

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Grammar is one of the components in language competence which is needed by someone for communicating and sending their message each other clearly and precisely. Grammar is also used for arranging the words to become good sentences in variety situations. As an essential aspect of language, grammar is taught in many levels of language teaching and learning process. Even though it is not part of the four building skills of the language such as listening, speaking, reading and writing, but grammar is attached in those skills mentioned.

Based on the Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (KTSP) 2006 for SMA, Grammar consists of many parts that should be learned and mastered by the students especially for second grade students. Tense is a part of grammar. According Eastwood (1999) Tense has 16 items which have their own function. In this research, the writer is focusing on Simple Past. Based on the syllabus for teaching English, simple past is one of the materials for second grade students that have to be understood by students as well as they should use simple past precisely to have perfect communication.

While doing the observation the writer found that most of the students of class XI IPS 1 in SMA Negeri 1 Sungai Raya Kepulauan have problem with

their grammar especially simple past tense. They still use to be (was, were) in verbal sentence. It shows that they still confused to differentiate between nominal and verbal sentences. For example; I was studied English last night. They were went to market yesterday. Moreover the students still use past verb for negative and interrogative sentences in simple past. They made many mistakes. It is because of the basic knowledge of grammar that they have fossilized. In fact, when the teacher gave task to make sentences of simple past, they kept using past tense in all sentences including negative and interrogative. These problems make the students not interested in learning simple past. Therefore the writer chose this topic for her theses.

Based on the phenomena described, the writer tries to solve the student's problem. The problem in learning simple past is not only based on the student's ability, but also the media that used in teaching and learning process. That's why, the writer tries to apply folktale in improving students understanding of simple past.

Folktale is a kind of narrative text that is normally related with the past time and language feature of folktale uses simple past tense. Folktale is a media that will be used by the writer to improve student's understanding of simple past. The students will identify the sentences (positive, negative and interrogative) including nonverbal sentences in text. Furthermore, the writer will use a familiar topic of folktales in teaching simple past tense to the students; it will make the students understand about the meaning of story

easier. Then, the students will focus to analyze the sentence form (verbal and nonverbal) directly in the story and enjoy the lesson.

From the explanation of folktales above, the writer expects that the use of folktale will be able to improve students' understanding of simple past tense. Umroh (2011) who has applied this media in senior high school, exactly for second grade students has proven this media in improving students' understanding of simple past had improve. She used pre- test and post- test and also used folktale in fable form in the process of teaching learning. Lubna (2005) who has produced and designed folklore as reading material samples based on contextual teaching and learning also succesfull. Another research was conducted by Haryani (2011) who has used Developing Understanding of the Simple Past Tense by Using Narrative also improve. The investigation proved that the uses of folktales are easy way for students to understanding about simple past. Moreover in learning the formula of simple past. The use of folktale will show directly verbal and nonverbal sentence, it can help the students to determine when they use to be (was, were) and use verb in sentence of simple past.

Based on the explanation above, the writer would like to conduct classroom action research for second grade students IIS 1 of SMA Negeri 1 Sungai Raya Kepulauan to improve students' understanding of simple past. This research is expected will solve students' problems in their grammar especially simple past tense.

B. Research Question

Based on the research background above the writer limits the research question as follow:

“How can the use of folktale improve the students’ understanding of simple past tense at the second grade students IPS 1 of SMA Negeri 1 Sungai Raya Kepulauan in Academic year of 2015/2016?”

C. Research Purpose

Based on the research question above, the purpose of this research is to find out how can the use of folktale improve the students’ understanding of simple past tense at the second grade students IPS 1 of SMA Negeri 1 Sungai Raya Kepulauan in Academic year of 2015/2016.

D. The Benefit of Research

There are two benefits that are expected from this study as follows:

1. Theoretical benefit

- a) This research will enrich the theory of students’ understanding of simple past
- b) This research can be used as reference for those who want to conduct a research where folktale as a media that can used in teaching and learning process especially for simple past.

2. Practical benefit

This research can be used by the researcher, the teacher, the students, and the institution.

a) For the researcher

The researcher will get new knowledge and experience in teaching simple past by using folktale. The researcher can get more information about simple past and the uses of folktale to support teaching and learning process.

b) For the teacher

This research will help the teacher to improve students' understanding of simple past and also this instrument may be applied in other class that has similar problem by the teacher. This media will also make students enjoy in their lesson.

c) For the students

This research will make students' improve their understanding about simple past, because the students' focus on their knowledge.

d) For the institution

This research will enrich material grammar especially simple past in the institution library. This research also becomes a research material about teaching simple past by using folktale

E. Action Hypothesis

Hypothesis is prediction the writer makes about the expected relationship among variable (Creswell 2009:132). Action hypothesis is chosen in this research. Action hypothesis in this research is intended to predict the impact of the action variable that is given to the problem variable. The action hypothesis in this research is as follow: "The uses of folktale can improve

students' understanding of simple past at the second grade IPS 1 of SMA Negeri 1 Sungai Raya Kepulauan in academic year of 2015/2016.”

F. Scope of Research variable

1. Research variable

Variable refers to a characteristic or attribute of an organization that can be measured or observed and that varies among the people or organization being studied (Creswell, 2009). The variable in this research is single variable. It is students' improvement in simple past by using folktale.

2. Terminology

The writer uses some terms in conducting this research. To avoid miscommunication between the writer and the reader, the writer provides the explanation of those terms. The terms are as follows:

a. Simple past

Simple past tense is a form of tense that is used to express about activities or situations that are began or ended in the past.

b. Folktale

In this research folktale as a media that refers to a traditional narrative, usually anonymous, handed down orally that can be used in teaching and learning process. For example: fables, fairy tales, legends, etc.