

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Grammar is the most essential part in learning a language. Grammar is a set of rules that explores the forms and structures of sentences that can be used in a language (Gleason and Ratner, 2009: 231–269). A set of rules in grammar are ways of making correct sentences based on the rules set in the language. It is also in line with Parrot (2010:58) that “Grammar is a body of explication code in the system of language.” It is the basic knowledge and has important role in learning English because it uses of the rules how words change the forms and combine with the other words to make a good sentence by some codes.

There are two important concepts related to grammar they are morphology and syntax. Morphology studies about the formation of words, their structure and relationships between them, and syntax studies about the structure of sentences, relations between sentence units, the internal structure of phrases and relations between them that gives meaning to sentences (Saxton, 2010: 51–66). Therefore the understanding of grammar must be understood correctly because the grammar components in each sentence are related to each other.

There are many components of grammar such as tenses, modals, prepositions, conjunctions, nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs. Degree of comparison belongs to the adjectives and adverbs. Degrees of comparison are used when we compare one person or one thing with another by using adjective and adverb (Rozakies Laurie, 2003: 49-52) where the use of degree of comparison is often used in students’ daily language.

Based on writer's experience when teaching practice in SMP Nusantara Lubuk Pakam that the students have some problems in using degrees of comparison. Firstly, students use the same pattern of comparison in their sentences. Such as students use comparative in superlative sentences or use superlative in comparative sentences. For example **Renata is older student in her class** (Superlative degree). In this case, the adjective "**older**" in the sentence **Renata is older student in her class** should be "*Renata is the oldest student in her class*"

Secondly, the students are confuse how to differ pattern when the adjective is one or more syllables. For example **Rose is beautifuller than Jasmine** (three syllables). In this case, the adjective "**beautifuller**" in the sentence **Rose is beautifuller than Jasmine** should be "*Rose is more beautiful than Jasmine*".

thirdly, the students still confuse that the adjective has irregular change in comparative and superlative degree. For example, **Evrin's score is gooder than Finny** (Comparative degree). In this case, the adjective "**gooder**" in the sentence **Evrin's score is gooder than Finny** should be "*Evrin's score is better than Finny*".

From those examples, we know that the students have no competence in using degree of comparison. They did not understand the pattern and the correct position of the degree of comparison. If the students do not understand the pattern of each degrees of comparison, the use of degrees of comparison could cause errors.

Error is those features of learner's utterances that are different from those of any native speaker and the learners do not recognize this error, so they cannot correct the error by themselves (Corder, 1973:260). Error also is the use of linguistic items (example: word, grammatical, speech act, etc) in a way which a fluent or native speaker of the language regards as showing faulty or incomplete learning. students often make errors because of a misleading explanation from the teacher, faulty presentation of a structure or word in a textbook, or even because of a pattern that was rote memorized in a drill but improperly contextualized and also caused error from language transfer (first language interference) that is the errors produced by the students caused by borrowing the pattern from mother tongue.

In order to analyze learner language in appropriate perspective, it is crucial to make a distinction between mistake and error. Corder (1973:85) says that the learners who do not understand language system cause error. Mistake causes the learner cannot use expression word to correct the grammar. In mistake, the learners have known language system that used, but because certain case the learners forgot the language system.

Based on the explanation above, the writer interest to analyze the problems. The writer's purpose at this study is to identify the errors made by students in using degrees of comparison. Because the writer wants to know, what are the students' errors in using degree of comparison at grade VIII students of SMP Nusantara Lubuk Pakam. The writer also would like to try to solve the problems by giving some suggestions

B. The Problems of the Study

Based on the background of this research, the writer formulates the problem as follows:

1. What types of grammatical errors are made by grade VIII students of SMP Nusantara Lubuk Pakam in using degrees of comparison?
2. What are the sources of grammatical errors made by grade VIII students of SMP Nusantara in using degrees of comparison?

C. The Objectives of the Study

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

1. To find out the types of grammatical errors made by grade VIII students of SMP Nusantara Lubuk Pakam in using degrees of comparison.
2. To describe the sources of grammatical errors made by grade VIII students of SMP Nusantara Lubuk Pakam in using degrees of comparison.

D. The Scope of the Study

The study is limited to the errors analysis. In this study the writer limits his research to analyze the errors of using comparison in comparative and superlative degree. The study focused on the identification and classification the types of grammatical errors, to find out the types of grammatical errors that students

commit, and to find out the causes of grammatical errors made by grade VIII students of SMP Nusantara Lubuk Pakam in using degrees of comparison.

E. The Significance of the Study

The findings of this research will give some contribution to the language teaching and learning.

a. For students

This research may help the students in SMP Nusantara about some common errors made by students in using degrees of comparison.

b. For teachers

The writer hopes this research can be useful for the teacher especially for english teacher to give more information about degrees of comparison , It is expected to be useful for the teacher as basic of judgment and thinking to increase the achievement of the students.

c. For the readers

The writer hopes this research can be useful for the readers so that the readers do not re-make the mistakes that have been discussed in this study.

d. For the further researchers

The writer hopes this research can be useful for other researchers as a reference in doing further linguistic research which relates to degrees of comparison.