

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

As a global language, English is the most used language in the world. In Indonesia, English is learned as a foreign language. Moreover, an important part of learning a foreign language is learning how words fit together to form phrases, and how phrases fit together to form sentences, and the combinational properties of words and phrases are called as syntax. Furthermore, this research will focus on the articles produced by university students. As academic students, a greater level of accuracy is required, and the correct used of articles become an indication of mastery of the language. Next, speaking as one of four language skills, it is used more than other language skills we use in daily communication. In class, to measure the ability of speaking skill, usually students do presentations. The presentations are reflected students' writing, which is the highest level of the four language skills.

English articles are considered as the frequent words in English. As Master (2002) said that the article *the* is shown to be the most frequent word in English and *a* to be the fifth most frequent word. Next, Berry (1993) states nearly eight and half percent of the English text contains *the* and *a*.

In a private university in Indonesia, articles are already taught since the students are in the first semester. Yet, based on the writer pre-observation, even the high semester students still frequently make mistakes or errors in producing articles in their presentation. This statement is also supported by a research done by Ting, et al (2010). The research focused on the grammatical errors produced while the students spoke. Another research related to this study is the research from Swasti (2016) stated that students do not acquire English article system clearly and that is also her reason in doing this similar research in error analysis.

Human learning is fundamentally a process which involves the making of mistakes. According to Brown (1994:257-258) “mistakes are performance errors and frequently made by both native and second language learners. Such mistakes include slip of the tongue and random ungrammatical formations.” While, errors are systematic in that they occur repeatedly and are not recognized by the learners. The errors of using articles can lead to some misunderstanding things. E.g. someone says “I have a dogs”, the hearer will be confused in understanding the message whether the person has one dog or more. Furthermore, the methods will be used by the writer is video recording. The writer will record the presentations of the students and transcribe the mistakes or errors.

1.2. Research Question

The writer forms these research questions as follows:

What are the types of articles errors produced by the students?

1.3. Research Objective

Based on the research question, the aim of this research is to identify the types of English articles errors that the students produced.

1.4. Uses of the study

It is expected that this research can contribute two main points of uses as follows:

a. Theoretical use

This research will contribute to the knowledge of the readers how articles *a*, *an*, and *the* are used. Moreover, English as the international language is learned by a large number of people. It is expected that this research can be one of the sources for them to know how to use English articles.

b. Practical use

The result of this research will provide the identifications of English articles errors. It is expected that it can be as a warning for students in using English articles.

1.5. Scope of the Study

In collecting the data for this research, the writer limited this research only focus on describing articles errors made by senior students in a private university in Indonesia in their presentations. Students mistakes were repeated more than three times, the writer considered it as the forms of errors.

