

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is a means of communication that is used to transfer information, ideas, and feelings from one person to another. It is used to communicate both in written and spoken form. Understanding language as the social function becomes the main purpose of human life to interact with others. Pyles and Algeo (1982, p. 3) define language as system of conventional vocal sign by means of which human being communicate. Either it is spoken or written, it is used by people to communicate each other.

Learning language is very important, because it is the most fundamental of human communication, by using language people can easily express ideas, transfer information, and feelings from one person to another. People have used the language for long time. It is impossible for human beings to interact without language. Allah almighty creates many nation and tribes around the world that have many differences in every aspect of life, one of them is language. Allah said in the Holy Qur'an , Ar-Ruum verse 22, as follow:

وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ ۚ خَلَقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَخْتَلَفُ السِّنِّكُمْ

وَالْوَانِكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَلَمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

In this context, language is one of the important factor which can tight the relationship and create the understanding for human. There are many languages in the world, one of them is English. English has been grown rapidly for the past century. English has become second language for the most people in the world, and become foreign language being taught in school for most countries in the world, including Indonesia.

Moreover, English has begun to be taught in Indonesia as foreign language since Dutch colonial period. But, English formally taught in Indonesia as a subject in curriculum is in 1967's curriculum. Since then, teaching English has been changed many times along with the change in politic, the growth of technology and economic, and many other factors.

In Indonesia, English teaching aims at mastering four basic skills of language, which include listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Nowadays, based on our curriculum that is School-Based Curriculum (KTSP), the students are expected to master those four skills in order to be able to use English communicatively. The aim of School-Based Curriculum (KTSP) will not be successfully achieved if the language teaching does not consider the language components such as grammatical structure, vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation.

One of the most important language components is grammar. Like in other languages, in English, grammar is the key of good writing. Using proper grammar can avoid misunderstanding while communicating and expressing an idea. Grammar needs to be taught effectively in school because it is the

foundation to support the language. Although grammar alone is not a means to master a language, it is still an integral principle of language in order to bridge the gap between mere ideas and the actual delivery of the message. By having enough knowledge of grammar, students will be able to solve their problems in expressing their ideas into writing and communication activities. Allah said in the Holy Qur'an Al-Baqarah verse 83, as follow:

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ لَا تَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ

إِحْسَانًا وَذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَقُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ حُسْنًا

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ ثُمَّ تَوَلَّيْتُمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّنْكُمْ

وَأَنْتُمْ مُّعْرِضُونَ ﴿٨٣﴾

In this context, good words include a way of the good submission and the good content. A good submission must comply with the smooth and civilized. Good content contains a positive thing, and every positive word said to be delivered with a good way including by adjusting between the verb and the subject of the sentence. It is used to avoid misunderstanding while communicating and expressing an idea.

One of the important in parts of grammar is subject-verb agreement. Subject-Verb Agreement is an agreement in which there is a matching between

subject and verb. In learning English, the most important to make a sentence is subject-verb agreement, because it relates to the preparation of a sentence. Besides that, subject-verb agreement is also important for beginner students because it will help them to make a more complex sentence in the next level.

According to Brown, strategies are specific methods of approaching a problem or task, modes of operation for achieving a particular end, planned design for controlling and manipulating certain information. This is misconception, it is possible to learn language as well enjoy oneself at the same time. Allah said in the Holy Qur'an An Nahl verse 89, as follow:

وَيَوْمَ نَبْعَثُ فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْهِم مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ

شَهِيدًا عَلَىٰ هَؤُلَاءِ ۚ وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تَبَيِّنًا لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ

وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَدُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٨٩﴾

Based on the Holy Qur'an above, indirectly God teaches humans to use the media in explaining everything, such as the God gave the Holy Qur'an to the prophet Muhammad to explain everything. The media that used in teaching learning process should be able to explain about the lessons that students learned. Besides that, the media should be able to make the students interested in teaching learning process. In this case, the media should be able to achieve the goal of education. It is because the media should be able in the line with the goals of the education and be able to achieve the educational goals.

In improving the student's achievement in teaching learning process, the teacher has an important role. Teachers are in constant search of essential activities that allow students to improve their learning abilities of foreign language. The teachers must know the condition of the students. In the other hand, method has an important role in teaching learning process. Method which is used by the teacher can make students enjoy in learning. The teacher must use the appropriate method in teaching learning process that can make students easy in learning. Game is one of method that can make students feel enjoy in learning.

There are many games which can be used in teaching learning process. One kind of the game is crossword puzzle. Crossword puzzle is part of games. Crossword puzzle is the easy game for beginner students. By using crossword puzzle the students can improve their personal ability, and by using crossword puzzle the students will be easy to accept the English language lesson. This crossword puzzle is a media that used by a teacher at MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946 Banjarmasin. After doing an observation, the writer found that teacher and seventh grade students of MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946 Banjarmasin in teaching and learning English subject-verb agreement use crossword puzzle. In this research, the writer is interested in investigating; how is the use of crossword puzzle and how is the students' mastery in subject verb agreement.

In this research, the writer observed Madrasah Tsanawiyah Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946 Banjarmasin. It is one of school which has religious background in Banjarmasin. It is located on Jl. Mesjid Jami (Sungai Jingah), Banjarmasin,

South Kalimantan. One goal of this school is prepare the students to be able to develop themselves in the line with the development of science, technology, and art which are teachable of Islam.

MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946 Banjarmasin is the first junior high school which has religious background in Banjarmasin. MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946 established in October 15th 1946, in the struggle of the nation. Viewed from the date of the establishment of MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946 already stood for 70 years old. This indicates that the MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946 has the power to adjust towards the vision and mission of the school. Besides that, the teachers of this school have a good quality as a guideline for students. In addition, MTs SMIP 1946 not only has a good teacher quality, but also has a creative teacher. A creative teacher will produce interesting class and can develop quality of education.

When the writer has been conducting Praktik Pengalaman Lapangan II (PPL II) at MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP Banjarmasin, she found that some students of MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP Banjarmasin still have problems or make errors in using Subject-Verb Agreement. They often made a mistake when they differentiate which Subject-Verb Agreement used singular verbs and which ones used plural verbs.

Based on information obtained from the English teacher at MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946 Banjarmasin, it was found that some students still had difficult mastering Subject-Verb Agreement. They could not use the Subject-Verb Agreement. It usually happened because the students were confused in

differentiate which Subject-Verb Agreement used singular verbs and which ones used plural verbs and they did not know how to identify singular verbs and plural verbs in a sentence. All the problems above arose since the students did not understand the right rule of Subject-Verb Agreement. In this research the writer focuses to improve students' mastery in subject verb agreement by using crossword puzzle game.

As previous study held by Yeni Siwi Utami, in 2014 who conducted research entitled "Improving Students' Vocabulary Mastery Using Crossword Puzzle for Grade VII of SMPN 2 Srandakan in the Academic Year of 2013/2014". The result showed that the teacher activity in teaching learning process using crossword puzzle to improve students' vocabulary mastery at seventh grade students of SMPN 2 Srandakan goes well. By using crossword puzzle in teaching learning process the students can improve their vocabulary mastery. The students were able to memorize and be familiar with the vocabulary they learnt through challenging and fun activity.

The second previous study held by Nurul Diniyati, in 2009 who conducted research entitled "The Use of Crossword Puzzles to Improve Students' Spelling (An Action Research of Fourth Grade Students of SDN Cokro, Grabag Kabupaten Magelang in the Academic Year of 2008/2009)". The result showed by using crossword puzzle in the teaching and learning activity showed a positive effect on the students' achievement. The students' spelling ability of simple words during the teaching activities by using crossword puzzles

was good. It is effective to use crossword puzzles to improve the students' spelling ability.

The writer has some similarities and differences with the both of previous researchers, the similarities are equally uses crossword puzzle as a media in teaching learning process, has same object that is a media. The differences are methodology of the research, both of previous researchers uses action research classroom as a method of the research and the writer do not uses action research classroom as a method of this research. The writer use qualitative descriptive method as a method of this research. Besides that, both of previous researchers uses the students as a subject, and the writer do not uses the students as a subject, but the writer use the teacher as a subject in this research.

In this research, the writer is interested in investigating; how is the use of crossword puzzle and how is the students' mastery in subject verb agreement. Based on the statement above, the writer is interest to do the research at MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946, and use crossword puzzle game to improve students' mastery in subject-verb agreement. In this case, the writer would like to conduct a research entitled **“The Use of Crossword Puzzle to Improve Students' Mastery in Subject-Verb Agreement, (A Case Study at the Seventh Grade Students of MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946 Banjarmasin)”**.

B. Statement of Problem

Based on the description above, the writer has formulates the problem of research as follow:

1. How does the teacher use the crossword puzzles game to improve students' mastery in subject verb agreement at the seventh grade students of MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946 Banjarmasin?
2. How is the students' mastery in subject verb agreement?

C. Objective of Study

Based on formulation of problems, there are the purposes of the research:

1. To describe the teacher activity in using crossword puzzle game to improve students' mastery in subject verb agreement at the seventh grade students of MTs Al-Islamiyah SMIP 1946.
2. To know whether crossword puzzle game can improve the students' mastery in subject verb agreement or not.

D. Reason of Choosing the Title

1. Crossword puzzle is the easy game for young learners.
2. Crossword puzzle is good instruments for young learners to learn grammar.
3. Subject-Verb Agreement is important part in learning grammar especially for beginner students.

4. Many students still had difficulties to differentiate which Subject-Verb Agreement used singular verbs and which ones used plural verbs.
5. To improve student's knowledge in using Subject-Verb Agreement.

E. Significant of Study

The writer selected the strategy above in consideration that it will give advantages for some related research members who was involved, as elaborated below.

a. The Students

It is expected that the students improve their mastery through the use of the variation of technique. Therefore, they learn English easier and become more motivated in English class.

b. The Teacher

It is expected that the teacher will enrich his knowledge of how to vary and improve his ability in conducting classroom teaching and learning by using the technique. As the result, it increases the teaching learning quality in facilitating the student in learning English.

c. The researcher

This study gave the researcher an experience of conducting a teaching and learning research which basically important for the development of the researcher's competences. This research gave opportunity for the researcher to apply what had been earned from academic learning and gave contribution to solve real problems in the field. Moreover, it will also give advantage to another

researcher who takes same topic to use this research as a reference to conduct the research.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Crossword puzzle

Crossword puzzle is a puzzle or wordplay in which words have to be written numbered clues vertically and horizontally in spaces on a square or oblong. Crossword puzzle is problem design to test a person's knowledge in which words have to be written vertically and horizontally in spaces on a squared. This study, crossword puzzles are used to improve students' mastery in subject verb agreement.

2. Subject-Verb Agreement

Subject-Verb Agreement is an agreement in which there is a matching between subject and verb. The main rule of Subject-Verb Agreement is simple. It is said an agreement if both subject and verb show the same kind of inflection. In other words, singular subject go with singular verb. And plural subject go with plural verbs.

G. Research Organization

This research is divided into five chapters as below:

Chapter I contains introduction, which consist background of study, statement of problem, object of study, reason of choosing the title, significant of study, definition of key terms, and research paper organization.

Chapter II, the writer talks about theoretical review on related subject, that consist definition of media, definition of game, definition of crossword puzzle, types of crossword puzzle, the procedures of using crossword puzzle, the function and the importance of crossword puzzle in teaching English, the definition of grammar, the definition of Subject-Verb Agreement, the rules of subject-verb agreement, subject-verb agreement in tenses, and the importance of learning subject-verb agreement.

Chapter III, method of the research that contains research design, research setting, subject and object, data and source of data, data collecting procedure, and data analysis procedure.

Chapter IV is the report of the research result which consist description of the research location, data presentation, and data analysis.

Chapter V is closure which consist conclusions and suggestions.