

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Language is means of communication, which helps people to interact, express, and communicate their ideas. The use of language cannot be separated from human life because it is a tool that is used by people in speaking or writing. By using language, someone can ask other people to do something, exchange our ideas, and can communicate each other about our plans in the future or experiences. In addition, in Holy Qur'an Allah said the importance of language in Ibrahim: 4

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا بِلِسَانِ قَوْمِهِ لِيُبَيِّنَ لَهُمْ فَيُضِلُّ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ
وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

In this modern era, English has become the most popular language. English plays an important in international communication. English is used by many people around the world as a medium in business, trading, traveling and etc. English is the most famous language to be taught in the world

In Indonesia, English is taught as a foreign language. English has been taught from elementary school, for some school it is even taught since kindergarten. Because Indonesian students have known about English since they are young. This study aims to know about their knowledge in English.

Since English is foreign language, it is realized that most Indonesian students generally get some difficulties in learning it. The difficulties occur when they lack of knowledge about vocabulary and grammar. In fact, they have to master the language skills, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing because the goal of learning English is to use it in spoken and written communication. Those skills and components of language are related to each other. As an example when someone wants to deliver his feeling or thought by writing, he has to notice not only the vocabulary but also the grammar. In writing, as one of the components of a language, grammar is necessary in order to create meaningful and understandable sentences. Moreover, for many people, grammar is an aspect which becomes the most difficult to learn in English.

In learning English, grammar is one of important aspect that needs to be mastered by students. Beside grammar is very useful aspect, by mastering it Allah will also raise those who were given knowledge by degrees. In Holy Qur'an, Al-Mujadilah : 11 Allah said;

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ ۗ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١١﴾

Grammar is a description of a structure of language and the way in linguistics unit such as word or phrase is combined to make a good sentence. Nunan (1999:97) Based on definition above, we know how important grammar is. By learning about structure, students can produce a good sentence that understood by others and understand what people say and write.

A language without grammar would be disorganized and causes misunderstanding, like grammatical errors in writing. Therefore, learners need to know the grammatical system of the language so that they can communicate with others properly. The learners frequently make mistakes and even errors in learning English, especially when they try to arrange sentences or use tenses in writing. As a result, they will write sentences grammatically incorrect. That can be influenced by the differences between learners' first language and their second language.

Although English has been taught to the student since they are young, they still have difficulties in learning English. This is because their mother tongue has different grammar rules with English. They usually using error grammar rule such as incorrect order in producing phrase, it should be *adjective + noun* but they produce *noun + adjective*. For example, "big house", it is not rare to meet a children use "house big" because they translate it in word. This mistake is happened because the students are influenced by their first language, in this case Indonesian students are influenced by their second language namely Bahasa.

In learning process, it is a common thing if student make mistake. However, an error should not be tolerated because it may become a habit, which is why an error must be avoided. Error analysis is one of way to examine all possible sources of errors in order to find the solution. It is a type of linguistic analysis that focuses on the errors made by learners. According to the argument above, the researcher thinks that it is necessary to correct learners' errors, mainly in learning English. The researcher will focus on the errors of grammar in the way learners use Subject verb agreement. Subject verb agreement is a part grammar that explains the correct usage of verb or auxiliary verb based on the subject. By knowing the mistake, we can repair it. Learning about mistake can carry us into the truth. By knowing mistake that we make, we can learn why the mistake occurs, after that we can avoid the mistake.

In Learning English, students should learn about part of speech. There are eight parts of speech that need to know namely, noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun, preposition, conjunction, and interjection. By learning this, students will able to make a good sentence.

After students have studied about part of speech, they are supposed to able to use a term of grammar namely subject verb agreement. Subject verb agreement is a term that require language user to use appropriate verb based on the subject. For example the dog is barking. Because the noun is singular, the be or auxiliary verb must be singular too. We cannot use "are" in that sentence.

This study analyzes the error usage of subject verb agreement that made by sixth semester students of English Department of IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin. There is a reason why the researcher chooses the sixth semester student, that is because they have learned many about English, they have learned about subject verb agreement.

Subject verb agreement is seen very simple, but actually it takes high comprehension about grammar. Based on the writer experience, not all students can use a correct subject verb agreement, especially in term of expression of quantity. To produce correct sentence with subject verb agreement, we need understand about tenses, the usage singular-plural, relative clause, etc. Therefore, actually subject verb agreement is a complex problem that need to be learned by students.

As the beginning, the writer gave a test with ten questions to several students to know their knowledge about subject verb agreement. The result of the test is they still do mistake. For example, one question of the test is, three weeks (...) a long time to wait. In this question the correct answer is "is". But they chose "are". Then the writer thinks that their weakness is in the expression of quantity. Other mistakes are in the use of "a number and the number" and "prepositional phrase as the subject". For example, a number of students (are) drawing right now. However, they use "is". Another question. The quality of the candles (is) poor. However they use "are" as be.

Based on the situation, the writer is interested in doing research with title THE ERROR OF THE USE OF SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT MADE BY THE SIXTH SEMESTER ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS AT IAIN ANTASARI BANJARMASIN ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/2015. To do this research, the writer uses test as a research instrument that given to ten students from each class of sixth semester student. After that the writer checks the students' mistakes. After all, this research will be useful in increasing students' knowledge in subject verb agreement.

B. Statement of Problem

Based on the explanation above. There are some problem that will be analyze in this study, they are:

1. Are there any errors in the use of subject verb agreement by sixth semester of English Department of IAIN Banjarmasin?
2. What are the types of error that made by the students?
3. What are the dominant of their errors in using subject verb agreement?

C. Objectives of The Study

Based on the problem of study above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out whether there are any subject verb agreement errors made by second semester of English Department students at IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.
2. To find out the types of the error usage of subject verb agreement which is committed by sixth semester of English Department students at IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin.
3. To find out the dominant error that are made by the students

D. Limitation of The Problem

In this study, the researcher only focuses to analyze the error use of subject verb agreement made by sixth semester of English Department students at IAIN Banjarmasin.

E. Significant of The Study

The results of the study are expected to give contributions to the related study both theoretically and practically

1. Theoretically

This research provides linguistic description and explanation of subject verb agreement error.

2. Practically

- a. For learners, this research shows them some errors they made. Therefore they are interested to improve their interest on subject verb agreement and be able to apply it appropriately.
- b. For lecturer, this research shows some of the subject verb agreement problems. Therefore lecturer can help their students to subject verb agreement correctly.
- c. For other researcher, this research can be used as references in doing similar research in the same field in the future.

F. Reason for choosing this topic

1. Error analysis is an interesting topic. By doing error analysis, we will get information about our lacks and then we can repair it.
2. Subject verb agreement is seen very simple, but actually this is a complex aspect that needs to be mastered by English Students. It requires knowledge from several tenses ad grammar structures.

G. Definition of Key Terms

1. Error

error is a noticeable deviation from the adult grammar of a native speaker, reflecting the inter language competence of the learner. In short, error refers to competence factors caused by systematic failure and consistently Error Analysis is the study about students' errors. Based on

those explanation, the writer conclude error analysis as technique that is used to know the students' errors and it can be used as reference to know the students lack and need to improve their knowledge.

2. Subject verb agreement

Subject verb agreement is a part grammar that explains the correct usage of verb or auxiliary verb based on the subject. Based on that definition, we can say this research is a technique or procedures that used to know students lack in the use of correct verb or auxiliary verb in the sentence