

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In social life, our society consists of many different people. As social creature, human beings cannot live alone, they certainly need other people in their lives. It means that they have to communicate with other people to share what they feel, to fulfill their needs and to make a good relationship among them. However, human relationship is important, so they can know each others. As said in the Holy Quran in Surah Al Hujaraat verse 13 as follows:

يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُمْ مِّن ذَكَرٍ وَأُنثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ
لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقْوَاهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٣﴾

This verse explained that Allah creates human from a male and female, and made us into nations and tribes to know each others. To know one another, human should communicating. To communicate each other human need language. Language is a means of communication. Mary Finocchiaro (1975, p. 2) states that:

“Language is one of the important devices of communication in any type of human activities; language support processing civilization and its progress day to day. Language is use to show their thought and feeling, wish and activities and to influence others. One’s education background, association, tradition and sign of family and nation can be explained by a language”.

Murcia and Lois in their book *Teaching English as a second or Foreign Language* (1959, p. 183), stated that “The essence of language in human activity on the part of one individual to make him understood by another, and activity on the part of the other to understand what was the main of the first”.

Allah the almighty creates different language for human, as Allah says in Holy Qur’an, Ar-Rum verse 22:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَخْتَلَفُ السِّنِّتِكُمْ وَاللُّوَانِكُمْ
 إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

It can be understood from this verse that “Allah creates some variations of language in order to be taught and researched by human” (Ali, 1983, p. 1056). There are many different people and nations in the world from the geographical aspect and of course every nation has different cultures and languages that is why there are many various languages in the world used for communication.

One of the language which are used widely in the world is English. Many people say that English is one of the international languages. In facing modern area and free trade, people are demanded to be able to speak and to communicate in English. It means that English plays an important role in international communication.

Indonesia as a developing country realizes the importance of English. It is signed by placing the English subject on the curriculum started from the secondary school up to the university or institute.

The main goal of the teaching English is to make the students master it. In teaching-learning process, Alexander (1975, p. viii) states that “English is intended to develop four skills.”, they are speaking, listening, reading and writing. However, the students not only have to master those four skills, but they also have to master the language element of English that support those skills, they are grammar, vocabulary, spelling and pronunciation. All these language skills and the components are related each other, so the students must be trained adequately in all the four basic skills to make them easily practice and use the language.

In fact, they failed and even found many handicaps in learning process, we though they have studied English for a long time. They are still facing some problems in learning English such as grammar, phonology, spelling vocabulary, etc.

In teaching English as a foreign language in Indonesia, there is a tendency for a teacher to teach more structure than other English components like vocabulary, pronunciation, and four skills, but the result is still unsatisfactory. This indicates that the structure causes a serious problem in English teaching and learning process.

Structure is very essential to master a certain language especially English because it is a fundamental aspect. However, meaning is expressed in vocabulary and relationship is expressed in grammar.

In learning English, grammar is one of aspect in structure that more difficult and the important one. A grammar is a linguist's descriptions of a language, usually expressed in terms of 'rules'.

In oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, "Grammar is the rules of forming words and making sentences". By mastering the grammar, the students will be able to create of sentences that are grammatically correct will be more meaningful and easier to be understood. So grammar of the language will determine the meaning of the sentences in the language.

Some people consider that grammar is very important in language that they use in language learning as their second language. In English course through out school, course or studying English in which student often spend great deal of time and effort studying how to avoid errors of usage the words for combining them into sentence or paragraph. In fact, grammar often used by students as a term to apply anything to study in English class that is not literature. This description reveals that grammar in mainly interpreted to the correctness of using language.

Grammar in English component to support the mastery of the four language skills because when speakers use the four skills, the sentences that are decoded and encoded are arranged according to grammatical patterns of language. The grammar of language is a description of the way in which that language behaves.

One of structural aspect that often causes problem to the students is question sentences. This aspect is difficult, because there are some elements of the sentences involved mainly modal, pronoun, verb and adverb.

This elements must be mastered well by the students if they want to build the sentences well. Otherwise, they will find handicaps in understanding and using them. The mistakes they make, of course will annoy and distract the flow of the communication. They can cause misunderstanding on the parts of the listeners or the readers who receive the information in the process communicate.

Based on the phenomena above, the writer would conduct a research on the title: "A Study on the Students' Difficulties in Using Question Sentences of the First Grade Students of SMK Syuhada Teknologi Banjarmasin in Academic Year 2014/2015".

In order to avoid misinterpretation about the title, certain terms should be explained, as follows:

1. Difficult is something hard to do or understand (Martin, 1991, p. 116), difficult means not easy; requiring effort, skill, etc.
2. Question sentences is sentences that ask a question, in particular a rising intonation pattern, and always end with a question mark (?). Question sentences also called interrogative sentences. Interrogative is a term used in grammar to refer to features that form questions. Thus, an interrogative sentence is a sentence whose grammatical form indicating that it is a question.

3. SMK (Vocational Secondary School) is one form of formal education unit organises vocational education at the secondary education level as a continuation of the SMP/MTs or other forms of equal or continuation of study results is recognized as the equivalent of junior high school/MTs. SMK is often referred to as STM (Secondary Technical School). There are an awful lot program expertise.

B. Statements of Problem

Related to the title stated above, the writer formulated two research questions as follows:

1. How is the students' difficulties level of the first grade students in using question sentences at SMK Syuhada Teknologi Banjarmasin in academic year 2014/2015?
2. What are the students' common errors in using question sentences of the first grade students at SMK Syuhada Teknologi Banjarmasin in academic year 2014/2015?

C. Reasons for Choosing the Title

There are several reasons why the writer selected this title:

1. Remembering that many students still have difficulties in using question sentences.
2. Considering that question sentences is one of grammar aspect/topic that needs more understanding and mastery.

3. Learning question sentences is important in helping student to find information.

D. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To obtain the difficulty level of the first grade students in using question sentences at SMK Syuhada Teknologi Banjarmasin in Academic Year 2014/2015
2. To find out what students' common errors in using question sentences.

E. Significance of the Study

The writer categorizes the significance of this study into two categories:

1. General significance:
 1. It is expected to give information for the readers in general that some aspects in English language are difficult to learn, so they have to pay more attention in learning them.
 2. It is expected to give information for other researchers that they could do any research relating to this topic in different perspective or different location.
2. Specific significance:
 1. It is expected to help the students to develop their knowledge.
 2. It is expected to the English teachers to improve their teaching on question sentences.

F. Scope of the Study

Scope of the study is:

1. The students' difficulties in using question sentences and some common errors made by students in using question sentences.

G. Organization of Study

This research consists of five chapters; they are systematically arranged in this writing as follows:

The first chapter contains introduction, which consists of background of the study, statements of problem, reasons for choosing the title, objectives of the study, significance of study and organization of content.

The second chapter contains theoretical review of related literatures, the theories underlying the writing of the research is discussed, particularly about the question sentences and the difficulties in learning English grammar.

The third chapter contains the description of the methodology of research.

The fourth chapter deals with findings and the discussion of the result.

The last chapter is chapter five, which contains the conclusion and suggestions.