

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

Writing is a very important skill that must be learned. In fact, this basic skill is not easy to be mastered well, especially for the English students in studying English as a foreign language. Through writing, someone can share their knowledge, ideas, feeling to other people in written form. According to Harmer (2004: 31) writing is as one of the four skill of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They are always part of syllabus in the teaching of English. Writing plays an important role in teaching learning process of English lesson at school. Writing is used to share the information about everything to the reader in written form.

Davis (2000: 96) states that writing is extremely complex cognitive activity that requires the writer to control several variables at one. It implies several elements such as grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure, cohesion, and so on. They should be combined or applied by students when they deal with writing.

Many teachers think that test is one of instrument to assess students' ability. They think that through test they can know students' ability well. They don't think whether that test valid or not. Because there are students that don't do their exam by themselves or they just guess the answer. One of test

that is usually use to measure students' ability is TOEFL test. This test is usually used by the teacher in Senior High school or in University. In TOEFL test there are some parts, one of that parts is Error recognition. There are sentences, has four words or phrases underlined. The four underlined parts of the sentence are marked (A), (B), (C), and (D), and the students should identify the one underlined word or phrases. The students should identify whether the word is correct or in a good grammar or not. And the students should choose the incorrect one. Error recognition test often used to test students' writing ability. Writing skill is tested through different test methods including error recognition, sentence completion, self-writing, and essay or composition. In most language testing programs, error recognition tests are used frequently to measure students' writing ability. Because in error recognition test should identify whether the word in a good grammar or not, use correct adverb or not and organize well or not. Meanwhile, to have a good writing, the writer also should know grammar, part of speech and the text organize well or not and etc.

Related with the explanation above, the writer wants to investigate the relationship between EFL students' performance on error recognition tests and their writing ability. Therefore further research is needed with the title ERROR RECOGNITION TESTS AS A PREDICTOR OF EFL LEARNERS' WRITING ABILITY (A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF THE FOURTH SEMESTER OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF

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## **B. Reasons for Choosing the topic**

Based on the background above, there is reason why the writer choose the topic” Error Recognition tests as a predictor of EFL learners’ writing ability : There are some similar aspects between error recognition test and writing ability. Those are grammatical agreement, grammatical forms, word choice and etc. Here the researcher wants to know whether there is any statistically significant relationship between students’ performance on the error recognition test and their writing ability.

## **C. Problems of the Research**

The problem of this research can be formulated as follow: “Is there any relationship between EFL students’ performance on error recognition tests and their writing ability?”

## **D. Aims of the Research**

This research is aimed to investigate the relationship between EFL students’ performance on error recognition tests and their writing ability.

## **E. Clarification of the Study**

In the hope of avoiding misunderstanding he writer needs to clarify of the key terms as follows :

### 1. Error recognition

Error recognition is a specific item type on which the examinee is required to indicate which of several underlined parts of a sentence is unacceptable for formal written English. (Harris, 1994: 253).

### 2. Predictor

Something such as an event or fact that enables you to say what will happen in the future. ( Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus)

### 3. Writing ability

Writing can be define as a process of expressing ideas or thoughts in words (Leo,2007: 1).

## **F. Contribution of the Research**

By doing the research, the writer hopes that the result will be useful and helpful to inform.

### 1. For teacher

All kind of test, especially error recognition test can be a reliable measure to be used to assesing writing ability.

### 2. For students

They will be know that test is a valid measurement to measure their writing ability. And they also can use error recognition test to practice their writing ability.