

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Language has an important role in people's daily life. It is used for communicating with others. According to Hall in Lyons (1981) "Language is the institution where by human communicates and interacts between each other by means of habitually used oral auditory arbitrary symbols" (p. 4). By using language people can inform the people around of what they feel, what they want, and what they look or tell about their opinion about something. It means that language is essential in every interaction in human lives. Without a language this process cannot be carried out properly. According to the previous definition, it may conclude that the goal function of language is to communicate others.

In the world there are many languages and one of them, English which has become an international language. Therefore English is considered to be one of the most important language in the world. English is also a language that can be used in many parts of the world since the schools nowadays are likely to have English as the subject. In Indonesia, English is considered as a foreign language. Indonesia has also decided English as compulsory subject that has been taught from primary school to university.

The students are expected to learn some abilities when they are studying either at school or course. Some abilities which they learn such as, ability to listen English sound, ability to speak English, ability to read and understand English text, and ability to write in English. Those are abilities of language skill. English has four language skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Besides the four skills of English, students have to master language component. One of language components is grammar.

Grammar is also needed in communication because it can avoid misunderstanding. Moreover according to Edwardes (2010) “Functional Grammar attempts to define a structure for language which explains the way it works in terms of the function it has to convey meaning; without meaning language becomes an intention less process of sonic interference.”(p. 8). By mastering grammar, it is hoped students can share information well and be more confident in expressing their feelings or opinions.

Furthermore grammar is an important element to be learned in learning language because it is used to understand the language. Language without grammar could make confusion in comprehending ideas, opinions, and feelings, of the person who expresses oral or written. According to Ur (1992) there is no doubt that knowledge, implicit or explicit of grammatical rules is essential for the mastery of language: you can not word unless you know how should be put together. It means that is not true that language in speech does not concern to the

grammatical rule. In short, grammar in English has important roles, whether in speaking, listening, reading, or writing in formal context and academic.

In *Kurikulum Satuan Tingkat Pendidikan (KTSP) 2006* grammar is the term of the point in teaching learning English for junior high school. There are some grammars that are learned by first year students, one of them is “pronouns”. In English there are many types of pronouns and they also have different position and functions. Therefore there are many students especially junior high school students face difficulties in learning English pronouns. They are confused how to use pronouns in English correctly. Here are the examples of wrong sentences that often made by students:

- Marry and me are going to go to Bali*

(correct: Marry and I are going to go to Bali)

- There is no secret between you and I*

(correct: There is no secret between you and me)

The wrong sentences above are commonly made by students. This is one case of personal pronoun to indicate different sentence function between subject and object. The students do not know how to identify the function of subjective and objective case.

Based on the fact above the writer is interested in observing this case. Therefore the writer will discuss about **Some Difficulties Faced by Students in Learning English Pronouns (A Case Study at the First Year Students of SMPNegeri 229 Jakarta)**. The writer chooses pronouns because the students are

familiar to the material but sometimes they still face difficulty in using them in sentences.

One of the study found on study case has been conducted by Fahruroji “An Error Analysis on Students’ Difficulties in Learning English Pronouns”. The result is the difficulties of students at second year class of MTS Jami’yatulKhairKampungUtanCiputat. The research above is valuable because it gives some references theory about English pronouns to this writing.

B. The Problems of the Study

There are two problems to be addressed in this study:

1. What types of pronouns that is most difficult for first year students of SMP N 229 Jakarta?
2. Why do the students face difficulties in learning English pronouns?

C. The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study:

1. To analyze the types of pronouns those are difficulties by first year students of SMP N 229 Jakarta in learning English pronouns.
2. To find out why the students face difficulties in learning English pronouns.

D. The Significances of the Study

The writer hopes that this study could give useful information and contributions to the teachers, the students, and other researchers.

1. To teachers, the results of this research will hopefully provide information about students' difficulty in learning pronouns therefore the teachers can develop their strategies and materials in teaching.
2. To students, the results of this research will provide a contribution of knowledge when learning English pronouns, therefore the students can overcome their difficulties in learning activities.
3. To other researchers, the results of this research can be as reference in conducting a similar study.

E. The Scopes of the Study

It is essential to limit the problem in order to avoid misunderstanding in interpreting the problems. The writer tries to limit the problem as follows:

1. The discussion is on the analysis of students' difficulties in learning English pronouns.
2. The pronouns that will be discussed are limited. It is only personal pronouns; subject pronouns, object pronouns, possessive adjectives, possessive pronouns, and reflexive or emphatic pronouns.

3. The participants in this study are limited to students class VII-6 of SMP N 229 Jakarta. Therefore, the findings may be valid only to students class VII-6 in this school. It cannot be generalized to other students in other schools.

F. The Operational Definitions

To avoid some confusing understanding about this topic, the writer explains the definitions of some main terms:

1. Difficulty is something that is hard to accomplish, deal with, or understand.
2. Pronoun is a word that takes the places of a noun.
3. English pronouns are subject pronoun, object pronoun, possessive adjective, possessive pronoun, and reflexive or emphatic pronoun.