

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, this research discusses some important points related to research background, research question, research objective, scope of the research, research benefit, and definition of term.

1.1 Research Background

Language is the important tool of communication in the world, especially English which has grown and become global language. In some countries, English language becomes a foreign language that should be learnt and mastered by the students. English language has been taught in high level and become compulsory subject. English language has four skills; those are listening, writing, reading, and speaking which are interconnected each other. Listening and reading are receptive skill while speaking and writing are productive skills. Writing is considered as complicated skill. As complicated skill, writing needs not only a lot of vocabulary but correct grammar. According to Javed, et.al. (2003, as cited in Rifqi, 2016) , writing is considered as the most difficult skill. Voon Foo (2007 cited in Ghabool, Edwina, & Kashef, 2012)stated that writing is such an important learning tool since it helps students understand the ideas and concept better. Hence, writing an essay takes much time and concentrated practice to express an idea and thought in written form.

To produce a good writing, a writer needs to know the process of writing. Process of writing is the activity that includes exploring and organizing ideas (Brown, 2017 as cited in Rifqi, 2016). The process of writing not only needs a good and an accurate language but also the effective organizing of information. Writing has complex process such as finding topic and main idea. By writing, someone can express their idea, thought, and feeling. Whereas, Chin (2000, as cited in Kaur et al., 2017) emphasized that writing is considered as a complex and challenging activity for students, and for the teachers, they must focus on

grammatical concepts for communication of meaning. It means that the concept of grammar is really needed and necessary in writing, moreover in writing an essay.

The important aspect in writing is grammar, since a written text without correct grammar would be found an error or mistake. Error is often considered as students' mistake at learning language because the comprehension of the grammatical rule related to the students' ability. Mourtaga (2004, in Abushihab, 2014) affirmed that error and mistake are different understanding; an error cannot be self-corrected and it is caused by the learners while a mistake can be self-corrected. As noted by Al-Khasawenh (2010, in Imane, 2016) that the main causes of students' weaknesses in learning English are teaching method and environment. Besides, it is also caused by the lack of students' motivation or interest in learning English.

Grammar and writing are important to connect the meaning of idea already written. Grammar is a set or rule of writing, it means that grammar must be learnt and understood by the students. Harmer (2001: 12, in Puspitasari, 2013) emphasized that grammar is the set of rules of language that explained on how the form of words can be changed and united into sentences in a language. Moreover, in writing an essay the students must be looking at the correct grammar. The students with a problem in writing may have difficulties in one or more aspects of writing such as the proper of grammar because it organizes the language then the meaning of the sentence would be clear and understood. Language without grammar would be disorganized and causes some communicative problem like grammatical error.

There are common errors in student writing, such as apostrophe, coma splice, run-on sentence, misplaced modifier, clauses and sentence fragment. Sentence fragment is one of common errors that complicated for the students. Fine (2010, cited in Bashir et al., 2016) claimed that sentence fragments is a group of word that cannot stand as a sentence even added by capital letter and end up with punctuation. Moreover, incompetence students in the English language leads to limitation in students' understanding grammar.

The students who take English Department at a university level must have a good understanding in writing essay, since in essay writing they have past Basic English grammar. In fact, they still make an error in their writing on essay that is sentence fragment. Sentence fragment is really important and crucial to analyzed since it is deal with clause and phrase. Both clause and phrase are really important in a sentence. In every English sentence must have main or independent clause. As mentioned by Jean (2002,in Bashir et al., 2016) that a fragment is incomplete sentence, phrase or dependent clause that belong to preceding sentence.

Based on preliminary analysis it is still found fragment in the students' writing essay. Preliminary analysis aims to know the types of error made by the students. Afterward, analysing some students' essay and it is aimed to found an error called by sentence fragment. Interview with some students was conducted to determine whether they comprehend or not about sentence fragment, the students stated that they ever heard about sentence fragment and they know the definition of fragment yet they do not know in detail what fragment is. Thus, this research is conducted to analyse the sentence fragment found in students' writing on essay.

1.2 Research Question

There are many problems that can be analyzed related to grammatical error made by the students in writing task. This study focuses on analyzing sentence fragment made by the students in writing essay. According to the research background the discussion will be focused on the problem as follows:

1. What types of sentence fragment made by the students in the writing task?
2. Why do the students make the error on sentence fragment?

1.3 Research Objective

The objectives of this research, as follows:

1. To identify the types of fragment found in the students writing task
2. To investigate the reason why the students make the error on sentence fragment.

1.4 Scope of the Research

This research is focus on analyzing the most grammatical error made by the students' writing form. There are many grammatical error which is often made by the students. For the limitation of the study, this research only focuses on sentence fragments that could be figured out.

1.5 Research Benefit

This research provides several purposes:

a. Theoretically

Hopefully, the finding of this study could contribute in giving clear description about sentence fragment

b. Practically benefits

1. The English Students

This research is expected to help the students to be aware of making grammatical error. Therefore, the students can make a correct grammar in their writing task.

2. The lecturer

This research hopefully can help the lecturer to know about grammatical error already made by the students. Hence the lecturer can help the students or encourage them to pay more attention on their work.

3. For the other researcher

The result of this research hopefully can give some information for other research about the problem that the students face, besides, this research is expected can be the one of sources of information or reference for the next research. Therefore, the other researchers will try to figure out another solution for the same problems.

1.6 Definition of Term

To make this research easy to be understood and to avoid misunderstanding, some definition of terms is provided, as follows:

1. Writing

Writing skill is one of productive skills that is considered as difficult skill in English learning. According to Chin (2000, as cited in Kaur et al., 2017), writing is considered as a complex and challenging activity for students and for the teachers must be focus on grammatical concepts essential for communication of meaning. For Kate and Guy (2003:148, in Imane, 2016), writing is a process of exploring ones' thoughts and learning from the act of writing itself.

2. Grammatical Error

Purpura stated that grammar should be viewed in the widest sense to know all about the language (2004, in Sönmez & Griffiths, 2015). Grammar consider how words are formed (morphology) and started at the sub-word level. Grammar is a set of the rule of writing. It is consists of morphology, syntax, phonology, semantic, and parts of speech (Hsu, 2013, as cited in Rifqi, 2016). Grammar is considered as the most essential of language learning, and it is really crucial (Kaur et al., 2017).

3. Error and Mistake

Error and mistake are different understanding, an error cannot be self-corrected and it is caused by the learners while a mistake can be self-corrected (Mourtaga, 2004, in Abushihab, 2014). Thornbury (2006, cited by Imane, 2016), considered error is an instance of the language that does not conform to accept norms of usage, and contributes to incomplete learning.

4. Sentence Fragment

According to Jean (2002, in Bashir et al., 2016), fragment is incomplete sentence, phrase or dependent clause that belong to preceding sentence. Fine (2010, in Bashir et al., 2016), sentence fragments is a group of word that cannot stand as a sentence even added by capital letter and end up with punctuation.

The explanation show that writing classified as difficult skill in English learning. In English learning, the students need to master the role of writing or grammar because error and mistake are also often done in writing. Not only tenses, phrases, clause, but also fragment. Therefore, grammar is really needed in writing skill.

Sentence fragment becomes the focus in this research due to the students don't exactly understand what fragment is. Depending on their work is found some error called by sentence fragment. As mentioned, sentence fragment is incomplete sentence, phrase or dependent clause that belong to preceding sentence Jean (2002, in Bashir et al., 2016). In some cases, the students did not pay more attention in using phrase and clause.