

Hak Cipta Diindungi Undang-Undang

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Research

Every language all over the world has its own structure system called grammar. It is the rule of mechanism of a language which represents a structural meaning. Veit (1986 p.1) says that grammar is the fundamental of learning a language. Without having an understanding about the grammar of language, one cannot be said to have learned the language. It seems to be impossible to learn language without learning its grammar.

Grammar, one of the language components, has important roles in communication. It is taught with a view to support the development in four language skill: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. There are many points in grammar, such as tenses, adverb clause, conditional sentence, idioms, subject-verb agreement, and others.

According to Leech and Svartvick (2002 p.153), subject-verb agreement is one of the important materials contained in the grammar. We must consider what subject and agreement are. A subject is the noun or pronoun (person, place, and thing) that the sentence is about. It sometimes called the performer. In other words, the subject is also the thing that is performing. When a subject is singular, its verb must be singular. When a subject is plural, its verb must be plural. When a subject is in the first, second, or third person, the verb must match to it. This matching in number and person of subject and verbs is called '**Agreement**'.

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The verb and subject are very closely tied to each other. This relation gives influence to the form of subject and verb. Verb follows the subject in declarative sentence, it generally shows the action of the sentence. Every sentence must have a verb. The verb may be a single word.

State Senior High School 1 Kampar is one of educational institutions in Kampar using 2013 Curriculum (K13) in the process of teaching and learning English. The students of the school learn English 2 meetings a week for 90 minutes. Based on Curriculum 2013 from BSNP, learning English is aiming at “developing communicative competence in oral and literal for the level of information”.

Based on the curriculum that has been determined by Ministerial Education of Indonesia above, to reach the goal of English study in developing communication competencies of students included verbal competency, nonverbal competency, and written competency. In learning and teaching process, writing competency especially, the students are taught how to make the correct sentences based on the grammar of English itself such as the sentences in simple present, simple past, simple future, and other. And then how to write an essay either in descriptive or narrative even in others. It is supported by using grammar correctly. The students must be taught grammar such a way that they realize that grammar empowers them because it poses intellectual challenges for them and because it is about learning how to think.

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Subject-verb agreement is needed in learning English. Learning subject-verb agreement is very prominent that cannot apply their language well without mastering subject-verb agreement.

Based on the writer's preliminary study at State Senior High School 1 Kampar, especially for the tenth grade students, it was noticed that some of the tenth grade students of State Senior High School 1 Kampar encountered the problems and difficulties in learning English.

One of the structure problems, faced by the students, was applying correct grammatical rules of subject-verb agreement. Matthews (1996 p.246) says that agreement (or concord) is usually described as a relation between words that shares a morphosyntactic feature. The basic problem of learning subject-verb agreement was that the students had many kinds of rules in determining the verb which follows its subject. The students' difficulties were shown by the errors they make. Writer might prove from the criterion of minimum students passing grade that is 75, however, some students had lower score.

Male and female students at the tenth grade of Senior High School 1 Kampar are taught in one class, one time, and by one English teacher. In this study, the writer studied the difference of male and female students in understanding of subject-verb agreement. Some of resources believed that there is a significant difference between male and female in the acquisition of language. In biological side, Nussbaum (2000 p.31) says that the female and male brain is different and the two brains process information differently.

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According to Xia (2013, p.1489) says that women better than men in using the language. They use the language differently. The differences between the use of language of men and women has seen from some aspects, such as differences in pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, syntax, their attitudes toward language, manners, psychology, and choosing the topic. Xia (2013, p.1487) says that women pay more attention to the correctness of syntax than men. While expressing her thoughts, she would make her utterance clear by using precise grammar.

Moreover, Papalia and Olds (1985 p.141) say that the most consistent difference between male and female occur in personality characteristic and emotional adjustment. The difference in ability is important to be examined especially in educational field. Hetherington says that girls are superior in verbal abilities, include in vocabularies, reading comprehension, and verbal creativity. In addition, Papalia and Olds (1985 p.142) state that girls are superior in verbal items involving vocabulary, memory, and language manipulation, while boys are superior in performance of items involving spatial relations, mechanical abilities, and numerical manipulation.

Most of the researcher believe that there is a significant difference between male and female students in acquisition the language. But, based on the writer preliminary study, the writer found that male and female students had the same abilities in learning English.

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On the writer's preliminary study at State Senior High School 1 Kampar of the tenth grade students, the writer found the following phenomena:

1. Some of male and female students were still less understanding about sentence structure.
2. Some of male and female students were not able to derive vocabulary correctly.
3. Some of male and female students could not match the plural subject with appropriate verb.
4. Some of male and female students were confused about subject-verb agreement.
5. Some of male and female students had difficulty to use subject-verb agreement appropriately.

Based on the phenomena above, the writer was interested to carry out a research entitled **“A Comparative Study on Understanding Subject-Verb Agreement between Male and Female Students at the Tenth Grade of State Senior High School 1 Kampar.**

B. Problem

1. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem, it is very clear that most of the students at the tenth grade students of State Senior High School 1 Kampar had some problem in their grammar, especially in their subject

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verb agreement. To make the problem in this research clearer, the writer identified the problems in the following identification of the problem:

- a. What are the factors that made the students still lack of vocabulary?
- b. Why were some of students not able to derive vocabulary correctly?
- c. Why did some of the students not match the plural subject with appropriate verb?
- d. What are the factors that some of the students were confused about subject-verb agreement?
- e. Why did some of male and female students have difficulty to use subject-verb agreement appropriately?

2. The Limitation of the Problem

After identifying the problems stated above, thus, the writer is necessary to limit and focus the problems on the comparison of students' understanding of subject-verb agreement between male and female students. The agreement, that is discussed in this research, is the agreement between subject and verb in simple present tense in which the sentences are begun with: third personal noun, plural subject, collective noun, introductory 'There is' and 'There are', and phrase of quantity 'one of the'.

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3. Formulation of the Problem

The problems of this research were formulated in following research questions:

1. How is the male students' understanding of subject-verb agreement at the tenth grade of State Senior High School 1 Kampar?
2. How is the female students' understanding of subject-verb agreement at the tenth grade of State Senior High School 1 Kampar?
3. Is there any significant difference between male and female students' understanding of subject-verb agreement at the tenth grade of State Senior High School 1 Kampar?

C. Objective and Significant of the Research**a. Objective of the research**

The objectives of this research were as follows:

1. To identify the male students' understanding of subject-verb agreement at the tenth grade students of Senior High School 1 Kampar.
2. To identify the female students' understanding of subject-verb agreement at the tenth grade students of Senior High School 1 Kampar.
3. To find out, whether there is or not significance difference between the male students' understanding of subject-verb agreement and the female students' understanding of subject-verb agreement at the tenth grade students of Senior High School 1 Kampar.

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b. Significance of the Research

Related to the objectives of the research above, the significances of the research are as follows:

1. Hopefully, this research is able to benefit the writer as a novice a researcher, especially in learning how to conduct a research.
2. These research findings are also expected to be useful and valuable, especially for both teachers and students of English at the tenth grade of Senior High School 1 Kampar to be positive information for their future learning process.
3. Besides, these research findings are also expected to be valuable findings, especially for those who are concerned in the world of teaching and learning English as a foreign language.
4. Finally, these research findings are also expected to be practical and theoretical foundation to the development of theories on language teaching.

D. Reason For Choosing The Title

There are some reasons, why the writer is interested in carrying out this research. The reasons are as follows:

1. The title of this research is not yet investigated by other researchers.
2. The title of this research is relevant with the writer status as a student of English Education Department in State Islamic University of Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau.

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3. The location of the research facilities the writer for conducting the research.

E. The Definition of Term

In this research, there are many terms involved in this research, to avoid misunderstanding toward the terms used, the following terms are necessarily defined as follows:

1. Comparative

According to Cresswell (2012 p.302), comparative research is the process of a researcher obtaining scores for individuals or groups on the dependent variable and comparing the means and variance both within the group and between the groups. Thus, the writer conclude that, comparative research is a research to describing the similarities and differences between two items. However, in this research, comparative refers to compare the understanding of subject-verb agreement between male and female students at the tenth grade of Senior High School 1 Kampar.

2. Subject-verb Agreement

According to Arlove (2004 p.25), subject-verb agreement is a singular subject requires a singular verb, and a plural subject requires a plural verb. Thus, the writer get the point that, subject-verb agreement is one part of grammar, the collocation between subject and verb. When a subject is singular, its verb must be singular. When a subject is plural, its verb must

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be plural. When a subject is in the first, second, or third person, the verb must match to it.

3. Male and female

According to Feldman (1999 p.5), male and female are kind of sex of human being or gender. From (Oxford, as cited Ade Zarma, 2016, p. 7) male is the sex that does not give birth, while female is the sex that produces young. In this research, male and female are as subject of the research. Thus, the writer conclude that male and female is kind of sex of human being or gender. It means that male and female students at the tenth grade of Senior High School 1 Kampar.