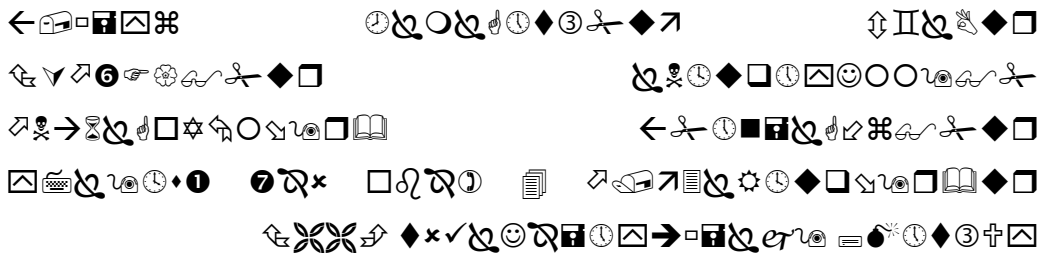


CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Every person in the world has a language. There are various tribes whole the world with their own language that they use to communicate among them. Therefore, to interact easily with the other tribes, it is very important to learn other languages to make understand and avoid miss-understanding each other.

As Allah said in the Holy Koran on sura Ar-Rum, verse 22:



From the sura in the holy Koran above, Allah explains that one of important to be learnt for human beings to know, learn, and understand is about language, because He created human beings in many different languages.

From explanation above, it means that a language is very important in our lives. By using language, we can communicate each other. The function of language is not only as a lesson to study, but also it is used to express the ideas, mind, opinion, and feeling, either orally or written. Brown (2000, p. 5) states that language is a system of arbitrary conventionalized vocal, written or gestural symbols that enable members of given community to communicate intelligibly with one another. Language is systematic and a set of arbitrary symbols. The symbols are primarily vocal, but may also be visual. They have conventionalized

meanings to which they refer. Therefore all people should learn other languages in order to be able to communicate one another either in oral or written language well.

Learning language is important for human social's development. As a language which is used by more than a half of population in the world, English is holds the key as an international language. Mitchelsin states that English has become the most important language around the world; there are more people who need to learn this language in order to improve their professional and academic lives. It means that English is one of important language that must be learned by the people in the world, besides that Indonesian consider that English is as a foreign language as Lie (2007, p. 1) states that English role in Indonesia is as a foreign language, it means that learning English is very important and more needed, not only by regional but also international society for communication, because the distance is not barrier now as it was before.

In academic field, English is taught as a subject matter. It becomes a compulsory subject at education institution. It is taught from elementary school until university. It is also one of subject which is examined in national examination. Automatically, students have to learn about English. By learning English, the learners are hoped to be able communicate about anything in English.

In learning English, there are four integrated important skills, namely: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Student's competency on the four skills above can be gained based on their ability in some subject matters such as

vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and spelling. These matters help students decode and encode English fluently and accurately as the intended goal. And one skill which is important to be learned is grammar.

Grammar is one of the language components which the students should be learnt and mastered by the students, because by learning and understanding it, they can use a correct and acceptable language. As Harmer (2002) states that grammar is important component in learning English in order to gain competency in using English. The words, which are uttered, spoken, and written by someone who is learning the language, will not be meaningful without having them arranged in a certain grammatical pattern appropriately. It means that Grammar is one of important subject which should be mastered in English by the students, because it helps them to construct grammar correctly either utterance or writing, moreover in written language, the writing has to be constructed in grammatically accepted form.

There are a lot of aspects which are studied in Grammar. And one of the aspects grammar is pronoun. It is one of part of speech. In pronoun, it has many types, such as personal pronoun, possessive pronoun, reflexive pronoun, demonstrative pronoun, indefinite pronoun, relative pronoun, interrogative pronoun and reciprocal pronoun. All of them are introduced step by step to the students since beginning level. It is very useful to be learnt and should be mastered by students because it is very often used in many aspects of the language. Allah said in the Holy Koran sura Az-Zumar: 9





From the sura and verse in the holy Koran above, Allah indicates that people who master knowledge are better than people who don't master it. For this explanation, pronoun is one of grammatical aspects in English which should be mastered. One of the useful things in learning pronoun is to improve comprehension and avoid miss-understanding either in utterance or written language.

Thomas (2006, p. 143) mentioned about errors in the use of pronouns, those are; errors in agreement with verbs, errors arising with the use of antecedent, errors in case and miscellaneous errors. It means that English pronouns have some rules in using it and students have to pay attention more when studying about pronouns, because though they have studied about it, it is possible for them to get errors in the use of pronouns.

MTs Nurul Ulum Banjarmasin is one of Islamic Junior High School with accreditation A and has English as a subject. When the writer did pre-observation, the English teacher said that pronouns certainly are also taught there since the seventh grade students especially about personal pronoun such as; I, me, we, us, they, them she, her, he, him, etc and about possessive pronoun such as; my, mine, our, ours, their, theirs etc.

As known that between personal pronoun and possessive pronoun in Indonesia is the same meaning but different using. The author of article entitled

“Pronoun Use” states that personal pronoun agrees in number, gender, and case. For example, the pronoun *he* generally replaces a masculine, singular noun functioning as a subject and its corresponding object case is *him*, while the pronoun *she* replaces a feminine, singular pronoun functioning as a subject and its corresponding object case is *her*. Besides that pronouns should agree with their antecedents in number, gender, and case. Singular pronouns should with singular antecedents and plural pronouns should with plural antecedents. So for this, it becomes problems to students of MTs Nurul Ulum in mastering these pronouns although they have studied, because all of it make students are confused in using these pronouns when they did exercises either in utterance or written test at school. And as have mentioned that pronoun is very important to learned and mastered because it is very often used in many aspects of language and both of them are have studied since seventh grade, It means that the eighth grade students have been studying it in a long term, surely they have to master especially about personal pronoun and possessive pronoun.

From the explanation above, the writer would like to know further how the eighth grade student’s mastery is in using English pronouns at MTs Nurul Ulum Banjarmasin, also it is important to know the common errors faced by the students in using English pronouns, because their mastery in using these pronouns haven’t known yet. So the writer wants to measure their mastery in using English pronouns which they have studied.

Based on the background of study above, the writer is interested to do this research entitle: **“THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS’ MASTERY IN USING ENGLISH PRONOUNS AT MTS NURUL ULUM BANJARMASIN ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014”**

B. Statement of Problem

Based in the reason of the study above, the statements of the problem as follows:

1. How is the eighth grade students’ mastery in using English pronouns at MTs Nurul Ulum Banjarmasin?
2. What is the most students’ common error faced in using English pronouns at MTs Nurul Ulum Banjarmasin?

C. Objective of Study

Based on the problem above, the purpose of the research to know:

1. To know the eighth grade students’ mastery in using English Pronouns at MTs Nurul Ulum Banjarmasin.
2. To know the most eighth grade students common error faced in using English pronouns at MTs Nurul Ulum Banjarmasin

D. Significance of Study

1. Giving information for teachers to improve the successfulness of teaching and learning English process especially about grammar
2. Giving measurement to the English teacher about students mastery in English pronouns especially and English language generally.

3. To enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in the scientific research especially about pronouns.
4. Enriching literary source of Antasari state Institute for Islamic studies.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding toward the title adopted in this research, the writer will clarify the title as follows:

1. Mastery is great skill or knowledge (Oxport Dictionary, 2008, p. 271). Quality of being able to do something or natural or acquired skill or talent (William, 1986, p. 3). Consider to this research, the writer means that mastery is great skill or knowledge in identifying, changing, choosing and using English pronouns especially about personal and possessive pronouns.
2. Pronouns mean replace a noun or other pronouns. It is a part of English grammar. According to English teacher at MTs Nurul Ulum Banjarmasin, pronouns have been taught since seventh grade, especially about personal and possessive pronouns which the students have to know and master it.
3. The eighth grade is the middle of class in Junior High School which the students' should master about personal and possessive pronouns.
4. Islamic Junior High School Nurul Ulum Banjarmasin is a school that has English lesson as an important subject.