CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study, and novelty of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Making a thesis is the final phase of fulfilling education for university students. The term "thesis" is used in Indonesia to describe a written presentation of undergraduate research findings that addresses an issue or occurrence in a specific scientific discipline utilizing relevant guidelines (Mansnur, 2013). Rasyid and Ramadhan (2022) state that thesis is a scientific document that is required for acquiring a bachelor's degree at university. In order to receive a bachelor's degree in the subject of study, students must complete this thesis as part of their graduation requirements.

Thesis must follow the rules of scientific writing. The rules of scientific writing, such as using scientific rules, being objective, and using correct grammatical rules. From those three rules, good grammar is still a scourge for some students. This includes as one of the problems for good writing in thesis. Whereas grammar is very important in writing. Grammar is the regulation or system that regulates the structure and meaning of sentences. Swan (2005) states that grammar is a set of norms that specifies how words are joined, grouped, and altered to convey various meanings. According to David (2004), grammar allows people to identify ambiguity in a language. Brown (2007) emphasizes that without grammatical structure, language use may become chaotic and difficult to comprehend. Since grammar is necessary for all languages to exist and necessary for fluent language usage, grammar allows people to produce and comprehend an endless number of utterances.

The error in writing include as the grammatical error. Richard and Schmidt (2002) state that an error takes place when a word, speech act, or grammatical item is used in a way that suggests it is defective and represents an insufficient understanding. According to Burt and Kiparsky (1974) as stated in Putri and

Dewanti (2014), a grammatical error is any blunder that does not follow the rules of grammar and can detract from the quality of writing. It indicates that a grammatical error is one that violates every rule of grammar in a language, so someone's written work inappropriate for a reader to read. Leacock et al. (2010) state that grammatical error is classified not only as grammar problem, but also as usage or technical faults, as well as spelling errors.

From those phenomena, research on grammatical errors in student's thesis need to be carried out. Error analysis is the activity that identifies errors committed in speaking and writing (Richards, 2015). Even though the document had been declared correct and worthy of being a graduation requirement, it did not miss from grammatical errors. This problem necessitates immediate scrutiny and examination. If ignored, it can potentially have adverse effects. When an error is handled improperly, it negatively affects students' ability to evaluate their level of proficiency in the language learning process.

The researcher took the samples of the unpublished theses of English literature study program students in the academic year 2019 of Universitas Bina Darma for this research. There were 15 theses of the samples that the researcher used. The researcher took the samples of the unpublished theses of English literature study program students in the academic year 2019 of Universitas Bina Darma because that class was the senior in the same major one semester upper as the researcher that had graduated so the novelty was still new and those theses have never been studied by other researchers. In addition, their theses were being done at the same time and there was a certain time limit. So there were the possibilities of common errors being made in their research papers.

Some examples of grammatical errors that researcher found while reading those theses are: **(1)** *The researcher use data collection techniques to collect research data.* This sentence had omission error and context of this sentence was in the past time. This sentence had omission error because this sentence did not use verb 2 in positive sentence in simple past tense. So it needed to add "-d" after verb "use" as regular verb to indicate simple past tense. The sentence was supposed to be: *The researcher used data collection techniques to collect research data.* **(2)** *Another common examples is gasoline is reduced to a shorter*

form gas. This sentence had addition error and context of this sentence was in the present time. This sentence had addition error because this sentence only showed 1 of the other example in it. So it did not need to add "−s" after the noun "example." The sentence was supposed to be: *Another common example is gasoline is reduced to a shorter form gas.* **(3) He lay on the bed in his room, and then his mother came to him....** This sentence had substitution error and context of this sentence was in the past time. This sentence had substitution error because this sentence used wrong verb in simple past tense sentence. The verb "lay" which was verb 1 in this sentence must be changed with the verb 2 "laid". The sentence was supposed to be: *He laid on the bed in his room, and then his mother came to him....* **(4) Here are some lyrics song on Melanie Martinez's album.** This sentence had permutation error and context of this sentence was in the present time. This sentence had permutation error because this sentence had wrong order of open compound noun. It was not written as "lyrics songs" but rather as "song lyrics" for the correct one. The sentence was supposed to be: *Here are some songs lyrics on Melanie Martinez's album....* Those are a few of sentences that found ungrammatical.

From those examples, the researcher intended to examine the grammatical errors contained in those theses further more. Thus, this research could contribute to the existing body of knowledge by investigating grammatical errors in the theses of English literature study program students. Notably, this research provided new insights by analyzing grammatical errors spanning all parts of university students' theses by providing a comprehensive understanding of the kinds and patterns of errors that occurred in academic writing.

This research used the unpublished theses of English literature study program students in the academic year 2019 of Universitas Bina Darma as the source for analyzing grammatical errors because the researcher found the errors in those theses and interested to analyze it. The researcher used grammatical error theory from Keshavarz (2012), which provided a comprehensive framework for analyzing grammatical errors. The researcher used this theory because this theory was classified into four categories of errors based on the basis of their process. So it could be easier to identify grammatical errors found by using this theory.

Through this theory, the researcher classified the grammatical errors found in those theses. The researcher was interested in choosing this title because grammar is very important in research writing. Furthermore, this research would be published in the SINTA (Science and Technology Index) journal with levels 1-4 which required good writing in grammar. Thus, this was very important to analyze for increase the awareness of good grammar in writing. Based on the background above, the researcher would entitle this thesis **"Grammatical Errors Found in the Unpublished Theses of English Literature Study Program Students of Universitas Bina Darma"**.

1.2 Problems of the Study

From the introduction above, there were some problems in this study that concluded in questions. They were:

1. How were grammatical errors in the unpublished theses of English literature study program students in the academic year 2019 of Universitas Bina Darma analyzed to become grammatically correct in writing?

2. What kinds of grammatical errors found in the unpublished theses of English literature study program students in the academic year 2019 of Universitas Bina Darma?

3. What was the most dominant grammatical errors found in the unpublished theses of English literature study program students in the academic year 2019 of Universitas Bina Darma?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

From the problems above, the objectives were:

1. To identify how to analyze grammatical errors in the unpublished theses of English literature study program students in the academic year 2019 of Universitas Bina Darma to become grammatically correct in writing.

2. To identify kinds of grammatical errors found in the unpublished theses of English literature study program students in the academic year 2019 of Universitas Bina Darma.

3. To find out the most dominant grammatical error found in the unpublished theses of English literature study program students in the academic year 2019 of Universitas Bina Darma.

1.4 Significances of the Study

Theoretically, the results of this research were expected to contribute the English literature of linguistics research about grammar. Furthermore, it was hoped this research can strengthen and complement previous research related to grammar, especially on the identification of grammatical errors in grammar. It was also hoped that this research could serve as a reference to further linguistics research with grammatical errors analysis.

Practically, there were several benefits for the researcher and the readers who are especially English literature students. For the researcher, this research was useful as the practice of linguistics knowledge in the grammar realm that had been studied during courses as well as an indicator for developing skills in research. For the readers who are especially English literature students, this research can increase the knowledge and information about grammatical errors in grammar and can be developed even better in further research.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

Universitas Bina Darma had a lot of English literature students' theses from generation to generation. However, this research only focused on the unpublished theses of English literature study program students in the academic year 2019 of Universitas Bina Darma which was the senior in the same major one semester upper as the researcher that had graduated. The researcher took 15 unpublished theses of English literature study program students in the academic year 2019 of Universitas Bina Darma as the samples of the research which were the number of students of the English literature study program students in the academic year

2019 of Universitas Bina Darma who had graduated at that time. The researcher would analyze the common errors by using grammatical error theory by Keshavarz (2012).