

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language holds an important role, particularly in communication. Besides the linguists, other experts who work on science and technology broaden their knowledge on the theory or practice of the language. Also, everybody realizes that interaction in many kinds of activities is going to be lower without language.

People cannot imagine if they do not use language as communication instrument. They will not know each other in different country. They cannot share their knowledge each other. It is true that Allah created Language to give blessing for human beings, like He said in the Holy Qur'an in Surah Ar-Ruum verse 22 as follows:

That verse suggests us to know each other, and to know people in different country, so language plays important tool for communication.

Many people are interested in learning the language especially English. People usually learn English both in formal education and in informal education.

English which they usually learn has forms, functions, levels, status and positions depending on the goals of learning.

In Indonesian English is taught as the first foreign language. The people who are interested in studying English have realized that mastering English can keep them in order to get knowledge and other purposes.

Successful mastery of the second language will be due to a large extent to a learner's own personal "investment" of time, effort, and attention to the second language in the form of an individualized battery of strategies for comprehending and producing the language (Brown, 2001, p. 60).

Learning English is one of many conditions that makes nation bright and smart. Indeed, foreign language must be taught for the nation. So, they will know other foreign countries, conditions and cultures, and will improve their knowledge. English has four skills of language; they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. It means we have to master all of the skills either written or oral. To master the four skills, the students must have the knowledge. This case is focused on learning strategy of students to know the important component of language such as grammar and English tenses.

Strategy is one of the most important things in learning a language, especially for students who want to learn a language, in which the case is about the structure of the language grammar. Thus, knowing and using good strategy will help students learn more easily to understand the structure of a language.

Oxford (1990, p. 8), defines “learning strategies are specific actions taken by the learner to make learning easier, faster, more enjoyable, and more transferable to new situations”. Wenden and Rubin (1987, p. 19) also define learning strategies as “... any set of operations, steps, plans routines used by the learner to facilitate the obtaining, storage, retrieved, and usage of information”. Therefore, some students need to know some good learning strategies for fun situation, so that the students do not feel bored while learning process and the aim of the learning is transferring knowledge successfully.

Spratt (2005) states that Learning strategies are the ways chosen by learners to learn language. They include ways to help students identify what they need to learn, process new language and work with other people to learn. Using the right strategy at the right time can help them learn the language better, and help to make them more autonomous.

Grammar is a very important component in the English language, with mastering grammar would be easier for students to find meaning and purpose of the sentence. By understanding the grammar will aid students in applying it in daily life. In this case the basic tenses is key to understanding the structure of language can be higher.

In Special Program Ushuluddin grammar is taught at very basic level as article, to be, part of speech, direct indirect, 14 tenses and active passive voice, it is just taught only in the introduction not explored until completely understand. Therefore, if the learning as it is able to make the students understand and apply it in daily life. Almost all of the students are graduation of the islamic boarding school which are not taught English as well as other schools. Therefore, to be able to understand the lesson students need to use learning strategies, which this

strategy can improve their ability to understand the lessons given by a teacher well, especially in this case is strategy in learning basic tenses.

The student of Special Program Ushuluddin are not suggested to pursue Language Service Center (PPB) is that they have had another schedule in the morning that is *khalaqah*. This program contains the study of *kitab kuning*. On the other hand, English lesson is carried out on Tuesday night, the focus is only on grammar. In fact, the student of Special Program Ushuluddin should encounter the test to know whether they are appropriate to or necessary to take English PPB. However, the test result has not existed yet.

Based on the explanation above of studying English in Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department, Ushuluddin and Humanities Faculty IAIN Antasari, the researcher wants to know what the students' learning strategies. Besides, the researcher wants to know their ability in English subject. So the researcher is interested to observe and conduct a research entitled **“THE STUDENTS’ LANGUAGE LEARNING STRATEGIES IN USING BASIC TENSES AT THEOLOGIAN SPECIAL PROGRAM TAFSIR HADITS DEPARTMENT USHULUDDIN AND HUMANITIES FACULTY IAIN ANTASARI BANJARMASIN.”**

B. Statements of the Problem

Based on the rational above, the writer proposes the following problems:

1. What are the students' language learning strategies in using basic tenses at Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department Ushuluddin and Humanities Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
2. How is the students' ability in learning basic tenses at Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department Ushuluddin and Humanities Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin?

C. Objective of Study

The objectives of this study are to know:

1. The students' language learning strategies in using basic tenses at Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department Ushuluddin and Humanities Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.
2. The students' ability in using basic tenses at Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department Ushuluddin and Humanities Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

D. Significance of study

In this study, the writer tries to organize the significance of study as follows:

1. To know the strategies that students use in learning basic tenses at Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department Ushuluddin and Humanities Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

2. To know students' ability in learning basic tenses at Theologian Special Program Tafsir Hadits Department Ushuluddin and Humanities Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.
3. To enrich knowledge and experience in scientific research especially for students in choosing learning strategies.
4. To widen and improve the writer' understanding about learning strategies in using basic tenses.

E. Definition of Key Terms

Then to make this research clear and to avoid any misinterpretation of the title, the writer hereby explains some terms in regard of them as follows:

1. Learning Strategy

Learning strategy is defined as “specific actions, behaviors, steps, or techniques such as seeking out conversation partners, or giving oneself encouragement to tackle a difficult language task used by students to enhance their own learning” (Scarcella & Oxford, 1992, p. 63).

2. Using

Using means: “the action of using something” According to the Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary Unabridged, using means: “the quality that make a thing useful or suitable for a given purpose; advantage; usefulness; worth; utility. So, the meaning of using in this research is using basic tenses to improve students' knowledge, by use any strategy.

3. Basic Tenses

Basic tenses is a type of tenses which consist of present tense, past tense, and future tense. These tenses have very important aspects in learning English, because by knowing or mastery the tense the students will be easier to learn the other tenses and this is the first step to know other tenses.

