

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Rationale

Human is social being, they can't live without other's help to fulfill their daily necessities. They need to know and interact each other in their life, as stated in the holly qur'an al-Hujuraat /49:13 as follow:



Everybody needs to communicate with their surroundings. They need of communication is felt when they want to tell some information or messages to others.

The effective tool to know one another is language. Language is a gift for human. It is one of the most important devices of communication in any kinds of human being life activities; one way to get knowledge is through language. Language is a tool or a key of understanding knowledge. People can be able to extend any of expression such as idea, experience, feeling, thought and any others by written and oral. Language also will make people be able to close with another, as Marry Mc Groatry said “language is an intimate part of social identity.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Marry Finocchiaro, *English as a second Language from Theory to Practice*, (America: Regent Publishing Company, INC), p. 5

There are two forms of language, the spoken and written. Two language activities are associated both encoding and decoding process. Speaking and writing themselves are, meanwhile listening and reading are decoding process.<sup>3</sup>

There are many languages in the world. One of them is English. English is one of the foreign languages in Indonesia. It has a very essential position in communication among people. The use of English become widely considered as an urgent need, this possibly happens due to some realistic. The first, English is an international language that is spoken by many people in the world and in so many areas of everyday life. The second, English is also the key to open the doors to scientific and technical knowledge which is needed for the economic and politics development of many countries in the world. The third, English has the largest number of user all over the world.

English is a language that has rules and defined patterns where as English was said as an instrument to express ideas, opinion and feeling similar with the native speaker and also an instrument in absorption and development of science, technology and culture.<sup>4</sup>

Furthermore in teaching-learning process, English is intended to develop four skills.<sup>5</sup> The four language skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing appropriate to theme which are chosen on interest, vocabulary and suitable grammar.

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<sup>3</sup>Jack C. Richards and Willy A. Renadya, *Methodology in Language Teaching, An Anthology of Current Practice*, (Cambridge University Press, 2002), p. 96

<sup>4</sup>Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, *Petunjuk Teknis Mata Pelajaran Bahasa Inggris*, (Jakarta: Direktorat Pendidikan Umum, 1996), p. 2

<sup>5</sup>L. G. Alexander, *Practice and Progress and Integrated Course for Intermediate Student*, (Yogyakarta: Kanisius, 1975), p. viii

Grammar is one important subject matter should be mastered in English. It helps student construct a grammatically correct which utterance in writing messages. Grammatical sentence is understood by interlocutor easily rather than ungrammatical one. Moreover in writing language, the writing has to be constructive in grammatically excepted form, because “grammar is a body of rules imposed on a given language for speaking it, based on studying of its grammar.”

Related to development of those four English skills, usage of good and accurate grammar is one of the most important factors to communicate and understand literature in English. One of the items that taught in grammar is To Be.

The use of To Be can fluctuate its form when used in present tense and also past tense. From usage of to be which can fluctuate its form, in reality which still often make some of students at the seventh grade students of MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan confuse is about using it. Theoretically can be said that there are some of students which just still have difficulty in comprehending about using of to be in the form of present tense, specially at the time of students ordered to tell example or matter in using of to be for the subject of which different each order.

As mentioned above, it can be said how importance to increase students' ability in using “*to be*” in the form of present tense. One of the ways to increase student's ability of using to be present tense is to be needed to get more circumstantial items by teacher to the students. Afterwards give many duties or practice related which use of to be to the students which are still not yet comprehended about it.

According to the fact in the theories above, the researcher is interested to measure the students' ability in structures with focusing of the use of To Be Present Tense at the seventh grade students of MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan, and do research deeply. To know how the students' ability in using To Be present tense (is, am, are) at the seventh grade students of MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan.

So the writer does the research and writes entitled: **The Students' Ability in Using To Be Present Tense (Is, Am, Are) at The Seventh Grade Students of MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan**

## **B. Clarification of the Title**

To avoid any misinterpretation toward the title, the writer feels necessary to explain some terms in the title as follows:

### **1. Ability**

Ability is the quality of being able to do something or a natural or acquire skill or talent.<sup>6</sup> The writer's mean in this research is the ability in using To Be present tense (is, am, are) at the seventh grade students of MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan in academic year 2009/2010.

### **2. To Be is one of the linking verb which is its function is connecting subject with its complements.<sup>7</sup>**

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<sup>6</sup>A. S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, fifth edition*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 1104

<sup>7</sup>Hotben Lingga. *Advanced English Grammar for Toefl Preparation*. (Jakarta: Puspa Swara), p. 22

3. MTs are short for MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan regency academic year 2009/2010. Thus, the title of the thesis means a study of the ability of seventh grade students in using To Be Present (is, am, are).

From the terms above, the students' ability in using To Be present tense (is, am, are) means, the students' capability or the students' skill to use To Be Present (is, am, are). This research intended to know the ability of the seventh grade students of MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan.

### **C. Reasons for choosing the title**

There are some reasons that based on adopting the title, they are:

1. Many students still have difficulties in using to be present (is, am, are)
2. To be present is the first step to study the other forms of to be.
3. To be present is also the basic item of grammar that have to be mastered for the first learner of English.
4. To have a good understanding each other in conversation, it is better for the speaker to know and understand the grammar.
5. Based on the variorum observation, which had been done by writer. The writer interested in observing further.

### **D. Formulation of the Problem**

1. How is the level of students' ability in using To Be present tense (is, am, are) at the seventh grade students of MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan academic year 2009/2010?

2. How are the factors that influence students' ability in using To Be present tense (is, am, are) at the seventh grade students of MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan academic year 2009/2010?

#### **E. Objectives of the research**

There are two purposes of study based on the problem above, namely:

1. To know the level of students' ability in using To Be present tense (is, am, are) at the seventh grade students of MTs Al-Hidayah Babayau Balangan
2. To know how are the factors that influence in using To Be present tense (is, am, are) at the seventh grade students of MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan.

#### **F. Significance of the research**

The result of this research is expected to give contribution as follows:

1. As a consideration for the stakeholders of MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan in order to increase their educational quality especially English instructional quality.
2. Giving information and knowledge for the English teacher at MTs Al Hidayah Babayau Balangan to increase the quality of teaching learning process.
3. Valuable information for the students to increase their ability in using To Be Present.

## **G. Organization of the content**

To enable the writing of this research, the writer makes the writing organization consist of five chapters as follows:

### **Chapter I : Introduction.**

Contains about rationale, clarification of the title, reason for choosing the title, formulation of the Problem, objectives of the research, significance of the research and organization of the content.

### **Chapter II : Theoretical Review.**

Contains about the meaning of ability, definition of To Be present tense and, the form of To Be, the function of To Be, the influential factors of the students' ability in using To Be.

### **Chapter III : Method of research.**

Contain about method of research, which consist of subject and object of the research, data, source of data, and technique of data collecting, basic framework of the research, design measurement, technique of data processing and data analysis and research procedure.

### **Chapter IV : Report of research result.**

This consists of description of research location, data presentation and data analysis.

### **Chapter V : Closure, which consists of conclusions and suggestions.**