# CHAPTER I

# INTRODUCTION

This report reveals the findings of a study carried out to improve students' mastery of the Simple Past Tense using Short Story Analysis. This chapter provides overall introduction to the study. It consists of six sections, i.e. the background of the research, the problems statement of the research, the objectives of the research, the scope of the research, the significances of the research, and the operational definitions of the research.

## A. The Background of the Research

Language is the most important communication tool of people. Language is used to communicate with other. As everybody knows, language is a tool to convey ideas, opinions, and feelings among people by oral or written ways. One of the languages which is often used in communication is English. It becomes the dominant language around the world, and more people use English than other languages respectively as an international language.

In Indonesia English is the first foreign language. English is one of languages that must be mastered by people in Indonesia. Whatever the background of the profession, they should be able to communicate in English. Especially for students, mastery of English is important to enter into the development of science, technology, and communication with the outside world,

therefore English lesson has been existed at school from kindergarten, elementary, junior high, high school, and university.

In learning English students need to master grammar of the language. Grammar is important because with grammar, students will be able to communicate using English language grammatically, and it will help the listener to understand the message intended by the speaker with other people in English. Grammar has a rules and patterns that are different from the rule of Indonesia language. Lynee (2008, p. 98) stated the word grammar has been used so far refer to an aspect of how a language, in this case English, is conventionally used to the structure or system of a particular language. When students learn English they also learn the structure or system of the English language. The structure is tenses. Tenses are the foundation of structure English language.

Based on the researcher's personal small-scale observing the difficulties faced by the students in SMK Muara Indonesia Jakarta Timur are learning tenses. Most of the students face difficulties when they analysis paragraph in past tense, they difficult to use regular and irregular verb and difficult to make a sentence when they wrote or spoke about simple past tense events because they did not remember the past form of regular and irregular verbs. To help these students teacher's creativity is need to attract students in learning Simple Past Tense. If the technique taught with memorizing the formula in the Simple Past Tense it is less attractive to students. So the teacher is required creativity in teaching that can help

them to mastery the Simple past tense, for example; with songs, speeches, poems, and stories.

The way that had been used by researcher to teach Simple Past Tense is using Short Story Analysis. A previous study, Melva (2011) states by using short stories students can view a past tense in context so that students would understand the past tense. Alim (2009) states using short story can be a promising way in understanding tense and aspect of English. Therefore by using Short Story Analysis the students were able to analysis language structures that were discussed in accordance with the story and they did not confuse in determining the form of the verb and pattern of sentence that used in the past form. Based on the description above, the researcher had conducted the research about improving the tenth graders' mastery of the Simple Past Tense using Short Story Analysis at SMK Muara Indonesia Jakarta Timur.

**B.   The Problems Statement of the Research**

Considering the background of the research above, the problems statement as follows:

1.   Does the use of Short Story analysis improve tenth graders' Simple Past Tense mastery at SMK Muara Indonesia Jakarta Timur?

2.   How does Short Story Analysis used to improve tenth grader's Simple Past Tense mastery at SMK Muara Indonesia Jakarta Timur?

**C.  The Objectives of the Research**

Based on the problems statement, the researcher states the objectives of the research as follows:

1.  To see whether Short Story Analysis can improve tenth graders' Simple Past Tense Mastery at SMK Muara Indonesia Jakarta Timur.

2.  To investigate whether the students are interested in the use of Short Story Analysis to improve tenth graders' Simple Past Tense mastery at SMK Muara Indonesia Jakarta Timur.

**D.  The Scope of the Research**

This is Classroom Action Research (CAR). Due to budget and time constraint, the participants in this research will be limited to students in tenth graders' in SMK Muara Indonesia, Cipinang Muara III, Jakarta Timur. This research will be held on April-June 2014. The participants of this research are the 33 students (3 males and 30 females) of class X Accountancy 2 at SMK Muara Indonesia Jakarta Timur. The data will be collected through tests, diary notes, observation sheet and questionnaire sheet. Therefore, the findings will be valid only for 33 students of X Accountancy 2 at SMK Muara Indonesia Jakarta Tmur. It cannot be generalized to other students in other classes. This research is focus to improve student's mastery of the Simple Past Tense using Short Story Analysis. The stories were given to the students in Simple Past Tense so that their mastery of the Simple Past Tense is improved.

## E. The Significances of the Research

By doing the action research, this research is beneficial for some parties as follows:

1. To School: It enhances students' knowledge in education, especially in English Lesson.

2. To Teachers: Provide the method alternative way for teaching simple past tense in high school class.

3. To Further Researcher: This research can be used to further researcher as reference for those who want to conduct a research in teaching English.

## F. The Operational Definitions of the Research

The following points are the explanations of operational definition that writer used.

1. Improving: Morally or intellectually uplifting or designed to be so often to determent of any intrinsic excellent.

2. Short Story: Brief fictional prose narrative. It is usually presents a single significant episode or scene involving a limited number of characters.