

CHAPTER 1

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, the limitation of the problem, the formulation of the problem, the research questions, the purposes of the research, the significance of the research, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Problem

When students learn English, they will learn language skills and language components. One of the language components is grammar that must be learnt and understood by the students. By learning grammar the students will know about the system of language, so they can make a good sentence. Grammar is defined as words put together to make correct sentences. Grammar is, however, not only about how to combine words and then make them into correct sentence but also about meaning. If the students learn and understand grammar very well, they will be able to make a good communication and good writing.

One of the grammar topics is changing an indirect speech into a direct speech. To change an indirect speech into a direct speech, the students have to understand grammar because the sentence forms will change. An indirect speech reports what the speaker has spoken without using the actual words and does not use quotation marks. A direct speech is the actual words spoken by the speaker and it is placed within quotation marks in writing.

A quoted speech is found in newspaper reports, talks, and written conversation. By learning the indirect speech and the direct speech definitely students will be able to quote speech such as statements, commands, and questions.

Learning quoted speech is still not easy for many Indonesian students because Indonesian doesn't have similar grammar to English grammar. With the different grammatical structures, there are many difficulties for students when they quote a speech. In quoted speech in English there are grammatical changes to make it correct and meaningful, for example:

- He said that he was fine (indirect speech)
- He said, "I'm fine" (direct speech)

Based on the example above there are some differences in the sentences such as using of tense and using quotation marks. The indirect speech uses simple past tense and does not use quotation marks. The direct speech uses simple present tense and quotation marks in between the actual words spoken by the speaker. Because of the differences above, the students often make an error in changing indirect speech into direct speech. The informal interview the researcher did showed that some the third years' students were confused when they were changing an indirect speech into a direct speech because of the grammatical changes.

Based on explanation and the fact above, the researcher was interested to analyze the third year students' ability in changing indirect speech into direct speech containing statement using simple present tense, simple past tense, and

simple future tense at the third year of the English department of Bung Hatta University.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Refnita (2016:3) states that a sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete idea. In English, there are four types of sentences based on their functions such as statements, questions (yes/no questions and wh questions), commands and exclamations. Statement gives information or opinions, for example: *I live in Indonesia*. A question asks for information, for example: *Where do you live?* A command tells what to do, for example: *Open the door!*. An exclamation expresses surprise, pleasure, or other emotions, for example: *What a beautiful lady!*. The four types of sentences can appear in direct or indirect speech.

To write a correct sentence the students have to apply correct grammar. Therefore, the students should master grammatical features. One of the grammatical features is tenses. Tenses denote the time of action. That tense indicates the time of an action or event. The tense of a verb expresses the time of an action and the degree of its completeness. It tells us whether it took place in the past (The Past Tense), whether it takes place at present (The Present Tense) or whether it will take place in the future (The Future Tense). A verb has three tenses; the present tense shows an action that takes place at present. The past tense shows an action that was completed or going on in the past. The future tense shows an action that will take place in the future. Each of these tenses has four different forms; the present tense is divided into simple present, present continuous, present perfect and present perfect continuous. The past tense is

divided into simple past, past continuous, past perfect and past perfect continuous. The future tense is divided into simple future, future continuous, future perfect, and future perfect continuous (Nair and Chandrika, 2012:237). In addition there are four other tenses that i.e. future, past future perfect, past future continuous, past future perfect continuous.

In changing an indirect speech into a direct speech, there are several changes in the sentence such as quotation marks, the conjunction “*that*”, tenses, pronoun and time. First, in indirect speech we don’t use quotation marks, while direct speech uses quotation marks in between the actual words spoken by the speaker. Second, the conjunction “*that*” is always used between reporting verb and reported speech in an indirect speech. Third, tenses that are used in indirect speech and direct speech are different; when we use simple past tense in an indirect speech, then we will use simple present tense in the direct speech. Fourth, the pronoun of direct speech is sometimes changed according to the pronoun of the reported verb in indirect speech. Last, if there is time mentioned in the sentence of indirect speech, the time will be changed at direct speech.

All aspects of grammar explained above (quotation marks, the conjunction, tenses, pronoun and time) produce difficulties to the students in changing indirect speech into direct speech.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

The research was limited to the analysis of student’s ability in changing indirect speech into direct speech containing statement. The direct speech is limited to those using simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future

tense. The researcher limited these tenses because they are the main tenses in English that are often used by people in daily activities. The source of data was the third year students of the English department of Bung Hatta University.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the researcher formulated the problem of this study as “How is the third year students’ ability in changing indirect speech into direct speech containing statement using simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense at the English Department of Bung Hatta University?”

1.5 Research Questions

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

- 1) How is the students’ ability in changing indirect speech into direct speech containing statement using simple present tense?
- 2) How is the students’ ability in changing indirect speech into direct speech containing statement using simple past tense?
- 3) How is the students’ ability in changing indirect speech into direct speech containing statement using simple future tense?

1.6 Purposes of the Research

The purpose of this research was generally to find out the third year students’ ability in changing indirect speech into direct speech at English

Department of Bung Hatta University. The specific purposes of this research are as follow:

- 1) To find out the students' ability in changing indirect speech into direct speech containing statement using simple present tense.
- 2) To find out the students' ability in changing indirect speech into direct speech containing statement using simple past tense.
- 3) To find out the students' ability in changing indirect speech into direct speech containing statement using simple future tense.

1.7 Significance of The Research

This research is considered important because the result of this research is expected to give benefit for English lecturers and the students. First, English lecturers can get the information about the students' ability in changing indirect speech into direct speech. So, the lecturers are able to improve their teaching in this topic. Second, the students can know about their abilities in changing indirect speech into direct speech.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

These are some definition of key terms in order to avoid misunderstanding:

- 1) Grammar is defined as words put together to make correct sentences.
- 2) Ability is a learned capability required to successfully complete a task.

In this research, it is capability to change indirect speech to direct speech.

- 3) Indirect speech is reporting what someone says without using their exact words.
- 4) Direct speech is report of the exact words used by the speaker or by writer.
- 5) Simple present tense is a tense used to express present facts or actions.
- 6) Simple past tense is a tense used to refer to a definite single act completed in the past, a habitual or repeated action in the past, or an event completed in the past that no longer applies in present time.
- 7) Simple future tense is a tense used to make a prediction about an action or a plan.