

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION



A. Background of the Study

Grammar is an important part of mastering English. It guides English learner how to form a sentence (word order, verb, nouns systems, modifiers, phrases, clauses, etc).¹ Learning grammar will help English Learner in composing sentences properly. Having knowledge of grammar will affect a person's ability to communicate and understand English. Without adequate grammar knowledge, one's language acquisition will be disrupted and will be difficult to process.²

One of the parts studied in grammar is the Gerund. Lado stated that the gerund is an -ing form of the verb functioning as noun.³ However, the form of verb-ing is not only a gerund that functions as a noun. Zandvort stated that apart from being a noun, the v-ing form can also be used as a verb and an adjective.⁴ Furthermore, Van Ek explained further about the gerund, saying that the gerund can function as a subject, object, nominal predicate part of sentence, and form part of prepositional adjunctions, and it may exhibit all the syntactic properties of a noun.

Due to the many forms of -ing in English it makes it quite difficult for students to learn it, especially the gerund. This can happen due to differences in the first grammar and the target language. Tarigan stated that the difference between the two languages (first language and target language) could cause internal problems which

¹ H. Douglas Brown. 2000. *Principles of Language Learning and Teaching*. England: Longman.

² Jack C. Richard and Willy A Renandya. 2002. *Methodology in Language Teaching: An Anthology of Current Practice*. Cambridge University.

³ M.J. Lado 2014. *English Grammar Plus Idioms*. Jakarta: DAP, p.58.

⁴ R.W. Zandvoort and J.A. Van Ek. 1972. *A Handbook of English Grammar*. London: Longman Group Ltd.

could make it difficult for students.⁵Both in English and Bahasa have verbs which can also function as nouns. In English, it can be done by adding suffix-ing to the verb, meanwhile in Language there is no difference in form.

Furthermore, most students think that v-ing form in gerund is the same as the verb-ing in present continuous tense because it has the same form as the present participle. Wishon and Burks stated that both gerund and present participle have the same form, but they both have different functions, which is why students are often trapped by v-ing form.⁶ Lack of knowledge of form and function verb-ing, especially gerunds, will affect students' ability to understand English. For example in writing skills, to be able to produce quality writing, students must have good grammar knowledge. Gerund is one part of grammar that must be mastered.

Given to this situation, errors made by students in using gerund can occur. There are several studies investigated about errors in using gerund, there are; Auliya (2017) "An Error Analysis on the Use of Gerund in Writing", Wardianti (2015) "Error Analysis On The Students' Mastery On The Use Of Gerund, To Infinitive And Infinitive Without To", Nurawaddah (2014) in her thesis "An Error Analysis Of Using Gerund Made By The Students". All of these research revealed that errors were made both by students in high school and university.

Moreover, the researcher found out that the fifth semester student in English Education department at UIN Sumatera Utara made mistakes in using gerund and misunderstood gerund as part of continuous tense. Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting a research entitled "An Error Analysis of Using Gerund. The researcher assumes that errors in gerund would be made by English Education Students. This study is intended to provide students with information about their ability to understand the use of the gerund. Because, as prospective English teachers in the

⁵ Henry Guntur Tarigan. 1989. *Metodologi Pengajaran Bahasa*. Jakarta: Depdikbud

⁶ G.E. Wishon and J.M. Burks. 1980. *Let's Write English*. New York: American Book Company.

future, they must master the English language material thoroughly, including the gerund as part of grammar.

B. The Identification of the Study

As stated in the background of the study, students tend to make errors in using gerund. Several factors contributed to this problem are identified as follows:

1. Students feel difficult in learning gerund because of the grammar differences between first language (Bahasa Indonesia) and target language (English)
2. The fifth semester student department of English Education in State Islamic University of North Sumatera made mistakes in using gerund and misunderstood gerund as part of continuous tense.

C. Limitation of the Study

This study is limited to the errors made by the students in using gerund. To avoid misconceptions, the researcher only focused on analyzing students' error in using gerund based on Surface Taxonomy Strategy proposed by Dulay where the errors are categorized into four kinds, they are Omission, Addition, Misformation and Misordering.

D. The Formulation of Problems

1. What kinds of errors are made by fourth semester students in English Education Program in using gerund?
2. What is the dominant error in using gerund made by fourth semester students in English Education Program?

E. The Objective of Study

1. To find out the kinds of errors are made by fourth semester students in English Education Program in using gerund.

2. To find out the dominant error in using gerund made by fourth semester students in English Education Program.

F. The Significance of the Study

The results of the study are expected to be used theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically:

Theoretically, the researcher regarded the result of this study can extend useful knowledge to the readers, especially related to error analysis in using gerund

2. Practically:

- a. For Students

This research is expected to increase the students' achievement in learning English by knowing their errors in using gerund, so they can be aware of using it. Besides, this study is also expected to help the students in order to become a prospective English teacher in the future by giving them information about the errors they made in using gerund, so they can master English material thoroughly.

- b. For Teachers

The result of this study is expected to provide information on students' error in using gerund. Furthermore, this research is expected to help the teacher give feedback to the students' error in using gerund and improve their teaching skill especially in teaching how to use gerund.

- c. For Next Researcher

This study is expected to give information and contribution in error analysis, especially in using gerund.