

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an introduction of the research. It provides background of the research, research question and hypothesis, objective of the research, limitation of the problems, benefits, definitions of key terms and organization of the research paper.

A. Background of the Research

English has become very popular in the era of globalization since people around the world use it as an international language. As a result, more and more people around the world learn English for various purposes, such as for a job requirements, for business, for communicating with people from different countries, and so on. For the reason, in order to equip people with good communication skills, appropriate English language teaching method become important for those who learn English

In Indonesia, English is taught as a compulsory subject in secondary school including Junior High School and Senior High School even up to College level, because the government considers that mastering English is one way to absorb the sciences and technology in order to create great human resource.

There are four language skills to train, namely: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Besides the four language skills above, they have to master the grammar properly. By learning grammar, student can communicate their message clearly and precisely.

According to Darlymple (1977: 1), “Grammar is a theory of linguistic structure which assumes that language is best described and modelled by parallel structures representing different facets of linguistic organization and information, related to one another by means of functional constraints.”. These statements above show that grammar is as the basic knowledge and important role in understanding the English language. Grammar covers a lot of language elements. One of them is degrees of comparison. It is the modification of an adjective and adverb to denote different levels of quality, quantity or relation. But, although some students have learnt grammar, they still find difficulty to understand the pattern or formula. Some students think that it is a boring subject and when they learn English, they try to avoid grammar; it is such a confusing rules and hard to be understood.

Emery (2017:1) states that “Degrees of comparison as a part of speech, adjectives are words that describe or modify a person, place, or thing (noun) in a sentence. Along with being descriptive, adjectives can also express degrees of modification or comparison, the two degrees of adjective found later in the sentence are known as the comparative and the superlative. We use comparative adjectives for comparing two things, and we use superlative adjectives for comparing three or more things. Realizing the Significance of

grammar as an integral component of language teaching; in this case, the researcher decided to investigate degrees of comparison as one of the important structural components of English language.

The students still have problems in learning and using structures, including degrees of comparison for expressing their ideas through both spoken and written forms. They are still confused about the irregular degrees of comparison because they should memorize them. For example; “bad”, “ worse “ and “ worst“. The students are still confused to chose which one is the positive, comparative and superlative degree. The other example is the positive degree “good”, they change into “gooder” in comparative degree.

To help students solve this problem, the teacher must use methods or techniques that are suitable and interesting to the students and the teacher should create a good classroom atmosphere to avoid boredom. One of ways to arise students’ interest in English teaching learning process especially for grammar lesson is by using instructional media or media.

In the development of the education at the present time, there are many kinds of media that can be used to teach. One of them is realia. In the teaching writing skill, realia is useful because students can see and touch it directly. They don’t need to imagine so they will be easy to express their ideas. Realia is closely related to the natural approach. Learners can directly connect the language to the object mentioned in the material. The use of realia is commonplace in the ESL/EFL classroom and is widely considered to have

great value in fostering an active teaching-learning environment (Smith, 1997: 1)

Based on description above, the researcher consequently would like to carry out a research entitled **“Teaching Degrees of Comparison using Realia as a Teaching Media”**

B. Research Question and Hypothesis

a. Research Question

In this research, the writer tried to formulate the research question as follow:

Is realia media effective for teaching degrees of comparison which consist of positive, comparative and superlative?

b. Hypothesis

The hypothesis in this research:

Ho (null hypothesis):

“Teaching degrees of comparison using Realia as a teaching media is not effective for student”

C. Objective of the Research

Based on the background of the research, the writer intended to find the effectiveness do the students have in learning the form of Degrees of Comparison and the effectiveness of using realia as a teaching media to increase students' understanding on positive, comparative and superlative.

D. Limitation of the Problem

The study is focused on the teaching students' grammar ability, study specifies on the teaching degrees of comparison using realia media, which the limitation is about time, because there only 5 meeting in the one classroom to teach about degrees of comparison. There must a way to increasing students' mastery of grammar about degrees of comparison material specially in memorize regular and irregular degrees of comparison.

E. The Significances of the Study

The writer believes that the realia media will be beneficial in the teaching degrees of comparison. It is proven that can make the students more interesting to know grammar well. So, realia media is one of a good alternative strategy in teaching degrees of comparison.

The study intended to have the following significances:

1. Theoretical

The result of this study is expected to be able of using media in order to improve students' grammar and add the new theory in education.

2. Pedagogical

For teacher, academically, it can help to find out the alternative way of teaching grammar. Besides that, this research will help to produce the relevant and valid knowledge for their class to increase theory teaching.

For the students, it can help students in understanding grammar ability, and can help students in understanding of grammar. Give motivation to the students to be confident to represent their idea, opinion, feeling and many others through writing ability.

3. Practical

For the practical, this study can be implemented in school, it can be a supported way to improve teaching and learning process.

F. Definitions of Key Terms

1. **Teaching**

Teaching is a kind of activity that transferring knowledge or information from the teacher to the students. Teaching is guiding and facilitating learning, enabling the learner to learn, setting the conditions for learning (Brown: 2000: 7)

2. Grammar

Grammar is medium to be a bridge from the text into the right meaning. Grammar is a theory of linguistic structure which assumes that language is best described and modelled by parallel structures representing different facets of linguistic organization and information, related to one another by means of functional constraints (Darlymple: 1977: 1)

3. Degrees of Comparison

Degrees of comparison is a part of grammar that teach us to compare something and the result is about the value. Degrees of comparison as a part of speech, adjectives are words that describe or modify a person, place, or thing (noun) in a sentence. (Emery: 2017:1)

4. Realia

Realia is a real things that we can see and hold in the real condition. Realia is closely related to the natural approach. Learners can directly connect the language to the object mentioned in the material (Smith: 1997:1)

H. Organization of the Research Paper

Chapter 1 : Introduction.

This chapter presented some aspects that underlined the topic of the research. It consisted of the background of the research, research

question, objectives of the research, limitation of problems, benefits, definition of key terms and organization of the research paper.

Chapter 2 : Literature Review

In this chapter, the writer gives the clear description of theoretical framework and previous studies.

Chapter 3 : Research Methodology

It discusses about research design, research method, population and sample, instrument, data collection and data analysis

Chapter 4 : Results and Discussions

This chapter includes result and Discussion.

Chapter 5 : Conclusions and Suggestions

This chapter draws the conclusions and suggestions for students, the teacher and further research and appendices.