

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, English lesson is not only taught in Junior High School or Senior High School but also taught in Elementary School. English conveys as a local content for Elementary students. It means that English is very important to student because English is considered as an International language and it is also considered as the first foreign language in Indonesia, so that at least every student can understand if they read simple textbook or simple story books in English. Even, they can speak in English.

Many students always have problems when they learn English. Usually, their problems are in understanding the vocabulary and the fundamental grammatical patterns of a language. Besides that, based on the writer's experience in teaching private course for Elementary School Students, most Elementary Students also have problems of prepositions.

The writer noticed that Indonesian students find difficulties in learning preposition. Sometimes they

omit the prepositions altogether, at other time they use the wrong prepositions. They use the wrong prepositions and even they omit the prepositions from Indonesian to English.

A preposition occupies an important role in learning English. A preposition is difficult for the Elementary student . Kaplan points out that :

"It's not easy to define a preposition. It is a typically little word, which has meaning and has something to do with a location or a direction, for example: in, above, under, behind, across, inside, below, at, from, to, with." (Jeffrey P. Kaplan, 1995:25)

In this case Thomas Buckingham also said that :

"The first kind of error arises because some languages do not use these special words to signal relationships between events or observations. The second kind of error often follow from the habit of translating preposition from the first language." (Thomas Buckingham, 1972:19)

As your pupils make progress in their English studies they will meet new prepositions in reading texts. They will also find that many of the prepositions they have already met are used in new ways (A.S Hornby, 1972:48). It is undesirable to give specially prepared lessons on prepositions. Now, it is the teacher's task to explain the use of the preposition clearer to the students, so that they do not meet any difficulties in applying them into sentences and

understand the differences between the Indonesian and English concerning prepositions. It is also expected that students are able to use the correct prepositions in every situation.

According to the writer's experiences, teaching preposition in isolated sentences are really boring to many students. On the other hand, teaching prepositions in meaningful pictures or dialogues will be quite advantageous for the teacher and her students who want to be successful in their teaching - learning efforts, because pictures and dialogues can promote the students' ability in mastering preposition.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Based on the background of the problem that is described above, this study attempts to answer the following : " How can pictures and dialogues be useful in teaching preposition to the Fourth Year Students of Elementary School ?"

1.3 Objective of the Study

In line with the background of this study, the writer's chief point is to suggest how pictures and

dialogues can be useful in teaching preposition for the Fourth Year Students of Elementary School .

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this study can make the English teachers more creative in teaching preposition. In addition, it is expected to give some contributions to the success of teaching English preposition to Elementary students.

1.5 Methodology

This study is a library research. At the beginning, the writer collects the data from the library, the writer reads many books, papers, pictures and some other related theories. From those books, she finds out many opinions and ideas of the linguist about the techniques such as pictures and dialogues, which are relevant with this study.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

The writer limits her study on one language component that is preposition through pictures or dialogues, so that it will be clearly describe. The subjects of this study is Fourth Year Students of

Elementary School because in this class, the students get thorough explanation of prepositions and they thought prepositions are the most difficult ones for them.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

This study is based on the theory of pictures or dialogue, written by : A.J Thompson , Carol J. Kreidler , Mary Finocchiaro, and Julia Dobson.

1.8 Definition of the Key Terms

For the clarity of this study, the writer is going to define the following terms as used in this study.

- Teaching : According to Brown : "Teaching is showing or helping something giving instruction, guiding in the study of something, providing with knowledge, causing to know or understand.
- Preposition : A relating particle expressing a relation, as direction, position, time between its noun or pronoun and some other word.
- Picture : The action or process of painting or drawing.

- Dialogue : According to Julia Dobson, a dialogue is a social unit of speech, because it involves two speakers. Therefore, it furnishes students with a social content in which they can practice the new language.

1.9 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. In chapter one, we can find the introduction of the paper that deals with background of the study, statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, methodology, limitation of the study, theoretical framework definition of key terms, and the organization of the thesis. Chapter two is about review of related literature. In chapter three, the writer discusses about pictures or dialogues as a means of teaching preposition. Chapter four consists of the application of using pictures or dialogues in teaching preposition. And the last chapter serves conclusion and suggestion.