

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

“Language is the system of communication in speech and writing used by people of a particular country”.¹ Language is very important to express and to communicate with other. There are many languages which are spoken in the world today such as: Arabic, Mandarin, Indonesian, French, English, etc. All of those languages are influenced many aspects of human life.

People need to learn English because it becomes the first foreign language and has important role in the development of Indonesian. “In Indonesian, English has been taught as the foreign language. According to Ramelan, English has been taught in our country as the first foreign language since the proclamation of Indonesian on 17th of the August 1945”.² English is an international language used as a mean of communication both oral and written in most countries in the world. People use English in order to make international contacts and cooperate among people in different countries in the world. Therefore, it is very important for us to learn English. In addition, we need to learn and to practice the language as much as possible. In Indonesian, English is the first foreign language to be taught in the schools since English is an international and used by most communities in the world.

One of the language elements is grammar. “Grammar of a language is the description of the ways in which words can change their forms and can be combined into sentences in that language”.³ Grammar is considered important, because grammar is a basic knowledge of language to understand English

¹Oxford, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (New York: Oxford University Press 2000), 2nd p.240

² Ramelan, *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*, (Semarang: IKIP Semarang Press, 1992), p.1

³ Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Teaching*, (Malaysia: Longman, 2002), 3rd ed, p.12

perfectly. But in fact, Students have difficulties in learning a grammar. Grammar cover tense, words order, modals, preposition, adjective, and ther structure items.

The grammar aspect becomes one of the essential requirements for people, in this case especially for Indonesian learners, to able to communicate. The language which is produced may become more accurate and meaningful when they communicate in grammatical sentences. Lack of knowledge especially about construction of sentences, for example: the incorrect of verb and tenses is the main deficiency of the students. Most of them find themselves incapable of expressing their thought in English and that is why the learning of grammar becomes the most of difficult subject for them this situation requires a change, especially in students; attitude and the teacher's teaching learning practice in class.

In this world, there were varieties of languages. People who live in different countries, ethnics and cultures have different language. Allah states about the varieties of language in Surah Ar-Rum verse : 22

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَأَلْوَانِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

“And of this signs are the creation of the heaves and the earth, and the diversity of your tongues and colors. In that surely are signs for there who possess knowledge”. (Ar-Rum : 22)⁴

In surah above, Allah shows us the signs of this authority through differences of tongue. Tongue means a language, from different languages in the world there is language which used as an international language. English is an international language which has very important role as the language of science, technology and international communication. It is crucial to be mastered lately since any aims language in the world.

To use in teaching grammar effectively, students need to be equipped with effective strategies to help them improve their grammar skill. Cooperative learning is one of strategy that teacher should use in his or her class. “Cooperative

⁴ Departemen Agama RI, *Alqur'an dan Terjemahnya*, (Jakarta: Bumi Aksara,2002), p. 406

learning is an instructional program in which students work in small groups to discuss one another master academic content”.⁵ In cooperative classrooms, students are expected to help each other, to discuss and argue with each other, to assess each other’s current knowledge and fill in gaps in each other’s understandings. From those statements, the researcher can conclude that cooperative learning has wonderful benefit for students and teachers in teaching learning process.

One of cooperative learning methods that appropriate to teach grammar is Jigsaw Strategy. Jigsaw Strategy is one of the most flexible of cooperative learning methods. “The purpose of implementation of this strategy is to train the students to become familiar discussion and responsible individuals to help hang on a subject matter to classmates”.⁶ Students can share the difficulties with each other. It can be interesting alternative when the teacher finds the material which should be taught in order.

Teacher should be selective in choosing teaching method. In the researcher’s opinion, teaching English using Jigsaw Strategy is one of method in which student’s are given chance to learn English more enjoy full. By using Jigsaw Strategy, it is hoped that it can motivate the students to learn and pay attention to the material. It will create learning English grammar more fun. Due to this fact, the researcher will conduct an action research through Jigsaw Strategy to improve student’s understanding on Simple Present.

B. Reseach Questions

This research is intended to answer the folowing questions:

1. How is the implementation of Jigsaw Strategy to improve Students’ understanding on Simple Present Tense ?
2. How is the improvement of Students’ understanding on Simple Present Tense after being taught using Jigsaw Strategy ?

⁵ Robert E. Slavin, *Cooperative learning: Theory, Research, and Practice*, Centre for Research an Effective Schooling for Disadvantaged Students. (The John Hopkins University 1986), 2nd Ed,p.2

⁶ Ismail SM, *Strategi Pembelajaran Agama Islam Berbasis PAIKEM*,(Semarang: Rasail Media Group,2008),p. 83

C. Objective and Benefit of the Research

The objectives of the research are follow:

1. To describe the implementations of teaching Simple Present Tense by using Jigsaw Strategy.
2. To identify the improvement of students' understanding on Simple Present Tense after being taught using Jigsaw Strategy.

Based on the objectives above, the benefit of the research can be stated as follow:

1. For Researcher

By doing this research, the researcher will get some experiences and knowledge about his research and it will be useful in the future.

2. For Teacher

By doing this research, the researcher hopes that the output of the research will be useful to give contribution of developing English teaching especially in teaching grammar Simple Present Tense. Moreover, the researcher hopes teacher can use Jigsaw Strategy as an alternative method in teaching grammar especially Simple Present Tense. So that, the students will not be bored and will get better achievement.

3. For Students

By using Jigsaw Strategy as an alternative mehod in teaching grammar especially Simple Present Tense, hopefully the students will not bored in learning process, because by using Jigsaw Strategy, the students cooperate with the other students to learn the material. So that the students can improves their understanding and get better achievement.

4. For School

This research can be a starting point to develop the teaching method which applies in the school.

5. For Reader

This research hoped can give more beneficial information and knowledge to the reader.

6. For the Next Researcher

The next research can conduct further research in this field by extending it to other levels, other subject, and to different settings.