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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the problem

Grammar is one of language aspects which are taught to every language learners. It is basic knowledge and important role in understanding language. In addition, grammar is very important within the English language, with the use of incorrect grammar sentences can be meaningless and the message is unclear. According to Hornby (1989), grammar is rule for composing word combining them into sentence. Good writing, reading, speaking, and listening in English, the learners have to know required knowledge of grammar. In line with the statement above, Harmer (2001, p.12) defined grammar as the description of the ways in which words can change their forms and can be combined into sentences in that language.

Tense is usually defined as relating to the time an action or state. Pertaining to that statement, Tomakin (2014) said that the English tenses become a part of the English grammar that is usually explained as present, past, perfect, future, etc. Present perfect is used to talk about trends, or about events that have ended or occurred recently or still continuing. Ferdinandus (2016) states that present perfect tense is commonly used to express some of the information that is still continuing, in which the present perfect tense occurs as a main tense. The students must understand the structure of English grammar to use it in oral or written because most of students get difficulties to make sentences correctly. Leech and Svartvik (1975) argued that most

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students get confused in determining tenses, because before they use verb form they have to understand the relationship between the form of the verb and their concept of time.

Senior High School 3 Tualang is one of senior high school in Siak Regency. English is served as a compulsory subject in this school that is taught twice in a week. With 90 minutes for each meeting, which means 180 minutes in a week. According to the curriculum (K13) of Culture (2016) in Senior High School 3 Tualang, students are able to compose transactional, oral and written interaction texts, short and simple, which involve the act of giving and asking for information related to circumstances / actions / activities / events that were carried out / occurred in the past that refer to the time of occurrence and its end, taking into account social functions, text structure, and language elements that are correct and in context. It means the students should be able to analyze every sentence especially in making present perfect tense.

However, based on researcher observation by interviewing the English teacher in Senior High School 3 Tualang, the researcher found the students had difficulties in learning English grammar, especially in using present perfect tense. They could not finish correct present perfect tense. They had studied about present perfect tense and the teacher had explained the rule of present perfect tense to them, but in fact they still made errors because they had difficulties in reaching students' passing grade in English, 80 points. This problem appears to be in educational system where the students had learn tenses since junior high school, but their ability to making is still low. As for the weaknesses mentioned above caused by several factors, One of the factors

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is students' learning of present perfect, in which some may speak the language freely and fluently, but an analysis points out that they commit a number of grammatical errors especially in the use of present perfect tense.

In this research, the researcher only focuses on students' errors in making present perfect tense even though in fact other parts of the grammar are also problematic because so far there is no researchers do a research about this problem. This research very important because the researchers rarely discuss about this material.

However, based on the researcher's observation, the researcher found some phenomena as follows:

1. Some of students were not able to making present perfect sentence correctly.
2. Some of students were difficult to understand the present perfect tense.
3. Some of students were not able to use singular and plural in making present perfect tense.
4. Some of students did not know the form of present perfect tense.

Based on the problems depicted above, the researcher is interested to conduct research entitled **“An Analysis of Students' Errors in Making Present Perfect Tense a Senior High School 3 Tualang”**

Background Problem

1. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem, the problem is identified into the following identification:

- a. What made some of students unable to making present perfect sentence correctly?

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- b. What made some students difficult to understand the present perfect tense?
- c. What made some of students unable to use singular and plural in making present perfect tense?
- d. What made some of students error in forming when use present perfect tense?

2. Limitation of the Problem

To avoid misunderstanding and to clarify the problem, it is necessary to make the limitation of the problem; the researcher limits the problem only focused on students' errors of verbal and nominal sentences in present perfect tense by students at the tenth grade of Senior High School 3 Tualang.

3. Formulation of the Problem

This research can be formulated in the following research questions :

- a. What errors are made by students in making present perfect tenses at the tenth grade of Senior High School 3?
- b. What are the dominant errors made by the students in making present perfect tense at the tenth grade of Senior High School 3?

Objective and Significance of the Research**1. Objective of the Research**

- a. To know students errors in making present perfect tense at the tenth grade of Senior High School 3 Tualang.

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- b. To know dominant errors made by students in making present perfect tense at the tenth grade of Senior High School 3 Tualang.

2. Significance of the Research

- a. Hopefully, this research is able to benefit writer as novice a researchers, especially in learning how to conduct a research.
- b. These research findings are expected to be useful and valuable, especially for students and teachers of English at the tenth grade of senior high school 3 Tualang for their future learning process.
- c. Besides, these research findings are also expected to be positive and valuable information, especially for those who are concerned in the world of teaching and learning English as a foreign or second language.
- d. Finally, these research findings are also expected to be the practical and theoretical information to 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 as follows:

1. The title research is relevant with the writer's status as a student of English Education Department
2. The title of this research is not yet investigated by any other researchers
3. The location of the research facilitates the researcher to conduct the research

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E. Definition of Term

In order to avoid misinterpretation and misunderstanding in reading this paper, the definitions of the term used in this research, given as follows :

1. Error

Everyone when they are learning about new language is naturally the process that involves the making error. According to Brown (2007), the fact that learners do makes errors and that these errors can be observed, analyzed, and classified to reveal something of the system operating within learner, led to surge of study of learners' errors called error analysis. This research means that error is flawed side of learner speech caused by the factor competence, the students do not understand well to use of linguistic system of the target language, it will be the students to make errors consistently.

2. Present Perfect Tense

According to Ferdinandus (2016), present perfect tense is commonly used to express some of the information that is still continuing, in which the present perfect tense occurs as a main tense. This research means that present perfect tense is an action that happened at an indefinite time in the past and the action that began in the past and is still occurring in the present.