

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Rationale

Education is an International agreement for producing highly competent people. Everyone agrees that highly competent people are educated. Education will give students, people who are educated, important basic competence needed in their lives. It also helps them to improve their humanistic potencies based on the competencies and potencies, it is intended students are able to live their high quality of lives, because many companies and also institutes need educated people to work in their places.

The Indonesian government has already stated certain criteria of educated people as follows:

Pendidikan nasional berfungsi mengembangkan kemampuan dan membentuk watak serta peradaban bangsa yang bermartabat dalam rangka mencerdaskan kehidupan bangsa, bertujuan untuk berkembangnya potensi peserta didik agar menjadi manusia yang beriman dan bertakwa kepada Tuhan yang Maha Esa, berakhlak mulia, sehat, berilmu, cakap, kreatif, mandiri dan menjadi warga negara yang demokratis serta bertanggungjawab.¹

Therefore, the function of nationwide education is to expand the competence and to form nation character and also nation culture which has prestige for developing nation life. The purpose is for developing students' skills in order to be a faithful and pious human to God, have noble character, healthy,

¹ Undang- Undang Republik Indonesia No. 20 Tahun 2003, *Sistem Pendidikan Nasional*. (Bandung: Citra Umbara, 2003), p.7.

scholarly, skillful, creative, stand alone and be a democratic and responsible citizen.

The variety of language would not let human be exclusive, it can help them to understand while communicate each others, because they need to communicate with one another, it is in harmony with Allah's command in the verse below:



The verse says that people must know one another. The variation of languages forces people to learn these languages because learning the language is one way to know each other. Nowadays, to be able communicate with people from other countries is crucial. Thus, learning a foreign language is not only a kind of necessary, but also a necessity.

Language teaching in Indonesia does not only include Indonesian, but also foreign language. It is significant in the communication and globalized era. Students learn English to broaden the scope of communication.

English has various roles in Indonesia. English is the first foreign language in Indonesia, which is important to absorb and to develop science and technology, art and culture, and to build relationships with other nations. Also, English is a compulsory subject in some types and level of schools and courses in Indonesia.

English as a subject at schools and courses requires students to be able to communicate in oral and written form using appropriate language fluently and accurately.² Therefore, students are taught to be able in four skills, they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students' competency in the four skills above can be gained based on their ability in certain subjects such as vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and spelling. These matters help students decode and encode English fluently and accurately as the intended goal.

Grammar is important subject matter should be mastered in English. An understanding of grammar speeds up students' language learning. Knowledge of grammar helps students to understand why some ways of using language are more efficient than others and it helps students to choose and use the forms of language best suited to each particular situation³ and also helps students to construct a grammatically correct utterance and writing. Grammatical sentences are easily understood by interlocutors rather than ungrammatical ones. Moreover, in written language, writing has to be constructed in grammatically accepted form for understanding.

One grammatical pattern of English that is of significant importance is gerund. By knowing about gerunds, students should be able to write sentences correctly. Grammar of foreign language is not an easy matter to learn for learners since it is different from their native language in many ways. Therefore, LBBP-LIA affiliate Banjarmasin that provides English as subject of learning gives

² Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, *Pengembangan Silabus dan Sistem Penilaian Mata Pelajaran Bahasa Inggris*. (Jakarta: tp, 2004),p.5.

³ Burton, *Mastering English Language*. (Hong Kong: The Macmillan Press, 1982), p.129.

graded English classes, especially starting from TOEFL Preparation 1 to TOEFL Preparation 4 level. In these classes, many aspects of grammar must be taught, which is why learners of this level should be able to use them.

Based on the writer's first observation, the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA affiliate Banjarmasin is a course that provides 3 months course, while the students should be able to understand all aspects such as grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and etc with the limited time to success in the final test and the final test result of English as a foreign language (TOEFL) determines student's competence in English and determines in a great measure whether they will be admitted to the school of their choice. That is why the writer very interest to know about the students' ability in a part of grammar, especially gerund. For the students of TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA affiliate Banjarmasin, to whom the research is carried out, who are supposed to be able in using the gerunds. For this reason, the writer will conduct research on this aspect by the title:

THE STUDENTS' ABILITY TO USE GERUNDS IN THE TOEFL PREPARATION LEVEL AT LBPP-LIA AFFILIATE BANJARMASIN.

To avoid any misinterpretation regarding the title adopted in this research, the writer considers it necessary to explain some terms as follows:

1. The students mean the students in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin academic year 2009/2010.

2. Ability is the mental or physical capacity, power or skill required to do something.⁴ Here it means power or capability of the students to use the gerunds.
3. Use means to employ something for a purpose, to do something with.⁵ Use here, the writer means way to use gerunds in completing and writing sentences.
4. Gerunds are participle forms used in noun function.⁶ For examples are: **smoking** too much is not good for our health, you must stop **sending** the letter to her.
5. TOEFL is the Test of English As a Foreign Language which is given to students who plan to enter schools especially in United States or the other English speaking countries and whose native language is not English.⁷
6. Preparation means action of getting ready for something or making something ready.⁸
7. LBPP-LIA is a course institution that provides English as subject of learning in Banjarmasin.

⁴A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995),p.2.

⁵ Ibid, p.1315.

⁶ Marcella Frank, *Modern English*. (New York: Prentice- Hall),p.97.

⁷Tim Multi Media Metropolitan, *What You Should Know About the Test of English As a Foreign Language*.(Jakarta: Multi Media Metropolitan, 2004), P.6.

⁸-----Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 338.

B. Problem Limitation

Dependent on rationale above, the problems of this research can be formulated as follow:

1. How is the degree of students' ability in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin in using gerunds?
2. What factors possibly support the students' ability in using gerunds in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin?

C. Reasons for Choosing the Title

There are certain reasons for choosing this title, including:

1. English is an International and Universal language spoken and learned by almost people in the world.
2. Gerunds are important to master in order to make grammatically correct sentences.

D. The Purposes of the Research

In the line of the problems, the purpose of this research are:

1. To find out the degree of the students' ability in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP- LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin in using gerunds properly.
2. To better understand the factors those possibly support the students' ability in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP- LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin in using gerunds properly.

E. The Significance of the Research

The results of this research should:

1. Contribute further information for English teachers especially at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin to improve the quality of the students in the TOEFL Preparation level.
2. Enrich the writers' knowledge and experience in learning more about gerunds.
3. Contribute to future researchers who want to conduct research in the same field and to broaden the circulation of literature at Tarbiyah Faculty Library and at IAIN.

F. Organization of the Writing

This research consists of five chapters systematically arranged as follows.

The first chapter contains the introduction, which consist of rationale, problem limitation, reasons for choosing the title, research purposes, research significance and organization of writing.

The second chapter contains the theoretical review of related literature, which discusses about the definitions of gerund, functions of gerund, forms of gerund, comparison between gerund and verbal noun and some factors that support the ability of gerunds.

The third chapter contains the research method, which consist of subject and object of research, data and sources of data, techniques of the data collecting, design measurement, techniques of data processing and analysis and also research procedure.

The fourth chapter contains the report of research result, which consist of a description of the research location, description of data presentation and data analysis

The fifth chapter contains of closure, which is consist of conclusion and suggestions.