

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 The Background of the Problem

Writing is expressing idea in written form. According to Sadiku (2015), writing is the 'hard copy' of someone's intellectual or expression level. Writing is a complex skill because it involves many aspects of language. According to Hinkel (2004:7), vocabulary, grammar and discourse which have extensive, thorough, and focused instruction are necessary in developing written proficiency.

There are some stages in writing process; writing a sentence, writing a paragraph, and writing an essay. In writing a sentence, the students are taught how to write a good sentence. In writing a paragraph, they are taught how to write a good paragraph with a topic sentence and an appropriate purpose of the paragraph written, for example: a narrative paragraph, a persuasive paragraph, etc. In writing an essay they are taught how to write a good paragraph containing introduction paragraph, body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph based on its purpose, for example: a descriptive essay, a comparison and contrast essay, etc.

A sentence is a collection of words which has at least one subject and one predicate, and it has a complete idea (Oshima and Hogue, 2007: 11). In writing a sentence, the writer needs to deliver the idea clearly and acceptably. There are four kinds of sentences based on its purposes; a declarative sentence, an

interrogative sentence, an imperative sentence, and an exclamatory sentence. And there are four kinds of basic sentences; a simple sentence, a compound sentence, a complex sentence, and a compound-complex sentence. Conditional sentences are included into a complex sentence. In writing conditional sentences, there are some tenses that need to be considered. For instance, in conditional sentence, tenses function to show the level of assumption of one case. Each type of conditional sentences have different tenses used.

At English Department of Bung Hatta University, conditional sentences are studied in Advanced Grammar subject. There are three types of conditional sentences. Conditional sentence type I is used to express the possible situation in the future. For example: If she comes, I will give her a present. After that, conditional sentence type II is used to express the hypothetical situation. For example: If I were you, I would apply for this job vacancy. The last, conditional sentence type III is used to express something that did not happen in the past. For example : If I had had money, I would have bought a new car. These types are differentiated by the level of assumption of each sentence.

A conditional sentence is important to investigate because a conditional sentence is included into Advanced Grammar syllabus. It is also included into a complex sentence which means more complicated than a simple sentence and a compound sentence. Moreover, each type of conditional sentence has different tenses used that make conditional sentence has its own challenge to be mastered.

The researcher did interview informally to five second year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University on June 24, 2019. It was found that they werestill confused in writing the types of conditional sentences based on the

provided cases. Provided cases mean the researcher gives a case to the students and they will write the conditional sentence based on the case given.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher was interested in analyzing the second year students' ability in writing conditional sentences based on the provided cases at English Department of Bung Hatta University.

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

Writing is an activity to express the idea of someone's thought in written form. Hinkel (2004: 11) states that someone can write in the limited grammar and vocabularies because the writer determines the degree of the simplicity and complexity of his own writing.

The first stage in writing is writing a sentence. Writing a good sentence will be very useful to write the next step of writing, which is writing a paragraph. In writing a paragraph, we write a topic sentence and it is followed by supporting sentence. The last, writing an essay which has an introduction paragraph, body paragraphs and a conclusion paragraph.

A good sentence should have a correct grammar and meaning, so that it is readable for reader. There are four basic sentence types in English. First, simple sentence is an independent clause. Second, compound sentence is a sentence that consists of more than one independent clause. Third, complex sentence is a sentence that consists of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. Fourth, compound-complex sentence is a sentence that consists of at least two independent clauses and one dependent clause.

There are two kinds of clauses that construct a complex sentence. The first clause is called main clause and another clause is subordinate clause. There are

three kinds of subordinate clause in English language; noun clause, adjective clause, and adverb clause. Noun clause is a subordinate clause that is functioned as a noun in a sentence. Adjective clause is a subordinate clause that is functioned as an adjective in a sentence. Adverb clause is a subordinate clause that is functioned as an adverb in a sentence. Adverb clause usually denotes time, place, effect or result, cause or reason, comparison, contrast, extent, manner, purpose, and condition.

Conditional sentence is a kind of complex sentence that is studied by the second year students in English Education Department at Bung Hatta University. It is included in Advanced Grammar Subject syllabus. Furthermore, they study the three types of conditional sentences, they are (a) conditional sentence type I, (b) conditional sentence type II, (c) conditional sentence type III. Conditional sentence type I is used to talk about something that will happen under a certain condition. We use simple present tense in the if clause and simple future tense with will or be going to in the result clause. Conditional sentence type II is used to talk about unreal or impossible conditions and their results in the present. We use simple past tense in the if clause and “would” followed by the base form of verb in the result clause. Conditional sentence type III is used to talk about past condition and the results that never happened. We use past perfect in the if clause to express the unreal condition and “would have” followed by past participle in the result clause to show the imagined result of the unreal condition.

The students who study conditional sentences need to know the function, tenses used, and the meaning of each type to write a correct conditional sentence. However, the second year students who take Advanced Grammar

subject were still confused in using conditional sentences type I, II, and III. They were still confused in determining the function, tenses used, and the meaning of each type of conditional sentences.

1.3 The Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the researcher limited the research on the second year students' ability in writing conditional sentences based on the provided cases at English Department of Bung Hatta University.

1.4 The Formulation of the Problem

The formulation of this research problem was “ How is the second year students' ability in writing conditional sentences based on the provided cases at English Department of Bung Hatta University?”

1.5 The Research Questions

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the research questions of this research were as follow :

- a) How is the second year students' ability in writing conditional sentences type I based on the provided cases?
- b) How is the second year students' ability in writing conditional sentences type II based on the provided cases?
- c) How is the second year students' ability in writing conditional sentences type III based on the provided cases?

1.6 The Purposes of the Research

In general, the purpose of this research was to describe the second year students' ability in writing conditional sentences based on the provided cases at English Department of Bung Hatta University. This research was specifically aimed to find :

- a) the students' ability in writing conditional sentences type I based on the provided cases.
- b) the students' ability in writing conditional sentences type II based on the provided cases.
- c) the students' ability in writing conditional sentences type III based on the provided cases.

1.7 The Significance of the Research

This research can be useful for other researchers, English lecturer and the learners.

- a) For other researchers

By doing this research, the researcher can enrich knowledge related with this topic. And the next researcher can use the result of this research as a source to do the next research about related topic.

- b) For English lecturers

The result will be useful for lecturer to know the students' ability in writing conditional sentences based on the provided cases. Lecturer can consider to give more various exercises to the students.

c) For students

By this result, students know their ability in writing conditional sentences based on the provided cases. So, they can do various exercises if they have low ability.

1.8 The Definition of Key Terms

These are some definitions of key terms that are used in this research in order to avoid misunderstanding:

- a) Writing is an activity to express ideas in written form.
- b) Sentence is the combination of words that contains a subject and a verb which has an acceptable meaning.
- c) Conditional sentence is a kind of sentence that contains an assumption.
- d) Conditional sentence type I is a sentence that expresses the situation that may occur in the future.
- e) Conditional sentence type II is a sentence that expresses the hypothetical situation.
- f) Conditional sentence type III is a sentence that expresses the unreal situation in the past.
- g) The provided cases are the cases given to the students and they write the conditional sentence based on the type used for each case.