

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Learning English means that the learners must learn how the native speakers use the language. However, learners of English major in Indonesia still show their weaknesses in understanding and using English such as making errors influenced by their first language. As stated that “EFL learners depend on interlingual strategies to facilitate learning” Mahmoud (2005). For instance, they tend to produce a phrase *different with* instead of *different from* since in Bahasa the phrase means *berbeda dengan*, it shows that the way of the learners use English is influenced by their Bahasa Indonesia, because in Bahasa the word “with” means “dengan” so that is why the learners tend to produce that phrase in their speaking or writing. Although, the phrases have the same meaning but the first one is unnatural to be spoken and written in English although it can be understood, it shows that they make an error of collocating words.

According to Benson et al (1997) “collocation is words which combine with certain other words or grammatical constructions.” This means that there are words which have had their own pair to be put together in order to create a natural semantics unit. It can be stated that a meaningful language can also be obtained through right collocation. In addition, collocation is an important part in English since it will make the language produced naturally and meaningfully. McCarthy (2005) stated there are three advantages of learning collocation. The first, it gives us the most natural way to say something. The second, it gives us alternative ways

of saying something or be more colorful and expressive, and the third, it improves our style of writing.

Darvishi (2011: 52) claimed that “collocation has become one of the primary concerns in EFL teaching and learning for decades.” It means that both teachers and learners should pay more attention to this. Moreover, several researchers (Darvishi, 2011; Salehuddin et al, 2011) indicated that EFL/ESL learners made collocation errors in their writing due to lack of collocation knowledge and L1 interference. In addition, Bahardoust & Moeini (2012) claimed that the lack of knowledge of collocating words properly can affect L2 acquisition and make problems in learning process. Since collocation is a part of word combination which plays important role for student’s English proficiency therefore this study analyzes students’ writing in University level. In this study, the writer chooses a private university in Lampung that has English Literature major which makes the students use English as a medium in teaching and learning process. Here, the writer chose English Literature rather than English department because for the English department program in this university is just made by the university that makes the writer prefers to choose English literature, therefore the writer chose English literature students’ writings to be examined.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the problem to be solved in this study is:

What are the collocation errors made by the students in their writings?

1.3 Research Objectives

Related to the problem, the objective of this study is:

To identify and explain the collocation errors made by the students in their writings.

1.4 Uses of the Study

1.4.1 Theoretical Uses

Theoretically, this study is expected to give additional information about English collocation to the readers.

1.4.2 Practical Uses

Practically, this study can raise the readers' awareness of English collocation. Hopefully, it can also present the common mistakes of collocation use as the consideration for the lecturer who teaches writing/grammar class. This study can also be a model for the next researcher who wants to do similar study.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study is limited to analyze 15 students' writings in essay writing class in a one of private universities in Lampung. In addition, the writer focuses on discussing lexical and grammatical collocation defined by Benson et al (1997).