ABSTRACT

Citra W, Zavitri. "A Structural Error Analysis of the Tenses Made by the Second Grade Students of SMUN 4 Surabaya." A thesis submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana degree of the English Department, Faculty of Letters Airlangga University, 2005.

Every language has some specific rules often absent in other languages. English has the verb tense rules. Tense refers to the verb form used to express time relation (Hornby, 1975:78). Every English sentence indicates information about an event/situation that happens at a particular time (present, past, or future). On the contrary, Indonesian does not have any tense rules. Learning English tense for most Indonesian learners is not simple thing. They often have difficulty in producing the right form of verb tense. In the process of learning a foreign language, learners often make errors. Errors commonly occur to language learners who have lack of knowledge; mistakes commonly occur to native speakers who fail to utilize a known system correctly (Corder, 1967:167). In this qualitative study, the writer would like to find out in which tense of the core system that the second grade students of SMUN 4 Surabaya mostly make errors. Furthermore, the writer also would like to apply the theory of Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman (1983:62) stating that there are five tenses can be viewed as the core system, namely, Simple Present, Simple Past, Simple Future, Present Progressive, and Present Perfect. In analyzing the tense errors made by the students, the writer would adopt the procedures of error analysis by Ellis. There are three stages in the process of error analysis which involve identification of errors, description of errors, and explanation of errors. The second grade students of SMUN 4 Surabaya were chosen to be the respondents of the study. The data of this study show that most errors made by the students occurred in Present Perfect. The students are able to produce Simple Past and Simple Future more easily than the other tenses.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION