

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Language is a means of communication. It plays a very important role in social relationship among human beings. Wadhaugh defines language as a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication.<sup>1</sup> Ramelan states that language is used to express idea, thought, and feelings to other people.<sup>2</sup> People in society use language, which is mutually understood to communicate with others.

Language contains two systems namely a system of sounds and a system of meaning. With language we can express our feeling and share with other people around the world. Language has two forms, written and language. Both are used to express our feeling. When it is conveyed in written form, someone who reads the sentence can understand and will respond it. While spoken language is used by someone orally. There are many languages in the world. One of them is English. Quran also says in Q.S Ar Rum: 22



“Signs are the creation of the heavens and earth, and the diversity of your tongues and colours: in that surely are signs for those who possess knowledge”.<sup>3</sup>

Hasbi ash-Shiddieqy said that the meaning of “tongues” is language, such as Arabic, English, Indians, Persians, Indonesians and others.<sup>4</sup> English is

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<sup>1</sup>Ronald Warhaugh, *Introduction to Linguistics*, (University of Michigan: Mc Graw Hill Book Company, 1972), p. 3

<sup>2</sup>Ramelan, *Introduction to Linguistics Analysis*, (Semarang: IKIP Semarang Press, 1992), p. 1

<sup>3</sup>British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data, *The Quran*, (Chichester Sussex: R.J. Achford Ltd, 1981), p. 398

one of the international languages used in countries throughout the world, including Indonesia. As an international language, English is very important because it is required as a bridge of communication. In Indonesia, English has got special attention as means of oral and written communication. Both written and spoken languages have different roles and difficulty level.

English is not only taught in University, Senior High School, Junior High School, but also in Elementary School. There are many components in language, such as vocabulary, spelling, structure or grammar, etc.

Grammar is one of the language components. Grammar is a set of signals which language expresses its meaning or the total of structure of the language. Commonly, all learners in Junior High School felt difficult to study English grammar. They felt difficult to understand the material. Usually, the teacher explains the material with classical ways, such as explaining in front of class, asking and answering questions. It makes students bored and difficult to memorize the material.

In teaching grammar, especially on Present Continuous Tense, the teacher may realize that the world of Junior High School students is full of fun activities, so that the students will relax, enjoy and easy to memorize the material. Game is one of ways which used to realize it.

In this study, the researcher wants to conduct an experiment teaching Present Continuous Tense using games entitled with: *The Use of Mime Game to Improve Students' Understanding on Present Continuous Tense (An Experimental Study at 7th Grade of SMP Islam Walisongo Penawangan Grobogan in the Academic Year of 2009/2010)*.

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<sup>4</sup>Tengku Muhammad Hasbi Ash-Shiddiieqy, *Tafsir al qqqur'an Majid An Nuur 4*, (Semarang: Pustaka Rizki Putra, 1993), p. 3170

## **B. Reason for Choosing the Topic**

The writer chooses the topic based on the following reasons:

1. Present Continuous Tense is one of the important English components that are considered difficult to learn especially for Junior High School.
2. To make the students understood Present Continuous Tense needs good way which is appropriate with the material.
3. Making the structure classes interesting, enjoyable and communicative is not an easy task for some English teachers. If structure is taught interestingly, it will motivate the students to learn better. Game is one of way to make a good atmosphere in classroom.

## **C. Research Question**

The writer limits discussion in following problem:

1. How is the students' achievement of Present Continuous Tense who were taught by using Mime Game at seventh grade of SMP Islam Walisongo Penawangan Grobogan in the academic year of 2009/2010?
2. How is the students' achievement of Present Continuous Tense who were not taught by using Mime Game at seventh grade of SMP Islam Walisongo Penawangan Grobogan in the academic year of 2009/2010?
3. Is the use of Mime Game effective to improve students' understanding on Present Continuous Tense at seventh grade of SMP Islam Walisongo Penawangan Grobogan in the academic year of 2009/2010?

## **D. Objective of the Study**

In this thesis, the objectives of study are:

1. To find out the students' achievement of Present Continuous Tense who were taught by using Mime Game at seventh grade of SMP Islam Walisongo Penawangan Grobogan in the academic year of 2009/2010.
2. To find out the students' achievement of Present Continuous Tense who were not taught by using Mime Game at seventh grade of SMP Islam Walisongo Penawangan Grobogan in the academic year of 2009/2010.

3. To find out the effectiveness of using Mime Game to improve students' understanding on Present Continuous Tense at seventh grade of SMP Islam Walisongo Penawangan Grobogan in the academic year of 2009/2010.

#### **E. Pedagogical Significance**

By doing the study, the writer hopes that the result of the investigation will be useful input for the writer to improve the knowledge about teaching grammar especially on Present Continuous Tense and it will be useful in the future as the prospective teacher in preparing teaching process. For the teacher, it is expected that the result of research can improve their way to teach grammar especially on Present Continuous Tense. For the students, it hopes that the students will enjoy to follow the English class. They will be easy to understand the lesson and memorable. So that, it can improve their understanding on Present Continuous Tense.

#### **F. Limitation of the Study**

In this thesis, the writer will not investigate all classes at SMP Islam Walisongo Penawangan Grobogan in academic year of 2009/2010, but the researcher limits the seventh grade only. The English subject taught for the seventh grade is limited on Present Continuous Tense.