter.
Students do not understand to apply the correct grammar rules in their writing task.
2. Students still find difficulties in writing application letter.

C. Research Problem

The problems discussed in this research are as follow:

1. What kinds of errors are done by the sixth semester students of economical faculty in writing Application letter?
2. What are the possible causes of the error?

D. Aims of the Study

The aims of the study are:

1. To describe the errors in writing application letter made by students, and
2. To describe the possible causes of errors in writing application letter made by students.

E. Clarification of Key Term

To get a better understanding on this research, some important key terms are clarified below:

1. Error

Error is noticeable deviation from the adult grammar of native speaker, reflection the inter language competence of the learner (Brown, 1980:165)

2. Error analysis is a part of the methodology of investigating the language learning process (Corder, 1981:45).

3. Writing

Writing is defined as the activity describing graph symbols that depicts a language that can be understood by somebody, so that the others can

read that graph symbols, and they the language and graph description
(Tarigan, 1994:21)

4. Application letter

Application letter isa brief one page letter sent along with the resume to potential employers. The purpose of the cover letter is to present yourself to potential employers and to let them know what position you are interested in and why you'd be a good fit to the position and company. (letterwritingguide.com)

F. Research Contribution

This research is expected to give contribution to:

1. Readers

After read this research the readers will know about error in writing application letter, so it can enrich readers' knowledge.

2. Management program of accountacy and bussines faculty

This research will give description about the students' ability in understanding application letter and some information about the kinds of grammatical errors that are made by the students.