

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background

Writing is a way to communicate to each other besides speaking. Therefore, the language must be clear and eligible. It requires practice to make a good writing. It needs a complex process in producing a piece of writing. Students not only have ideas to write, but they also have to be able to produce language in the form of writing that is understood by the readers.

According to Rahmawati (2012), writing requires some aspects such as the thinking process and good mastery of grammar. Since grammar takes part in every sentence made in English, writing does not only concern with expressing ideas but also involving the use of grammar to make the reader understand. This is related to the language production as it is stated before.

Some genres of writing include descriptive, narrative, and recount. Narrative writing is one of the writing genre in which the writer tells a story which is usually not real. The purpose of a narrative text is mainly to entertain the readers. Moreover, narrative text also provides readers with a moral value in it, whether explicitly or implicitly. Herlinawati (2011) stated that a narrative consist of a set of event recounted in a process of narration in which the events are arranged in particular sequence. In other words narrative is related with recounting a story in a process to narrate a story. Because of its purpose in telling a story, a distinguish language features from narrative writing is the use of past tense as the narrative tense.

The Simple Past tense is one of the tenses that have been taught to students in Indonesia since elementary school. However, because the Indonesian language does not have tenses system like in English language, it is not easy for Indonesian students to use the simple past tense appropriately. Even among college students who should have had better understanding and mastery in the use of simple past tense, errors can happen.

Each year, ED-R2 (English Department Reading Writing) Laboratory holds a Writing Competition focuses on Narrative Writing for students taking Writing 1. The researcher then take this opportunity to make a research about the errors students made in their narrative writing on the use of past tense. The reason why the researcher chooses the students work from writing competition is that before the Writing competition was held, all the students had joined the workshop about narrative writing.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the background of the problem, the researcher design the problems as

1. What type of errors do the students make on the use of past tense in their narrative writing based on surface strategy taxonomy?
2. What are the possible sources of errors made by the students in their narrative writing?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

In line with the statement of the problem, this study is conducted to find out the type of errors based on surface strategy taxonomy made by second semester students

in their narrative writing in the form the percentage, and the possible sources of errors made by second semester students in their narrative writing in the form the percentage.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

1.4.1. The Nature of Language Learner

According to Brown (1987) Human learning is a process that involves the making mistakes. Mistakes, miscalculations, misjudgment and wrong assumptions are inseparable aspects in learning any skills or acquiring information's. The same process happens when human learns a new language. They make mistakes and errors in order to find out and apply the system they are learning. Trial and errors are common in acquiring second language. Although mistakes and errors have different definition, by knowing this, we can conclude that errors contain important information to understand the second language acquisition.

1.4.2. Surface Strategy Taxonomy

According to Dulay (1984) Surface strategy taxonomy highlights the way surface structures are deviated. It is classified into four types. They are omission, additions (including double markings, regularizations, simple additions), misformation (including into regularization errors, archi forms, alternating forms) and misordering.

1.4.3. Source of Error

According to Brown (1987) the source of errors can be divided into 4 major reasons. They are interlanguage transfer, intralanguage transfer, context of learning and communication strategy.

1.5 Assumption of the Study

This study is based on the following assumption:

1. The students have known the language features of narrative writing
2. The students have learned the form and the use of the simple past tense

1.6 Delimitation

The narrative writings evaluated are taken from the students work who joined narrative writing competition in May 2015 held by ED-R2 Laboratory. The writer only focuses on the students' errors in simple past tense sentences found in the students'. The errors are analyzed based on surface strategy taxonomy.

1.7 The Significance of the Study

The study is expected to give contribution to both sides; in this case is the Writing lecturers of English Department at the Teacher training faculty of WMCU and the students themselves.

1. This research is expected to give information and insight for the lecturers to find out how students use past tense in their narrative writing. Errors found in the students work are expected to give information in which part the lecturers

should emphasize more in the use of past tense, since actually past tense has been taught since the students in the junior high school or even earlier than that.

2. This research is also expected to give information to the students; since it contains the information about what kind of errors they make during narrative writing. Past tense plays important roles for students in both writing and speaking since it is used daily. It is expected to open the students mind and learn more so that their accuracy in grammar especially on the use of past tense will improve

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Narrative Text

Narrative text is one of the writing genres which allow the authors to tell a tale by revisiting a scene out of his or her life. Narrative text can also take in fictional view point (Beutel & Spencer, 2012).

Simple Past Tense

Simple Past tense describes actions or states which is occurred or completed in the past. It is formed by using the simple past form of the verb. (Cook & Suter, 1980).

Error

Error reflect gaps in a learner's knowledge; they occur because the learner does not know what is correct. (Ellis, 1997)

Mistake

Mistakes reflect occasional lapses in performance; they occur because the learner is unable to perform what he or she knows. (Ellis, 1997)

Error Analysis

An Analysis that focuses on learner's errors in order to understand the process of second language acquisition. (Brown, 1984)

1.9 Organization of Thesis

Chapter one in this proposal discusses the background underlying the study, the problem of the study, the aim of the study, the significance of the study, limitation and the scope, definition of the study and the organization of the study. Chapter two contains the review of related literature and also the previous study. Chapter three discusses about the research method used in this study. Chapter four discusses about the finding and the discussion. Chapter five is the conclusion and suggestion for the future research.