

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 The Background of the Problems

English is an international language. It has been used as a means of communication around the globe. It is used by nations around the world for different purposes, for example, business, technology and science, international relations.

In order to master English, language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing should be learned by students. Among the four language skills, writing can be the most difficult skill. Heaton (1975) states that writing skill is complex and it is sometimes difficult to teach. The basic point that makes writing difficult is the use of language aspect or ability in written likes key ideas, spelling, mechanics, use of vocabulary and tenses. According to Jones (1998), writing is often confusing with the process of putting words down on paper in the same structure as an outline prepared with appropriate style and vocabulary the major ideas are arranged some often on the correction of mechanical and grammatical errors.

Writing is a very important capability of being owned by students, and it is also an excellent communication tool. Sharples (1999) states that writing is the expression of language in the form of letters, words, sentences, and paragraphs on the basis of structure and some other related to one another. Through writing, someone can express her/his ideas,

thoughts, and experiences freely through written language. Students can convey their ideas in their minds by organizing them into good writing so that the other people understand the text and they can get an idea.

Since Writing is very important, English Language Study Program of Faculty of Teacher Training Education, Bung Hatta University offers three subjects relating to writing. One of them is Writing sentences. In this subject, the second-year students at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University learn compound sentences using coordinating conjunctions. The purpose of this subject is that the students should be able to write simple sentences, compound equivalents, and compound levels (Syllabus of Writing Sentence, 2020). The students studied compound sentences through both Google Classroom and Google Meet.

In addition, to be precise in the middle of March, teaching and learning activities at the beginning of the odd semester at the English Department of Bung Hatta University were done by using the online class because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Because of that, the teaching and learning process is done with online media such as Google Classroom, Zoom, WhatsApp, Telegram, etc.

One of the platforms that are used is Google Classroom from Google.com. Google Classroom is a part of Google Suite for Education and officially launched in 2014. As described in www.support.google.com, Google Classroom aims for more productive and meaningful teaching by efficiently managing assignments, increasing collaboration, and improving communication. It is also equipped with various features that enable the teacher to manage class more effectively through Google Mails, Google Docs, Google Drive, Google Slides, and recently, Google Calendar. According to Beal (2017), Google Classroom a tool that facilitates students and teacher collaboration; also, the teacher can

make and distribute assignments for students in an online classroom for free. It makes teachers ease to construct groups to share assignments and announcements.

Based on the informal interview and discussion with several second-year students of the English Department of Bung Hatta University on February 28th, 2021, it was assumed that they have difficulties writing compound sentences using coordinating conjunctions. Although they have already studied the knowledge about writing compound sentences, they have difficulties such as constructing sentences, using appropriate conjunction, constructing the ideas, applying correct capitalization, and punctuation.

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in conducting research entitled "An Analysis of the Second Year Students' Ability in Writing Compound Sentences with the Coordinating Conjunctions Through Google Classroom at English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University. It is necessary to prove students' abilities scientifically.

1.2 The Identification of the Problems

There are some problems in writing a compound sentence in the second year at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University. These problems could not only from the students but also from the teaching and learning process.

The first problem comes from students. They could not understand well how to write a compound sentence properly. Moreover, they have a lack of understanding of using correct tenses, such as simple present tense, past tense, future tense, past perfect, present continuous in writing a compound sentence. They still confuse in combining sentences into a compound sentence, and they also do not put a comma before the coordinating conjunction. For example: I like peanut butter and I like jelly. He eats macaroni but he won't eat cheese.

In addition, the students also have a problem choosing appropriate coordinating conjunction. There are seven coordinating conjunctions; For—And—Nor—But—Or—Yet—So (FANBOYS). The most common of these coordinating conjunctions are and, but, and or.

The second problem is the teaching and learning process. This problem is related to classroom activities using online media. There are some online media, such as Zoom, WhatsApp, Goole Meet, Google Classroom, etc. Inappropriate media made the teaching-learning process do not run well. The most common problem that students face in online learning is to operate the media's function properly. Some students do not know how to submit their assignment in Google Classroom, then some students often confuse about choosing the right button to check for absence. Another problem that happens on online learning is improper use of the application, for example, writing class is held with Zoom, which is improper because Zoom is a reliable cloud platform for video, voice and, content sharing runs across mobile devices, desktops, telephones, and room systems.

1.3 The Limitation of the Problems

Concerning the identification of the problem above, the researcher limited this research to students' ability in writing compound sentences using correct coordinating conjunctions. It focused on coordinating conjunctions; namely, *for*, *and*, *but*, *or* and, *so* in simple present tense through google classroom media. These coordinating conjunctions are used because they are often used coordinating conjunction in writing a sentence.

1.4 The Formulation of the Research

Based on the background of the problem above, this research problem can be formulated as follows: How is the second-year students' ability in writing compound

sentences with the coordinating conjunctions through Google classroom at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University?

1.5 The Research Questions

In line with the formulation of the problem, this research is conducted to answer the following specific questions:

1. How is the second-year students' ability in writing compound sentences with the coordinating conjunctions using FOR through Google classroom at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University?
2. How is the second-year students' ability in writing compound sentences with the coordinating conjunctions using AND through Google classroom at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University?
3. How is the second-year students' ability in writing a compound sentence with the coordinating conjunction using BUT through Google classroom at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University?
4. How is the second-year students' ability in writing a compound sentence with the coordinating conjunction using OR through Google classroom English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University?
5. How is the second-year students' ability in writing a compound sentence with the coordinating conjunction using SO through Google classroom at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University?

1.6 The Purposes of the Research

The purpose of this research is generally to find out the second-year students' ability in writing a compound sentence with the coordinating conjunction through Google classroom

at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University. Specifically, this research is to describe :

1. The second-year students' ability in writing compound sentences with the coordinating conjunctions using FOR through Google classroom at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University
2. The second-year students' ability in writing compound sentences with the coordinating conjunctions using AND through Google classroom at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University
3. The second-year students' ability in writing a compound sentence with the coordinating conjunction using BUT through Google classroom at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University
4. The second-year students' ability in writing a compound sentence with the coordinating conjunction using OR through Google classroom English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University
5. The second-year students' ability in writing a compound sentence with the coordinating conjunction using SO through Google classroom at the English Language Study Program of Bung Hatta University

1.7 The Significance of the Study

This research could be beneficial for the lecturers, students, and further research. For the lecturers, they know their students' writing ability, especially in writing compound sentences. If the result is bad, the lecturers know what should be fixed in teaching students about writing compound sentences. However, if the result of this research is good, it can improve the teaching style to maximize students' ability in writing a compound sentence using by using the founding of this research. For this, they know their abilities in writing

compound sentences. Moreover, it can motivate them in improving their writing ability. For further research, the result of the research may become a reference and a contribution for the next research.

1.8 The Definitions of the Key Term

To avoid miss understanding of this research, the researcher defines the key terms used in it.

- a. Ability is a capacity of students to write compound sentences by using coordinating conjunction.
- b. Compound sentence is a sentence that joins two or more sentences and has related ideas of equal importance.
- c. Coordinating conjunctions is a word to join two sentences that has subject and verb agreement.

Google Classroom is a blended learning model that is used as a solution to the challenges of producing, exchanging, and grouping assignments without needing to gather paperless assignments for every area of education