

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Learning English is not easy for Indonesian learners. One of the obstacles that they generally face is the grammar or the language rules. On the other hand, they have to encounter it because it is one of the compulsory lessons in school from the elementary level to the highest one.

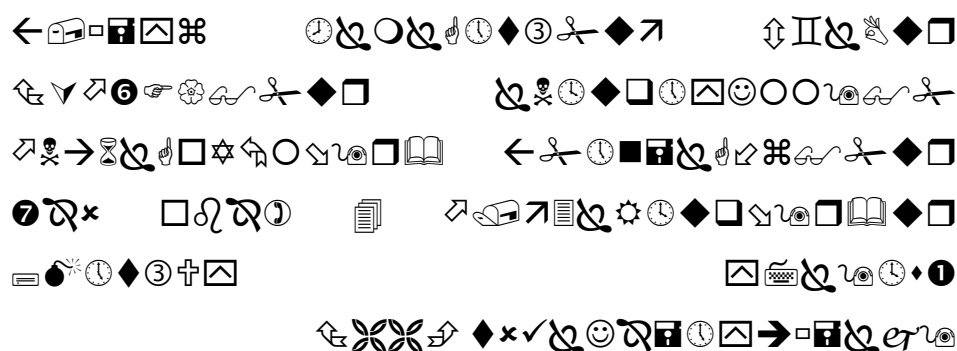
The success of learners in acquiring their second language is influenced by some factors, which is one of them is the grammatical mastery of the target language. Language may refer either to the specifically human capacity for acquiring and using complex systems of communication.¹ It means that the grammatical aspect becomes one of the essential requirements for people, in this case especially for Indonesian learners, to be able to communicate. The language which is produced may become more accurate and meaningful when they communicate in grammatical sentences and also help students understand how texts work.

These competence states that if one gets involved in communication either written or orally, he or she also gets involved in a discourse. At this point, in order to reach that level of competence, English learners should possess its supporting competences that are linguistic, actional, socio cultural, and strategic competence. The relevance of grammar teaching learning to those curriculum competences is that the aspect of grammar is placed on one of them that is in linguistic competence. English is tool to communicate spoken and written. Definition of communication is to understand and express

¹<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language> accessed on 11 March 2011

information, mind, and feeling that develop science, technology and culture that used its language.²

In this world, there are varieties of language. People who live in different country, ethnic and culture will have different language. Allah states about the variety of language in surah Ar-Rum verse 22:



“And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the diversity of your tongues and colors. In that surely are signs for those who possess knowledge.” (Ar- Rum: 22)³

In surah above, Allah shows us the signs of His authority through differences of tongue. The tongue means a language from different languages in the world, there is language which is used as an international language. English is an international language. So, learning a language is first and foremost a question its grammar, so grammar is best learned deductively-that is, by studying rules and then applying the rules to example.⁴

In addition, according to Hallyday if one thinks about language, there are three important aspects that should be considered; contexts, texts, and language system. Here, language system plays important role because it influences the communication. The negligent of using grammar in communication causes miscommunication and serious impact on

² Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, *Kurikulum 2004:Standar Kompetensi Bahasa Inggris SMA dan MA*, (Jakarta:Pusat Kurikulum, Balitbang Depdiknas, 2006), p. 6-8

³http://www.quranenglish.com/tafheem_quran/030-1.htm accessed on 7 Marc 2011

⁴ Scott Thorn Bury, *Task For Teachers Of English*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997), p 3

communication. Thus, the curriculum plays important role in emphasizing the grammar mastery.⁵

So in teaching English materials need to possess certain characteristic and apply equally whether we are considering printed course book, ancillary readers, visual of many kinds, recordings, films, or any other kind of instructional materials. They need to be realistic, relevant, and interesting to the students.⁶

In this case, the researcher attempts to offer one method that makes the students interested and fun in studying grammar through song method and songs are useful for freeing the speech muscle and evoking positive emotions. Song in foreign language classes may be used to motivate students, create a more relaxing foreign language classes and they do not realize that they are practicing language⁷

Regarding to those phenomena which is usually found in teaching of English, especially in teaching of grammar rules, the researcher intends to conduct the classroom action research of applying a learning method which is considered will be helpful and beneficial for both students and teacher side.

Furthermore, the researcher wants to take the research about The Use of Song to Improve Students Understanding on Conditional Sentences: A Classroom Action Research with 11th Grade, MA Darul Ulum Semarang in the Academic Year of 2010/2011.

The characteristic of students MA Darul Ulum are different. Some of students are interesting to study English, and other students are still confused and difficult to understand English, especially grammar. Because of students

⁵Ahmad Sofyan, *Panduan Pengajaran KBK Mata Pelajaran Bahasa Inggris untuk SMA dan MA*, (Jakarta: CV Sandika Corp., 2003), p. 16-17.

⁶Peter Strevens, *New Orientation In the Teaching English* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1977), p 27

⁷Siti Tarwiyah, *Games, Songs, and Practical Ideas to Teach Language*, (Semarang: IAIN Walisongo 2008), p.4

bore with method that gives the teacher, the researcher wants to give new strategy to teach English using song. The researcher hopes by using song to teach conditional sentences, students will be more interesting and more relaxing

At this point, the writer try to apply song method, this method is viewed as a solver for the problem stated above

B. Reason for Choosing the Topic

There are two main reasons why the researcher takes this topic to study.

1. The exposure of grammar in English teaching learning is considerably important because it becomes pre-communicative activity which can contribute to the students' accuracy. Meanwhile there is still students' viewpoint stating that English grammar is one of the language items which is notorious for its intricacy.
2. The application of method and technique employed in English language teaching is one of the key components to reach the objective of the language teaching learning. Here, song is chosen to be employed because it may make students interested and fun in English teaching learning process

C. Research Questions

This research is aimed to find the answer to the following research questions.

How does the implementation of song improve students' understanding on conditional sentences?

D. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the research are as follows.

To identify the implementation of song to improve students' understanding on conditional sentences.

E. Significance of the Study

This study is hoped can give some positive contributions to the English language learning context and will be beneficial for many sides such as for students, teacher, writer, the school, reader and for the next researcher.

1. This study may be helpful to the students. Song in learning grammar will make their understanding clear and can improve the students' competence that is the ability to communicate each other in understanding the material in English teaching learning focusing on grammar understanding.
2. The finding of this study may be helpful for the English teacher to be employed in his/her teaching practice. It can be one of choices to do in the classroom.
3. For the writer, the writer can use this method to improve his skill in mastery grammar
4. For the school, it can be supported method to improve in teaching and learning process
5. For the readers, it can give more information and contribute the knowledge
6. This study is hoped can enhance many studies in English teaching learning context. The next researcher can conduct further research in this field by extending it to other levels, other subject and to different settings.

F. Scope of Study

The scope of English study is so broad. We may not be able to reach all the aspects to be studied as a whole. Particularly in English learning context, there are so many components that may become the concern of the study such as the students, the textbook used, the materials, the process of

teaching and learning, etc. Thus, the boundary of this study specifies on the teaching of grammar focusing on these following subject.

1. Grammar which refers to the structure of language is extremely complex. In this study, the material to teach is specified on conditional sentences (type I, and type II).
2. Subjects of this research are the students of grade eleven MA Darul Ulum Semarang In the Academic Year of 2011.
3. Because of many kinds of song method is chosen as the employed technique.
4. The non song technique which is meant, here, refers to the lecturing technique that is usually employed in grammar class.

G. Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the writer presents the following definition of the key terms:

1. Use

The word “use” has several meanings. “Use as verb is defined as to employ or take as a means of achieving something”. But in the research, word “use” has function as noun which means the action of using or state of being used.⁸

2. Song

A song is a short of piece in one concise movement for the medium of solo voice and piano. According to Parto a song is a group of arrangements which consists of lyrics and elements of music like rhythm, melody, harmony and expressions. Moreover, A song is a musical composition for the voice of several voices. A song is a short poem

⁸ Martin H Manser, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (New York: Oxford University Press 1980) p 455

whether intended to be sung or not; a lyric or ballad. The American Heritage Dictionaries says that song is: Music is a brief composition written or adapted for singing. It also says that song is a distinctive or characteristic sound made by an animal, such as a bird or an insect. The last definition, song is poetry, a verse and a lyrics poem or ballad.⁹

3. Improve

“Improve means to rise to a more desirable or more excellent quality or condition; or to make better”. To increase the productivity or value of (land or property), and to put to good use; use profitably.¹⁰

4. Understanding

“Understanding is formed came from understand plus –ing becoming understanding. Understanding is the ability to learn, judge, make decisions intelligence or sense”.¹¹ Understanding on conditional sentences is the ability of students in learning conditional sentences.

5. Conditional sentences

“A Conditional sentence is complex sentence that consists of main clause and a subordinate clause; the latter typically begins with the adverbial subordinate *if*”.¹²

6. Action research

“Action research is one of problem solving strategy which provides real action in the form of innovative development process that “tried while continue” or “on going job” to detect and to solve problem”.¹³

7. The eleven Grade Students

⁹ www.answers.com/topic/song accessed on 26 January 2011

¹⁰ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/improve> accessed on 26 January 2011

¹¹ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/understand> accessed on 26 January 2011

¹² Marianne Celce-Murcia *The Grammar Book* (The United State of America: Heinle, 1999), p 546

¹³ Suharsimi Arikunto, *Prosedur Penelitian: Suatu Pendekatan Praktek*, (Jakarta: PT. Rineka Cipta, 2002), p. 82

It refers to the students who have been studying at MA Darul Ulum Semarang.

8. M A Darul Ulum

It is institution in which the object of this study and where the writer held his research.

9. The Academic Year of 2010/2011

It means the duration time for teaching and learning and other academic activities that consists of two semesters, has been started on July 2010 and will have been completed on July 2011.

The researcher attempts to offer one method that makes the students interested and fun in studying grammar through song method and songs are useful for freeing the speech muscle and evoking positive emotions. The researcher hopes that the use of song can improve students understanding on conditional sentences and motivate students in studying English at MA Darul Ulum Semarang