I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study.

English is formally taught to the students of primary school, junior and senior high school and university. In Indonesia, the primary school students study English for six years and the junior high school students study English for three years. It means that every graduates of junior high school have studied English for nine years. The main focus of teaching and learning process in junior high school is to develop the students’ ability in communicating, to give knowledge about the language both spoken and written, and to increase students’ awareness about how important is the English to be learnt.

In learning English there are four language skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Writing especially in using simple sentence is chosen as the topic in this thesis since it has not got a maximum portion in learning activity in which the research held. Writing itself is a communicative, productive, and expressive activity by using written material as its medium. The activity is meant to deliver a message from writer to the reader. In writing activity, a writer should be able to utilize graphology, grammatical structure, and vocabulary. Writing skill does not come automatically, but must be through a regularly training and practice (Tarigan1982:3-4). Simple sentence is chosen since the sentence is the most simplest and general structure that is used when making utterances. Besides that, since the subject of the research are still in junior high school, so the researcher considers to choose simple sentence in order to make the students easier in writing the paragraph.
Like other languages competences, in writing the learners are commonly faced with some problems too such as making errors when uttering their ideas. Errors, according to behaviorists’ theory, are the result of non-learning, rather than wrong learning (in Ellis 1995:22). Ellis explains that errors reflect gaps in a learner’s knowledge; they occur because the learner does not know what is correct one (Ellis 1997:17). By learning error, the learners can overcome the problems occur in language transfer process. Ellis says by comparing the learner’s native language with the target language, differences could be identified and used to predict areas of potential error (Ellis 1995: 23).

On this occasion, for the researcher, the analysis of students’ writing error seems as an interesting thing. The analysis is based on the sentences made by the ninth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu. The result which is achieved from the research will be used to know the lacks which occur in teaching writing such as: a material that is given to the students, the teachers who teach, the teaching method, the students themselves, and others supporting things related to the activity.

The analysis is focused on the errors of the use of simple sentence made by the students of SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu since until now there has never a special research about the topic before. SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu is chosen as the place for the research since the researcher is a graduate of the school and the location is near to the researcher’s home so it is easier for the researcher in the process of research.

In this thesis the researcher uses sentences made by the ninth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu as the data. The ninth grade has seven classes, but the researcher only takes one class which is the class X1. From the total number of the students, the researcher takes 32 students as the participant since eleven of the students
are absent. The students are asked to write a short report paragraph using simple sentence in 100-150 words within 60 minutes. From the found data, the researcher finds many errors such as “My class nine one”. The correct structure should be “I study in the ninth grade”. This error is commonly occurs because the students think both English and Bahasa Indonesia have similar structure or form. In addition, students also do other errors such as omitting or adding items that must or must not appear in a well-formed utterance, and using a wrong placement of the morpheme or structure.

Finally, the researcher hopes that the result of this research can be used as a new input for the readers and especially for the school in making a new policy in teaching English in SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu, especially for the writing subject. This research is meant to get the data and the information about language competency, particularly writing competency of ninth grade students in SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu. The result can be used as a comparison with other research and also can be used for further improvement of the teaching of English as a whole.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

In relation to the background of the study that has been presented before, the problems of this study are formulated as follows:

a. What errors are commonly made by the ninth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu in using simple sentence?

b. What problems are experienced by the ninth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu in using simple sentence?
1.3 The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

a. To analyze the errors in using simple sentence made by ninth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu.

b. To find out the problems experienced by the ninth grade students of SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu in using simple sentence.

1.4 The Scopes of the Study.

It is necessary to scope the topic in order to avoid the confusion in this thesis, so the researcher of this thesis makes some scopes, they are:

a. The research is focused on the error analysis of the use of simple sentence made by the ninth grade students in SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu.

b. The research will also describe the failure of the students in writing a report paragraph using simple sentence.

1.5. The Significances of the study.

The significances of the study are:

a. The result of the research will give an input for English teachers in the ninth grade in SMP Negeri 2 Pancur Batu in improving and enhancing their English teaching process especially in writing section.

b. The result of the research will give the solution to the ninth grade students in overcoming their difficulties with regard to use simple sentence.

c. This analysis could be used as guidelines and could enrich the scientific research.