

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Basically, in learning English, students have to master grammar first. Grammar is the system of a language grammar can help to learn a language more quickly and more efficiently. As the students understand grammar, they can understand many things and master all English skills such as speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Mastering grammar helps students to understand every word when they are reading, speaking, listening, and writing (Nurhayati, 2019). Externally learning and understanding grammar, students will find it difficult to master English in all aspects. Therefore, to master English, one needs the key, namely grammar. However, most students still think that grammar is a challenging subject. They believe that speaking is an easy subject, just learning the pronunciation or listening to native speakers.

When speaking, it also contains grammar elements. An error speech will cause misunderstanding. Nurhayati (2020) explained that grammatical competence is needed in fulfilling talk competence since the understudies are able of create linguistically adjust sentences or articulations by being bumbling on this portion. Thus, grammar is crucial to learn by students to master English well. One of the components of grammar is Degrees of Comparison. Core Competencies and Basic Competencies of Vocational High School/Madrasah Aliyah Vocational Curriculum 2013 stated; students are expected to be able in compiling oral and written transactional interaction texts that involve the action of giving and asking

information related to the comparison of adjectives by paying attention to social functions, text structure, and linguistic elements correct and in context. Therefore, students have to learn the degrees of comparison theory. Swan (1984) explains, "Degrees of Comparison used to compare one person or thing with another person(s) or thing(s)."

Students often make mistakes in learning degrees of comparison, especially in comparative and superlative forms. The difficulties were sometimes confusing to put the suffix *-er/-est* or prefix *more/most* omit or misplaced the use of *to be* (*is, am, are, was, were*) and the use of the article "the" in the superlative form. Previous studies stated that there were mistakes in learning degrees of comparison made by students. Dewi (2016) concluded that the students had known about the comparison. However, they must be more aware of changing the base form of adjectives into comparative and superlative forms. Therefore, the students need to study more about the rules of changing basic words or adjectives into comparative and superlative forms.

Moreover, (Kurniawan & Oktalia, 2017) stated that most students did not master degrees of comparison well. Even the students knew the adjective should add by suffixes or prefixes in degrees of comparison but, most of them did not master the form and the usage of adjective degree well. Shalehoddin & Samosir (2017) discovered that most students still found difficulties in mastering degrees of comparison, especially for the forms, the syllables, and the usage of each. Besides, Nugroho (2019) discovered there were some errors in students' descriptive writing. They initiated with adjectives, articles, spelling, nouns,

pronouns, prepositions on, word choice, capitalization, conjunction, and word order. The most frequent errors are to be adjectives and capitalization. The causes of errors are due to first language interference and translation.

Based on the previous research above, the writer concluded that comparative and superlative degrees still become complicated subjects. In this study, the writer is interested in analyzing the errors related to degrees of comparison entitled, "Error Analysis in Constructing English Sentences Using Degrees of Comparison at Vocational High School 2 Tulungagung. Previous research with this research both analyze errors in studying the degree of comparison. Previous research has only analyzed the mistakes students made in using one or more syllables and irregular adjectives. Whereas in this study aims to analyze the use of adjectives and adverbs in degrees of comparison, both in regular and irregular form. Thus, the writer can find the types of errors made by students in constructing English sentences using degrees of comparison. In addition, she also wants to know the sources of the errors and why the students made the errors. Hopefully, she can give beneficial suggestions to solve the problems in learning degrees of comparison.

## **1.2 The Statement of the Research Problem**

Based on the background above, we can arrange the questions for this study.

The questions are:

1. What are the types of errors made by the students of Vocational High School 2 Tulungagung in constructing English sentences using degrees of comparison?
2. What are the sources of errors made by the students of Vocational High School 2 Tulungagung in constructing English sentences using degrees of comparison?
3. Why did the students of Vocational High School 2 Tulungagung make some errors in constructing English sentences using degrees of comparison?

### **1.3 The Objective of the Research**

In answering the questions in the statement of the research problem, there are three objectives of the research problem in this research, those are:

1. To know the types of errors made by the students of Vocational High School 2 Tulungagung in constructing English sentences using degrees of comparison.
2. To know the sources of errors made by the students of Vocational High School 2 Tulungagung in constructing English sentences using degrees of comparison.
3. To know the causes of errors made by the students of Vocational High School 2 Tulungagung in constructing English sentences using degrees of comparison.

#### **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

Based on the study, the writer limits the analysis of errors by students in tenth grades of SMKN 2 Tulungagung in constructing English sentences using degrees of comparison. She focuses on the use of adjectives and adverbs in using degrees of comparison. They are omission, addition, misinformation, and misordering.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Research**

The writer hopes that the research may give benefit many people. The benefits of the study are specified as follows:

1. For students

This study is hopefully able to provide valuable information on errors related to the use of comparative and superlative degrees of adjectives. Having known the information, they are expected not to make the same errors in the use of comparative and superlative degrees of adjectives.

2. For English teachers

This study is hopefully able to improve the teaching of English, especially the teaching of Degrees of Comparison. The teachers are hopefully able to teach better to decrease the errors. In other words, the result of the study can be used as feedback for their teaching and learning process.

3. For schools

This study is expected to provide references in improving the quality of education, besides the teaching and learning process. Further schools can support teachers creating more varied learning media.

4. For other writers

The study is expected to become a reference and give stimulus for other writers to conduct further research that will be useful to improve the English teaching and learning method.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

To clarify and avoid misunderstanding the reader, the writer classifies some terms as follows:

1. Error Analysis

Error analysis is the process of determining the incidence, nature, causes, and consequences of unsuccessful language.

2. Constructing

According to Crystal (2008), construction in its most general sense in linguistics, 'construction' refers to the overall process of the internal organization of a grammatical unit – a sentence, most specifically, it refers to a token of a constructional type, in the sense of string, e.g. the + man + is + walking.

3. Sentence

Frank (1972) defined a sentence as a full predicate containing a subject plus a predicate with a finite verb.

#### 4. Degrees of comparison

Comparison is the method by which an adjective or adverb expresses a greater or less degree of the same quality.