

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, research question, purpose of the research, significance of the research, and definition of the key terms.

### **1.1 Background of Problem**

Writing is one of skills to learn in English. According to Nunan (2003), writing is the mental work of inventing ideas, thinking about how to express them, and organizing them into statements and paragraphs that will be clear to a reader. Bahns & Eldaw (1993), they also learn to use appropriate choice of words and learn how to combine words in order to produce meaningful sentences, phrases, or texts. Therefore, students should learn the way words combine naturally in their writing production or to produce collocation. If students are able to understand and apply the collocation, they will be able to produce a good written text and become native-like, Howarth (1998).

In writing lessons, simple sentence is the basic skill for students. To master students must be able to use verbs based on the context. Furthermore, verb collocations are often used in writing simple sentence. They would be able to improve their writing skills because they are prepared with word combinations to construct their sentences. The better use collocation, the more natural their English would be.

Sinclair (1991) defines that collocation as a regular combination between words, in such a natural way so they co-occur more often than their respective frequencies. However, after the researcher interview some students of the third year students at English Department

of Bung Hatta University, the researcher found that some of the third year students still do not know how to use collocative verb in writing simple sentence. So, in this research the researcher focused on research about using verb collocation “do, make, have” in writing positive simple present sentence.

## 1.2 Identification of the Problem

Writing is one of four important English skills. Gaith (2002) states that writing is a complex process that allows writers to explore thoughts and ideas, and make them visible and concrete. Writing encourages thinking and learning. It motivates communication and makes thought available for reflection when thought is written down, ideas can be examined, reconsidered, added to, rearranged, and changed.

The third years students of English Department of Bung Hatta University have studied in some writing subjects: writing sentence, writing essay, writing paragraph, and writing scientific report. They studied Writing simple sentence at second semester and they were learning to write sentence by using verb collocation. Several students had understood it, although some other students were difficult to master verb collocation and to use it in writing sentence. Based on interview, the researcher found that some students did not know which words when together with another words to form verb collocation. Were varieties word for example: :

- *Make: (+) I make an appointment with my friends.*

*(-) I don't make appointment with my friends.*

*(?) Do I make appointment with my friend.*

- *Do: (+) They do the homeworks.*

*(-) They don't do the homeworks.*

*(?) Do they do the homeworks?*

- *Have: (+) She has a new house.*

*(-) She doesn't have a new house.*

*(?) Does she have a new house?.*

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

Concerning with the identification of the problem as mentioned before, the researcher limited her study to analyze the third year English Department students' ability in writing sentence by using verb collocation at Bung Hatta University.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Research**

The formulation of the research is "How are the third year students' ability to write simple present sentence by using verb collocation at Bung Hatta University?".

### **1.5 Reseach Questions**

In line with the formulation of the research problem above, the researcher formulated some research questions as follow:

1. How is the third year students' ability to use verb collocation "do" in writing positive simple present sentence?
2. How is the third year students' ability to use verb collocation "make" in writing positive simple present sentence?
3. How is the third year students' ability to use verb collocation "have" in writing positive simple present sentence?

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

The purpose of the study is to find out the the third year students' ability to write sentence by using verb collocation at English Department of Bung Hatta University.

In the specific, the researcher mention the purposes as follows:

1. To find out the third year students' ability to use verb collocation "do" in writing positive simple present tense
2. To find out the third year students' ability to use verb collocation "make" in writing positive simple present tense
3. To find out the third year students' ability to use verb collocation "have" in writing positive simple present tense

### **1.6 Significant of the Research**

This research is very important for teachers, students and reseachers. This research is to provide benefit to the development of linguistics. The benefits for teacher is to find out and learn of writing simple sentences using verb collocation, there are many things we must know that this material is very important and really need to review. The benefit for students is to find out the use of simple sentences, to increase knowledge about learning English in order to understand errors in the use of simple sentences using collocative verbs.

For the researchers the research expected to be able to increase knowledge in researching a problem and be useful in understanding the extent to which students are able to learn the material and whether students have difficulty in understanding collocation.

## 1.7 Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding the researcher provides key terms the definitions of some key terms as follow:

1. According to White and Arndt (1991) in Hammad (2013), writing sentence is a thinking process which demands intellectual effort, and it involves generating ideas, planning, goal setting, monitorin, evaluating what is going to be written as well as what has been written, and using language for expressing exact meanings.
2. Regarding Hewings (2002) simple present tense explains or tells about ways, activities, things or habits that happen on a regular basis.
3. Writing simple sentence consist of subjects and verbs that can be combined with other elements such as objects, complements, and adverbs but those elements are optional (Alwi et al., 2003: Oshima & Hogue, 2007).
4. Collocation is habitual co-occurrence of words group of words (Baker : 1992, Schmit : 2000, and Nation 2001).
5. Lewis (2001) defined collocation as a combination of words that come with greater frequency rather than random frequency.