CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1.   Background of the study

Language has an important function to communicate or to give information. In this context, language has two functions, spoken and written. People use language to extend their idea, aim or information

As an International language, English has an important function in every way of communication. Included in Indonesia, English becomes the most important foreign language. In Indonesia, English is used in most of the elements such as in job application, brochure of product. English is learned as subject in the primary to university levels of school.

Using writing people can splash their idea into the text with the good paragraph and the important function of writing is about communication. The medium of writing is not only in paper but it can be in other tools to appear the idea, for instance computer, cloth, etc. Writing has some of forms such as narrative, argumentative, descriptive or persuasive. All of the function in writing forms is used to give information and to make a communication. Another one is to create a good paragraph usually by using fundament of languages named grammar or grammatical system.

In the basic of language, such as in the basic of English or Indonesia, it is always influenced with structure and grammatical system. But, every language has different system of grammatical process and the function of grammatical here is to adjust the sentence or ideas to be applied. Time is related with tense in

English, which becomes a part of grammatical system that involve a lot of structural or grammatical rules in English.

Grammatical system used in all of learning language is written or spoken which is used to arrange language in spoken or written completely. Learning language also means learning its grammatical system (Brown 1994:204). Learning language is through learning grammatical system itself. A speaker can not learn a new language only on vocabulary or pronunciation but other importance of language is about grammatical system as the fundamental of the language. In addition, a writer can not get a good paragraph if he does not choose the correct grammar in the paragraph or a speaker can not create good communication without using grammatical system as the direction.

Grammar in writing has an important function. Grammar's role is to guide the progress to make good paragraphs. Grammar is used as an important function in the formal condition of English application letters. Therefore, having the ability to comprehend and understand grammar, a writer has the ability to apply his idea in every situation, included in formal and informal situation. Writing in grammatical system also influences the process of reading. Good paragraph with good grammar will make a reader interested and easy to read the text. It is an active process between a writer and a reader.

The process of understanding foreign language almost has the same problem in applying and learning with other study. Brown (1994:204) stated that learning a foreign language is like any other learning. So, learning about a foreign language is the same as other study such as mathematics, physics, etc. the problem

is about making of mistake in the process of learning which is in application or analysis of the structure. In the context of learning, English, especially in writing, the problem of making error in text often happen through grammatical system. A good paragraph would not be perfect if does not include grammatical system.

In this thesis, the writer chooses writing III of the English Department students of Airlangga to observe. The writer chooses the assignment of Diploma III students because they are learning English grammar through writing as the application. Writing III as the continuation of the writing subjects before, in interesting to observe in how far they can apply the grammatical rules in their text assignments. As long as students learn about grammatical system, they often make mistakes in grammar. In the other one the writer's motive to choose the object is about limitation of finance and time.

For his observation, the writer chooses only four types of grammar to analyze. The writer chooses Tenses, Agreement, passive sentence and article to analyze because these are some of the many grammatical problems often faced by students. The writer chooses four Tenses to analyze, namely simple present, simple past tense and present perfect tense. The limitation of this researches does not includes all of grammatical system mistakes because the writer wants to focus to the analyzes and the limits of time, knowledge, and fund of the writer.

1.2.   Statement of the problem

Based on the background of the study above, the statement of the problem can be stated what grammatical mistakes are mostly made by D3 Students in Writing III?

1.3.   Objective of the Study

The objective of the study based on the statement of the problem above is to find out the grammatical mistakes mostly made by D3 Students in Writing III.

1.4.   Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this study can provide a meaningful contribution to the linguistic study especially in the development of English writing. It is also expected to be a useful information for linguistic observers, in general, who are interested in studying and analyzing written English.

The writer hopes that this study can also provide advantages for the lecturers especially in teaching English grammar at the English Department of Airlangga University. Therefore, the students of English Department either D3 or S1, can hopefully get some benefit from this study toward better written English.

1.5.   Scope and Limitation

The data for this study consist of 23 student's work who followed Writing III class. The writer limited the discussion only four type of errors that are article,

passive sentence, agreement, and tenses and ignored other types of errors. This limitation is caused by time, knowledge, and fund.

1.6. Definition of Key Term

- Grammatical Mistakes   : an unsystematic study of scientific methods which provide us information and guidance necessary to learn the language. (Murthy, 2003:2)

- Grammar   : traditionally concerned with the principle which determines the formation and interpretation of words, phrases, and sentences. Radford (1997:1)

- Mistakes   : a systematic deviation when a learner has not learned something consistently gets it wrong. (Norrish, 1998: 25)

- Language Transfer   : the result falling back on old knowledge, the first rule, when new knowledge is lacking. (Odlin, 1989: 26)