

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Stiawan (2006, p.1) states that English is the most widely spoken international language in the world, it means that English is also a means for interacting or communicating, in the sense of a means for conveying thoughts, ideas, concepts or feelings. According to Keraf (1997, p.3-5), there are three reasons of learning English. First, English is always in the movies, music, and books that circulates internationally. Second, English makes us easy to communicate with others especially people from abroad. Third, English is as a research/scientific language. Furthermore, Keraf, (1997 p.6) states that the important reason why we should learn English is because English is a research language that in fact becomes the world's largest academic association.

As a research language, English is very often used by researchers in writing some articles and books from the results of research they have done. In Indonesia, English is still the main language used to write the research, so that the research can be globalized and understood by other reference searchers around the world. The same as researchers or lecturers, every student of English Department writes research paper by using English. Therefore, we need to have a good skill in writing.

According to Ellinger (2011), most research papers contain similar parts. This is a list of the parts commonly found in research paper; they are title, abstract, introduction, literature review, methods, results, discussion/conclusion, and references/bibliography. Eliana (2009, p.240) states that the research paper introduction leads the readers from a general research issue or problem to your specific area of research and sometimes followed by a hypothesis or a set of questions you attempt to answer in your research. Therefore, writing introduction needs to pay attention to its grammar.

Grammar is really important because good grammar will help us much in learning English. Swan (2005, P.19) states that the rules of grammar are to show how words are combined, arranged or changed to show certain kinds of meaning. Grammar helps us to create good communication either in speaking or writing, so people understand what we inform. Students should know better about grammar, especially tenses in writing research paper.

There are many elements in grammar that can be learned by the students, one of them is tense. According to Dickey (2011), tense indicates the time when an action or event occurs, or when a state or process holds. One of the categorizations of tenses is present. According to Declerck (2006, p.173), Simple Present Tense is a change of verb form used to describe events and activities that occur today. Simple Present Tense is also used to express a fact or general truth, or something that happens over and over again in the present.

Evans (2011) states that tenses are not paid attention by some non-English language students. They just focus on vocabulary or depend on online translation. For example, some students of English Department at state polytechnic of Sriwijaya also make mistakes in using tenses in their introduction chapter as in this sentence “The writer hopes that is final report can give some benefits” Another incorrect tense is the sentence “This research help student to fulfill the requirement to finish Diploma III in majoring of English Department” In this case, the sentence should be in simple present tense with correct “verb₁/infinitive+s/es” depends on singular subject.

From the explanation above, the writer concludes that mistakes in using Simple Present Tense still happen and may be more mistakes can be found in other final reports. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing whether the students concern the use of tenses or not in their final reports. The title of this research is “**The Use of Simple Present Tense in the Introduction Chapter of the Students’ Final Reports**”. Hopefully, it can help the students more concern about tenses in academic writing.

1.2 Problem Formulation

The problem of this final report is “Is the simple present tense in the introduction chapter of the students’ final reports used correctly?”

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this research is to know the correct and incorrect sentences of simple present tense in the introduction chapter of the students’ final reports.

1.4 Benefit

The result of the study is expected to give information about the students' ability in using tenses especially simple present tense in writing the introduction chapter of final reports.