

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Rationale

Language is one of important tool in communication for human, because by using language human can easily communicate with others. Language is used to deliver message and express data, thought, and one's feeling to others. Abdul Ro'uf Shadry said: "Bahasa adalah alat yang mengungkapkan kata hati, pikiran, dan perasaan yang dinyatakan melalui mulut atau simbol-simbol untuk maksud tertentu bagi manusia."¹ Language also will make people be able to close with another, as Mary Mc. Groatry stated that: "language is an intimate part of social identity".²

The importance of mastering language as communication means through reading and writing is found in Islamic doctrine. Allah, God The Almighty says in the Holy Koran surah Al Alaq 1 up to 5:

أَقْرَأْ بِأَسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ① خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ②
أَقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ ③ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ④
عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ⑤

The verse above explains that God orders human to read many things by reading. Because by reading human will get more knowledge, information, and other

¹Abdul Ro'uf Shadry, *Nilai Pengajaran Bahasa Arab dan Sejarah Perkembangannya*, (Bandung: Bina Cipta, 1980), p. 6

² Sandra Lee Mc Kay and Nancy J. ...¹ ; *Sociolinguistics and Language Teaching*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 3

advances. English is one of the most important languages in the world. As an international language, it is always almost used in many kinds of human activities. The people who master English have bigger opportunity in their life. English plays a very important role in this world, from the smallest aspect of human daily life to the biggest one. Surely, English is needed for communication, gaining information, human resource development and developing science and technology.

For Indonesian, English is a foreign language, learning a foreign language is an integrated process that the learner may not ignore one or more aspect of the four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. We may not ignore grammar ability as well.

Grammar is one of English aspect. English grammar consists of various elements. One of them is part of speech or kinds of words.³ Grammar maybe roughly defined as the way language manipulates and combines words (or bits of words) in order to form longer units of meaning.

For many students, a major obstacle to future educational plans is not being able to write effectively and easily in English. Thus, the quality of any written work that they do is very important. Grammar is often the main problem that keeps them from producing a solid piece of original writing. According to Randolph Quirk and Sidney Green in their book *A University of English* that is the part of speech is listened in two groups. The first group is noun, adjective, adverb and verb. The

³ M.M . Basalamah Anies, *Sistem Analisis Kalimat "TOEFL"*, (Jakarta: PT Rineka, 1944), p.

second group is article, demonstrative pronoun, preposition, conjunction and interjection.⁴ Likewise another part of speech, verb has certain meaning and function in sentences.

Verb is one of the materials presented in grammar. There are two verbs in past sentences; they are regular and irregular verbs. The students have to master them well. In other words, they have to be able to recognize regular and irregular verbs and how to use them correctly. But based on the writer's first observation, it becomes a problem for the students especially for the eighth graders at SMPN 2 Batu Mandi Balangan Regency Academic year 2010/2011 in using regular and irregular verbs in past sentences. The students cannot differentiate the using of regular and irregular verbs when it is used in the simple past, because they do not understand the key word which accompany to regular and irregular verbs. The writer has interviewed two students of the eighth graders at SMPN 2 Batu Mandi Balangan Regency academic year 2010/2011 which is taken from class A and B that they have difficulties when use regular and irregular verbs in past sentences. They do not understand how to use them in sentences. For irregular verbs, they cannot memorize the infinitive, past tense and the past participle because the difficulties in irregular verbs and any other changing in it. So it makes they confuse when use it in the sentence.

Based on the problem above and the importance of the regular and irregular verbs, especially in making a sentence that is why the writer wants to conduct a

⁴Randolph Quirk and Sidney Green, *A University Grammar of English*, (London: Longmand, 1979), p. 20

research and the title **STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING REGULAR AND IRREGULAR VERBS IN PAST SENTENCES BY THE EIGHTH GRADERS AT SMPN 2 BATU MANDI BALANGAN REGENCY ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011.**

To avoid any misinterpretation towards the title, the writer needs to explain some terms in the title as follow:

1. Ability is skill or power (to do something physical or mental).⁵In this research, ability means capacity or power of students to understand and to apply regular and irregular verbs especially in making a sentence.
2. Using that the writer means is the way to put regular and irregular verbs based on the grammatical structure.
3. Regular verbs are verbs which obey the normal rule (in common which the past form is formed by adding -ed or -d.⁶
4. Irregular verbs are verbs that not obey the normal rule which the past form is not formed by -ed or -d. ⁷
5. Past sentence

Sentence is group of words that express a statement, questions, etc.⁸The past sentence that the writer means here is the sentence, which used in the past time.

⁵A. S. Hornby, *Oxford Learner's of Current English* (New Work : Oxford University Press, 1987), p. 2

⁶ John S. Hartanto, et. al. *Accurate, Brief and Clear English Grammar*(Surabaya: Indah, 2003), p. 228

⁷*Ibid.*, p. 239

Based on the explanations above, the writer tries to observe the ability of the students at SMPN 2 Batu Mandi Balangan Regency academic year 2010/2011 in using regular and irregular verbs in past sentences.

B. Statement of the Problem

Concerning with the topic, the problems of this research can be formulated as follows:

1. How is the students' ability in using regular and irregular verbs in the past sentences by the eighth graders at SMPN 2 Batu Mandi Balangan Regency Academic Year 2010/2011?
2. What factors that influence the students' ability in using regular and irregular verbs in the past sentences by the eighth graders at SMPN 2 Batu Mandi Balangan Regency Academic Year 2010/2011?

C. Reason for Choosing the Title

There are some reasons for choosing this title, they are:

1. English is one of the most popular languages in the world that as become the main communication device the field of science and technology.
2. The use of regular and irregular verbs in English is one of difficult part, the students often found the trouble when they use it in sentence.

⁸Marten H.Manser. *Oxford Learners's Pocket Dictionary* (Hongkong : Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 375

3. Grammar is very important aspect to be mastered, so the students can be easily to communicate in good English. Grammar can make the students know more about the rule in speaking, reading, writing and listening.
4. Although this material had given, not all students can master it. So, it is why the writer would like to know the resource of the problem solving of it.

D. Purpose of the Research

Based on the statement of the problem, the purpose of the research as follows:

1. To find out the level of the students' ability in using regular and irregular verbs in the past sentences by the eighth graders at SMPN 2 Batu Mandi Balangan Regency Academic Year 2010/2011.
2. To find out the factors which influence the students' ability in using regular and irregular verbs in the past sentences by the eighth graders at SMPN 2 Batu Mandi Balangan Regency Academic Year 2010/2011.

E. Significance of the Research

1. As one input for students to improve their ability in mastering regular and irregular verbs in the past sentences.
2. Be an information and input for the teacher, especially English teacher to develop English learning process.

3. Considerate and input for educational executors in increasing and improving education quality.
4. Enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in learning more about English, especially regular and irregular verbs.
5. Enrich the literary sources of State Institute for Islamic Studies Antasari Banjarmasin.

F. Organization of the Content

This study of research is divided into five chapters as follow:

The first chapter is introduction which consists of rationale, statement of problem, reason for choosing the title, purpose of research, significance of the research and organization of the content.

The second chapter is theoretical review which consists of definition of verb, kinds of verb, conjugation, regular verb, irregular verb and some factors that influence the students' ability in using regular and irregular verbs in the past sentences.

The third chapter is method of research which consists of subject and object of research, data and source of data, technique of data collection, basic framework of research, measurement design, technique of data processing and analysis and research procedure.

The fourth chapter is report of research result which consists of general description of research object, data reporting and data analysis.

The fifth chapter is closure which consists of conclusion and suggestion.