CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Analysis

Language plays important roles of communication in human life, because language is the most distinctive of human activities. People use language to communicate each other, to express their thought, feeling or ideas either in spoken or written language. Through language our thoughts as well as emotions are made explicitly or clearly.

Language is studied, described and analyzed by a science called linguistics. According to David Crystal (1999:98) cites: “Linguistics is a scientific study of language, also called linguistics science, or when phonetics is seen as a distinct area of study, linguistics sciences.” There are five branch of study in linguistics, i.e Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Semantics and Syntax. From morphological point of view, we know that there are many ways of studying language. One of them is by comparing or contrasting two or more languages. Comparative linguistics is dealing with the comparison of language from the same family background.

Comparative linguistics is different from contrastive linguistics in the languages being compared. It compares languages which are in the same parent language, while contrastive linguistics compares languages which are in different parent language. This thesis deals with comparative linguistics. It will compare English and Spanish Past Tense.
There are many languages in the world and two of them are English and Spanish, English as we know is the international language in the world, and Spanish is one of the most spoken languages in the world. The majority of the citizens of many countries speak Spanish, either as first or second language. Such as Spain, Mexico, Panama, Cuba, Costa Rica, Peru, Chile, Puerto Rico. According to Winfred P. Lehmann (1973:20) English and Spanish are the member of Proto Indo-European Family, so knowing the relationship between English and Spanish as the member of Proto-Indo European family languages and their position in the world I become eager to learn about these both languages.

Gorys Keraf (1948:34) cites: “Languages that came from the same proto language always showed this similarity:

1. phonetics and phonology similarities.
2. morphology similarity, i.e the similarity in word form and grammatical similarity.
3. syntax similarity, i.e the similarity of relationship between words in a sentence.

According to Rebecca (1972:81), “Past Tense expresses activities that is exist or occurred in the past time. Modifiers indicating the time often specify a definite time but in some situation the time is not specified”.

For example:

- Mary was ill yesterday.
- He cleaned his shoes this morning
- She opened her purse and counted her money.
One of the most striking differences between Spanish and English is in verb tenses. For English speakers, learning how to use the various past tenses in Spanish can be very tricky because English has several tenses which either do not exist or do not translate literally into Spanish. Anyone who has studied Spanish is aware of the troublesome relationship between the pretérito (Past Definite) and imperfecto (Imperfect Tense). The imperfecto (yo hablaba) translates to the English imperfect (I was talking) while the pretérito (yo hablé) literally translates to the English simple past (I talked) but can also be translated as the English present perfect (I have talked) or the emphatic past (I did talk). It is extremely important to understand the distinctions between pretérito and imperfecto in order to use them correctly and thus express past events accurately. Because to use it there are some rules that is to dropping the infinitive and add the appropriate endings for each of the verbs in Spanish.

Example of Preterito:

- Yo visité Barcelona el sábado = I visit Barcelona on Saturday
  
  S V O Compliment
  
  Visité → Visitar (AR-Verbs) conjugated with a standard root (found by dropping the infinitive) plus the appropriate endings (+é)

- (Nosotros) comimos en el restaurante ayer = We ate in the restaurant yesterday
  
  S P Compliment
  
  Comimos → Comer (ER-Verbs) conjugated with a standard root (found by dropping the infinitive) plus the appropriate endings (+imos)
Example of Imperfecto:

- (Yo) estudiaba a las nueve de la mañana = I was studying at nine this morning
  
  S  P  Compliment

  Estudiaba → Estudiar (AR Verbs) conjugated with a standard root (found by dropping the infinitive) plus the appropriate endings (+aba)

- Ella dormía a la alcoba = She was sleeping at the bedroom
  
  S  P  Compliment

  Dormía → Dormir (IR Verbs) conjugated with a standard root (found by dropping the infinitive) plus the appropriate endings (+ia)

- Sometimes the subject of the sentences didn’t have to be mentioned.

There are some reasons why the writer interested to discuss about this topic. First, I want to know about the structure of both languages. Secondly the writer wants to know the correspondences, partly correspondences and non correspondences between English and Spanish. And thirdly, the writer wants to apply the knowledge that she got from the lecturers during the study at English Department of Faculty of Letter University of Sumatra Utara.

### 1.2 Scope of Analysis

The writer has carried out a comparative analysis between English and Spanish Tenses. There are some tenses in English and Spanish however in this case, the writer limited the study on the similarities and differences between the past tenses of the two languages, and the writer focus on Simple Past Tense and Past Continuous Tense.
The limitation is necessary, as I want to make an intensive study of the problems of Past Tense either in English or Spanish.

1.3 Problem of Analysis

Language has its own forms and systems. English and Spanish, for example, although both of the languages have a relationship, yet there are much dissimilarity can be found in their grammar.

Concerning with this case, I raised a problem to be analyzed:

1. How are the forms of Simple Past Tense and Past Continuous Tense both in English and Spanish?

2. Are there correspondences and non-correspondences in the types, forms and functions between English and Spanish past tenses, especially in Simple Past Tense and Past Continuous Tense.

1.4 Objective of the Analysis

Concerning with the problem of the correspondences and the non-correspondences between English and Spanish Simple Past Tense and Past Continuous Tense, and having been equipped by knowledge from English and Spanish grammar books, this analysis is intended to achieve some objectives:

1. To give a brief explanation of both English and Spanish tenses in the past form, especially in Simple Past Tense and Past Continuous Tense.

2. To give an account of correspondences and non-correspondences between English and Spanish past tense especially Simple Past Tense and Past Continuous Tense, which including their types, forms, and function.
1.5 Significance of Analysis

The writer expect the significance both theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, this thesis will be able to give an understanding about both of the languages, English and Spanish especially in the Past Form. Practically, this thesis is expected to be able to give something new to enrich the comparative analysis study, and can be useful to the student that interested to comparative analysis study.