

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Rationale

Human being need language to communicate with other people and surroundings, and this is in line with the function of language as a means of communication for human being. This is supported by Abdul Chaer that “language is system of sound that arbitrary, which it is used by society to cooperation, communicate and self identify”.¹

Based on the sentence above, it can be seen that language is very important for human being, from which human being can express their ideas, thought and feelings in communicating with other.

Roudy Sadly stated as quoted by Paulin Tomasuow that “language is a medium to express an inner opinion or feeling which are express orally or with symbol according to certain purpose human”.² Normally, through language people can express the ideas to gain something such as giving information, interact with the other people, control the attitude and make an imaginative world.³ By language human being can receive and transmit message, so that they can know each other. A language is not only used for speaking but also needed to develop science and technology.

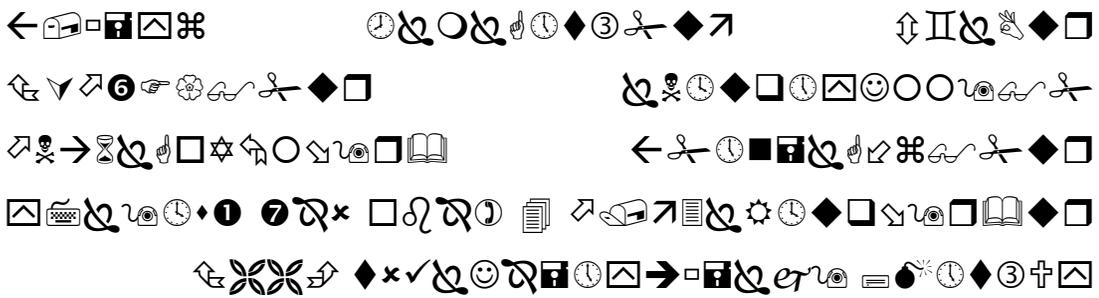
¹Abdul Chaer, *Linguistic Umum*, (Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 1994), p. 32.

² Paulin Tomasuow, *Cross Cultural Understanding*, First Edition (Jakarta: karunika, 1986), p.I

³ Leonard Blomfield, *Outline Guide for the Practical Study of Foreign Language*, (Baltimore:1992), p. 22

Language is also as effective tool to know one another, language as communication tool will make us be able to express our feeling, idea, or wishes, and to know another feeling, idea, or wishes. Language also will make people be able to close with another, as Mary Mc. Groatry stated that: “language is an intimate part of social identity”.⁴

The fact language becomes an important thing for people. Language is a gift of god for human; he creates different languages, so that language is part of his power. It relates to the revelation of Allah Almighty in Holy Koran Surah Ar-Rum: 22, as follow:



Human always interact each other to deliver message, thought and idea by orally and writely. Learning a language is a study how to know its target language in communicating.

Language is not only used to interact with another but also used to communicate, to share the information and to develop sciences and technology. The development of communication technology is like a building, everything must be interconnected not only does this communication network unity among countries but also facilitates International connection.

⁴Sandra Lee Mc Kay and Nancy H. Hornberger, *Sociolinguistics and Language Teaching*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 3.

One of those languages is English; English is a very important foreign language. It has a very essential position in communication among people. The use of English widely considered as an urgent need. English used as international language; it has the largest number of user all over the world. This is because of the facts that, first, English is an International language and most of people use it for a variety of purposes. Therefore, people who can speak English can communicate with people from other countries regarding many aspects of life such as technology, economics, and politics. Second, English is a mode of communicate with others. Thus, it is studied by most people and taught in many countries either as a second language or foreign language. It has a very essential position in communication among people. The use of English widely considered as an urgent need. English used as international language; it has the largest number of user all over the world.

English language learning includes four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Writing is one of English skills that taught at school at any levels of study, especially at school. Writing skill is known as “productive skill”, which is needed in understanding and expressing ideas, thoughts, and feelings through words, phrases, clauses and sentences, as accurately as possible. According to Haris, there are at least five general components found in writing; content, form, grammar, style and mechanics.⁵

Listening is the very first skill and has been viewed as a primary vehicle for language acquisition process we know and understand the meaning of the something

⁵David P. Harris. *Testing English as a Second Language*, (New York: Mc Graw- Hill Book Company, 1969), p.p. 68-69.

people hear by listening. It relates to the revelation of the God in Holy Koran Surah An-Nahl 78, as follow:



Sense of hearing is the main instrument and most important for human to absorb some information about our environment in the world. One of the miracles of Holy Koran is it had been brought and preached by a prophet that could not read and write, but He was able to listen. Of course this is the greatest argumentation of Koran to fresh that listening is important aspect in our life. By listening we can response what the others mean.

Listening is the absorption of the meanings of words and sentences by the brain. Listening leads to the understanding of facts and ideas. But listening takes attention, or sticking to the task at hand in spite of distractions. It requires concentration, which is the focusing of your thoughts upon one particular problem. A person who incorporates listening with concentration is actively listening.⁶

⁶ <http://www.ccsf.edu/~lernasst/lern10/listening.html> , retrieved on February 6th 2011

The importance of listening in communication is often well illustrated when people analyze their listening skills with those closest to them. In particular I am referring to our spouse, partner, children or friends. Pay attention to the everyday conversations they have with these people with whom they think they communicate well.⁷

Listening is an important skill to master, as in human everyday lives, they need to obtain and respond to information which is communicated to them through this medium. It is essential for teachers to develop their student's ability to listen well, allowing them to become self-reliant learners, by integrating the grammar, set expressions and vocabulary that is heard.

Basically, listening skill is one of four skills in learning a language, especially English language. It means learning the skills as well as the components of the language as follows:

1. Four skills of language : Listening, speaking, reading and writing
2. The language components : Grammatical structure and vocabulary.⁸

Dictation is used to evaluate most of the aspects of language simultaneously. Its main purpose is to check the proficiency of the students about the language being learned through their listening ability.

⁷ http://jobs.languagelink.ru/tefl_clinic/practical_teaching/listening_skills/, retrieved on February 6th 2011

⁸David P.Haris, *Testing English as a Second Language*, (New York: MC Graw-Hill, 1969) p. 9.

Dictation is a task which requires the processing of temporally constrained sequences of material in the language, divided up the stream of speech and then refers down what is heard requires understanding the meaning of the material. It means that when students do dictation test, they do not only pay attention to the sound of the words read by the teacher but also understand about the meaning and be able to transfer the dictated passages to their graphical representations. They are forced to pay a comprehensive attention to the passage dictated and write down what they perceive by sound, sight and feeling in the second language at the same time span allowed for a response in the first language. Once they fail to concentrate on their listening, they will not be able to make quick guess what they actually

In this study, I will focus on teaching listening in junior school considering that in learning language listening is the skill. Listening is important to support learning English especially in enriching vocabulary and gaining a large portion of their education. Therefore I consider that listening can be taught at junior schools.

There is not doubt that junior students' face some difficulties in learning English because learning English as a second language is something new for them, and it is different from learning their native language. Some of the students think that English is difficult and some of them are curious and like to learn English. The way in encouraging children to become accustomed to learn English is by giving them listening material occasionally, in order to make the student familiar with the language by listening its word and sentences.

Due to the importance of listening as explained above, the teachers have to develop students' dictation ability. By developing students' ability to listen well, the

teachers develop their students' ability to become more independent learners, as the students will be able to reproduce language accurately and refine their understanding of grammar and develop their own vocabulary. The better students improve their listening ability, the better they reach the achievement in listening. Teachers, therefore, should explore a new productive strategy in brightening listening classes in order to encourage students in learning listening skill. They should create interesting and entertaining materials to motivate the students' active responds in doing listening exercise. After the teaching and learning process and all the materials are given to the students, there is an expectation that students will make a progress in their study. To know whether the students make some progress in their study, it is useful for teacher to conduct a test or an examination at the end of a program. So the students will be motivated to learn and master the materials which have been taught by the teacher.

It was very attractive, when the writer visited this boarding school; all students with big confidence use English when they are making sentences in teaching learning. But, at the same time the writer found some awareness on some students when they are making sentences, apparently they just use the main words and put aside the grammar and word-order, whereas, the students are obligated to making sentences in English and use the proper grammar and word-order.

In this research, the writer suggests to the teachers to choose appropriate testing techniques of listening in order to encourage students in learning English. The teachers should carefully select the testing techniques so that the students are not beyond the students' level of proficiency. One of listening tests which is suitable for

measuring students' achievement in mastering listening material is dictation. The writer assumes that dictation is close related to listening activity and the further application is that it can be used as a testing device as well. Dictation is one kind of testing techniques that can be prepared for any level. By using dictation, the teacher can realize the weakness of the students in comprehending the language as well as the weaknesses of the previous teaching method.

Since dictation is used to check the ability of the students in understanding the foreign language phenomenon, the teacher hopes that within a short time he can check whether the teaching aims have been satisfactorily fulfilled or not.

It is one of problems faced by students in dictation words and sentences. Some students do not understand how to distinguish (one from other) words and sentences correctly. This problem often causes error in making English words and sentences. Therefore, dictation that influences the students' ability in English, especially in listening form.

Darul Istiqamah Islamic boarding school is one of some Islamic boarding schools at South Kalimantan that applies English and Arabic in their activities and study. All of the students are obligated to use English in their daily life as long as they study and stay there. Although the second grade at MTs Darul Istiqamah Barabai learn English less than Language program, but the English language subject included in the National Examination (UAN) too. And based on the writer's experience have studied there, not all of them can answer the dictation words and sentences correctly. This case is assumed as one of problems that cause their listening errors.

Based on the fact from the prior research above and the writer's interest in this research, the writer intends to conduct a research entitled **The Students' Ability of the Second Grade in Dictation Words and Sentences at Mts Darul Istiqamah Barabai Academic 2010/2011**

In order to avoid any misinterpretation toward the title the writer feels necessary to explain as follows:

1. Ability

Ability is from word able that means "Having enough power, skill, or resources to do something"⁹. Ability is the quality of being able to do something.¹⁰ The ability is aimed at the students' capability in performing listening English activity everyday especially in dictation words and sentences. The ability that discussed in this study relates to students' ability in skill dictation words and sentence.

2. Dictation

Dictation is the action of speaking or the giving of orders or instructions in a commanding or impatient manner or the process of saying or riding something aloud for someone else to write down.

3. Student

⁹ Noah Webster, *Websters Elementary Dictionary* (New York; William Collins Publisher, 1980), p. 2

¹⁰ Elaine Higgleton. C. Hambers. *Essential Grammar Dictionary* (British National Corpus, Endburgh, 1995), p.2

Student is from the second grade students of MTs Darul Istiqamah Barabai
Academic year 2010/2011.

4. Sentence

A sentence is the largest purely grammatical unit in a language.

From the terms above, the research that is the writer do about the students' ability of the second grade in dictation words and sentences at MTS Darul Istiqamah Barabai academic 2010/2011 means to better understanding about the ability in dictation words and sentences of the students at MTS Darul Istiqamah Barabai academic year 2010/2011.

B. Statement of the Problem

Concerning of the topic above, the statement of problem of this research is as follows:

1. How is the students' ability of the second grade student of MTs Darul Istiqamah Barabai in dictation words and sentences academic year 2010/2011?
2. What are the factors that influence the students' ability of the second grade student of MTs Darul Istiqamah Barabai in dictation words and sentences academic year 2010/2011?

C. Reason of choosing the title

There are several reasons that influenced the writer's decision to choose this title, including:

1. English is the most important foreign language in Indonesia and it is an international language. It is also be communication language in science and technology.
2. The student ability in dictation is one of problems that is interested to research at MTs Darul Istiqamah Barabai academic year 2010/ 2011.

D. Purpose of Research

Based on the problem, the writer has two purposes of this research, as follows:

1. To know the students' ability of the second grade student of MTs Darul Istiqamah Barabai in dictation words and sentences academic year 2010/ 2011.
2. To find out what specific issues students have in dictation words and sentences of the second grade student of MTs Darul Istiqamah Barabai in dictation words and sentences academic year 2010/ 2011.

E. Significance of the research

The main significances of conducting this research are:

1. To improve the ability of the student to write in English.
2. To find out the factors that influence the students' ability in dictation words and sentences.

3. It has a good function to give information for the next researcher who wants to do the same research on different school or to continue this research.
4. The result of the research can be use by the teacher on fix the way of his teaching in class.

F. Organization of the writing.

To enable this research, the writer organizes the paper into five chapters as follows:

The first chapter is introduction that covers rationale, statement of problem, reason for choosing the title, purpose for choosing the title, significance of research, and organization of writing.

The second chapter is theoretical review that covers definition of ability, definition of dictation, the nature of writing, some kinds of writing, some elements to be considered in dictation words and sentences and the influential factors of the ability in dictation words and sentences.

The third chapter is method of research that covers subject and object of the research, data and sources of data, techniques of data collecting, data processing and analyzing and research procedure.

The fourth chapter is report of research result; that covers of general description about the location of study, data presentation and data analysis.

The fifth chapter is closure that covers conclusion and suggestions for further research.