CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Language is the necessary part in our life because people use it to communicate and interact with others. They often communicate and interact with others by speaking and writing. Speaking is the common way used to communicate. We usually don't emphasize the structure of language in speaking; the message of discussion is the important one. Meanwhile writing emphasizes on the usage of the structure of language correctly. Gelb (1952) states that Writing begins at the time when man learned how to communicate his thoughts and feelings by means of visible signs. We can't use gesture to express and explain our thoughts and feelings; we share it by giving a sign (words). That is why writing as one of the ways for people to communicate needs a perfect grammar to make the readers understand the messages clearly.

People think that English can be used in every country, so that they want to study it. In Indonesia, English as a foreign language (EFL) is studied since people were in the kindergarten. Even some of them still study it when they are at university. In the process of studying, Indonesian students sometimes still make mistakes in English because of the interference of their native language, for example when they translate "I want an ice cream", it becomes "*Saya suka es krim*". They don't need to translate it into "*Saya suka sebuah es krim*". Another example is "It is the best gift I've ever had" which becomes

"Ini adalah hadiah terbaik yang pernah saya dapatkan". Indonesian people translate "the best" as "terbaik" without translating "the".

Articles are taken as the main problem to be discussed because the English articles ("a", "an", and "the") are considered to be the most frequent words in English (Master, 2002), but articles have many and complex rules and exceptions. As a result English learners find difficulties to use English articles. Master (2002) said that the English article system is one of the most difficult parts of the English grammar for the EFL/ESL learners. In addition Kim and Lakshmana (2007) said that ESL/EFL learners need more time to acquire the article system than any other grammatical forms. "Wallstreetenglish" is also mentioned that article is one of the common error that often occurs in students' writing texts. Even article errors are still found in the writing texts of University students because it is sometimes confusing

Articles are parts of the function words (Harley (2001). In the English grammar, a function word (determiner, pronoun, preposition, and conjunction) is a word that expresses a grammatical or structural relationship with other words in a sentence. A function word has little or meaningful content, but it doesn't mean that it serves no purpose. Articles give detail to noun. If we take the article out of the written text, we will find it hard to figure out what is going on, for example: "I have a cat. Cat is cute. I feed cat everyday". In the second and third sentences of the example, readers will not know what kind of cat that the writer means. "Cat" that is in the second and third sentence of the example can be any cat or the cat that has been mentioned in the first sentence.

As a result, the writer can't explain the noun "cat" in detail; meanwhile, the reader can't get the clear explanation about the noun "cat" well from the text. The presence of an article creates a link between the nouns, so the information contained can be understood well. Thus, article will build the understanding of specific or unspecific noun, definite or indefinite, because the omission of article or the misuse of article may cause ambiguity for the readers in identifying a noun like the example.

Being a university student, especially that of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya, the writer is trained to become a teacher of English. When the writer was doing her teaching practice in one of the Junior High Schools in Surabaya, she found that students had difficulties in using articles. Many of them never gave articles in their sentences because they didn't know how to apply the articles in their sentences or they might not be aware that articles in English are important. As a result, the writer wants to search whether the English Department students of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya know well how to use and apply articles (a, an, the) properly in writing because using articles which have many rules are not as easy as people thought.

Realizing the importance of articles and how important mastering the article for teacher trainees is, the writer wants to describe the article errors made in the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya students' essays. Writing II which is about News Items and report texts was taken because the Writing II students had taken Structure 1 which

discusses the theory and exercises of using articles (based on the 2015/2016 syllabus of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya). As a result, the students should be able to apply articles appropriately in their writing text.

1.2 The Problem Statement

The study is an attempt to analyze article errors in the news item and report text of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya. The central questions formulated are:

1. What types of article errors are found in news items or report texts of English Department Students of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya in the academic year 2016/2017?

2. What possible causes of the most frequent article error are found in news Items or report texts of the English Department Students of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya in the academic year 2016/2017?

1.3 The Objectives

According to the problem mentioned above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the types of article errors in news items or report texts of the English Department Students of Widya Mandala Catholic University of Surabaya in the academic year 2016/2017.

2. To find the possible causes of the most frequent article errors that are found in news items or report texts of English Department Students of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya in the academic year 2016/2017

1.4 Theoretical Framework

The writer uses error analysis as the theoretical framework. "Error analysis is a technique for identifying, classifying, and systematically interpreting the unacceptable forms produced by someone learning a foreign language." (Brown, 1980). To help the writer in analyzing the errors, she classifies them into errors of addition, errors of omission, and errors of substitutions (Dulay, 1982).

The writer also uses another theory from Richard as cited by Ellis (1994) to identify the possible causes of the errors. According to Richards (1971), the causes of errors are divided into interlingual and intralingual errors. The interlingual errors are classified because of the L1 interference, while intralingual errors are classified into four categories: overgeneralization, ignorance of the rule restrictions, incomplete application of rules, and false concepts hypothesized

1.5 The Assumption

This study is based on the following assumptions which is article errors might be found in news items and report texts made by the students of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This non-experimental study deals with the English Department students of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya in the academic year 2016/2017. The study itself is delimited to analyze the article errors found in the news items and report texts because these texts are parts of mid-term essays of Writing II which became the data source of this study.

1.7 The Significance of the Study

Practically, this study shows some article (a, an, the) errors that the English Departments students of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya have made in their news items and report text. Thus this study is hoped to give some benefits for:

1. The lecturers of Structure and Writing classes, to know which use of English articles seems to be problematic to the students.

2. Peer colleagues that will be English teachers, so they can be aware with the errors of articles and help them to strategize their teaching practice later.

1.8 Definition of Key-terms

Some degree of uncertainty may still exist. In order to avoid the misunderstanding about this study, some definitions are provided as the following:

1. News items

   News item is a text which informs readers about events of the day. The events are considered newsworthy or important (Dijk, 1985). In this study, what is meant by news items is texts that Writing II students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya have to write, informing newsworthy events with the generic structure of newsworthy event, elaboration (background, participant, time, place), and resource of information**.**

2. Report Text

   Report is a text which presents information about something. It is as a result of systematic observation and analysis (Gorlach, 2004). In this study, what is meant by report texts is texts that Writing II students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya have to write, informing something in general with the generic structure of general classification and description**.**

3. Error analysis

   Error analysis is technique for identifying, classifying, and systematically interpreting the unacceptable forms produced by someone learning a foreign language (Brown, 1980).

4. Error

Error is made because of the lack of knowledge or the lack of competence which learners have (Ellis, 2008).

5. Articles

Article is any member of a small class of words or affixes that are linked to the nouns and that typically have a grammatical function in identifying the noun as a noun rather than describing it (Djamal, 2008).

1.9 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I presents the background of study, problem statements, objectives, theoretical framework, assumption, scope and limitation of the study, significance of the study, definitions of key-terms, and organization of study. Chapter II deals with review of related literature and previous study. Chapter III presents research methodology of this study. Chapter IV presents the data analysis of the study and discussion of the findings. Chapter V presents conclusion and suggestion.