CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is fundamental for human because by using language we can communicate to each other. In Indonesia, we use Indonesian language as national language. The globalization development, English is legalized as an International language. We inevitably learn it. Learning a new language is interesting but it is not easy. We would find barriers in learning it. Those barriers may occur from us, such as lack of confidence, less practice, and so on so that there are any errors in its application.

There are four skills in English, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing needs good grammar because it denotes us how far we master the usage the grammar. In grammar, we learn many things, such as sentence, phrase and clause, parts of speech, tenses, etc. In this analysis, the writer especially takes punctuation as one of many items in grammar. As we know that the errors often happen in grammar especially in academic writing so that these problems should have great attention and its solutions. Writing is an obstacle especially for students. In written form, our linguistic competence can be looked; for example, “She stole money from me and Ralph who lived in the other room complained.” Whom did she steal money from? If the writer meant that he had money stolen from him or her, then the sentence would be clearer if a comma were inserted after me. Then we understand that Ralph had no money stolen from him. He just complained. (Dutwin 2010: 97). This is an example from the usage of punctuation of comma which it
functions to denote where it should be paused in order to the reader can catch the meaning of the sentence.

Dutwin (2010: 89) states that GobackmanyyearstotheGreeksandRomansthisiswhatyouwouldhaveread. After reading the preceding sentence, are you convinced that punctuation and spacing are absolute necessities? In fact, it has taken many, many years to reach this conclusion. Indeed, before the ninth century A.D., very early writing did not even require space between words. Some credit the Romans with using dots between words, while medieval scribes used pictures of birds, flowers, and daggers or other marks to indicate a pause. Since rhetoric, the study of oratory or public speaking, was an important course of study, early punctuation was not based on sentence structure, but rather on how a manuscript could be made readable...... This is a brief history of punctuation that indicates the importance of the punctuation. Without punctuation that has existed until now, we will find troublesome to understand the meaning of our writing so that by this brief history, we cannot neglect the right usage of punctuation.

Corder (in Ellis, 1994: 51) states that an error (in this technical sense) takes place when the deviation arises a result of lack of knowledge. It represents lack of competence.

The brief history of punctuation and the definition of error that have elaborated. Writer concludes that students must pay attention in using punctuation on account of the missing punctuation can make the writing error and do not catch the real meaning for the text besides for the teacher, the teaching of the punctuation is needed in order to avoid the errors by the students. This topic is very challenging. That is why the writer chooses “An Analysis of Punctuation Errors Made by the Third Year Students of Junior High School of W.R. Supratman 2 Medan Academic
Year of 2013-2014”. This analysis can give many insights about where students make the punctuation errors mostly and how to solve the errors.

1.2 Problem of the Study

Based on the background that has been elaborated above, the writer implicates some problems that would be analyzed toward “An Analysis of Punctuation Errors Made by the Third Year Students of Junior High School of W.R. Supratman 2 Medan Academic Year of 2013-2014” namely:

1. Which punctuation marks that is most dominant error made by the students?
2. What kind of error that is most dominant made by the students?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problem of the study, the writer would like to explain the goals in this analysis namely:

1. To identify the punctuation mark that is most dominant error made by the students.
2. To find and to classify the kinds of error that is most dominant made by the students.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The writer analyzes the errors in using punctuation made by the third year students of Junior High School of W.R. Supratman 2 Medan. The test is to insert the correct punctuation marks in the paragraphs and sentences. The writer analyzes the using the punctuation of period, question mark, exclamation point, comma,
1.5 Significance of the Study

The usage of right punctuation is very great important in writing. If there is an error in using punctuation on our writing, it will give less sense to the sentence or cannot catch the meaning. The writer hopes this analysis is useful for herself in using the right punctuation in writing and the theory can be used as guidance in using punctuation.

At school and university level, the theory of punctuation can be used for teachers and lectures in teaching because this analysis consists of the theory about punctuation that contains the rules in using punctuation and some examples of incorrect and the correct punctuation in order to facilitate them to teach students how use the right punctuation in writing and the finding can help teachers and lectures recognize where students make punctuation errors mostly. Besides that, the writer hopes this also can be useful for other writers who want to develop this analysis.