

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 The Background of The Problem

TOEFL (Test of English as Foreign Language) is an international formal test to measure English ability of foreign learner. The TOEFL test examines three elements, namely listening comprehension, structure and written expression, and reading comprehension. studies on TOEFL in general focused on one skill. The study on TOEFL has been conducted by many researchers, including one from Indonesia. Some of students from English Department also have done the research about TOEFL. A research done by Sundari (2018) and Hasnaini (2018) have been investigating about aspect listening. Then Fitriia (2018), Saraswati (2018), and Febrian (2018) have investigated about aspect reading.

Sundari (2018) has investigated The Second Year Students' Difficulties in Listening To Short Conversation of TOEFL-Like at The English Department of Bung Hatta University. The results of her research showed that the students had low difficulty in listening to short conversation. Hasnaini (2018) has investigated students' difficulties in listening to long conversation of TOEFL-Like at English Department of Bung Hatta University. Her study showed that the students had moderate difficulty to listen to long conversation of TOEFL text. Then, Fitriia

(2018) has investigated the third year students' ability to answer analytical question in TOEFL at English Department of Bung Hatta University. Her study showed that the students had low ability to answer analytical question in TOEFL text. Saraswati (2018) has investigated the third year students' ability to answer literal question at English Department of Bung Hatta University. Her study showed that the students had low ability to answer literal questions in TOEFL text. Febrian (2018) has investigated The Third Year Students' Ability To Answer Comprehension Questions in TOEFL Text at English Department of Bung Hatta University. His research showed that the students had low ability to answer comprehension question in TOEFL text.

Based on the research before, no one has examined the structure and written expression or the other namely as grammar skills. Whereas, grammar is one of the difficult aspects of the TOEFL. As a growing phenomenon at Bung Hatta University, the TOEFL is one of the requirements to take a comprehensive examination. There are still many college students in Bung Hatta University who are struggling to get the expected scores, because their scores are still below the standard, especially in the structure section, moreover for students of the English Department. For this study, the researcher chose the third year students because they had TOEFL test and learnt grammar materials – basic grammar, intermediate grammar, and advanced grammar –. Therefore, the researcher wants to investigate “Third Year Students' Difficulties in Answering Structure and Written Expression of TOEFL at English Department of Bung Hatta University”.

1.2 The Identification of The Problem

In TOEFL, there are 3 sections of test i.e: listening comprehension, structure and written expression test, and reading comprehension. Based on the interviewed, on March 8th 2019, toward the third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University, the students have had difficulty to reach the good score in TOEFL. They told in part of listening comprehension, they got difficulty in listening to the narrator utterance because the narrator was not clear to hear and the topic of listening was more scientific for them such as talk about some aspect of school life or topics currently in the news. Moreover, because the narrators are native, it made them confused with their pronunciation.

For reading comprehension, some students told the test was easy to do, but they did not have enough time to finish it. Furthermore, reading comprehension also has long text for them to read, so it is difficult for them to manage such limited time to read efficiently.

Some students precisely told that section structure and written expression or grammar skill is one part of TOEFL that has difficulty. The students admitted, they only had a little knowledge of tense and vocabulary at that time because they had the TOEFL test at second semester. Also, they are trapped to answer the correct answer of the multiple choice parts, because in this part, the option looked similar each other and it made student trapped in such tricky option.

Moreover, such problem is proven by the result of their score who had TOEFL test in UPT-PPBA, and the average of their score especially in structure section are still low.

1.3 The Limitation of The Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the researcher focuses to find out the students' difficulties in Structure and Written Expression of TOEFL. The researcher limits her research on finding out the students' difficulties in Structure and Written Expression of TOEFL at Third Year Students of Bung Hatta University.

1.4 The Formulation of The Problem

In this research, the researcher formulates the problem in the following questions, "Do the third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University have difficulties in answering the structure and written expression of TOEFL?"

1.5 The Research Questions

Based on the formulation above, the researcher formulates the questions of this study as follow:

1. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with subject and verb agreement in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
2. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering the questions dealing with object of preposition in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?

3. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with appositives in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
4. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with present participle in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
5. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with coordinate connector in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
6. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with relative clause (adjective clause) in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
7. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with conjunction in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
8. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with modality in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
9. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with prepositional phrases in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?

10. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with comparative and superlative in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
11. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with adverb of time in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
12. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with possessive adjective in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
13. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with determiner (other, another and others) in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
14. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with article in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
15. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with past form in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
16. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with singularity and plurality of noun in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?

17. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with class of words in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
18. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with passive sentence in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?
19. Do the third year students of English Department have difficulties in answering questions dealing with past participle in the structure and written expression of TOEFL?

1.6 The Purposes of The Research

In general, the purpose of this research is to find out the third year students' difficulties in Grammar TOEFL. In more specific, the purpose of this study are as follows:

1. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct subject and verb agreement.
2. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct object of preposition.
3. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct appositives.
4. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct present participle.

5. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct coordinate connector.
6. To find out the students' difficulties the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct relative clause (adjective clause).
7. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct conjunction.
8. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct modality.
9. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct prepositional phrases.
10. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct comparative and superlative.
11. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct adverb of time.
12. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct possessive adjective.
13. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct determiner.
14. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct article.
15. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct past form.

16. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct singularity and plurality.
17. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct class of words.
18. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct passive sentence.
19. To find out the students' difficulties in the Grammar of TOEFL in answering the correct past participle.

1.7 The Significances of The Research

This research is expected to give a contribution to the teachers, students and the researcher.

For the teacher, especially the teacher who teaches English, she or he will be informed of the difficulties faced by the third year students in Grammar TOEFL. Then, she or he is expected to be concerned on grammar learning in their classroom.

For the students of English Department who will do research, they are expected to investigate more, to follow up the result of this research then investigated more of the problem in TOEFL.

At last, for the researcher, the finding of this research will be knowledge for the researcher.

1.8 The Definition Of The Key Terms

These are some definition of key terms

1. Difficulty is obstacles faced by students in completing grammar points.
2. Grammar is the study of words, how they are used in sentences, and how they change in different situations.
3. Written expression is the ability to convey meaning through writing.
4. TOEFL(Test of English as a Foreign Language) is a proficiency test used to measure a person's English Skill.