

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

As a human society, people live and communicate with other using language. Language allows people to say things and expresses their communicative need. Language is a system of arbitrary conventionalized, vocal, written and gestural symbols that enable members of a given community to communicate intelligibly with one another. ¹ By using language people can express their feelings, ideas, attitudes, and many others.

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)²

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. It has important roles as the language of science, technology and international communication. It is crucial to be mastered, English is not the language with the largest number of native or first language speakers. It has become a lingua franca; it can be defined as a language widely adopted for communication between two speakers whose native language different from each other and where one or both speakers are

¹H. Douglas Brown, *Principles of Language Learning and Teaching*, Fourth Edition, [NY: Pearson Education, 2005], p. 5

²Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, *The Qur'an*, (English: Curzon Press Ltd, 1981), P.398.

using it as a second language.³ Language is one of the most important part in human life. People communicate each other using language. They always need company in their life. Language is communicative; it allows us to communicate with others who share the same language.⁴ In Indonesia, English should be learnt by students from Elementary School (SD), Junior High School (SMP), Senior High School (SMA) and University.

Being an international language, English is used in international events and used as the medium of information like science, technology and culture. So, it is not surprise that the teaching of English is carried out in parts of the world. Indonesia for example; treats English as the first foreign language. Nevertheless, in order to make English teaching get success, we have to consider some factors, such as, teacher's quality, students' interest and motivation, school buildings, teaching method, books, etc.

The goal of teaching and learning English is mainly to prepare the students to have all language skills like listening, speaking, writing and reading. Those skills must be taught integratedly, for instance teaching speaking or writing will influence other skills of English. They correlate one another in the English learning process. The students are expected to master all skills in balance.⁵

Beside those skills, grammar is also important to be learnt because we should use correct grammatical in sentences to communicate with other. But in the fact, Indonesian students face problems in learning grammar because there are some tenses in English and there are no tenses in Indonesia language system. So, it makes students bored and confused in learning grammar.

In this case, teaching grammar is not an easy task. Moreover, most of teachers use a conventional way in teaching and learning process. Usually, the teacher asks students to write the material from white board and then he will

³Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Teaching*, (Malaysia: Longman, 2002), 3rd ed, p.1

⁴Timoty B Jay, *The Psychology of Language*, (New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2003), p.2

⁵Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, *Standar Kompetensi Bahasa Inggris SMP/MTs*, (Jakarta: Depdikubud)

explain it. The teachers seldom use support system like good instrument to make teaching process more interesting. So, it makes students bored in learning grammar.

To make students easy studying grammar, the teacher should think creatively how to make the subject can be learnt well and make students interested to learn.

According to the Hadis:

عن انس بن مالك عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: يَسِّرُوا وَلَا تُعْصِرُوا وبشروا ولا تنفروا(اخرجه البخارى)⁶

From Anas Bin Malik, the prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allah by upon for him) said: Make it easy and don't make it difficult to them, and give them happy thing and don't make them run away.⁷

The hadis said that we should make easy to someone who studies. It shows us that when we teach the lesson to students, we should give a new thing or we should use the variatif strategies in teaching. One of the strategies that can be used by teacher is using media to support teaching and learning process. There are some teaching media available now, so the researcher used song lyrics as media to improve students' understanding on present perfect tense.

A basic distinction in the teaching grammar was between the deductive and inductive approaches. In a deductive approach, learners are taught rules and given the specific information about the language, and then they are expected to be able to apply the rules when they use the language. In an inductive approach, learners are not taught grammatical rules directly or explicitly, but they are expected to know the rules when they use a language⁸. In this study, the researcher used songs in teaching grammar because songs lyrics in teaching grammar could be included in deductive approach where the

⁶Abi Hasan Nuruddin Muhammad bin Abdul Hadi, *Shohih Bukhari*, (Beirut: Darul Kutub al Alamiyah, Jilid 1, 1971) P.42

⁷Ahmadie Thaha, *Terjemahan Shohih Bukhari*, (Jakarta: Pustaka Panjimas, Jilid 1, 1986) p.89

⁸Ruth Wajnryb. *Classroom Observation Task : A Resource Book for Language Teacher and Trainers*, (United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 1992),P.120

learners are not taught grammatical rules directly or explicitly, but the teacher used media and gave some examples where the rule is inferred, and then students are expected to use the rules in their language, so it makes students interest to learn.

Music and song are included as teaching media. The use of music and song in the classroom give positive stimulate to learner who learn a language.⁹ A piece of music can change the atmosphere in a classroom or prepare students for a new activity, it can amuse and entertain, and make a satisfactory connection between the world of leisure and the world of learning.¹⁰

Song is chosen here because it is one of the familiar media to support teaching learning process. The teacher could explain the grammatical sentences from the song lyrics. So, the students got easy method to study grammar.

MTs Matholibul Huda is a school located in Mlonggo Jepara. The condition of students' English skills is low. This is caused by several factors such as limited library collection and most of the teachers used conventional method in teaching learning process. In addition, the environment of school does not support to study English because students believed that English is a hard subject to be studied.

From that case, the researcher conducted an action research to improve students' understanding on present perfect tense using song lyrics at the eight grade of MTs Matholibul Huda Jepara in The Academic Year of 2009/2010

B. Reasons For choosing The Topic

The researcher has chosen the topic of improving students' understanding on present perfect tense using song lyrics for the following reasons:

1. Grammar is important to be learnt because when we communicate with other people, we should use correct grammatical sentences to make the

⁹ Tim Murphey, *Music and song*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), p.6

¹⁰Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Language Teaching 3 ed*, (United Kingdom: Longman Publishing, 2002), p.242.

meaning clear. But, most of the students faced difficulties in learning grammar because there are some tenses in English and there are no tenses in Indonesia language system.

2. Considering the importance of grammar, the researcher used songs as teaching media to support teaching learning process in order to make students enjoyable in learning grammar because most of the English teachers used a conventional method. Song is chosen because there is grammatical structure on the lyrics of song and most of the students are familiar with it.
3. The researcher concerned in doing an action research as methodology of research for the sake of effectiveness and efficiency in teaching English. By doing action research, the researcher intended to improve the quality of teaching method especially in teaching present perfect tense.

C. Research Questions

The study is aimed to answer the following question:

1. How is the implementation of song lyrics to improve students' understanding on present perfect tense?
2. How can song lyrics improve students' understanding on present perfect tense?

D. Objectives of The study and Significant of the study

Based on the problem above, the aims of this study are as follows:

1. To describe the implementation of song lyrics to improve students' understanding on present perfect tense.
2. To identify the improvement of students' understanding on present perfect tense using song lyrics.

The result of this study was useful for students, teacher, school, and researcher:

1. For the students; the result of this study might help students to improve their understanding on present perfect tense by analyzing the grammatical structure from the song lyrics.
2. For the teacher; teacher could use song as a media in teaching learning process to motivate the students, and it made teaching and learning process easier.
3. For the school; this study could be a starting point to develop the teaching method which applies in the school.
4. For the researcher; the researcher got the advantages by having the knowledge to improve students' understanding on present perfect tense by using song lyrics as well as possible. It would be very important when the researcher become teacher after finishing the study.

E. Scope of the Study

There are sixteen tenses in English. The tense that studied in this research is present perfect tense. In this study, using song was applied to improve students understanding on present perfect tense.

F. Definitions of Key Term

1. Song and lyrics

Song is a short musical work set a poetic text with equal importance given to music and to the words. It may be written for one or several voices and it is generally performed with instrument accompaniment.¹¹

Lyrics are a set of words that make up a song. Lyrics can be studied from an academic perspective. For example, some lyrics can be considered as a form of social commentary. Lyrics can also be analyzed with respect to the sense of unity (or lack of unity) with music.¹²

¹¹Encyclopedia American, 1977, p.220.

¹²http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Song_lyricss accessed on 6/11/2009.

In this study, the researcher used several songs which include present perfect tense taken from internet and then compiles the exercise from the book and the researcher question.

2. Improving students' understanding on present perfect tense

Improve is to make better; to increase the value or good qualities of something.¹³ According to oxford dictionary, improve is become or make something better, to increase good qualities.¹⁴ Understanding is a psychological process related to an abstract or physical object, such as a person, situation, or message whereby one is able to think about it and use concepts to deal adequately with that object.¹⁵

The Present Perfect is used to say that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important.¹⁶ In this case, understanding on present perfect tense is the psychological process to understand the present perfect tense, the form of present perfect tense, and when it is used. The researcher used several songs as teaching media to increase students understanding on present perfect tense in order to make good quality of teaching method in this school.

G. Outline of the Research

This thesis consists of 5 chapters.

Chapter 1 presents the introduction which contains background of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, research questions, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope of the study, definition of key terms, outline of the thesis.

Chapter II deals with the theoretical foundation from related literature.

¹³<http://www.brainyquote.com/words/im/improve176858.html> accessed on 26/10/2009.

¹⁴*Oxford Learners Pocket Dictionary*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), p.216.

¹⁵<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Understanding> accessed on 26/10/2009.

¹⁶<http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/presentperfect.html> accessed on 19/12/2009.

Chapter III presents the method of investigation and the action. It deals with design of study research procedure, research setting and subject, instrument and data collection technique, and technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV describes the result of the action research. It consists of whatever happened in the action research process. It also analyzed the result of observation and the test in every cycle to find out the students' improvement in learning present perfect tense.

Chapter V is the last chapter, it presents conclusions and suggestions.