

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is system of sounds and words used by humans to express their thoughts and feeling.¹ It has roles. The roles are as communication tool, carrying and object of study. There are many languages such as English, Indonesian, Arabic, Chinese etc. Based on quotation, it means language is a highly organized system in which each unit plays an important part that related to other parts. In every school has language subject. It means that In Indonesia also has language subject.

One of language subject is English. It is one of the subject that is taught and it will be examined in the final examination. Based on quotation, it means English can not be ignored in the school. In English there are four skills, they are listening, reading, speaking, and writing. To understand those skills, we have to master the language elements. One of them is grammar. Douglas Brown states “Grammar is the system rules of governing the conventional arrangement and relationship of words in a sentence.”²

¹ A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, p. 662

² H. Douglas Brown, *Teaching By Principle An Interactive Approach To Language Pedagogy*, California: Longman, 2000, p.362

Grammar has different rules in every language that requires students to mastery it. Grammar is very essential. It is supported by Department of National Education states that “Grammar is very important aspect in the language learning process and support in every language skills. The language skills deal with listening, reading, speaking, and writing.”³

English is considered as the first international foreign language which is formally taught from elementary school, junior high school up to university level. In learning grammar, students’ language acquisition is influenced by their first language. Muriel Saville and Troike states that “First language is language which is acquired during early childhood, normally beginning before the age of about three years, and that they are learned as part of growing up among people who speak them.”⁴ Furthermore, they states; Second language acquisition (SLA) refers both to the study of individuals and group who are learning a language subsequent to learning their first one as young children.⁵

In learning language, the first language has positive transfer and negative transfer or interference. The transfer is called positive when the same structure is appropriate in both languages. The transfer is called negative when the first language structure is used inappropriately in the second language.

³ Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, *Pengembangan Silabus Dan Sistem Penilaian Berdasarkan Kurikulum Berbasis Kompetensi*, Jakarta: Depdiknas, 2003, p.3

⁴ Muriel Saville and Troke, *Introducing Second Language Acquisition*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006, p.4

⁵ *Ibid.*, p.2

Students of Islamic junior high school is introduced about text based on syllabus. One of the text is descriptive text. Descriptive text is a text which describes a particular person, place or thing.⁶ Seventh grade students of Islamic junior high school also has learnt articles based on syllabus. Article contains indefinite and definite articles. Indefinite article is an implicit word that does not clarifies noun, people and specific person.⁷ Definite article is an explicit word that clarifies noun, people and specific person.⁸ In English, the articles make a distinction. the distinction explains something whether it is mentioned as implicit or explicit words.

The writer supposed that indefinite and definite articles has been taught for the seventh grade student. As consideration based on all of explanation above, the writer will conduct a researching in the eight grade student entitled: “The Students’ Ability in Using Indefinite and Definite Articles in Descriptive Text By The Eight Grade Students of MTs Miftahul Jannah Palangka Raya”.

There were some reasons why the writer is interested in to conduct the research. First, indefinite and definite articles have been taught in seventh grade by using descriptive text. Second, the writer ever observed teaching learning process where the writer as teacher in teaching practice II, the writer found errors

⁶ Marta Yuliani and Yuniarti Dwi Arini, *Bahasa Inggris Untuk SMP/MTs Kelas VII*, Klaten: PT Intan Pariwara, p. 102

⁷ Hotben D. Lingga and Lim Ali Utomo, *Intisari Tata Bahasa Inggris Kontemporer*, Jakarta: Visipro, 2007, p. 295

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 295

of articles in students' writing in descriptive text that made by students of MTs Miftahul Jannah Palangka Raya.

B. Problem of the Study

The problem of the study based on the background of the study above are as follows:

What are the students' problems in using indefinite and definite articles in descriptive text?

C. Limitation of the Study

In order to come directly to the major of the study, this study belongs to mixed research. Mixed method research is an approach to inquiry that combines or associated both qualitative quantitative forms of research.⁹ It can be quantitative or qualitative depending on whether the focus is on exploring factors such as attendance; can be assigned a definitive value of factors which can not be given such as definitive value, attitude and beliefs. In this study, the writer would like to limit related to the students' problem in using indefinite and definite articles in descriptive text from the eighth grade students of MTs Miftahul Jannah Palangka Raya.

⁹ Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kombinasi (Mixed Methods)*, Bandung: Alfabeta, 2011, p. 404

D. Assumption of the Study

Considering the assumption, the writer drew assumption in relation to the research investigated as follow; the eighth grade students of MTs Miftahul Jannah Palangka Raya have already learnt indefinite and definite articles in descriptive text when they are in the seventh grade and based on the background of the study.

E. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study based on the problem of the study are as follows:

To describe the students' problems in using indefinite and definite articles in descriptive text.

F. Significance of the Study

The study has two significances. The significance of the study has theoretical and practical significances. Theoretically and practically, this study will give further information about the students' problem in using indefinite and definite articles in descriptive text from the eighth students of MTs Miftahul Jannah Palangka Raya. The result of the study may become useful evaluation for student, teacher, and teaching-learning. And it also may become an important contribution for the next research.

G. Operational Definition of Key Terms

There are some operational definition of key terms in this study that should be clarified to avoid a misinterpretation are as follows:

1. Problem

A thing that is difficult to deal with or understand.¹⁰

2. Use

Use is act of using something, the state of being use.¹¹

3. Indefinite Article

Indefinite article is an implicit word that does not clarifies noun, people and specific person.¹² It is part of English grammar that is learnt by the seventh grade student based on syllabus.

4. Definite Article

Definite article is an explicit word that clarifies noun, people and specific person.¹³ It is part of English grammar that is learnt by the seventh grade student based on syllabus.

5. Descriptive Text

Descriptive text is a text which describes a particular person, place or thing.¹⁴

This text consist of distinction between implicit and explicit word

¹⁰A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, Opcit., p. 921

¹¹*Ibid.*, p. 1989

¹² Hotben D. Lingga and Lim Ali Utomo, *Intisari Tata Bahasa Inggris Kontemmporer*, Opcit,
p. 295

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 295

¹⁴ Marta Yuliani and Yuniarti Dwi Arini, *Bahasa Inggris Untuk SMP/MTs Kelas VII*, Opcit.,
p. 102