

CHAPTER I

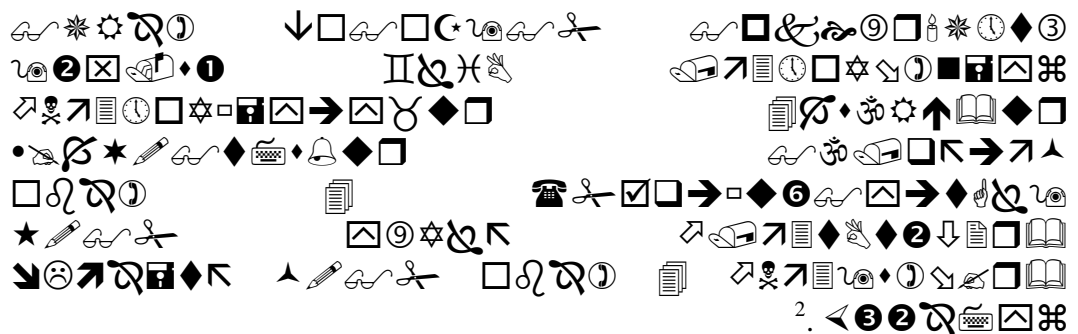
INTRODUCTION

A. Rationale

Language is a particularly important aspect of our lives. By using language, we can communicate with each other. The function of language is not only as a lesson to study, but also as a way to express ideas, thoughts, opinions and feelings, either orally or written. Murcia and Lois in their book *Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language*, stated:

“The essence of language in human activity on the part of one individual to make him self understood by another, and activity on the part of the other to understand what was the main of the first.”¹

A language can create harmony among individuals, societies, ethnicities, and nations. In addition, through language people can better understand each other and understand more about the world around them. Language is from god for human beings. The holy Koran in the Al-Hujurat verse 13, states:



¹ Marianne Celce. Murcia and Lois Meintosh, *Teaching English As a Second Language*, (Los Angeles: Newbury Hruse Publishers, Inc, 1959). P. 183

²Departemen Agama RI, *Al-Qur'an dan Terjemahannya*, (Semarang: CV. As-Syifa', 2000), p. 412

Thus, stated in the holy Koran, Allah explains that it is important for human beings to know and interact with other people in their lives.

Language as a communication tool will allow us to be able to express our feelings, idea, or wishes, and to know others' feeling, ideas, or wishes. Language also will make us able to become closer with one another, as Sandra and Nancy stated that language is an intimate part of social identity.³

Language is not only used to interact with one another but also to communicate, to share information and to develop science and technology. The development of communication technology is like a building; everything must be interconnected. Not only does this communication network unites countries, but also facilitates International connections and dialogue.

One of important language is English, since it has a very essential position in the communication among people. The use of English is widely considered an urgent need. English is used as an international language, and it has the largest number of users all over the world and English has legitimated and is one of the formal languages of United Nations as declared by UNESCO in year 1973.

Learning a foreign language is an integrated process through the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. All of these skills have their own path to master; Alexander also stated that the students must be trained adequately in all four basic skills.⁴

³Sandra Lee Mc Kay and Nancy H. Hornberger, *Sociolinguistics and Language Teaching*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 3.

⁴L.G. Alexander, *Practice and Progress an Integrated Course for Intermediate Students*. England: Longman Group Limited, 1990). P. 8

Grammatical patterns are very important because when speakers use the four skills, the sentences that are decoded and encoded are arranged according to grammatical patterns of language. An interesting aspect of English grammar to investigate is reported speech. Because of mastering one aspect of grammar such as reported speech can help someone to improve his speaking ability and his writing skill. Having good grammar will influence the way he writes and speaks.

Reported speech is usually used to talk about the past, so speakers normally change the tense of the words spoken. The other term of reported speech is indirect speech which refers to a sentence reporting what someone said. It is almost always used in spoken English. We use reported verbs like 'say', 'tell', and 'ask', to introduce the reported words.⁵

Even though language learners have been taught the use of reported speech, they still consider it a difficulty and based on prior observation many mistakes are made by the students in using reported speech. They often become confused and make errors when using reported speech in a sentence. They are confused how to change quoted speech into reported speech particularly in changing tenses of the word spoken such as present tense become past tense, present continuous become past continuous and so on. They are also confused how to distinguish the use of reported verbs like 'say', 'tell', and 'ask' whether it is used in request/order, statement or question in making reported speech sentences. Then, changing pronouns and signifiers are usually ignored by the students.

⁵ http://www.Esl.About.com/./reported_speech.htm, tanggal 31-12-2009

Based on facts from prior research, and the writer's interest in this subject, the writer intends to conduct research entitled "**The Ability of The Eleventh Grade Students in Using Reported Speech at MA Darul Hijrah Boarding School for Male Cindai Alus Martapura Academic Year 2009/2010**

To avoid misinterpretation about the title, the writer will explain some terms in the title as follows:

1. Ability is "skill or power"⁶. Oxford dictionary (1995) Ability means "the quality of being able to do something. Power or skill required to do something. The ability that is discussed in this study relates to the student's ability in using reported speech.
2. Reported speech (indirect speech) refers to a sentence reporting what someone said, without using his/her actual words.⁷
3. The eleventh grade students are the students at MA Darul Hijrah boarding school for male Cindai Alus Martapura Academic Year 2009/2010.

B. Statement of Problem

The researcher intends to conduct research that will be limited on these questions.

⁶A.S Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary*, *op. cit.*, p. 01.

⁷ A.S Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary*, *op. cit.*, p. 213

1. What is the ability level of the eleventh grade students in using reported speech at MA Darul Hijrah boarding school for male Cindai Alus Martapura Academic Year 2009/2010?
2. What specific aspects of reported speech are difficult for the students to master?

C. Reasons for Choosing the Title

There are several reasons why the writer selected this title, as follows:

1. Remembering that many students still have difficulties in using reported speech based on students' experience and the writer's pre-observation.
2. Considering that reported speech is one of grammar aspect/topic that needs more understanding.
3. Considering that reported speech is one of grammar aspect/topic that needs to be mastered.
4. Learning reported speech is important in helping student increase their language intuition.
5. Based on the prior observation which had been done by the writer, the writer is interested in observing further.

D. The Purpose of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the purpose of this research are:

1. To obtain the ability level of the eleventh grade students in using reported speech at MA Darul Hijrah boarding school for male Cindai Alus Martapura Academic Year 2009/2010.

2. To find out what specific issues students have in using reported speech.

E. The Significance of Research

This research has significance as follows:

1. To enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in quantitative research.
2. To provide information, consideration and input for educators generally and English teachers at the English Department Tarbiyah Faculty IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.
3. To provide information and comparison for future researchers.
4. To provide contribution in the teaching field for English teacher who teach at Darul Hijrah boarding school and others schools to develop their teaching skills.

F. Writing Organization.

This research consists of five chapters. They are systematically arranged as follows:

The first chapter contains an introduction that covers rationale, clarification of title, problem formulation, reason for choosing the title, the purpose of the research, the significance of the research, and writing organization.

The second chapter contains a theoretical review on related subject, consisting of definition of quoted speech reported speech, kinds of reported speech and its usage.

The third chapter contains method of research consisting of the subject and object of the research, data, source of data, technique of data collecting, design of measurement, techniques of data processing and analysis, and research procedures.

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

The fifth chapter contains closure, which contains conclusion and suggestions for further research.