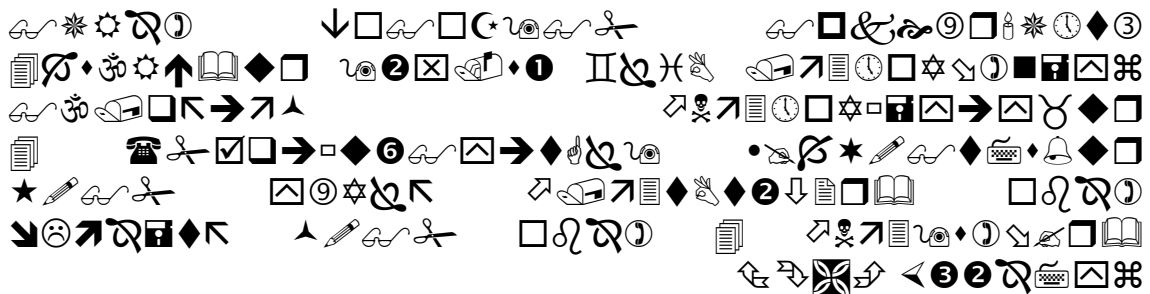


CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Human beings couldn't live alone in this world. They always need help from others. To interact with others they need language. People can understand others and take information from others by using it. The language is important to build or tell information or messages. Language is also used to expand science, to express our ideas, thought, opinions and feeling to others in oral or written form. Human beings use different languages in their communication. As Allah the Almighty states in Qur'an on Surah Al-Hujurat 13 as follow:



That verse suggests us to know each other and to know people in different country, so language plays important tool for communication. Sharifian (2009, p.1) states that “English rapidly develops more complex relationships within and between communities of speakers around the world”. Language is the source of communication. It is the way through which we share our ideas and thoughts with others. There are uncountable languages in this world. Because every country has their own national language, then they have different local languages spoken and understood by their people in different regions. English is the most common language spoken everywhere.

With the help of developing technology, English has been playing a major role in many sectors including medicine, engineering, and education, which is the most important arena where English is needed. As an international language, English is widely used in almost all aspects of human life. Therefore, it is obligatory to master English today.

Indonesian government also made rule that English must be taught. The reason is that English is a global or an international language. The global status of English is partly due to the number of people speak it. In teaching-learning English, there are four skills must be developed and mastered by students, they are: listening, speaking, reading and writing (Henry, 1985, p.1). The elements of English given in classroom like grammar, vocabulary, spelling and pronunciation are supposed to support the mastery and the development of the four skills of that language. All these language skills and 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.

Speaking is so much a part of daily life that we tend to take it for granted. However, learning to speak involves developing a number of complex skills and different types of knowledge about how and when to communicate. It is useful when thinking about speaking to consider how we developed speaking in our mother tongue (Helen, 1997, p.2). Speaking is the action of conveying information or expressing one's thoughts and feeling in spoken language. It is one of English skills that need to be taught in order to improve students' communication with other people. In teaching speaking, the teacher requires some components: comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, grammar and pronunciation and also has scoring system that will ease the teacher in getting the

score. There are several techniques used by the teacher for teaching speaking. The techniques should be appropriate and interesting to interest the students in teaching learning process.

Writing is skill that requires more practice. The writing skill or mastery is not obtained naturally, but it needs to do training step by step. Kristine and Susan (1989, p.6) state that “whatever you do, you will benefit from lots of practice. So *write often* - even if it’s for a short time and even if it’s only for yourself”. Therefore, in teaching learning process of writing the students must be involved especially in exercise and evaluation. One way to improve students’ mastery in writing is the English teachers should teach and give some task that related with the topic in English book.

Grammar also is one important subject matter that should be mastered in speaking and writing English. Grammatical sentences are easy to understand by interlocutors rather than ungrammatical ones. In this case verb tenses have essentials role, because they tell readers when actions are taking place. Careful and accurate use of tenses is also important to clear speaking and writing. For instance, if the verbs in a passage refer to actions occurring at the past actions, then the past tense is definitely needed to be used. Tense is a verb form that shows the time of the action, such as present, past and future. Every tense is divided into simple, continuous, perfect and perfect continuous. However, the writer just focuses on one tense that is past tense. The past tense indicates that an activity or situation began and ended at a particular time in the past (Betty, 1989, p. 24). Past tense has four types they are: past tense, past continuous, past perfect and past perfect continuous.

In MA Darul Istiqamah boarding school for girls, the students are obligated to use English in the daily speak activities. They will get punishment if they do not use English when communicate to the others. Therefore, it's forced them to use English although it's ungrammatically. There are some problems that usually faced by them, especially in grammar. They often do some mistakes of using simple past tense, past continuous, past perfect and past perfect continuous. They also sometimes make some errors like using auxiliary, verb in past participle (regular and irregular) and using time expressions like since, before and after. The problems are not without reason, because some students still do not understand how to use them correctly and the condition forced them to use English. When they learn about past tense, some students have still confused to use them based on particular situation.

Based on the case, the writer is interested in doing systematic research at MA Darul Istiqamah Boarding School for girls in Barabai. The writer interested to know how well the students' mastery of past tense and how to express it in past activities in speaking and writing skill. Based on the observation have done by the writer at MA Darul Istiqamah Boarding school for girls in Barabai, she found many difficulties in using English grammatically, especially one of the complicated forms of the tenses was past tenses.

B. Statement of the Problem

Concerning with the topic, the problem in this research is about the comparative study of students' grammar mastery in using past tense between speaking and writing skill. In order to understand well the problem, it is formulated as follows:

1. How is the students' grammar mastery in using past tense in speaking skill at the 10th grade of MA Darul Istiqamah Boarding School for Girls in Barabai Academic Year 2012/2013?
2. How is the students' grammar mastery in using past tense in writing skill at the 10th grade of MA Darul Istiqamah Boarding School for Girls in Barabai Academic Year 2012/2013?
3. Is there any significant difference of students' grammar mastery in using past tense between speaking and writing skill at the 10th grade of MA Darul Istiqamah Boarding School for Girls in Barabai Academic Year 2012/2013?

C. Objective of Study

1. To know the students' grammar mastery in using past tense in speaking skill at the 10th grade of MA Darul Istiqamah Boarding School for Girls in Barabai Academic Year 2012/2013
2. To know the students' grammar mastery in using past tense in writing skill at the 10th grade of MA Darul Istiqamah Boarding School for Girls in Barabai Academic Year 2012/2013
3. To find out whether any significant difference of students' grammar mastery in using past tense between speaking and writing skill at the 10th grade of MA Darul Istiqamah Boarding School for Girls in Barabai Academic Year 2012/2013

D. Assumption

There is a significant difference between students' application of using past tense in the daily speak activities and the students' writing implementation in teaching-learning process in the classroom.

E. Hypothesis

Based on the assumptions above, the writer takes hypothesis that will be examined in this research is:

a. Direction or Alternative Hypothesis (H_a)

There is a significant difference between students' application of using past tense in the daily speak activities and the students' writing implementation in teaching-learning process in the classroom.

b. Null Hypothesis (H_0)

There is not a significant difference between students' application of using past tense in the daily speak activities and the students' writing implementation in teaching-learning process in the classroom.

F. Significance of Study

The benefits expected from the result of this study terms of both theoretical and practical are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this research is expected could be used by the other researchers to conduct a study of the same topic but in different perspectives.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. The study will be useful for the students to see their ability not only in writing past tense form, but also they can feel easier practice it in the daily speak activities.
- b. For the English teacher, the result of this research is used as feedback or an input to improve English teaching-learning process in speaking and writing skill well.

G. Definition of Key Terms

There are some terms used in this research. In order to avoid misunderstanding of them, some key terms are defined as follows:

1. Comparative is connected with studying things to find out how similar or different they are (Hornby, 1995, p.82). The word 'compare' means "to consider or describe as similar, equal, or analogous or to examine in order to note the similarities or differences of somebody or something" (American Heritage Dictionary, n.d, p.1590).
2. Study is the act or process of studying or the pursuit of knowledge, as by reading, observation, or research (American Heritage Dictionary, n. d, p.7095).
3. Mastery is possession of consummate skill or the status of master or ruler (American Heritage Dictionary, n. d, p.4462). In this research, it means the ability of English skills which is taught at Darul Istiqamah Boarding School Barabai, those are speaking and writing skill.

4. Past tense is one of the verb forms that expresses or indicates a time that is in the past (Huddleston, 2005, p.6). In this research, it means the students' ability to understand and to apply past tense in speaking and writing skill.
5. Speaking is uttering words or articulate sounds with ordinary speech modulation or conveying thoughts, opinions, or emotions orally (American Heritage Dictionary, n.d, p.6881). Speaking is a communication tool that will allow us to be able to express our feelings, idea, or wishes and also one of four English skills that very important to be learned.
6. Writing means forming (letters, words, or symbols) on a surface such as paper with an instrument such as a pen (American Heritage Dictionary, n. d, p.8175). It means the act of a person who writes. In this research, it means writing English focusing on the past activities.

So, The Comparative Study of Students' Grammar Mastery in Using Past Tenses between Writing and Speaking means research to compare or find out how similarity or different between students' application of using past tense in daily speaking activities and the students' implementation in writing skill in teaching-learning process in the classroom.