

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background Of The Study

Language is the important in human life. People communicate each other using language, which always need company in their life. Language is communicative; it allows us to communicate with other who shares the same language<sup>1</sup>. Victoria Fromkin says that “When you know a language, you can speak and be understood by others who know that language. This means you have the capacity to produce sounds that signify certain meanings and to understand or interpret the sounds produced by other”<sup>2</sup>.

By using language someone could make statements, convey facts and knowledge explain or report something, and keep social relations among the language users. These indicate that by means of language, people can express their ideas, feeling, information etc through communication.

Everyone knows that the English is spoken all the world. It is widely used an international language. Furthermore, in the global era it has a very important role in many kinds of different business such as in trading, communication among people in the international relationship, in peace keeping of the world as well as in education.

In Indonesia, the government has established English to be first foreign language, which constitutes one of the obligatory subjects taught in secondary school. Nowadays, it also becomes one of optional subject taught in kindergartens and elementary school although it is compulsory subject. In Junior and Senior high school, it is compulsory subject. In order to make English successfully and effectively we have to consider some factors such as; quality of teacher, students’ interest and motivation, school building, the teaching method, book and curriculum in teaching and learning.

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<sup>1</sup>Timoty B Jay, *The Psychology of Language*, (New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2003), P.2

<sup>2</sup>Victoria Fromkin, *An Introduce to language*, ( Thomson place USA, 2002) p.4

From the point of view, the students' factors still do not realize how important English is. They think that is just a matter of a foreign language and it will not play important roles in their future lives. From the point of view from the teachers' factor, there is reality that not all of the teachers are qualified enough for the job because some of them not yet know clearly English faculty graduates, then maybe some of them not yet know clearly how the method and technique to teach English especially. So the students cannot understand and get boring if they get material of course in English material. The last in curriculum factors, we know that the curriculum often changes from time to time so it forces not only the teachers but also the students to adjust themselves to the newest curriculum.

There are some reasons why English is important and many people attempt to learn it. Some of them are: for finding job, traveling, interacting one each other, doing business, taking examination, doing research, writing in the foreign language, etc. We know that there are some companies which need the people who have the skill of English language in business. Of course if we want to joint in this company we should master of English well.

In such developing country like Indonesia, English has a vital role in all aspects of life, particularly in science and technology. Furthermore, it can be used for developing relationships in the international forum, for reading English book (especially for students from primary school up to colleges/university), to tighten the relationship among nations in the world, etc<sup>3</sup>.

Actually the students learn English are intended to obtain various knowledge, to comprehend and understand the textbooks learned in English, to gain knowledge and skills, and to be ready enter to the university, as one of the test requirements for students of senior High School (SMA), etc. looking at the above important roles of English, that is why English is very important to understand and to master by every people throughout the world since before.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://mgmp2008.wordpress.com/2008/11/10>

There are four English skills which are mastered by students; listening, reading, writing, and speaking. They have some relationship to each others. Besides those skills, spelling vocabulary, understanding in grammar, pronunciation must be taught to learners in order to the achievement of the four skills above. In speaking practice, listening activities and reading English materials as well as in writing, the students should know first about grammar well. Suppose someone speaks in a strange way nobody will understand what he or she talks about. On the other hand, when somebody writes him or her message in a wrong word order example, he or she will not understand it either. Everyone who wants to communicate in English well has to master the English grammar first. It is because every language in the world has it is own grammatical system.

One of the language focus understanding in grammar. Grammar is considered important, because grammar is a basic knowledge of the language to understand English perfectly. But in fact students have difficulties in learning grammar. Grammar covers tenses, word order, modals, conditional sentence and other structure items.

Conditional sentence is grammar kinds and has rules. It makes the students confused to use the roles correctly. It is one of must difficulty problem in studying English.

“Conditional sentences are sentences discussing factual implications or hypothetical situations and their consequences languages use a variety of conditional constructions and verb forms (such as the conditional mood) to from these kinds of sentences”<sup>4</sup>.

To make students be more interest, enjoy, and understand, the teacher can be use right method of learning that can be use by teacher in teaching process. There are so many methods that can be used as a way to study. Games, for example, also help the teacher to create contexts in which the language is useful and meaningful. The students want to take part and in order to do must understand what others are saying or have written, and they

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<sup>4</sup><http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ConditionalSentence>.

must speak or write in order to express their own point of view or give information<sup>5</sup>.

The other ways that can be used by teacher to teach students are utilize of media. There are so many media that can be used to learning a lesson or as a way to study for example with use a song, card, commix, picture, television, puppet and other. So the writer will use card as a media to teach students on conditional sentence.

Card is one of visual media that can be used to learning any subject. *Card sort* can establish condition that enables the students to acquire knowledge and skill. Due this fact, the writer will conduct to improve students understanding especially in conditional sentence using *card sort* at the second grade of MAN Babakan Lebaksiu Tegal in the academic year of 2010/2011.

## **B. Definition Of Key Term**

This research uses a classroom action research approach. Before discussing this research deeply, however, in order to make it clear, she explain some words definitions that might help the readers to understand the research. There are some terms need to be defined. The terms used in this study are as follow:

1. Using

Using is the action of using something or the state of being used.

2. *Card Sort*

Card is one of visual media that can be used to learning conditional sentence. "Card sort is one of technique that can be use to learning conditional sentence. It is a technique for exploring how people group item, so that you can develop structure that maximizes the probability of user being able to find items"<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup>Betteridge, David, *Games for Language Learning*, (Cambridge University Press, USA, 1983), p.1

<sup>6</sup>[www.infodesign.com.au](http://www.infodesign.com.au)

### 3. Grammar

Grammar is “a description of the rules for forming sentences, including an account of the meaning that these forms convey”<sup>7</sup>.

### 4. Understanding

“Understanding also called intellection a psychology process related to an abstract or physical object, such as a person situation or message whereby one is able to think about it and use concepts to deal and equality with that object”<sup>8</sup>.

### 5. Conditional Sentence

“Conditional sentences are sentences discussing factual implications or hypothetical situations and their consequences languages use a variety of conditional constructions and verb forms (such as the conditional mood) to form these kinds of sentences”<sup>9</sup>.

### 6. Action Research

Action research is one type of applied research. “Conduct action research in order to address a specific problem by using the principles and methodologies of research”<sup>10</sup>.

Kemmis and McTaggart says that defining characteristic of action research are is that is carried out by practitioners (for our purposes, classroom teacher) rather than outside researchers;secondly, that is collaborative; and thirdly, that is aimed at changing things<sup>11</sup>.

“A distinctive feature of action research is that those affected by planned changes have the primary responsibility for deciding on courses of critically informed action which seem likely to lead to improvement, and for evaluating the result of strategies tried out in practice”<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup>Scott Thornburry, *How to Teach Grammar*, (Malaysia: Longman, 2004), 6<sup>th</sup> Ed, p. 13.

<sup>8</sup>[Http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/understanding](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/understanding)

<sup>9</sup><http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ConditionalSentence>.

<sup>10</sup>Jeffery Glanz and Kean, *Action Research: An In Educational leader's guide to school improvement*,(Christoper-Gordon publisher USA, 1998) p.8

<sup>11</sup>David Nunan, *Research Method in Lanuage Learning*, (USA:Cambridge University Press, 1992), p.17

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid*, p.17-18

### **C. Reason For Choosing The Topic**

The reason of the researcher in choosing the topic can formulate as follows:

- a. Grammar is one of the important in study English to communicate with other so can understand.
- b. Teaching grammar using *card sort* can help students to understand the material.
- c. *Card sort* is very interesting techniques that can help students enjoy and be stimulated in understanding.

### **D. Research Question**

The study is aimed to answer the following question

- a. How is the use of *card sort* in teaching conditional sentence at second grade of MAN Babakan Lebaksiu Tegal?
- b. How is the improvement of students' understanding in learning conditional sentence through *card sort* at second grade of MAN Babakan Lebaksiu Tegal?

### **E. Objective Of The Study**

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

- a. To describe the use of *card sort* in teaching conditional sentence at second grade of MAN Babakan Lebaksiu Tegal.
- b. To identify the improvement of students' understanding in learning conditionl sentence through *card sort* at second grade of MAN Babakan Lebaksiu Tegal.

## **F. Pedagogical Significant**

The result of this study is hoped to give the following contributions:

a. Students

After study conditional sentence using card sort, students are hoped to be improve the material and its can help students to can understanding on conditional sentence.

b. English teacher

Show for teacher that good learning strategy and using media and technique can be interest in teaching and learning process.

c. Pedagogy

The result of this study is expected to be beneficial for improving and understanding of teaching grammar.

## **G. Scope Of The Research**

The scope of the study, the writer will only discuss as follow:

- a. This study will be conduct in the second grade students of MAN Babakan Lebaksiu Tegal in the academic year 2010/2011
- b. This study will be talk about improve students' understanding on conditional sentence using card sort as a technique.