

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Grammar refers to the structure and meaning system of language. Every language has rules and constraints for forming and interpreting sentences. As stated by O'Grady and Dobrovolsky as cited in Yusuf (2012), all languages have a grammar. In terms of overall complexity, all language grammars are basically equivalent. This also occurs in the English language; for instance, the use of *comed* and *goed* as the past tense forms of *come* and *go* and the omission of the third person singular *-s* under the heavy pressure of all other endless forms as in *He go*.

This type of event regularly causes problems and errors for English language learners. This might be referred to as overgeneralization. Overgeneralization occurs when one structure or construction is used in one context and then used to other settings where it should not be used. Brown (2000, p. 95) states that to generalize means to infer or derive a law, rule, or conclusion, usually from the observation of particular instances. Overgeneralization occurs when a student develops a deviant structure based on his familiarity with other structures in the target language. Overgeneralizations are typical throughout language development. In learning the English past tense, children typically overgeneralize the *-ed*

rule, producing constructions such as *We holded the baby rabbits* (Pinker, 2004).

Learning grammar is critical in this case because the use of language might be confusing at times, making it difficult to grasp the meaning of the phrase efficiently. When people structure their sentences properly, they may also organize their writing and communicate effectively. Moreover, the readers or listeners can comprehend the meaning of the sentence easily. It is said in Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Ahzab verse 70-71:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا (٧٠)

يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا (٧١)

This verse means Allah SWT asks the human to be careful about the words that they deliver when praying with Him and also to keep their words straight with anyone they talk to, as the prophet Muhammad SAW and Zainab ra., always speak the right word, then Allah SWT will guide them and their deeds. If the words are wrong, the meaning those are delivered will be ambiguous and can cause a negative effect. That is why Allah SWT reminds the human to always keep their words right in Surah Al-Ahzab verse 70-71.

Students who have previously learned English may nevertheless struggle to compose words correctly, resulting in errors in their writing. Learning a foreign language is highly difficult and is influenced by a variety

of factors, including the language's structure, similarities and variations from with the target language, and the learner's mother tongue. As a result, learning a foreign language is a dynamic process and students will undoubtedly make errors along the way.

Based on that phenomenon, this study will concentrate on the grammatical overgeneralization of English words that students of English Department at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin frequently make and the causes of those errors. This research invited participants from 4th semester which have an Essay Writing course. Writing not only requires vocabulary, but also applies grammar so that it becomes a perfect sentence.

In this study, the researcher used documentation as technique of data collection. The researcher needs the form of written text such an essay, both in the form of files or students' writing in Essay Writing course. Based on the background above, the researcher is interest to make research entitle "Grammatical Overgeneralization in English Words Made by Students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin."

B. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid any misinterpretation toward the title in this research, the researcher will clarify the title as follows:

1. Grammar

It refers to the students' worksheets in Essay Writing course to find out the grammar error. Grammar in English is the rules that apply

to the use of language both orally and in writing. Using the right grammar will produce clear sentences and paragraphs, so what it meant can be understood.

2. Overgeneralization

In this research, overgeneralization refers to the types and the causes of overgeneralization carried out by 4th semester students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin in Essay Writing course.

3. Grammatical Overgeneralization

Grammatical overgeneralization it refers to the English words commonly made by 4th semester students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin in Essay Writing course.

C. Research Questions

1. What types of grammatical overgeneralization are written by students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin?
2. Why do such overgeneralizations happen among the students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin?

D. Objectives of Study

1. To describe the types of grammatical overgeneralization that students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin make as they learn English.

2. To find out causes how such overgeneralizations happen among the students of English Department of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

E. Significance of Study

1. Theoretical

The results of this study can be used as available information for the next researchers who are interested in conducting research on similar or related object.

2. Practical

- a. For Lecturers

The results of this study can be as a reference to help them improve the quality of teaching and learning in essay writing.

- b. For Students

The results of this study are expected to make students more careful in making sentences to avoid grammatical overgeneralizations.