

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

In this chapter, the researcher illuminates the reasons why this study is interesting to be investigated. Then, the researcher explains about the identification of the problem, the limitation of the problem, the research question, the objectives of the study and also the significances of the study.

#### **Background of The Study**

In learning English grammar, one of important subjects that need to be learned is parts of speech. Eastwood (2003) described that parts of speech become one of the subjects that need to be learned in learning phrases, clauses and sentences. In addition, Koopman, Sportiche, and Stabler (2003) stated that words in English are divided into different kind of categories and parts of speech can be concluded as word classes in English. Further, they mentioned that parts of speech are clasified into open and closed class categories. Open class category includes noun, verb, adjective and adverb. While closed class category consists of preposition, determiner, numerals, complementizers, auxiliaries, modals, coordinators and negation or affirmation. In conclusion, part of speech is as the basic in learning English grammar.

Furthermore, noun should be learned by students because it plays two roles' namely as a subject and an object. As stated by Wren and Martin (2005), noun becomes one of word classes that should be mastered because it acts as subject and object. Besides that, O'Malley (2013) stated that noun is also difficult

to be understood since it has modifiers which differentiate it with other word classes. Noun has pre-modifiers and post-modifiers. The modifiers will modify a noun becoming a noun phrase. As stated by Eastwood (2003), noun phrase is formed by modifying noun with pre-modifiers and or post-modifiers. Then, noun phrase can be classified as complex phrase. Noun phrase is called as a complex phrase because it contains more than one word structures (Colombi, 2004). Therefore, students will probably find difficulties to master a noun phrase because of its complexity.

Further, based on the research by Parkinson and Musgrave (2014), international students are making errors on writing adjectives, prenominal nouns, possessive premodifying nouns and prepositional phrases in the use of noun phrase. This research proves that international students found some difficulties in the use of noun phrase. In the same way, Crivos, Ionin, and Montrul (2013) also argued that Spanish students are still confused in differentiating plural noun phrase. Additionally, both research show the errors in the noun phrase in learning English as a foreign language. These issues also happen in Indonesia. Indonesian language is alike with Spanish language. Both languages do not add suffix ‘-s/-es’ to show that the noun is plural. However, in English suffix ‘-s/-es’ is added to indicate that noun is plural. Then if Indonesian and Spanish learners do not add suffix ‘-s/-es’ in writing noun phrase in English language, the errors on the use of noun phrase might occur.

As the evidence, based on the researcher’s experience in checking and grading students’ writing of SMA Muhammadiyah 7 Yogyakarta students, the researcher found that the students still made errors in writing in English language.

Therefore, it can be concluded that students probably make errors on the use of noun phrase in their writings.

Based on the problems above, the investigation in the use of noun phrase is needed. The investigation will reveal the errors occur in the use of noun phrase in the students' writing. Further, the investigation will help teachers in improving teaching and learning process. It is also beneficial for teachers in which they can give more focus in teaching noun phrase.

### **Identification of The Problem**

Noun can be modified with pre-modifiers and post-modifiers (O'Malley, 2013). Since it can be modified, noun becomes one of word classes that must be learned more by students in learning English grammar. Additionally, pre-modifiers and post-modifiers will change the form of noun become noun phrase.

Furthermore, noun phrase is classified as a complex phrase (Bieber et al., 1999; Colombi, 2004). Because of its complexity, noun phrase is highly likely causing errors in the students' writing. As the evidence, a research conducted by Parkinson and Musgrave (2014) revealed that international students found difficulties in the use of noun modifiers. Thus the errors in the use of noun phrase occur. The errors occur because of the difficulty in differentiating grammatical pattern of language in which international students learn English as their Second Language or Foreign Language.

Similarly, Indonesian students learn English as a Foreign Language. Indonesian students have similar problem with international students in which their grammatical pattern of first language is not akin with English. As a proof,

based on the researcher's experience in teaching English at SMA Muhammadiyah 7 Yogyakarta, the researcher found that students still made errors in the use of word classes in English in their writings. This example shows that the errors in the use of noun phrase probably occur. Therefore, the researcher will find out the errors in the use of noun phrase in students' writing.

### **Limitation of The Problem**

In order to make the problem in this study is more specific, it is essential to decide the problem limitation. Eastwood (2003) mentioned two kinds of noun modifiers which are pre-modifiers and post-modifiers. However, the researcher will only investigate pre-modifiers of noun. The researcher does not choose post-modifiers of noun because post-modifiers are semantically more obvious in describing relational meaning between the head noun and post-modifier such as prepositional phrase (O'Malley, 2013). Therefore, errors in the use post-modifiers of noun might be in small numbers.

In addition, the researcher selects pre-modifiers as the focus of this study because the structure of pre-modifiers are less obvious than post-modifiers (O'Malley, 2013). This happens because a verb or function grammatical words fade away so the relational meaning between the head noun and pre-modifiers is less clear. Thus errors in the use of pre-modifiers of noun are possibly numerous.

### **Research Question**

The question that will disclose the problems on the research entitled 'Error Analysis on The Use of Noun Phrase in Students' Writing at SMA

Muhammadiyah 7 Yogyakarta' was "What are the errors that occur on the use of noun phrase in the students' writing at SMA Muhammadiyah 7 Yogyakarta?"

### **Objective of The Study**

The study namely "Error Analysis on The Use of Noun Phrase in Students' Writing at SMA Muhammadiyah 7 Yogyakarta" was intended to reveal the errors that occur on the use of the noun phrase in the students' writing at SMA Muhammadiyah 7 Yogyakarta.

### **Significances of The Study**

**Senior High School Students.** The findings showed that students made many errors on the use of articles as pre-modifiers of noun phrase. Thus, this finding can help students to be more careful on the use of articles in which articles are necessary in noun phrase. Further, students also can learn about ordering pre-modifiers of noun phrase because the finding proved that pre-modifiers were formed in incorrect ways. Then, students can diminish the errors on the use of noun phrase in their writings. Besides that, students can use noun phrase with pre-modifiers in their writing correctly in the future.

**English Teachers.** This study is useful for English teachers to know the errors that occur most frequently in the noun phrase in students' writing. After that, English teachers are expected to give more explanation about noun phrase by applying the effective teaching method in teaching noun phrase.

**Institutions.** The findings of this study can be as a consideration for institution in designing curriculum. Since noun phrase is classified as a complex

phrase, the time allocation for learning noun phrase should be longer than other phrases.

**The Next Researchers.** The findings of this study is useful as an idea for the other researchers who would like to investigate the errors on the use of noun phrase in students' writing. Beside that, the next researcher can use the findings of this study as the general descriptions about what kind of errors that occur on the use of pre-modifiers of noun phrase. Additionally, this study can help other researchers in looking for the journals or books related to error analysis on the use of noun phrase in students' writing.