CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

English is an international language and becomes a second language for non-English-speaking countries. It is a connecting language for all people in the world that means people from different countries communicate by using English. In addition, English is also used to deal with some important aspects relating to our lives such as technology and education. Technology can ease people to do their activities, to develop human resources' quality and to find something faster because it is supported by the existence of internet. Education is the most important thing. People will run their lives easily if they have great knowledge and good language.

Since people are familiar with technologies, most educators prefer to teach students by using the technologies. There are many kinds of technologies can be used in the teaching and learning process: songs and conversations are audio technologies, pictures and videos are visual technologies, and the latest technology used is internet. There are lots of information and knowledge in internet including materials for study. Teachers and students can only surf to find good materials. Teaching and learning English by using internet is a good method. The term is online learning. Based on some studies, online learning is a process of teaching and learning by using computer and internet connection as mediums to create interactions between teachers and students to access materials.

The writer is interested in conducting this research because she is inspired of the usage of BINUSMAYA; it is BINUS own website. The writer finds one of the methods in online learning is distance learning, in which the process of teaching and learning between teachers and students is done by using technology, separated in place and time. BINUS campus citizens usually use BINUSMAYA for announcing news, posting discussions, posting materials, submitting assignments, and others. Both teachers and students use BINUSMAYA more often in Off Class time; the time refers to the online meeting and not face-to-face class, when students usually do some assignments and submit the projects made through this website. However, the materials given by teachers are limited in the materials uploaded, and also only deal with some readings and writings. By those reasons, the writer tries to apply that kind of method but with different tool in specific subject; the tool is online exercises and the specific subject is grammar.

As mentioned before, the writer focuses this research in discussing online learning with its tool: online grammar exercises. The writer also specifies this research in discussing grammar because it is one of important skills in mastering English. Based on students' perceptions, the writer wants to explore advantages and disadvantages of online grammar exercises. Based on their perceptions also, the writer defines the advantages as some good improvements on their interests, scores and grammar knowledge, and some difficulties faced by both teachers and students in the teaching and learning grammar as the disadvantages. The methods are representing some applications, systems, and programs, while tools are representing some materials and equipments. The methods and tools are considered appropriate, to be used in teaching and learning grammar, if they make teachers easy in teaching and

delivering subjects and materials, and also students easy in understanding the subjects taught and the materials given. According to the writer, this topic is made to suggest teachers apply technology in teaching grammar and to encourage students to study grammar using grammar fun materials and tools.

1.2 Problem Formulation

- Are there any improvements on students' grammar post-test scores, after doing online grammar exercises, compared to grammar pre-test scores?
- What are the advantages of online grammar exercises based on students' perceptions?
- What are the disadvantages of online grammar exercises based on students' perceptions?
- What are the appropriate methods and tools for teaching and learning grammar based on students' perceptions?

1.3 Scope and Limitation

This research focuses on both advantages and disadvantages of online grammar exercises, and also its appropriate methods and tools based on respondents' perceptions. They are 30 students of 4th Semester, English Department, BINUS University in the period of February to July 2010. The writer chooses those students because they are in grammar IV, which is the highest level of grammar subject, and it is conducted in the even semester, when this research is done.

1.4 Goal (s) and Function (s)

This research is done to find out some improvements on students' grammar post-test scores, after doing online grammar exercises, compared to grammar pre-test scores and to find out both advantages and disadvantages of online grammar exercises, and also some appropriate methods and tools for teaching and learning grammar. As functions, this research is done to motivate teachers to use technology in teaching grammar by applying online learning and to prove that online grammar exercises encourages students to study grammar harder, to increase students' interests, to improve students' enthusiasm and to fulfil students' needs.

1.5 Research Methods

Some steps of research process are identifying and developing topics, finding background information, and gathering data. This research needs data because it is the most important element in analyzing some problems the writer has. The writer collects data by doing library, internet and field research. Library and internet research means finding books, articles, journals, and other literature sources to support problems' analysis. The writer selects some literature sources and uses them to define terms and quotations, and also theories related to the topics. Field research is a method outside literature review such as giving tests and questionnaires. In the field research, the writer gives students three kinds of tests: pre-test, online-test and post-test. The writer also distributes two kinds of questionnaires that should be filled by students based on their own perceptions. As all the data needed are completed, the writer interprets the data by calculating and concluding students' results of tests and

questionnaires. Yet, before the writer has those entire steps mentioned, first of all she asks for some permission from lectures and students.