CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language as a tool of communication has significant function in human life. It can connect people around the world. It can also deliver messages and expressions directly from speaker to listener. English is an international language that used by people to communicate. Usually, people in different nation or country use it as a way to deliver what they have to talk. Many people activities use English for instance international commerce, immigration process, students exchange, international school, etc. They prove that English very important today. Without English mastery people can not develop knowledge, skill, and business in large group with people from different countries.

In Indonesia, English roles as foreign language after Indonesian language and traditional language. But English is the one of foreign language that is obligated to teach at schools. Many schools make effort to give students English lesson by using certain methods. That method can influence the development of language skills such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students have to master English skills because it will give advantages to increase students' knowledge. For example in writing skill, students can make a story or scientific English writing grammatically.

In English there are components that need to understand before using it. One of them is tense. Downing and Locke (2006: 352) state, "Tense is the grammatical

1

expression of the location of the events in time." Tense is time that is formed into words and sentence. Downing and Locke (2006) also state that tense anchors (or 'grounds') an event to the speaker's experience of the world by relating the event time. Tense is used to express an event in certain time that must be suitable in sentence because it will determine the meaning. If the word is not suitable with tense used, automatically the purpose of that sentence will change and has different meaning. Grammar is language and how we use it, tenses are just a fraction of our language (Riddle: 2003). In English grammar tenses have many forms but this research will only focus on three tenses that have already taught in 8th grade. They are simple present tense, simple past tense, and present continuous tense. Simple present tense and present continuous tense tell event in present time whereas simple past tense tells event that happens in past and there is no relation with present time (Izzan and Mahfudin; 2011).

Many problems happen to students while learning grammar for instance in tenses learning. In observation activity when student internship, the researcher found that students in eighth class at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Ponorogo sometimes be confused about tense particularly in verbs. Students looked hard to differentiate whether verb that appropriate based on the use of tense. For example, in learning activity teacher asked students to make simple present tense sentence but in the result the sentence be like "My Father eating fried rice everyday". This was false. The verb was not appropriate with simple present tense. Students should use verb 1 to make simple present tense sentence. This activity also happened in simple past tense. Teacher only gave a glance explanation just to remind student about

tense contextually. Sometimes not all students get the lesson that has been taught. After that, teacher continued the lesson based on lesson plan. It made students learn individually about tense. Students always forget about how important the signal time in tense. Because it will influence what the meaning is. Not only signal time, the subject and verb also have function to build sentence.

Based on the problems above, this research will use Classroom Action Research (CAR) method to guide students to increase their tenses mastery by using Plug and Play (PnP) Application. "Plug and Play" Application has the similar function with Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL). Gunduz (2005) state that Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) refers to the sets of instructions which need to be loaded into the computer for it to be able to work in the language classroom. This is the reason why the researcher uses PnP with CALL Technology. Beside it, PnP has a purpose to detect new device whether it is suitable or not with the system. The PnP approach also proposes a set of standard interfaces that allow components to communicate with each other through different connectors (Wang, Avrunin, and Clarke: 2008).

The affiliation of PnP and CALL Technology in the classroom can be alternative solution to increase students' tenses mastery. Students can easily learn tenses by use PnP because the PnP will check whether the answer is right or not and in the last session it can automatically show students score after students have completely answered all questions.

From the explanation above, the researcher conducts a research entitled the use of PnP Application to improve students' tense mastery for eighth grade of MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Ponorogo in academic year 2016/2017.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Based on the background of the study, the statement of the problem of this researcher is "How can PnP (Plug and Play) Application improve students' tenses mastery in eighth grade of MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Ponorogo for academic year 2017 / 2018 ".

1.3 Purpose of The Study

The purpose of the study is to find out how PnP Application can improve students' tenses mastery and to find out whether the PnP Application has positive effect in students' tenses mastery in eighth grade of MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Ponorogo.

1.4 Significance of The Study

The result of this study is expected for:

1) **Students**

a. To improve students' tenses mastery

2) **Teacher**

a. To inform the teacher about alternative solution in solving students' problem about tenses.

1.5 Scope and Limitation.

The target of this study is students in Junior High School. Where the scope and limitation of the study are:

1) The Scope

The research scope is the eighth grade students of MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Ponorogo.

2) The Limitation

The research limitations is the Simple Present Tense based on syllabus new revisions 2017.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms.

Tenses   : The form a verb takes, which is based on two things, time frame and aspect. Time frame tells whether a verb refers to now, or some particular time in the past or future. Aspect tells how the verb is related to that time (Thewlis: 1993)

Plug and Play   : The PnP approach also proposes a set of standard interfaces that allow components to communicate with each other through different connectors. (Wang, Avrunin, and Clarke, 2008: 274)