

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

There is an opinion in the education world that students get problem to acquire theoretical English material such as grammar, if it is practiced by lecturing method only. Because this method causes them bored, sleepy, and sometimes feel hard to understand teacher's explanation. It can be caused by the unclearness of teacher's explanation or student's inattentive in listening teacher's explanation, so the student is left of the information from his teacher. In the fact, we often find that teacher who uses lecture method often gets his/her students less show their interest to follow teaching-learning process. Some of them are sometimes blank, sleepy (more over sleep), or talking with their friends, although there are also some students who seriously follow teacher's explanation. We can't deny that students' interest has a strong role in acquiring material of study.¹ Because by having good interest in mastering English, students will have perseverance and they will study hard, so that they are really success in mastering English. We know that Allah said in holly Qur'an;



And they are who strive in Our (cause),- we will certainly guide them to Our paths, for Verily Allah is with them who do right. (Al-'Ankabut : 69)

This matter show, that Islam also teaches us as a Moslem, we should do everything (good activities and true according to Islam) very seriously. Thereby Allah the almighty and most worthy of praise will give guidance to

¹ Shelley Vernon at

http://www.eslhq.com/worksheets/preview_worksheet.php?worksheet_id=106206, accesed on June 12, 2009.

² شيخ الإسلام محي الدين, "رياض الصالحين", سورابايا, دار الكتاب الإسلامي, ص. 63.

them who crass in try, so that their aim that they want can be reached. This is the same as when our student want to learn very seriously, in this case is studying English grammar lesson, of course they will master it. And of course they will try seriously by their selves, if in their heart is found interest to learn the lesson. While interest, itself, although we can not create it, but we as teacher can stimulate so that, it can appear at the students.

According to Abu Ahmadi, one of willingness process is the existence of motive.³ While ideally, the aim of a child learns in the school is to look for science / to know and deepen what are they studying of in the school. But generally, the children at level of Junior High School, which still including in 'playing-age' children, motive to mastering a lesson not fully yet they have. Mostly, person who own the motive are the parents of the student. Beside that, many lesson-subjects given to the student make their interest only focused at one or two subject, not for those entireties. While for the subject of English, from the experience of the researcher's teaching learning process observation in class 8A of SMP Islam Siti Sulaecha, Sriwulan Sayung Demak, had proven that grammar was less enthused by a big amount of students. From confession of some students said that English is too complicated and it is bewildering for them. This matter can be caused by language structure/grammar in English has significance difference compared to Bahasa Indonesia that representing as their first language. One of the matters is about tenses that differentiating verb pursuant to time of the happening of an activity/occurrence. English, -especially tenses in its structure- is equal to the other lesson, is not as difficult as conceived by the students if they have hard willingness to studying it. So, it is better for teacher able to give motivation support to the students to improving their interest to study English. And one of the strategies is transfer their motive to something that makes them enjoys and interested. This is one of the reasons why the researcher chose the title. Researcher wants to try to solve the problem about why it is difficult for teacher to improve students' interest to

³ Abu Ahmadi, *Psikologi Umum*, (Jakarta: PT. Rineka Cipta, 1998), 2nd printed, p.126

acquire English course material in grammar class. While English grammar course itself, shouldn't be difficult for the teacher or students, if it is taught by using the effective way. Even, it can be fun.

Then, how about teaching English using game? Game is one of the media which is effective enough improve enthusiasm/children motivation. Because most of all children, even adult, they take a fancy to the game. It means, researcher considers that game is one of media that is interested for students in all age. Because, there are some points make them interested in the game, such as challenge to win, prize, joys, etc.

.... students are often more motivated to play games than they are to do desk work. Plus, during the game, the students are focused on the activity and end up absorbing the language subconsciously. One can also add that fun learning games usually contain repetition, which allows the language to stick.⁴

So, in this research, researcher tries to implements one of teaching method in grammar class, especially past tense by using game. In this method, researcher acts as teacher enter lesson items in a few games variation. In this research researcher want to prove how far the role of game media usage in teaching grammar class to improving students' interest to study English in grammar at the past tense area. Through this research (Thesis), researcher hopes students not only enjoy the game, but also mastering the lesson that will be given by teacher. This is an action research, so researcher will use more or less three different games in three different cycles.

B. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

1. Researcher chooses grammar as a skill area that will be researched, because researcher looks at the developing case from the last until know, grammar is less enthused by students in many school, especially class 8A students of SMP Islam Siti Sulaecha, Sriwulan Sayung Demak. First reason, there are judgments in generally that sector grammar is more difficult than the other skill area, such as speaking, listening, etc. because

⁴ See at: <http://www.simplyesl.com/articles/97/1/Teaching-Grammar-with-Fun-Learning-Games/Page1.html>, accused on June 12, 2009.

of its structure differ with students' first language. Second, often students prefer the practice things than theoretical, such as grammar.

2. Researcher chooses game as an instrument in this action research, because the researcher predicts that games will be able to improve students' interest to learn English grammar, especially past tense. Besides the reason, game is one of the instruments that is preferred by students in all ages and all levels.
3. Researcher chooses SMP ISS Sriwulan Sayung Demak as the place of the research because a big amount of students in this school were known respectful to lessons given by the teachers, especially English lesson. This matter is caused because their interest to the lessons, especially English was low.
4. Researcher chooses 8A class of the school because past tense is taught in this class.

C. Questions of the Study

Based on the explanation above, the research question will be about;

1. How are games implemented to improve students' interest in grammar class at 8A students of SMP Islam Siti Sulaekha Sriwulan Sayung Demak?
2. How much the improvement of the interest of the 8A students of SMP Islam Siti Sulaekha, Sriwulan Sayung Demak in grammar class after being taught using game?

D. Objectives of the Study

In line with research question, this study has purposes as follows:

1. To describe implementation of teaching English grammar using game to improve students' interest at 8A students of SMP Islam Siti Sulaekha Sriwulan Sayung Demak.
2. To find out the improvement of the interest of 8A students of SMP Islam Siti Sulaekha, Sriwulan Sayung Demak in grammar class after being taught using game.

E. Significances of the Study

The result of this study might be useful for the students and the English teachers, students, also other language researcher.

1. For teaching-learning purpose, this research is expected to help English teachers as reference or designing their course syllabus and determining specific learning outcomes in grammar course.
2. By experiencing a variation of the teaching method using games, students are hoped can take English Grammar course in a good part.
3. The result of study is hoped can be very beneficial for language observer or other field of study, with the goal to develop the effective teaching methods.

F. Scope of the Study

In order to make the study easier and more appropriate, the writer will decide the scope of the study as below:

1. Researcher focuses on the teaching implementation of this action research using game to improve students' interest in grammar class.
2. This research is only use past tense as a sample of grammar, because it is representative enough to describe the grammar difficulties for students, considering of its different basic structures with students' first language.
3. The object of the study is the 8A students of SMP Islam Siti Sulaekha, Sriwulan Sayung Demak. But researcher hopes it's able to representing the students' interest problems in other education institutions.