

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 Background of the Study

English is an international language we must learn today. By using English we can communicate with foreign people from different countries. Therefore, the subjects of English are strictly required to be learned, especially in our country. The English language is a compulsory subject learned in Junior and Senior High School. Students are expected to master the four important skills of learning English such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

One of the important skills is writing. Writing is the process to communicate thoughts and ideas in readable form (Davoudi et al., 2015). It is also state that writing skill is seen as a difficult skill to acquire. We have to put the ideas into written text in a complex process. That complex process in writing has to consider important aspects; content, vocabulary, language use (grammar), organization, and mechanics (Ahmadian & Hosseini, 2012).

Writing has to be taught in school because it's one of the ways to increase students' cognitive for better education. Pratiwi et al. (2017) also state that in order to give the learners the opportunity to develop proficiency, they need to write letters, essays, research papers and journals. In 2013 curriculum (K-13) for senior high school, students must be able to write an invitation letter. Baugh in Harmyn & Syarif (2013) state that there are two kinds of letters; informal and formal letter or she also called them as personal and social letters. A formal

invitation letter is a document that presents a formal request for the presence of people, company, or an organization at an event. The main concern to study a formal invitation letter is to prepare the students working in a company or public facilities. If the students can write the letter in good grammar and format, it is possible that it will affect their future job.

Writing in a foreign language is not always as easy as writing in our language. It will cause some errors or mistakes in sentences. James in Mulianingsih (2014) defined that error is a systematic deviation; when a learner has not learnt something consistently gets it wrong. According to Al-Khresheh (2016), students' errors are due to negative interlingual interference with their mother tongue. Therefore, writing in a foreign language will present the greatest challenge for them.

Based on the experience in Teaching Training III at SMA 2 Bayang, the researcher found the problem of the students in writing subject, particularly in writing a formal invitation letter. Students still make mistakes and errors in drafting grammar, vocab, format, and the mechanic of writing. In writing formal invitation letters, students must be able to use formal language and pay attention to the structure of the letter, the contents of the letter, writing the name of the sender and recipient of the letter, as well as the date in the letter must also be considered. As stated by Smith-Worthington and Jefferson in Singh (2013), one has to be careful in choosing the right words and focus on the purpose of the correspondence. Students usually don't care about the problem above, they usually write a formal invitation letter with their word without regard to grammar, vocabulary, format, and the mechanics of writing. The result of the interview inspired the researcher to conduct research entitled "*An Analysis of The Second Year Students' Errors in Writing Formal Invitation Letter at Social Science Class in SMAN 2 Bayang*"

1.2 Identification of the Problem

There are some types of writing, one of them is writing a letter. According to Singh (2013), the letter is still important. By using the letter we can express our feelings and we can invite someone on some occasions. There are many kinds of letters, one of them is a formal invitation letter. A formal invitation letter is a document that presents a formal request for the presence of people, company, or an organization at an event.

Students still make mistakes and errors in drafting grammar, vocab, format, sentence structure and mechanic in writing formal invitation letter. Error is systematic problems that happened due to the incompetence of the foreign language learner in learning the target language. The first is an error in writing a format letter. This invitation letter has a standard format that we have to use. The students sometimes make some mistakes in writing the initial details or letterhead, date, addresses, opening salutation, enclosure, and the signature. The students often forget to put any enclosure, signature, and name with the position of the sender as part of the actual invitation. These mistakes should not be avoided because the format is an important part of making a formal invitation letter.

The second is error in the grammatical structure. As stated by Pratiwi et al. (2017), there are preposition, modal, article, verb forms, and tense sequence aspects in analyzing grammar. The students don't focus on tense and they didn't use appropriate preposition and arrange words of invitation well.

The third is error in the sentence structure. Students feel confuse to build the good sentence structure due to the lack knowledge of English grammar.

The fourth problem is the use of inappropriate vocabulary. Students often made a few ranges of confusing words and word forms. These mistakes lead to an ambiguous meaning.

The fifth is error in mechanic. In using mechanics, most of the students often forgot to write the correct spelling, use appropriate punctuation, and use a capital letter.

1.3 Limitation of the problem

In accordance with the problem above, there are many problems related to this study. Therefore, the researcher limits her study to: “*An Analysis of The Second Year Students’ Errors in Writing Formal Invitation Letter at Social Science Class in SMAN 2 Bayang*”. The researcher limits her study because the scope of writing is too large.

1.4 The formulation of the problem

In line with the limitation of the problem above, the researcher formulates the problem as “What errors do the social science class students in SMAN 2 Bayang have in writing formal invitation letter?”

1.5 The Research Question

Based on the Formulation of the problem, the researcher formulates the research questions as follows;

- 1) What kind of errors did the students make in the format of their formal invitation letters?
- 2) What kind of grammatical errors did the students make in their formal invitation letters?
- 3) What kind of lexical error did the students make in their formal invitation letters?
- 4) What kind of syntax error did the students make in their formal invitation letters?
- 5) What kind of mechanical error did the students make in their formal invitation letters?

1.6 The purpose of the study

In general, the purpose of this research is to find out the errors made by the second-year students in social science class at SMAN 2 Bayang in writing a formal invitation letter.

In more specific, the purposes of this study are as follows:

- 1) To find out the types of errors the students made in the format of their formal invitation letters
- 2) To find out the kind of grammatical errors the students made in their formal invitation letters
- 3) To find out the kind of lexical errors the students made in their formal invitation letters
- 4) To find out the kind of syntax error do the students made in their formal invitation letters
- 5) To find out the kind of mechanical errors the students made in their formal invitation letters

1.7 Significance of the Study

The finding of this study is expected to give a contribution to teachers, students, and the researcher. This study is hoped to provide useful information for students and teachers. The result of this study hopefully can give the students information about the students' error in writing formal invitation letters so that they can improve their writing skills. For teachers, the result is expected to enable teachers to implement the teaching-learning process so that students' ability in writing formal invitation letters can be better. Lastly, the writer expects that this research will be useful as a reference for the other researchers.

1.8 The definition of key terms

To avoid misunderstanding of the key terms used in this study, it is necessary to define them as follows:

- 1) Writing is the process to communicate thoughts and ideas in readable form (Davoudi et al., 2015)
- 2) Error is a systematic deviation made by the students in writing a formal invitation letter.
- 3) Students' errors are due to negative interlingual interference with their mother tongue (Al-Khresheh, 2016)
- 4) Format error is a systematic deviation made by the students in writing a format of the formal invitation letter.
- 5) Grammatical error is the error made by the students in the scope of the English grammar (Alfiyani, 2013)
- 6) Lexical error is a type of error deals with the lexicon (Agustin-Llach in Nila , 2017)
- 7) Syntax error is a type of error which occurs in sentence structure (Nila, 2017).
- 8) Mechanical error mechanical errors are the consequence of quick writing where the focus is on the content instead of the form (Nila , 2017)
- 9) The formal invitation letter is a formal request for the presence of an individual, a group of people, or an organization at an event.