

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, it will be introduced about background of the study, problems of the study, objective of the study, significances of the study, working theory, scope and limitation of the study, definition of key terms, and framework of the study.

A. Background of the Study

English language is an international language used all over the world as a means of communication. It plays an important role for the people all over the world for political and commercial purposes and even tourism matters. Therefore, it is a compulsory subject at school, from elementary school until university. Mastering good English is very important in communication and the important thing in learning English is grammar. Grammar is the study of words and their functions; one of its aspects in learning is Preposition¹.

A preposition links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. The word or phrase that the preposition introduces is called the object of the preposition. A preposition usually indicates the temporal, spatial or logical relationship of its object to the rest of the sentence as in the following examples:

(1) The book is **on** the table.

(2) The book is **beneath** the table.

¹J. B. Heaton, *Writing English Language Test*, England: Longman, 1974, p. 3-4

(3) The book is leaning **against** the table.

(4) The book is **beside** the table.

(5) She held the book **over** the table.

(6) She read the book **during** class².

Based on some examples above, the usage of the prepositions is not easy for the students. Sometimes some of the students said that **the book is up the table*. It should be the right sentence is *the book is on the table*. From the students' problem, it could be meant that preposition is one of function words in English. It had introduced from junior high school until University. One way to introduced and learned the prepositional phrase is by asking students to make a writing paper. There are many subjects to increase their students writing abilityat STAIN Palangka Raya. The subjects are structure, vocabulary, writing, and scientific writing. In Writing, the students learn how to make the right sentences and at the end of this subject they had to write a research design as their final assessment. The requirement is the students should pass structure I-IV and writing I-IV. After passing them all, the students may continue their writing in doing research design. Therefore, it is expected that they will be able to apply appropriate use of correct sentences or grammar among others the correct used of verb, article, and also preposition.

Some programs had been done to handle the students' problems in applying preposition. It cannot deny the fact that many of students still make certain

²<http://bahasainggrisonlines.blogspot.com/2013/04/pengertian-dan-contoh-prepositions.html>

grammatical errors in prepositions. Based on the explanation above, it is necessary for students to know more and to master everything about preposition, so that they are not making errors in their writing.

Finally, this research tries to know the errors made by the students in using prepositions and also to give contribution the concept of making true sentence in using the prepositions. It is meant that prepositions determine the meaning a sentence. Seeing of this phenomenon, it is interesting in conducting the research of the problem of using prepositions *in*, *on*, and *at* encountered by the tenth grade students of SMAN 1 Timpah.

B. Problems of the Study

The problem of the study is what are the students' problems in using prepositions *in*, *on*, and *at* faced by 10th grade students of SMAN 1 Timpah.

C. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to find out the students' problems in using preposition *in*, *on*, and *at* in taking of English lesson at their school.

D. Significance of the Study

Implication :

- The research finding may be able to give contribution to the concept of making true sentences especially in using the preposition *in*, *on*, *at*.

Application :

- For the students, regarding of this research, it will be able to give the useful suggestion for English teacher at SMAN 1 Timpah in order to minimize the students problems in using prepositions.

E. Working Theory

In the most general terms, a preposition expressed a relation between two entities, one being that represented by the preposition complement. Of the various types of relational meaning, those of place and time are the most prominent to identify³. Prepositions are words normally placed before nouns or pronouns and can also be followed by verbs but, except after, the verb must be in the gerund form⁴.

A preposition is a words that links a noun or a noun equivalent (e.g. a pronoun or a gerund) to another word by expressing such relationships as location, direction, time, or purpose (Longman,).

Preposition are always followed by nouns (or pronouns). They are connective words that show the relationship between the nouns following them and one of the basic sentence elements: subject, verb, object, or complement. They usually indicate relationship such as position, place, direction, time manner, agent, possession, and condition, between their objects and other parts of the sentence. Prepositional phrases usually provide information asked for by the question words who, what, where,

³Stockwell, R. 1977. Foundations of Syntactic Theory. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

⁴<http://ielanguages.com/english.html>

when, why, how, and how long. The noun or pronoun following the preposition is its object.

A pronoun used in this position is always an object pronoun: me, you, him, her, it, us, and them. The preposition plus its object is called the preposition phrase⁵.

F. Scope and Limitation

A preposition links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. The word or phrase that the preposition introduces is called the object of the preposition. A preposition usually indicates the temporal, spatial or logical relationship of its object to the rest of the sentence. In each of the preceding sentences, a preposition locates the noun "book" in space or in time.

Based on identification above, the formulation of this research is: "The problems of using preposition *in*, *on*, and *at* faced by 10th grade students of SMAN 1 Timpah.

⁵<http://www.towson.edu/ows/ModuleCASE.htm>