

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the discussion about the background of the study, research question, purpose of the study, significant of the study and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

To become a master in English, learning grammar is a very essential part. According to Brown (1989), "Grammar tell us how to construct a sentence (word order, verb and noun systems, modifiers, phrases, clauses, etc.), and discourse rules tell us how to string those sentence together". By learning grammar, the students know how to make a good sentence and arrange the words meaningfully. Unfortunately, the students' comprehension about how to arrange words into well-formed is still poor, although they have learned English grammar in many years, including of using a gerund in grammar.

Gerund is one of components of a grammar which have learned by the students. Gerund is words derived from a verb stem with the suffix *-ing* may occur in a variety of meanings and functions. It depends on the contexts where they occur. The *-ing* form may be used as verbal nouns and verbal adjectives (Zandvoort 1972). In connection with Zandvoort's definition, Van Ek (1972) gave an explanation that a gerund may exhibit all the syntactic properties of a noun. Thus, it may be preceded by an article, a possessive pronoun, a noun in the genitive, or an adjective, or followed by a noun-adjunct with 'of' (or another

preposition). It may function as the subject, object, nominal predicate of a sentence, and form part of prepositional adjunctions.

In learning target language, the students' problems are caused by the interference of their first language. According to Tarigan (1989), "the differences between the two languages cause problems to students". The students' errors may occur in the components of the language. Students often make a sentence which is syntactically right but lexically wrong or vice versa. This shows that the students have difficulties in using words or sentences appropriately. In the English grammar and Bahasa also there are verbs that occupy the function of nouns. A verb may function as a noun, and in English, it can be formed by adding the suffix -ing to the verb, in Bahasa there is no change in its form.

The general errors of many students are because they cannot distinguish between an -ing form in gerund usage. There are many kinds of an -ing form in English. This condition is making confusion for students in learning about an -ing form, especially for the gerund. The students have a tendency to think about -ing form in gerund is a tense usage of present continuous tense. According to Wishon and Burks (1980), "Notice that gerund has the same form as the present participle. However, it functions differently in the same sentence. Therefore, the students always get deceiving of -ing form in English."

Based on the background aforementioned, the researcher thinks it is worthwhile to study about students' error in using gerund among the fourth-semester students of English department at Jambi University.

1.2 Research Question

What kind of error on the use of gerund made by the fourth semester students of the English Department at Jambi University.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The researcher had purposes of the study was to identify kind of error on the use of gerund made by the fourth semester students of the English Department at Jambi University.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

The researcher limited the discussion on the use of kind of gerunds, which are gerund as subject, gerund as direct object, gerund as object of preposition, and gerund used in the adjective 'NO' by the fourth semester students of English department at Jambi University.

1.5 The significance of the Study

By doing the research, the researcher hoped that the result will be helpful to provided:

1. Input to the learners of English of the fourth semester of English Department at Jambi University in order to be more careful in using Gerund.
2. Input to the English pedagogues in order to consider the benefits of analyzing the errors of students in learning English that they tell them how far towards the goals the learners have progressed.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Error analysis: The study of errors made by the second and foreign language learners (Richards: 1984).

Gerund: The-ing form of a verb used as a noun. Azar (1989)