

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is one of the important instruments for human. Nowadays, it becomes the things that cannot be underestimated, because by using and studying language, human can communicate easily. It helps human when they are live in a place, so people need to master one language or more to communicate and understand what people say. By using language, people will be able to extend some of expressions such as idea, experience, feeling, thought, and knowledge, either oral or written to others.

In the Holy Qur'an (Ar Rum: 22) Allah says:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ السِّنِّتِكُمْ وَاللُّوَانِكُمْ ۗ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ
لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

The verse says people have to know one another. The variation of languages forces people to learn languages. To communicate with other countries we should master foreign language. Thus, learning a foreign languages not only a kind of obedience to Allah, but also necessity.

Nowadays as an international language, English becomes the subject in education. It is important for students to learn and understand English while they communicate and appertain with others. To learn and understand English itself is not easy because as we know that English consists of some skills. There are four skills in English that must be learned such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

English language learning is a process where all skills of English (listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar) are interconnected. In developing learners writing proficiency, all language skills must be involved. Aiming at mastering those skills, students can learn quickly when they feel confident in expressing their ideas with one another. In fact, they find English rules very complicated because some language features such as sentence construction, grammar, vocabulary, spelling and so forth in their mother tongue are different from those of the target language. These make them difficult to express themselves in a clear, correct and comprehensible manner of writing.

Writing is one of productive skills in language learning. The writing activity is different from other activities. It is less spontaneous but more permanent since it takes much time and concentrated practice. In writing, there are a number of language aspects involved such as model texts, grammar, spell-check, punctuation and prepositions. Harmer (2002, p. 255) says that “writing has a number of conventions which separate it out from speaking. Apart from

differences in grammar and vocabulary, there are issues of letter, word, and text formation, manifested by handwriting, spelling, and layout and punctuation”.

However, it cannot be denied by an Indonesian who is not a native speaker of English could make grammatical mistake in writing the foreign language for example English. Thesis is one of the examples of writing practice which is written by the students at every English Department students as a requirement to graduate. While the students write the thesis, they should give more attention in writing rules. They should think about the grammar. Not only about grammar but also spelling, punctuation and etc.

Besides of the four skills, they also have to master grammar properly. Grammar is an important part in the language that describes about the theory of language. Discussing about grammar means that trying to understand the structure of language truly and correctly. Gerot and Wignel (1995, p. 2) states that “grammar rule is a theory about the use of language”. Grammar becomes the rule of correctness in language. Knowing the grammar, it can make the comprehensive understanding about the meaning from the content of language use. Grammar has some relations with language such as, grammar as knowledge to the truths, grammar is a skill and power to the instruments it employs, grammar is as navigation or a practical science of language, grammar is as a chart for language use.

Grammar is the rule to write correctly, Use grammar can make the understanding about the system and meaning in the text or utterance

comprehensively. States to Holliday's (2005, p. 42) "grammar has a role for operating some systems include the number of terms that is finite, the exclusiveness of term and the change of meaning because of the term additions". In the writing text, grammar takes an urgent role as the foundation of the language use. The meaning of language can be expressed by grammar because the grammar relates naturally to the meanings of language that are being encoded.

The existence of grammar in language is to guide the user in the expression and apprehension of thought and the interpretation of the words. Grammar is an urgent science in the use of language especially for writing. Grammar becomes an art in the implementation of those skills. The basic subject of grammar is language in general especially in writing. The use of language especially in written is the common subject of grammar that employed for the expression of thought. The design of grammar facilitates the acquisition of language and all practical the use of language.

According to Holliday's (2005, p. 42) constructing English sentence needs some important rules, called grammar. The students who want to master English well should understand better the English grammar. Murcia and Hilles (1987) states that "Grammar often taught isolate, unconnected sentences that give a fragmented, unrealistic picture of English and make it difficult for students to apply what they learned in actual situations. Grammar as a knowledge is a central point. It includes the tenses as a core of the skill, such as: simple present tense,

simple past tense, simple future tense, present continuous tense, present perfect tense, past continuous tense etc. In this case, the researcher limited three tenses, those are simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense.

From the theories we have known that grammar should be taught appropriately because it is the basic element of a language. Without the proper knowledge of grammar, the learners will find many problems to express their ideas and built up sentences for communication.

English Education Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin requires their students to use English in their thesis writing. The thesis is one of academic writing that should be written with a proper grammar. However write a thesis using full English with a correct grammatical is not an easy thing. English Department students have learned grammar as a subject in four semesters such as Grammar I, Grammar II, Grammar III and Grammar IV. Every students should pass each of level of grammar subject as mentioned before, in other words they have mastered grammar well. In fact, the English Education students who are commonly master the English language cannot avoid grammatical error in writing a thesis, including structure error in abstract thesis introduction.

However the abstract of the thesis is a brief summary of the overall content within the thesis which is the original work of the authors without citing other works. Abstract is one of the most important part because of its position on the front page and that will have been seen by the readers. It is a key point whether

the reader wants to know the content. That is why the abstract should be written using the words in a good structure according to the grammatical rules.

Abstract is one of part that necessarily exists in a thesis. That is why it very important, but students do not pay much attention to the validity of its writing and its grammar. So the researcher is interested in investigating the abstract on the grammatical aspect, because the abstract is obligation and it is rarely checked by supervisors. Some students forget to focus on abstract because they focus on the content only. The importance of abstract for the researchers is expression of their thesis of their can be delivered well. Moreover, when using English in academic writing especially in writing thesis abstract, English Department students of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin might make errors in aspects of grammar, such as tenses, word classes or word order. In this context, the grammatical errors analyzed are limited. So in this research, the researcher only focus on grammatical aspect especially on four categories that are article, regular and irregular nouns, verb tense and subject verb agreement.

After examining the problem on abstract above, the researcher would like to do his thesis research on students' mistakes of thesis abstracts writing with the title: **An Analysis of Grammatical Errors in Thesis Abstract on English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin**. The researcher wishes this research may bring advantages to the English Department students who have interests in this topic and any readers that want to write thesis abstract correctly.

B. Research Question

Based on the background of study, the problems of this research are:

1. What are the grammatical errors in thesis abstract made by English Department students of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
2. What is the most error in thesis abstract made by English Department students of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin?

C. Objectives of The Study

1. This research is aimed at identify the grammatical errors found in thesis abstract made by English Department students of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.
2. This research is aimed at find what is the most error in thesis abstract made by English Department students of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

D. Significance of Study

The research result is expected to give some contribution for:

1. Theoretically

The findings (results) of this study are expected to give useful information for the English Department students who want to do related research or more in depth about error analysis.

2. Practically

The English Department students have a more concern in grammatical rules on their theses abstracts.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid some mistake in interpreting the title of this research, the researcher needs to explain the terms relating to it. The terms are as follows:

1. Error Analysis

In this study, the researcher wants to analyze error in academic writing especially in writing thesis abstract, and the object in this study is grammatical aspects of English Education Department student thesis abstract.

2. Grammatical Error

In this term, the researcher wants to find error in writing thesis abstract of English Education Department students of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin in aspects of grammar, such as tenses, word classes or word order. In this context, the grammatical errors analyzed are limited on. So in this research, the researcher only focus on five grammatical aspects that are article, regular and irregular nouns, verb tense and subject verb agreement.

3. Abstract

In this research, the researcher focused on thesis abstract made by English Education Department students of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.