CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of study, statements of problems, purposes of study, significance of study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of study

Language is the most important tool for communication in our daily activity. By using language people, can share opinion, idea, feelings, etc. Beside being a tool to communicate with others, language facilitates other communicants to understand what others want and to compare their knowledge (Abdul Ritonga: 2009). Every country has language as a mother tongue, but people who live there also learn foreign language, one of it is English.

Generally, English is one of international languages learned by people. English is the most commonly used language among foreign language speakers. When people with different languages come together, they commonly use English to communicate to each other. For example, when people go for vacation in France, they want to buy something but they do not know about the language. Thus, they use English to ask the price or the product sold.

English is very important to learn because nowadays there are many information presented in English. Moreover, English has been the main factor and bench mark in workplace. The ability to speak or write English well and in the correct form is the extra value to increase personal performance. English is also used in
international business. If we want to take a managerial position in some multinational companies, mostly we will be required to speak English. Therefore, English regarded has important function to communicate with others, so that it is learnt from elementary school until university in Indonesia.

English has four skills that should be mastered by the students, they are: speaking, reading, listening and writing. These four skills have connection to each other (http://www.englishclub.com/learn-english/language-skills.htm). However, it cannot be decided from where these skills should be mastered. Based on that, learning English in vocational schools should include the four skills. If students have difficulty on one skill, it will obstruct the optimality in learning English.

Good mastery of English can be an effective means to increase the mastery of science and technology, so as to improve the competitiveness of human resources in Indonesia (http://file.upi.edu/). It can be accomplished by formal and non-formal learning. Basically, vocational students are prepared for working so that they should have skills including English. Learning English can help students to get information, to communicate well and to increase their confidence when they have interview for job with English in the future.

Vocationally, learning English is very important because vocational students should have good communication skill because they are prepared for excellent and professional human resources. It is also important because mostly students will face English when they read the instructions of tools and when they create design by computer in which the guidance is also written in English. English in vocational school is not only learned in reading comprehension for understanding the instruction
or guidance, but it is also learned and taught in writing. It has relation with
communication, especially in business written. For example, they make letter of order
for buying tools or they make letter of complaint when they got broken equipments.
Yet, learning English in vocational school is not as successful as it is being expected.
When the writer observed and interviewed one of the teachers in a vocational school,
it was found that the students still need guidance and the teacher had to teach them
slowly. Teacher should give students the clear explanation on writing text or
paragraph it is better for the teacher to explain it step by step, start from outline to the
development of sentences into paragraph.

There are still many problems in teaching English for vocational students. In
fact, they have to master four skills of English; speaking, listening, reading and
writing. First, the students commonly have low motivation in learning English. They
feel scared first of English because in the first time they learn it, they have no large
number of vocabulary in English. It is one of the difficult problems in learning
English for vocational school. Second, the students have low involvement in English
teaching learning process. They do not want to be active in the class. They tend to
keep silent when the teacher gives interactive session. Third, students have low
achievement because of that. It is basically caused by less confidence among the
students. It all happen in every skills of English, knowing vocabularies, structure,
tenses and grammar is still hard for them; speak, listen, read and write also difficult
for students.

Based on the explanation above, the author would like to make a research on
one of the skills in English, that is writing. Writing is one of the language skills and
an activity that has a relationship with the process of thinking and expression skills in script form Siradanai Tan (stated in Abdul Ritonga: 2009). Writing is also one of the most complicated and complex skill for students (Richard: 1999). Students are required to produce words, sentences, and paragraphs to show their skill in a work. It means that students should know how to use words through its spelling, meaning, and its grammatical positions. They should understand about meaning, and its grammatical positions, because they need it to arrange sentences and develop sentences into paragraph.

Writing activity refers to the knowledge of how some words are organized into a sentence possessing a series of words that have meaning. Having good writing, learner will be helpful in delivering their ideas, messages and feelings either to the reader Hartanti (stated in Novita 2003). In writing there are some components namely punctuation, structure and grammar. There component are always used in writing. If one of it is missing, it will cause errors and the writing can not be understood well.

Usually errors that often occur in vocational high school students when they write something are they did not observed the word structure and the sentences are meaningless. Sometime they also interpret or arrange sentences word by word without paying attention to meaning. If people want to write in English, they have to understand well on the grammar. Grammar is one of the important aspects on writing. Using and mastering correct grammar is not easy, because the things grammar and the Indonesian are grammar very different. In fact, some students are not able to use grammar correctly.
Actually, grammar is used to explain about the structure of a sentence so it will make the reader understand well about the meaning. A sentence without grammar would be disorganized and causes some mistake like grammatical error in writing. Grammatical error is big problem in writing subject Hartanti (stated in Novita 2003). In vocational school, students should already know about grammar or structure in writing but in reality they still make many errors when making paragraph. In study English the students must pay attention in grammar. Indonesian students, as foreign language learners of English, also face difficulties about grammar because of the difference in linguistic structure between Indonesia and English. It means that the students have difficulties in learning English grammar.

Learning English in the tenth Multimedia class at SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Malang is conducted in all skills, such as speaking, reading, listening and writing. According the writer’s observation in teaching writing, students were taught to make the opening dialogue, greeting, telling things and times, expressing feeling and describing something. However, the students still make errors, especially in grammar. They are difficult in starting to make sentences because they have less vocabulary but the worst is that they cannot use “to be” in the proper place. They usually present “I” with “am” and it will follow with other “to be”. According to them, it is like “I” is come with “am”. Using “the” in the sentence is often done by students. It seems that they feel appropriate in using “the” in most words. Another problem in grammar is that they are difficult in determining adverb, auxiliary, and article. Accordingly, the researcher take a research to analyze the grammatical error occurs in class tenth of Multimedia class at SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Malang.
1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. What kinds of grammatical errors the tenth grade of Multimedia class make in learning writing in SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Malang?

2. How the tenth grade Multimedia class in SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Malang organize their idea in writing essay?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purposes of the study are:

1. To find the kinds of grammatical errors made by the tenth Multimedia class in SMK Muhammadiyah 2, Malang.

2. To know how the tenth grade Multimedia class in SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Malang organize their idea in writing essay.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is to give contributions to English teachers in SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Malang to improve their students’ writing including vocabulary, grammar, and developing paragraph. The result of this study is also expected to have contribution for teacher in knowing their students grammatical error and deciding what appropriate method and strategy for teaching writing, also student’s error, especially the grammatical error in writing paragraph based on the picture or describing something or someone can be used as a reference of the evaluation for the next treatment in order to improve the process of teaching and learning as well. This analysis is also to make the students know of their own error, especially grammar. They will know the weakness in their learning process and it will help them to
improve their competence in writing. So, this study is also expected to be useful for further researchers who want to create the similar research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are some grammatical errors that often occur in the students such as errors in making paragraph that appropriate with the picture, describing something or someone and making dialogue. This study does not analyze all errors; it just focuses on writing in describing something or someone. The writer only limits the problems to the student’s grammatical error in writing made by the tenth Multimedia in SMK Muhammadiyah 2, Malang.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Grammar

   Grammar is a process how some words and their component combine to form a sentence that is easily understood by the reader.

2. Error

   Error is a situation where someone made a mistake in learning something.

3. Writing

   Writing is an activity to convey idea in the written form.