

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter the researcher discusses the introduction. It covers background of the problems, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problems, research question purposes of research, significance of the research, and definition of key terms.

### **1.1 Background of the Problems**

In this globalization era, where there is no real boundaries seen, people need a language to communicate. English is a language to unite the world in globalization era. The need of mastering English as an international language is very important for Indonesian people to communicate with people from other countries.

In Indonesia, English is considered to be a foreign language and it becomes a compulsory subject to be learnt include by second year students of Bung Hatta University. There are four skills in English to be mastered, namely : Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Among the four skills ; writing is one of important skills to be mastered because it helps people to share opinions in written form. To support the four skills, the students should also master language components: grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and so on.

According to Thornbury (1999:1), grammar is partly the study of what forms (or structures) are possible in language. Grammar has been concerned almost exclusively with analysis at the level of the sentence. Without grammar, words are interdependent without any real meaning. Grammatical knowledge is needed in order to be able to write. By mastering grammar, the students will

understand rules and know how the sentences are constructed. Grammar is one of the important aspects in teaching and learning English. Every student has to understand English grammar because grammar has the core position in learning English language. Without learning grammar, the student cannot write well starting from writing sentence, paragraph, and then essay.

In writing sentence, there are many kinds of sentences to write. One of them is active and passive sentence. Active voice refers to a sentence in which the subject performs an action indicated by the verb. The passive voice refers to sentences in which the verb acts upon a noun or subject which receives instead of initiates the action. The passive and active voice can be used in all of tenses in English. Passive voice indicates subject focus. It is used to state more polite statements, show interest in the person or object that experiences an action rather than the person or object that performs the action, and make formal statements. Generally, the students of higher education still feel confused in writing passive voice in simple present tense, present continuous tense, simple past tense, past continuous tense, present perfect tense, present perfect continuous tense, past perfect tense and past perfect continuous tense. In the passive voice, the object of an active verb becomes the subject of the passive. Passive voice is generally difficult to understand because of its rule and formula which are dissimilar to active voice.

In writing passive voice, the students do not sometimes understand fully about the rules of passive voice. It is quite impossible for them to make errors. Sometime, the errors that they make are same. For example in using tenses, auxiliaries, and past participle form. Those errors should be avoided. That's why the

teacher should correct their work so that they do not do or make the same errors. The result of their work will give feed back to the English teachers/lecturers in teaching grammar, especially passive voice. In the following is the second year students' mistakes in passive voice: "I love reading a book". In this example , the students were confused in writing English passive voice though they had been learning it previously. The students hadnot used past partiple form. In correct passive voice, the students had to understood tenses, auxiliaries (modal auxiliaries and auxiliaries verb), and past participle. All problems also may happed because of the failure of the teacher in using method or technique for teaching this material to the students.

The second year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University have studied about writing passive sentences in third semester (the newest curriculum of English Department of Bung Hatta University). Based on the teaching material, they learnt about writing passive sentences in Writing sentences subject. In writing passive sentences, students are required to give in formation or an argument to the readers in order to make readers agree with their thought. Idea, suggestion, or statement that are supported by facts.

Based on the researcher's informal interview to some of second year students of English Department Bung Hatta University on April 2018, researcher found that the students still did not yet understand how to write passive sentences using simple present tense. They got difficulties distinguishing passive sentences using simple present tense. Also, they still had mistakes in using some components of writing such as meaning, vocabulary. grammar, and mechanics (spelling, punctuation, and capitalization). Based on the explanation above. the

researcher was interested in conducting a research. entitled: "An Analysis of the Second Year Students' Ability in writing passive sentences using simple present tense at the English Department of Bung Hatta University".

Based on all explanation above, the writer was interested in conducting a research discussing about writing passive sentence of simple present tense.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

In learning English, students ace several problems: the first the problem one is mestering active and passive voice. The second problem is in using to be and using verbs form (regular or irregular verb). The third problem is mastering tenses. Tenses is verb form that describe the time and complete level of action. Passive voice was a sentence in which the subject was affected by the action of the verb. When we study passive voice, it has affirmative, negative, and interrogative forms: yes/no and information questions. Affirmative passive voice is used to show interest in the person or object that experiences an action rather than the person or object that performs the action. Negative passive voice is a sentence that has refusal meaning or negative meaning. Finally, interrogative sentences is a question sentence.

We can write passive in many kinds of tenses. It can be written in Simple Present Tense, Present continuous tense, present perfect tense, present perfect continuous tense, simple past tense, past continuous tense, past perfect tense, past perfect continuous tense, simple future tense, future continuous tense, future perfect tense, future continuous tense, future past tense, future past continuous tense, future past perfect tense, or future past perfect continuous tense. All of them have passive voice that should be learned by the students.

There are several steps that have to be considered in writing passive voice. The first step is the usage of “*to be*”. The “*to be*” which will be used depends on the subject on the tense. The second step is the usage of past participle. The last step is the usage of agent. It can be mentioned if it is thought important, but sometimes it can be omitted because it is not thought important. In addition, passive can also be followed by the modal such as : must, should, can, could and so on.

### **1.3 The Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, the researcher limited this research on the analysis of the second year students’ ability at the English Department of Bung Hatta University in writing passive voice using simple present tense. They were now in the even term of 2017/2018 academic year. The students had studied passive voice in simple present tense in the second semester. The researcher wanted to know their ability in writing passive voice in simple present tense in positive, negative and interrogative forms.

### **1.4 The Formulation of the Problem**

The problem of this research was formulated as follow: How is the second year students’ ability at the English Department of Bung Hatta University in writing passive voice using simple present tense?

### **1.5 Research Questions**

To know the students’ ability in writing passive voice, there are some questions to be answered in this study. They are as follows:

1. How is the second year students’ ability at the English Department of Bung Hatta University in writing positive passive sentence in simple present tense ?

2. How is the second year students' ability at the English Department of Bung Hatta University in writing negative passive sentence in simple present tense?
3. How is the second year students' ability at the English Department of Bung Hatta University in writing interrogative passive sentence in simple present tense?

### **1.6 The Purpose of the Research**

Based on research questions above, this research was aimed to describe the students' ability at the English Department of Bung Hatta University in writing passive voice. The specific purposes are:

1. To describe the second year students' ability at the English Department of Bung Hatta University in writing positive passive sentences in simple present tense.
2. To describe the second year students' ability at the English Department of Bung Hatta University in writing negative passive sentences in simple present tense.
3. To describe the second year students' ability at the English Department of Bung Hatta University in writing interrogative passive sentences in simple present tense.

### **1.7 The Significance of the Research**

The results of this research will be useful for lecturers, students, and other researchers. For the lecturers, they will know the ability of the students in learning grammar, especially in writing passive voice. They can give more review of the lesson or give more exercises to the students that to know the ability in writing

passive sentences using simple present tense. This research will be also useful for the students to know their abilities. Having known their abilities, they will know what they should do in mastering grammar, especially in writing a passive sentences. While, the result of the research can also be a reference for other researchers who want to conduct the research on the relevant topic.

### **1.8 The Definition of Key Terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding in some conceptual terms the researcher defines the key terms as follows

1. Ability is an ability to write a passive sentence.
2. Writing is a process of writing a passive sentence.
3. Passive sentence is one of grammar form to make a sentence where the subject of the active sentence becomes the agent.
4. Simple present tense is a tense that expresses habitual action, general truth, and opinion.
5. Positive passive voice is used to show interest in the person or object that experiences an action rather than the person or object that performs the action.
6. Negative passive voice is a sentence that has refusal meaning or negative meaning.
7. Interrogative passive voice is a question sentence.