

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Grammar is a crucial element of language which should be mastered as it is usually used in writing, speaking, listening, and reading. Grammar consists of rules of making sentences that becomes basic knowledge in mastering language. Organization and pattern of language are explained on grammar, especially at the level of sentence with the aim of making meaning (Thornbury, 2004: 40). A lot of English learners have many problems with understanding the grammar, eventhough teachers have always taught students about grammar by using textbooks. The textbooks which have been used by the teacher in teaching grammar made students bored and low-motivated easily. Sometimes, students also still have had confusion about the use of grammar especially in tenses are simple past and past continuous.

From that facts, teachers need some various media to build a fun atmosphere in the class when teaching grammar. Usually teacher uses several kinds of media to teach English such as picture, video, comic strips etc. in order to make the students understand about the material. Because teachers are also required to be creative in making learning media. One of various and creative media which can be used by the teachers in teaching grammar is comic strips, particularly simple past and past continuous.

Comic strips give different experience in learning grammar especially past tense. Comic strips have become one of several interesting ways in teaching tenses since a verb is illustrated and give visual examples that are served in comic strips help students in comprehending the most grammar which are taught (McVicker, 2007: 87).

A comic strip is defined in this study as series of pictures inside boxes that tell a story. In other words, comic is unification, work of art among fine literary works in which there are usual forms are the verbal explanation in fixed sequence and has cartoon story as theme. Comic can help readers to get the right visualizations.

From the explanation above, the writers wants to conduct an experimental study to know the effectiveness of Comic Strips in Teaching Past Tense, especially for Junior high school students at Eight grade.

B. The Reason for Choosing the Topic

The expectation of teaching past tense is to make the students understand the structure of past tense well, because grammar is one of important English components that should be mastered by the students. However teaching grammar especially past tense becomes something difficult since the students have low motivation in learning them, that makes the teaching learning process does not run well caused by the monotonous way that teachers usually use to teach the material like using lecturing only without creative media. Therefore, to solve the problem, media is needed for the teachers to give the variation in teaching tenses. Comic strips become one of media that are expected to be able to make students understand about past tense more, particularly simple past and past continuous.

C. The Problem of the Study

The problem of the research is formulated as :

“Whether or not comic strips is effective for teaching Past Tense at 8th Grade students of SMP PGRI Baturaden?”

D. The Objective of the Study

Based on the reason of choosing the topic and the problem of the study, the research has purpose to find out “the effectiveness of comic strips for teaching Past Tense at 8th Grade students of SMP PGRI Baturaden” .

E. The Contribution of the Study

It is expected that this research will give some advantages.

1. For teachers, it might show teacher that comic and other forms of interesting media could be used for teaching the grammar. This study also could give motivation to the English teacher to create new ways or media in teaching learning English.
2. For students, it might motivate students to improve their interest to learn grammar in fun and interesting way.
3. For teacher and researcher, the result can be used as process to improve the teaching performance.

F. Limitation of Study

It is important for the writers to make limitation of study. The limitation of this paper is Students in 8th grade of SMP PGRI Baturaden. There were 2 class that will the writers taken as Experimental class and Control class as sample. The Writer will use a media of Comic strips to teaching Grammar, especially in past tense are simple past and past continuous.

G. Clarification of The terms

1. Comic strips are media which can be used in teaching English. Comic strips tell a story in form of pictures and text structures or dialogues. These comics utilize panels, having a minimum of one and usually a maximum of three or four (Smith, 2006: 3).
2. Simple past tense expresses something happened in particular time in the past, it began and ended in the past (Azar, 2002: 2)
3. Past continuous tense expresses something happened began before and was in progress at particular time in the past (Azar, 2002: 3).