CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

English is an international language used to communicate throughout the world including Indonesia. Although English in Indonesia is still a foreign language but almost every level of education has included English in the subjects that must be learned. This proves that English has become a subject matter in the educational environment. English in the context of language has patterns and sentence structures that are different from Indonesian, for example in using patterns and sentence structures can be seen from the time statement used in a sentence, it is known that broadly speaking in English there are three main time statements in making a sentence, including: present tense, past tense and future tense.

According to Lyons see Runtuwene (2013) one of the most difficult aspect to learn in English is grammar. Lyons explained that grammar is the form of words of the language itself and the way they are combined in phrases, clauses, and sentences or it can be said that grammar provides rules on how to combine words into sentences. In learning English, many students make mistakes when writing sentences using the past tense. These errors are caused by many things, they do not know the pattern of the simple past tense, and cannot distinguish between the first verb form and the second verb form.

According to Retnani (2023) errors are systematic deviations that occur when a student continuously makes mistakes because they do not understand something.

This suggests that the term "systematic deviation" is an important component of this definition and can be understood as deviations that occur regularly. Errors are considered to be systematic and rule-governed occurrences that result from the learner's lack of understanding of the rules of the target language.

There are several causes of student's errors in the use of the simple past tense including: students do not understand the pattern of simple past tense, and native language interference so that students often translate from their native language to target language causing difficulties where there are no synonyms between the two languages. In addition, the cause of errors in the use of simple past tense is the lack of training in writing simple past tense sentences, even if students already know the rules or formulas of simple past tense but must do a lot of training in writing sentences so that students understand better in using simple past tense.

In sentence writing training, students must understand the various tenses in English, because tenses tell us when an activity occurs. Using the wrong tenses can be confusing. Don't feel difficult, because at first, learning grammar and tenses is difficult, but by knowing all the tenses, their uses and formulations plus continuing to practice using sentences with the tenses. Mastery of tenses in English is quite important, especially in establishing daily communication, both orally and in writing. In the context of oral communication, using the right tenses can help us to understand and communicate with others effectively. In written communication, good mastery of tenses can make our writing clearer and easier to understand by readers.

Azar in Irawan (2018) explains that simple past tense is an event that occurred

in the past, as for the time information in the time signal past tense including: *yesterday, last night, two days go, In 1990*. In addition, the past tense sentences are formed using verb form two (Verb 2), for example *"I went to the market yesterday"*. According to Tanjung (2014) simple past tense is an action or activity performed by the subject in the past. The characteristics of the simple past tense are past verbs (verb 2) and past tense phrases that follow them.

Researchers raised the research title about student errors in the use of simple past tense because this is the basis or the beginning of English education students, especially the second semester in understanding grammar. Moreover, the use of simple past tense is quite common to use in daily life as students mostly use simple past tense to talk about past activities. Therefore, it is necessany to identify common errors in the use of simple past tense.

From the explanation of the background above, the problems that have been presented so that the researcher wants to examine the errors of second semester students of English Education Study Program in the use of simple past tense at Khairun University.

B. Scope of the Research

This research focuses on errors made by students in the simple past tense.

C. Statement of the Research

Based on the background of the problem, the following problems can be formulated:

1. What are the types of errors that arise in the use of past tense sentences for university students?

2. What are the causes of students' errors in using past tense sentences?

D. Objective of the research

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

1. To find out the types of errors that arise in the use of past tense sentences for students.

2. To find out the causes of errors in the use of past tense sentences for students.

E. Significance of the research

This research has basic use value benefits that are described practically and theoretically.

1. Theoretical Significance

    To develop knowledge and science in the field of language, so that it will be useful for the English language education study program in the form of information and references in improving the quality of language, especially in developing insights and materials in the field of English.

2. Practical Significance

    a. For the Lecture

        The research is expected to be a reference for English teachers or lecture to provide a problem solving in dealing with cases of

student errors in the use of simple past tense. This research is expected to be able to provide a different nuance in the world of knowledge for English education students of the teacher training faculty so that it can be used as a study material to obtain more comprehensive knowledge.

b. For the Students

To improve and to overcome student problems in writing especially writing recount text, because by their error in writing they will know their ability and improve their self-improvement to make themselves better in writing.

c. For the researchers

This research can provide important information for students who errors made in using the simple past tense. Other researchers may use the result of this research as a reference for their further research.