

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Research

Grammar is one of the language elements that should be mastered by language learners. It is an important role in how learners reach the four language skills which become the emphasis of learning language. Without grammar, learners can not use target language in both written and spoken communication well.

Taught in almost all education levels, grammar is often considered as a boring subject. Learners are demanded to master many grammatical features. Thus, in learning grammar, learners have to be serious and focus. For Junior High School students, there are many grammar lessons they should master, such as simple present tense, simple past, imperative sentence, past continuous tense, degree of comparison, present perfect tense, conjunction when and while, noun phrase, etc.

The teaching of grammar has always been an important concern in the teaching of English as a Foreign and Second language generally. Using songs in the teaching of grammar in language classroom is said to have many advantages. For instance, they entertain and relax the learners while they are learning or practicing a structure, they often eliminate the students' negative attitude towards learning and through providing authenticity and context they make the grammar points more understandable and easy, Norwati Roslim (2011).

Based on a pre- observation done on October 14, 2014 at 8B grade of SMP Muhammadiyah Sumbang, some problems were found in the grammar teaching and learning process. The English teachers of the class being investigated never used any media both in explaining the material and evaluating students' competence. Whereas, using media in explaining the material can help teacher to deliver the material to the students more easily. Moreover, it is necessary to use media in evaluating students' competence since it can stimulate students to do the exercise better. In addition, according to the teacher, students are still lacks of competence in mastering grammar. Some of them felt difficult to decide the appropriate verb in the tense being learnt. To make the teaching learning process is more enjoyable, English teachers should use interesting media. There are a lot of media provided to teach grammar. One of them is song. By using song, students will be more interested in learning grammar.

Based on the problems stated previously, A Classroom Action Research will be conducted to know whether song can improve students' grammar mastery in using simple past tense.

B. The Reasons of Choosing the Topic

The reasons for choosing this topic are

1. To make the grammar teaching learning process more fun, English teachers need to use interesting media, especially song.

2. To improve students' grammar mastery in using simple past tense through song.

C. The Problems of Research

The problem of this research is “can song improve students' grammar mastery in using simple past tense?”

D. The Aim of Research

This research is intended to improve students' grammar mastery in using simple past tense through song.

E. The Contribution of Research

It is hoped that this research will give positive contribution for the English teaching learning process, especially the grammar teaching learning process. Moreover, hopefully, it can inspire all English teachers to provide more fun and enjoyable teaching learning process by using interesting media.

F. Clarification of the Terms

The title of this research is “Improving Students' Grammar Mastery in using Simple Past Tense through Songs”. To understand the title more easily, the key terms of the research are clarified as follows:

1. Grammar

Swan (2005: xix) defines grammar as the rules that show how words are combined, arranged, or changed to show certain kinds of meaning.

2. Simple Past

Azar (1989: 24) states that the simple past indicates that an activity or situation began and ended at a particular time in the past.

3. Song

Song is short piece of music with word that you sing (Oxford. 2003: 412)

