

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Allah creates human in the world with various nations, ethnics, and custom. Even so the language, one country and another country have different language. Allah states about the variety of language in verse Ar-Rum verse 22:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ اللِّسَانِ
وَالْوَنُكْمِ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالِمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

And of His signs are the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colors indeed in that are signs for those of knowledge.¹

From surah above, Allah shows us the signs of His authority through difference of tongue. Tongue means a language. There are no people who have the same language in the world. Language has important role in human life because not only to communicate but also to convey the message can express and interpret something.

Language is a social phenomenon. It is a mean of communication between individuals. It also brings them into relationship with their environment. Language is therefore

¹The Qur'an, *Arabic Text with Corresponding English Meanings*, (Riyadh: Al Muntada Al Islami, 1997) , p. 560

socially learned behavior, a skill that is acquired as we grow up.² English is one of the most languages in the world. Many countries in the world use English for their national language. English is very important and has many interrelationships with various aspects of life owned by human being. In Indonesia, English considered as the first foreign language and taught formally from elementary school up to the university level.

English has rules to be taught. This is why students must learn grammar. Grammar is often associated in peoples' minds with one of the following ideas: a dead language such as Latin, learning how to write 'good English', or learning how to speak properly. None of these ideas about grammar is completely wrong, but they do not represent the whole picture.³ From that, we know that grammar must be taught to students because without grammar all of their English are wrong. Grammar here is as rules to master all about English. The success of learners in acquiring their target language is influenced by some factors. One of them is the grammatical mastery. As asserted by Chomsky cited by Steinberg, one of the fundamental language abilities should be possessed by people in order to be able to communicate is the ability to produce and comprehend grammatical sentence.⁴

²Boey, Lim Kiat, *An Introduction to Linguistics for The Language Teacher*,(Singapore: Singapore University Press, 1975), p.3

³Hoogenraad, Robert, et.al, *English Grammar for Today*,(London: The Macmillan Press Lcd, 1982), p.3

⁴ Steinberg, Danny D. et.al, *Psycholinguistic:Language, Mind and World*, (London: Longman, 2001), p.345

The word grammar has been used so far to refer to an aspect of how a language, in this case English, is conventionally used to the structure and system of a particular language.⁵ Based on that statement, grammar is a particular analysis of the system and structure of language or specific language. Grammar is knowledge of form and pattern in English language, also grammar gives an account of the way in which a language was used by those who use it. People should understand grammar for both spoken and written context. In grammar, there are many tenses that students have to master them. Because of that, teachers must have learning methodology which is able to improve students' comprehension in tenses. One of the tenses is Simple Past Tense. Simple Past Tense is use to state an action that happened in certain time in the past, an action that is happening long in the past, an action with interval in the past.⁶ It means that past tense is used to express something in the past.

In other words, writing is a good way for students who learn English. Allah decrees in the holy Qur'an:

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ۖ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿٥٤﴾

Who has taught by the pen, He has taught man that which he knew not. (QS. Al-'Alaq/96:4-5)

⁵Cameron, Lymne, *Teaching Language to Young Learners*, (New York:Cambridge University Press,2001), p.98

⁶Ristiyanto, Sugeng, *English Grammar for Freshmen*, (RaSAIL: Semarang, 2010), p.52-53

From the verse above, we know that God teaches us how to write with the pen (knowledge to all of people so they can note, record, save, and take all knowledge or news). People must know how to write by using pen. The writer concludes that pen is a teaching media for transferring knowledge. From there the writer know that in teaching and learning process is needed a media to ease the transferring of the material.

Professional improvement is needed in improving students' comprehension. Professional will make students to be better. Students will have more time to ask everything about the subjects. Professional improvement needs KASAH, Knowledge, Ability, Skill, Attitude and Habit.⁷ In other hand, there are seven requirements to be professional worker⁸. The worker must have the specialization science with standard theory background. The worker must have ethic code in doing the profession. The worker must have profession organization. The worker must be recognized by society. The worker is just as life calling. The worker must be completed with diagnostic capable. The worker must have clear client. So that, teachers must be creative, not just teaching by doing traditional method. It means that teachers just give and explain the material, but teachers must have more methods to teach. Teachers must have new methods how to make students to be more understand.

⁷Nurdin, Muhammad, *Kiat Menjadi Guru Profesional*, (Jogjakarta: Ar- Ruzz Media, 2008), p. 115

⁸Nurdin, Muhammad, "*Kiat Menjadi.....*", p. 103

The use of audio visual aids make the communication would be more effective.⁹ From there, the writer would use audio or it can be said with song. Song is composed by the art of tones or sounds in sequence, combination, and the temporal relationship (usually accompanied by a musical instrument) to produce a piece of music that has unity and continuity (containing cadence) and a variety of tones or rhythmic sound that is also called the song.¹⁰ Here, the writer would use song as a teaching media, but not only a song that can we download from internet, but also a song that the writer edits by his own words. The writer concludes that if the students get a song that the lyric consists of formula of simple past tense, they will remember and surely they will not be confused when they are asked to change the sentences to be negative or interrogative.

In learning process, there are many media which are able to be used to improve students' comprehension, they are: Games, pictures, and song. Games are organized according to rules, and they are enjoyable.¹¹ Most games require choral responses or group works. Games are generally used after the presentation, in the practice part, because such communicative tasks can only be handled after mastering sufficient grammar and lexical points.

⁹Suleiman, Amir Hamzah, *Media Audia Visual untuk Pengajaran, Penerangan dan Penyuluhan*, (Jakarta: PT. Gramedia, 1981), p. 11

¹⁰<https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagu>(accessed on September 30, 2015 at 08.49)

¹¹ Azhar, Arsyad, *Media Pembelajaran*, (Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 2003), p. 17

Through well planned games, learners can practice and internalize vocabulary, grammar and structures extensively. Play and competition that are provided by games enhance the motivation of the students. They also reduce the stress in the classroom. While playing games, the learners' attention is on the message, not on the language. In a way, students acquire language unconsciously since their whole attention is engaged by the activity. By providing personal, social, and cross cultural issues to define, they sometimes simulate real life situations. So games can be used in teaching grammar especially simple past tense. Pictures are consists of photographs of any object or event, which may be larger or smaller than the object or event it represents.¹² The teacher can use pictures as media in teaching learning process. Pictures in teaching simple past tense come from many sources. It can be from the magazine, newspaper or the students' handmade. Pictures can be used to explain the meaning of the sentences on grammatical structure. Students can understand simple past tense from the picture which drawn. Song is an important media in teaching grammar, especially modal auxiliary. It is important to contextualize any grammar point. Songs are one of the most enchanting and culturally rich resources that can easily be used in teaching simple past tense. They can also be used to teach a variety of language items such

¹² Gerlach and Ely, *Teaching and Media a Systematic Approach*, (New York: Prentice- hall, Inc, 1980), p. 297

as sentence patterns, vocabulary, pronunciation, rhythm, adjectives, and adverbs.¹³ There are various ways of using songs in the classroom. The level of the students, the interests and the age of the learners, the grammar point to be studied, and the song itself have determinant roles on the procedure. Apart from them, it mainly depends on the creativity of the teacher. The researcher chooses English songs, because many students listen to it. While they listening English songs, they can learn and understand about simple past tense formula.

One of them is music. Music can increase students' motivation in studying English. The guitar is a stringed musical instrument played by plucked, generally using fingers or a plectrum.¹⁴ Guitar can be used as a medium of teaching and learning activity. Guitar here is as a medium to get students attention and increase students' motivation, and in the middle of guitar show, there is a song consisting of Simple Past Tense formula. So that when the students are asked to make past tense sentence, they can remember the formula from the song that they have remembered.

According to the English teacher, students are still confused when they are asked to change the sentence from positive to negative and to interrogative although the teacher has used varied methods to improve students' comprehension of past

¹³<http://www.songsforteaching.com>. accessed on 12 December 2015

¹⁴<https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gitar> (accessed on 30 September 30, 2015 at.. 08.49)

tense. For students in the third grade, exactly they have to understand well about Simple Past Tense because it will be some question in National Examination. From there, the writer wants to make an experimental study by using song to improve students' comprehension in Simple Past Tense. Not only sing a song but also the researcher would play guitar to catch students' attention.

Song is composition of voice performed by singing or alongside musical instruments. A coral or vocal song may be accompanied by musical instruments, or it may be unaccompanied, as in the case of a cappella song. The lyrics (words) of songs are typically of poetic, rhyming nature, though they may be religious verses or free prose. Teaching learning process will be interested when song here become a media of teaching, because song has some functions that able to make students understand the material. Some of the functions are:¹⁵

1. As an accompanist cultural ceremonies or rituals: since the first music had been used for ceremonies and rituals, at that time the role of music as an accompaniment service, complaints grief, and banquet food.
2. For entertainment: a function that is certainly one of you already know, music can indeed be sad when our entertainers and face an issue.

¹⁵<http://adhityaricky.blogspot.co.id/2015/03/fungsi-musik.html>
(accessed on 12 November 2015, at. 13.40)

3. As Communication: since ancient time music is used as a means of communication, Mass collecting society by sounding the bugle and gong.
4. As a means of self-expression expression: music also serves as a means to express feelings or the contents of one's heart.
5. The function of education: in this case the music is used to convey the norms or rules that apply in the community.
6. Function conservationist culture: as an example of folk songs cultural function because it contains about culture in an area.
7. The function of social response: This function is often used by musicians such as Iwan Fals to criticize government policies.
8. The function of unifying the nation: for example, the song Indonesia Raya which unite the Indonesian nation

Based on the functions above, song has a function that is able to be a teaching medium. It is for education. So, the researcher wants to use song as a teaching medium to deliver the material about simple past tense. Besides as a teaching media, song also can be an entertainment, so in teaching learning process students will not be bored when material is being delivered.

Based on the background above, the writer will identify the Effectiveness of Using Song to Improve Students' Comprehension in Simple Past at Eighth grade of MTs Miftahul Ulum Weding Bonang Demak in the Academic Year of 2015/2016.

B. Reason for Choosing Topic

There are three reasons for choosing topic:

1. Grammar is the importance equipment in all aspects of English. Writing, reading, listening and speaking, grammar have importance role in there.
2. Most of students want to master English, but they do not think that the importance one is grammar. They still make errors when they have to write, speak, read and also listen.
3. The researcher wants to introduce that song and music can be used as media in teaching simple past tense.

C. Research Question

This research is intended to answer the following question: how effective the use of Song to improve students' comprehension in Simple Past Tense? The effectiveness of song is known from the scores before giving the treatment to experimental class and the scores after giving the treatment to experimental class. So from the general question above, it can be broken down to several operational questions as follows:

1. How is the score of pre-test of experimental class?
2. How is the score of post-test of experimental class?
3. How is the score of pre-test of control class?
4. How is the score of post-test of control class?

D. Objective and Benefits of the Research

In line with the research questions, this research purposed to find out the degree of the effectiveness of Song to Improve Students' Comprehension in Simple Past at Eighth grade of MTs Miftahul Ulum Weding Bonang Demak in the Academic Year of 2015/2016. The effectiveness of song is known from the scores before giving the treatment to experimental class and the scores after giving the treatment to experimental class. It can be showed to several scores:

1. The score of pre-test of experimental class
2. The score of post-test of experimental class
3. The score of pre-test of control class
4. The score of post-test of control class

E. Significance of Research

Based on the objectives of the research, the significances of this research are:

1. Practically
 - a. For the students

To make students enjoy the lesson better in the classroom being taught by using song. They will be more interesting in joining the class.

- b. For the teacher

To motivate the teachers in using new media or method in teaching simple past tense so that students can enjoy the lesson better.

c. For the readers

To give the readers a reference in conducting a research about media of teaching simple past tense and develop their knowledge and get many experiences.

d. For the writer

To motivate the writer in finding new media, not only by using song, but also there are many ways which are able to be used as teaching media.

2. Theoretically

The result of this research can enrich the theories and new ways for teachers in teaching language exactly in teaching grammar and for students in learning grammar.