CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Analysis

Language is considered to be a system of communicating with other people using sounds, symbols and words in expressing meanings, ideas or thoughts. Language can be used in many forms, primarily through oral and written communications as well as using expressions through body language. Edward Sapir (1949:8) says that language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desire by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols. Language is purely human and non-instinctive method because language is the most frequently used and most highly developed form of human communication. And language is a distinctly human instrument, although other animals produce sounds and noises, the human language alone is articulated into words and alone is capable of expressing an infinite variety of thought.

Languages are not just sets of symbols. They also often conform to a rough grammar, or system of rules, used to manipulate the symbols. David Nunan (2003:143) says that grammar is generally thought to be set of rules specifying the correct ordering of words at the sentence level. Every human language include English has its own grammar. The grammar of a language is a complex and highly structured affair because it operates in terms of concepts and categories which have to be defined in the same way. So we need grammar in using English and the understanding about grammar also influences our ability in English.
Present participle and Gerund also some parts of grammar so we can not ignore them. The ability to understand them is really important. Less understanding about them can make serious problem especially in the case of the use of English grammatical structure correctly. What happens if we are faced with such a kind of test that is related with present participle and gerund, while we do not have deep understanding about them?, I think it will make us fail in the test.

C. B. Burch (2003: 94) says that gerund like infinitives, are also consistent in form or physical appearance. They end in the verb suffix –ing: eating, sleeping, reading, thinking. One difficulty in recognizing gerunds is that other verbal (participles) may also end in –ing. Gerunds can be separated from similar-looking participles, though, by remembering that gerunds function as nouns and only as nouns. The same forms that both have makes people confuse to distinguish them. For examples:

1. **Playing** basketball, she spent too much time running around.

2. **Playing** basketball is what she often spends her time on.

These sentences can be fully understood. When we examine those sentences further, we will find that there are syntactical relations among units that construct sentences. If we pay attention to both underlined words they have the same forms but different in function. The first sentence belongs to present participle (present participle replaces subordinate clause) and the second sentence belongs to gerund (gerund as subject)
Nowadays, to learn English is really important. Many countries introduce English to their nation. English has become a major subject in school’s curriculum in Indonesia starting from elementary schools to university level. Indonesians people will get used to use English in following years.

Indonesians has Indonesian or Bahasa Indonesia as their native language whose structure is different from English. Because of that, there might be some mistakes that made by the Indonesian students when they use English especially when using present participle and gerund. The students of 2007 year of English Literature Department, University of Sumatera Utara are the students who are obliged to use English in almost all subjects. So, I am eager to know their ability to distinguish present participle from gerund can be as a measure and correction for them how far their understanding about English especially about present participle and gerund. That is why I am interested in analyzing them through this research.
1.2 Scope of the Analysis

Structure covers wide range such as Tenses, conditional sentence, subjunctive, gerund, participle, etc. participle itself can be divided into three types: present participle, past participle, and perfect participle. According to the statement above I want to limit my research deal with the using of:

1. Present participle, including: present participle as an attributive adjective, present participle after verb of sensation, present participle after certain verbs, present participle replacing main clause, present participle replacing subordinate clause, present participle forms continuous tense, and present participle after have.

2. Gerund, including: gerund as subject, gerund after preposition, gerund as object, gerund as compound noun, gerund as short prohibition, gerund after possessive adjective and gerund after certain expressions.

1.3 The Problem of Analysis

To know our ability to use English is really important because it can be as a measure to us how far we have understood English. The ability to understand present participle and gerund as parts of English grammatical structure also need to be known.

Related to that case and based on the background stated above, I have formulated the problems study as follows:

1. How many percentages are correct answers and incorrect answers made by the students when answering the question?

2. In which part is the most dominant incorrect answer made by the students?
1.4 The Objectives of Analysis

As the objectives of this research are:

1. To find out the percentages of the correct answers and incorrect answers made by the students when answering the questions.
2. To find out the most dominant incorrect answer made by the students.

1.5 The significances of Study

As the significances of this study are as follows:

1. To expand my knowledge about variations of the usage of present participle and gerund as well as giving contributions to the public and the readers who are interested in both present participle and gerund.
2. For teaching purpose, this study will give information to the lecturers or students of English Literature Department, University of Sumatera Utara about how far the ability of the students to distinguish present participle from gerund.
3. To motivate the students to study present participle and gerund. So, their understanding about them will be much better.