

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Every person in the world has a language. Language is important learnt because it is tool of communication certainly, that there are many kinds of nations and tribes in the world, which need a communication tool to know one another. In holy Qur'an (Al-Hujaraat; 13), Allah says:

إِن لِّتَعَارَفُواْ وَقَبَائِلَ شُعُوبًا وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ وَأَنْتَى ذَكَرٍ مِّنْ خَلَقْنَاكُمْ إِنَّا النَّاسُ يَتَأْتِيهَا
خَيْرٌ عَلِيمٌ اللَّهُ إِنْ أَتَقْنَاكُمْ اللَّهُ عِنْدَ أَكْرَمِكُمْ

The verse proofs us that language has a very role among human in every nations and tribe. So, the need of learning a language is very important for us to communicate and know each other.

Communication is a means of connecting people or places. By using communication people not only can exchange information, news, ideas, and feelings but also create and share meaning.

Allah in the Holy Qur'an (Ar-Ruum: 22) has also granted to our capability in communicating and interacting to each other as follows:

فِي إِنْ وَالْوَالِدِينَ وَالسِّنْتِكُمْ وَأَخْتَلَفُواْ الْأَرْضِ السَّمَوَاتِ خَلْقٌ آيَاتِهِ وَمِنْ
لِّلْعَالَمِينَ لَا يَتَذَكَّرُ

It means that the creatures need something to use in communicating. One of them, of course, is a language. Language is the most important aspect in the life of all beings. By using language, we can communicate each other. The function of language is not only as a lesson to study, but also it is used to express the ideas, mind, opinion, and feeling, either orally or written. Brown (2000:5) states that language is a system of arbitrary conventionalized vocal, written or gestural symbols that enable members of given community to communicate intelligibly with one another. Language is systematic and a set of arbitrary symbols. The symbols are primarily vocal, but may also be visual. They have conventionalized meanings to which they refer.

In Indonesia, besides Bahasa Indonesia, English is also taught and learnt in academic fields as subject matter. English has been taught from elementary schools to universities. To measure the ability of English, sometimes TOEFL is applied by many institutions. TOEFL has become an admission requirement for non-native English speakers at many English-speaking colleges and universities. Government agencies, licensing bodies, businesses, and other institutions may also mandate this test. TOEFL, formally known as "Test of English as a Foreign Language" is developed to measure the English language proficiency of non-native English language speakers. An adequate TOEFL score is often a criterion for awarding a scholarship.

English Department of IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin also applies TOEFL to be one of the graduation requirements. This institution uses Paper and Pencil-Based TOEFL. There are three parts of the TOEFL test should be done by the

students. The first part is the questions that measured the ability of Listening Comprehension in the number of 50 questions, Structure & Written Expression 40 questions, and Reading Comprehension 50 questions. The test takes place in approximately 150 minutes and it's included tutorial procedures.

As mentioned, one of the parts that are in TOEFL is structure and written expression. In the tests administered since 1986, the structure most frequently tested on the TOEFL have been form and function, parallel structure, subordinate clauses, subject/ verb presence and agreement, active/ passive voice, gerunds/ infinitives, prepositions/ prepositional phrases, and verb tenses.

Students of sixth semester of English Department in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin have learned all of those topics of structure. They have learned them since second semester as the subject of Grammar 1, Grammar 2, Grammar 3, and Grammar 4. In other words, they have been learned those topics in a long term. Logically, the students have mastered the topics of structure at all then they can answer structure test in TOEFL well with high score. So that it is important for the writer to analyse their mastery of it.

Based on the explanation above, the writer takes to do a research entitled: **“The Mastery of Sixth Semester Students in Structure Section of TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) At the English Department of IAIN Antasari Academic Year 2013/2014”**

B. Statement of Problem

The statements of the problems for this study are:

1. How is the sixth semester students' mastery in structure section of TOEFL at the English Department of IAIN Antasari Academic Year 2013/2014?
2. What is the most common problem faced by the sixth semester students toward structure section of TOEFL at the English Department of IAIN Antasari Academic Year 2013/2014?

C. Limitation of Study

The research is limited to explore the mastery of structure of TOEFL which is based on paper-based test. The readability analysis is carried out using written test. This analysis is conducted to sixth semester of English Department IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin

D. Reason for Adopting the Title

Some reasons that have made the writer interested in this are:

1. English is undeniably a very important language to learn today. It has become the main communication device in many fields of science and technology; furthermore it is now widely used by many people in the world.
2. English Department of IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin applies TOEFL to be one of the graduation requirements
3. All topics of structure are just theory. Logically, it can be mastered by learning and remembering them.

E. Purpose of Study

Based on the problems that have been stated above, the purposes of this study are:

1. To know the sixth semester students' mastery in structure section of TOEFL at the English Department of IAIN Antasari Academic Year 2013/2014
2. To know the most common problem faced by the sixth semester students toward structure section of TOEFL at the English Department of IAIN Antasari Academic Year 2013/2014

F. Significance of Study

The result of this research is expected to:

1. Enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in this specific research
2. Be useful as additional information for teachers, especially to overcome the problems toward structure section of TOEFL
3. Contribute and inform the research findings particularly to the sixth semester students of English Department of IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin in effort to maximize their mastery toward structure section of TOEFL
4. Be a collection and substance of exchequer literature in the field of education, especially in IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin

G. Definition of Key Terms

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

1. Mastery : Great skilfulness and knowledge of some subject or activity.
(Word net web, 2010) Quality of being able to do something or natural or acquired skill or talent (William, 1984).

2. Structure : Structure is a means of analyzing written and spoken language. It is concerned with how elements of a sentence such as morphemes, phonemes, phrases, clauses and parts of speech are put together (wisegeek, 2003)
3. TOEFL : TOEFL is formally known as "Test of English as a Foreign Language". TOEFL-Alike is a test that measures the ability of non-native English speakers to use and understand the English language as it's read, written, heard and spoken (Wikipedia, 2004)