

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discuss about the background of the study, formulation of research problems, objective of the study, significance of the research, formulation of hypothesis, scope and limitation of study and definition of key terms.

### **A. Background of Study**

Language is a human ability to communicate with other people, a means of expressing oneself both in a certain environment and situation. In the Oxford Pocket Dictionary of Learners (2008:247) language is defined as a means of communication both orally and in writing and is used by people from various countries." Language is not only used as a means of communication between people, language is also used for the ability to develop the mind so as to create mastery in language. .Language is used as an interaction between each other both in the surrounding environment and abroad. One of the international languages used for communication between countries is English. As in Indonesia, English is one of the materials taught in schools because there are still many students who cannot communicate well. So that the teacher provides English learning materials in order to improve students' ability to communicate in English properly and correctly. Like teaching grammar.

Grammar is one of the most important English learning materials for students. The purpose of teaching English grammar is that students are expected to be able to communicate in English based on good and correct language patterns. According to Zhang (2009), "Grammar, as an explanation of regularity in English, and knowledge of that regularity gives learners the ability to form sentences in regular and accurate patterns." A good understanding of will make it easier to practice your ability to communicate properly in English.

Here, the existence of grammatical rules is very important both orally and in writing. Therefore, it is expected that students are able to understand grammar so that in practice students are able to apply well how to communicate English both in spoken and written form. There are many grammar learning materials. One of them is tense. In learning English, the use of tenses is used to show the time when an

event occurs. According to Hornby (1989: 1324) states that tenses are a form of verb used to indicate the time of occurrence of an action or state of a person.

Grammar contains many rules for forming words and sentences ranging from simple rules to complex rules. According to Richards and Schmidt (2010: 215-252) "Grammar is a description of the structure of a language and how language units such as words and phrases are formed into sentences." Grammar is a description of the formation of a good and structured sentence. According to Tuan and Doan (2010:61) "grammar is a language rule consisting of how to compose and form words". This means that grammar consists of how to arrange sentence patterns, starting from vocabulary, functions and structures with certain formulas to make sense. So that it forms an appropriate sentence in communicating and the information conveyed can be well received.

Studying grammar well will improve students' ability to speak English. One of them is tenses. Tenses also include material to improve students' grammar ability. There are three types of tenses, namely present tense, past tense, and future tense. In this study only focuses on the simple past tense. According to Azar (1989: 24) simple past tense is used to indicate an activity that occurred in the past and ended in the past as well. However, many students find it difficult and do not understand in learning grammar. Students consider the grammar material difficult and uninteresting. They don't like to learn tenses, so they don't do well in learning it. Even students who have studied it for several years still find it difficult to learn tenses. Many students cannot use tenses patterns, so the teacher tries as much as possible to help students learn tenses properly and correctly.

Almost every student admits that learning grammar tenses is very difficult to understand so that it makes them reluctant to learn English, especially tenses material. According to Hornby (1989:1324) states that tenses are forms of verbs that are used to indicate the time of the action or situation expressed by the verb. In learning English, students need to learn tenses, so that they are able to use an English sentence according to the correct structure so that if students are able to understand how tenses work, it will increase students' abilities such as reading, writing, and speaking skills as well. If students find it difficult to compose a sentence using a tense pattern so that the resulting sentence has a clear meaning. Therefore, it would

be better if the teacher took the initiative in using media to support English learning.

In the English learning system, teachers should involve the use of technology. Such as using simple past tense teaching media so that students feel interested and enthusiastic in learning English. If the teacher uses interesting media in the teaching and learning system, it will make it easy for students to understand the material being taught and not feel bored. As manifested in the 2013 curriculum (2013: pp. 1 paragraph 3), "the center of learning is not only on the teacher but also on student activity." The teacher must be a facilitator and motivator for the students.

So that teachers make alternative media and appropriate methods in learning English and make students comfortable in learning English.

The use of technology is very influential in the teaching and learning process. According to Hamalik (2000:18) "technology in education includes all tools that can be used to present information, especially those related to education and assessment, such as television, language laboratories, and some that are projected." It can be said that everything included in audio-visual aids is classified as technology in education. The use of learning media that uses technology in the form of an android application, provides an easier understanding for students, especially in understanding grammar, if the learning system uses media it will make students more interested and enthusiastic in learning and it is more fun. Such as using the application will make it easier for students to learn English. Therefore, researchers want to conduct experimental research using an android application that is easy to use by students learning grammar.

Media such as games are good to use to attract students' interest in learning English. According to Andrew (2015: 850) that "interesting activities are often challenging." One of them is a game, students are interested in trying and enjoying the teaching and learning process." When students are interested in using media such as games without realizing it makes them less fixated on memorizing formulas and guidelines. Because they play while learning. Without them realizing that they learned the tenses patterns in the game without being too forced to think. Moreover, if the media used is right, it will increase the enthusiasm of students in learning English.

One application that is considered easy to use as a learning medium is the Hello English application. This application is very interesting to use for student learning in the classroom because there are various types of games and learning materials. According to Hadfield fill (1999:5) that "the media is a fun place in the teaching and learning system." Like the use of the Hello English application which is good for use in the teaching and learning system. Hello English application is an educational application on smartphones that helps users understand and learn English. This app is made by Culture Alley. This application contains many languages to adjust the user's language, there are Indonesian, English, Indian, and so on. An attractive appearance will make hello English application users feel interested and there are many interesting features so that learning English through this application is more fun and does not feel bored. Many variations of the game in this application. This application also provides features such as news, sports, articles and others. This application can also display English-based videos.

According to a previous study by Fajriani (2020), "Enriching Students' English Vocabulary Using the "Hello English Application". The research subjects were students of class VIII MTS Bani Rauf Sungguminasa. This researcher uses a pre-experimental study method with a one-group pre-test and post-post test. Another study was conducted by Fendiasari (2019), "The Effectiveness of Using the Hello English Application to Teach Vocabulary to Class X Students of SMAN 1 Durenan". In this study, the researchers used a quasi-experimental research. These two studies focus on the effectiveness of using the Hello English application to develop students' vocabulary mastery.

Another research was conducted by Nur Jannah (2020), "Hello English Application as a Support Tool in Learning English Speaking Skills." In this study, this researcher used a qualitative method. The research subjects were several participants. In this research, the researcher hopes that the Hello English application can be a tool in learning English, especially in speaking. Another study was conducted by Dewanti (2017), "The Effectiveness of the Application of Hello English Lessons 4th-6th and 9th-11th Lessons as an Alternative Media for Teaching Grammar to Seventh Grade Students at SMP Muhammadiyah 2 Surabaya." In this study, research using a pre-experimental method. This researcher took a sample of

class 7B. The researcher focuses on the effectiveness of using the Hello English application as a medium for teaching grammar.

However, there is a difference between the research above and the research that the researcher did. The researcher used a quasi-experimental design method. The research took a sample class 8B and 8C. This study aims to describe whether teaching grammar using the Hello English application for students can improve grammar skills in learning in the second grade of MTSN 2 Tulungagung. Researchers chose a school at MTSN 2 Tulungagung because many students did not understand and were interested in learning more about grammar. With the existence of learning media such as the Hello English application, it can make it easier for students to understand lessons and make learning more fun. Therefore, researchers are interested in researching with the title *"The Effectiveness Of Using Hello English Application Toward Students' Grammar Ability At MTSN 2 Tulungagung."*

### **B. Formulation of Research Problem**

Based on the background of the study, the main purpose of this study is to find out the effectiveness of using Hello English Application toward students' grammar ability at MTSN 2 Tulungagung. The problem is formulated as "Is there any significant difference score in the students' grammar ability between the students who are taught by using Hello English Application and those who are not taught by using Hello English Application at second grade of MTSN 2 Tulungagung?"

### **C. The purpose of the research**

From the research problem, the purpose of the research is to know the significant difference in students' grammar ability between the students who are taught by using Hello English Application and those who are not taught by using Hello English Application at second grade of MTSN 2 Tulungagung.

#### **D. Significant of the Research**

This research will give benefit for teachers, students, and future researchers:

1. For teacher

For your information, English teachers can use learning media such as using Hello English application so that students understand and increase their English. In addition, English teachers can enrich the variety of media used.

2. For students

For students as research subjects, the Hello English application can help students learn English such as learning grammar. With this application, students do not find it difficult to learn and it is more fun. So that this application can be used to improve students' grammar ability.

3. For other readers or researchers

The use of the Hello English application can help researchers to identify ways to teach grammar. This can provide information to increase creativity in learning English such as the use of Hello English application which can help make learning English easier.

#### **E. Formulation of Hypothesis**

The research hypothesis of this research can be described as follows:

1. Null Hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>): There is no significant difference in students' grammar ability between the students who are taught by using Hello English Application and those who are not taught by using Hello English application at second grade of MTSN 2 Tulungagung.
2. Alternative Hypothesis (H<sub>a</sub>): There is significant difference in students' grammar ability between the students who are taught by using Hello English application and those who are not taught by using Hello English Application at second grade at MTSN 2 Tulungagung.

## **F. Scope and Limitation of Research**

In this study, researchers focused on the effectiveness of using Hello English application on grammar ability of the students in this is conducted for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students of MTSN 2 Tulungagung. This study the researcher used quasi-experimental research design with two classes.

## **G. Definition of Key Term**

To make it easier for readers to understand this research the research provided definitions of key terms that are important to understand. The definitions of the key terms are:

### **1. Effectiveness**

Effectiveness is the level of success produced by someone by using a certain way to match the goals to be achieved. In other words, the more ways and plans that are successfully achieved, the more effective it will be in carrying out an activity. Like the learning system in class. The effectiveness of this research means the strategy or method of learning can improve students' grammar ability indicated by significant value  $\leq 0.05$ .

### **2. Hello English Application**

One application that is good to use as a medium for learning English is the Hello English application. This application is very interesting and there are various types of games. Application called Hello English is an educational application on smartphone that helps users in understanding and learning grammar. This application made by Culture Alley has been downloaded by up to 10 million users and be the best Google App in 2016. This application contains many languages to customize language users there are Indonesian, English, India, Spain and so on.

### 3. Grammar

Grammar is sentence structure. In this study, the Hello English application is used as a medium for learning grammar with simple past tense material. According to Swan (1998: 19), “Grammar is a rule that says how words change to show different meanings, and they combine into sentences.” Grammar must be structured with certain formulas to make sense. If students can master grammar well it will be easier to communicate with other people. In this study, using the Hello English application can help students learn grammarsuch as tenses. As for how to measure grammar mastery, the researcher conducted a multiple choice test with 30 pre-test and post-test questions.