CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

English gives a big influence to Indonesia education by adding English lesson into its curriculum starting from elementary level until University. English as the most common international language functions needs some basic skills that consist of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. From the four basic skills mentioned above, writing is much more difficult. Moreover, Hyland (2003: 3-14) states writing is not just arranging words into a sentence, linking the sentences into a paragraph, and ordering the paragraphs into a text. It also requires grammatical and lexical knowledge, understanding in applying the grammatical knowledge into different context and purposes and knowledge of topic that are going to be written.

As second foreign language, English takes an important place and has used largely in many sectors of life, such as education, culture, economic, etc. In the field of education, English plays as the subject, which is taught and learned by many people. In the course of learning English as second foreign language, students commonly make mistakes are producing utterances in speech and writing. These mistakes are judged by the rules of the foreign language.

The eleventh grade students of SMK Teladan Sumatera Utara 1 Medan are second foreign language learners, as the second foreign language learners, they will also make errors in using the language in spoken or in written. The main cause usually based they are not accustomed to use English as their second foreign language. Error may occur in all components of language such as grammar. It can
happen because they do not realize they have made a mistake and also they do not know how to understand about the aspect in the second foreign language, actually in grammar. Grammars are needed in a text, without grammar we cannot arrange a sentence properly.

Knapp (2005:33) says that grammar therefore needs to deal with language from three perspectives: the generic, the textual, and syntactical. Error is a systematic deviation from the accepted system of target language. Mistake is a non systematic deviation from accepted system of the target language. While lapse is a non systematic deviation from the accepted system of language being learnt, it’s usually due to human limitation such as tiredness, nervous, and fatigue.

If we talk about grammar, we cannot be separated it from tenses. In this thesis, the writer focuses on the past tense. Past tense as one of the most important part of language features in narrative text has a big influence in producing a good text. It is the same as what Pardiyono (2007: 114) states that past tense is one of the most frequently used tense to tell about past activities of events. Moreover, the grammatical and mechanical rules cannot be separated. It would be impossible to learn or to write something effectively without knowing the grammar and mechanics.

Furthermore, one way that can be used to find out students’ difficulties in writing narrative text, the writer conducted the observation at twelfth grade students of Senior High School in Helvetia. And the result of the observation shows that the students face difficulties in using past tense. So, that is the reason why the writer interested to discuss these error problems in this thesis. The writer chooses this school as location of the research is terms of accessibility and the same research are never conducted in there.
Based on their curriculum, there are some topics that will discuss for one
year; they are tenses, grammar, question tag, exposition, conjunction and narrative
text. The students have studied simple past tense in English subject which is twice a
week for each class and the time 2x 40 minutes for one meeting was
allotted. Furthermore, the writer needs further some evaluation of the gravity from
each type of error in a communicative or pedagogical point of view. Finally, the
writer needs some explanations of the causes of each type of error so that the writer
undertakes appropriate remedial measure.

1.2 Problem of the Study

In conducting a research, the problems must be stated clearly so that the
objectives of the study and method can be meaningful. The problems of the study
which the writer would like to analyze as follows:

a. What kinds of errors are made by the eleventh grader students of SMK Teladan
   Sumatera Utara 1Helvetia in writing narrative text?

b. What are the dominant errors in writing narrative text by the eleventh grader
   students of SMK Teladan Sumatera Utara 1 Helvetia

1.3 Scope of the Study

In a research, it is very important to make the scope of the study because the
writer can concentrate on the relevant data. The writer focuses to analyze the errors
in writing personal narrative grammatically by eleventh grade students of SMK
Teladan Sumatera Utara 1. The topic must be limited in order to investigate the
problems more accurately, precisely, and correctly. Therefore, the writer would like to limit the analysis grammatically in writing personal narrative.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the studies are:

a. To find out the kinds of errors made by the eleventh graders of SMK Teladan Sumatera Utara 1 Helvetia in using past tenses in the narrative text.

b. To find out the most errors in writing narrative text by the eleventh grader students of SMK Teladan Sumatera Utara 1 Helvetia

1.5 Significance of the Study

The findings of the study are expected to be useful for:

a. For the teachers, this study is useful to improve their ability in teaching writing by paying more attention to the strategy of teaching writing.

b. For the students, the result can encourage and stimulate them in improving their English ability achievement.

c. For the next researcher, the results of this study are also expected can to be useful as contribution information of opinion that can be used as reference for another same research in improving students’ ability achievement in different context.