

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the limitation of the study, and the definition of key terms.

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

Writing is one of English skills that has an important role as a tool of communication beside speaking. Writing is non-verbal communication which is used by the writer to show her idea. The writer can transmit fact and her idea to the readers in the form of writing, essay or report. The purpose of writing is to describe, inform, or persuade the readers. If the writer has good skill in writing, of course she can transmit the information easily.

There is no doubt that writing is the most difficult skill in English for learners to master because they have to know the rules and the patterns when they want to write. They should pay attention on some important characteristics of writing to create a good text.<sup>1</sup> To construct the English sentence, we should know the basic of grammatical rule. Furthermore, one of the components of language that must be mastered is grammar. Grammar is a description of the rules that govern how a language's sentences are formed.<sup>2</sup> It can be said that grammar is the rules for forming words and making sentence. By grammar, the reader can understand the writer's idea. On the contrary, if the writer does not use the correct

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<sup>1</sup> Lynn M. Berk, *English Syntax* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 4.

<sup>2</sup> Scott Torn bury, *How to Teach Grammar* (England: Pearson Education Limited, 1999), 1.

grammar and make mistakes, the readers do not understand the meaning. So, It is true that grammar is really needed in writing.

Many students think that writing is a complex matter because they have to make the readers understand what they write with some patterns and rules. They also need much time to recheck and make revise their writing. These problems are usually faced by the students in writing class when they write essay. The students sometimes ignore the patterns of text. It means they have no attention about the use of cohesion in the text or paragraph. The use of cohesion can influence the structure of the paragraph. By having a good knowledge about cohesion, we can get the meaning of the text easily. So, the ability of mastering English can be showed by their ability in writing composition, good structure and good grammatical.<sup>3</sup>

Cohesion means the unity or connection between clause or sentences which make the text is clear and readable.<sup>4</sup> It means the elements which are not composed structurally are connected together through cohesion. Cohesion plays an important role in the creation of the text because it expresses the continuity between one part of the text and another. The presence of cohesive devices includes grammatical cohesion (substitution, ellipsis, reference, and conjunction).<sup>5</sup> So, grammatical cohesion is the grammatical connection between clauses and

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<sup>3</sup> David Nunan, *Practical English Language Teaching* (New York: The Mc Grow-Hill Company, 2003), 89.

<sup>4</sup> Jan Renkema, *Discourse Studies* (Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 1993), 35.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 37.

sentences on the text which help a writer to express ideas clearly and understandable.<sup>6</sup>

In Writing 3, there are several types of essay. They are descriptive, narrative, expository and argumentative essay. When the writer conducts this study, she focuses on students' essay, that is expository essay. Expository essay is an essay that explains something in detail, clear and full explanation of an idea or theory. Sometimes the readers do not know that written English has many grammatical errors especially in the use of cohesion because they just copy the sentence and use them without knowing the correct grammar. The definition of error is gap in learners' knowledge because the learners do not know the correct one. After reading the expository essay, the researcher found some grammatical cohesion errors made by the students. This problem must be solved immediately in order to make better essay. So, this problem is important to discuss because of some reasons. First, the students have already learnt the English grammar 1,2 and 3, writing 1,2,3 and also English Syntax but they still make errors in their writing. To reduce the errors in grammatical cohesion, this study should be discussed. Second, the students have to make another writing like essay and also thesis which is used as the requirement of their study, therefore they have to write correctly.

To know the grammatical cohesion errors, the researcher analyses the students' expository essay based on "*Halliday and Hassan's theory (1976)*". This theory is appropriate for the use of grammatical cohesion such as substitution,

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<sup>6</sup> Adriene L. Herrell & Michael J, *Fifty Strategies for Teaching English Language Learners* (New Jersey: Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall, 2008), 242.

ellipsis, reference and conjunction. To analyze the sentence structure that is focused on the content, the researcher chooses students' essay as a source text for investigating the data. The writer assumes that students' essay show their writing ability clearly. Based on the consideration above, the researcher tries to analyze some grammatical cohesion errors in essay. The researcher wants to know how far the students' comprehension in applying grammatical cohesion in writing. That is why the writer conducts this research with the title: **"GRAMMATICAL COHESION ERRORS FOUND IN THE EXPOSITORY ESSAY WRITTEN BY THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS OF STAIN KEDIRI."**

#### **B. The Problem of the Study**

Based on the background of the study above, the writer formulates the problem: "What are the grammatical cohesion errors found in students' expository essay of the fourth semester?"

#### **C. The Objective of the Study**

The purpose of this study is related to the problem: The writer wants to know what grammatical cohesion errors found in expository essay of the fourth semester students. Hopefully, it can improve students' ability in writing.

#### **D. The Significance of the Study**

The result of this study will be expected to have some valuable contribution for the teachers, the students and the readers.

For the teachers, this study can be used as a source to select the best way in teaching especially on grammar and writing subject to make the students understand and apply it in writing.

For the students, this study can help them identify the use and the characteristics of grammatical cohesion in their essay. By this research, it is expected that they will understand the grammatical cohesion errors in order to know their strength and weakness in writing, so that they can improve their competence in writing.

For the readers, this study will help them to know about grammatical cohesion errors. The result of this research is also expected to give contribution in how to apply the grammatical cohesion in written appropriately, so that they can make a good composition.

#### **E. The Limitation of the Study**

In this research, the writer wants to analyze grammatical cohesion errors which includes substitution, ellipsis, reference and conjunction based on Halliday & Hassan's theory. The data source is the students' essay in writing 3 of the fourth semester, that is expository essay. The writer chooses this essay because she assumes that these essays contain many grammatical cohesion errors which can be analyzed.

#### **F. The Definition of Key Terms**

##### **1. Cohesion**

Cohesion means the unity or conjunction. Therefore, the text is clear and readable.

## 2. Grammatical cohesion

It is one of the aspects of cohesive devices, such as substitution, ellipsis, reference, and conjunction. It is the grammatical connection between clauses and sentences which make the text can be read clearly and understandable.<sup>7</sup>

## 3. Error

An error takes place when the deviation arises as a result of lack knowledge. It represents a lack of competence. Then, mistake occurs when the users fail to perform their competence.<sup>8</sup>

## 4. Expository Text

It is clear and full explanation of an idea or theory.

## 5. Student Essay

It is a composition which is made by the English students of the fourth semester which includes: introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion which is used to understand about their ability in writing.

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<sup>7</sup> Renkema, *Discourse Studies*, 37.

<sup>8</sup> Rod Ellis, *The Study of Second Language Acquisition* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 51.