CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Mastering English cannot be reached in a short time, since it is not our own language. In learning English there are some crucial aspects needed to be mastered such vocabulary, grammar, spelling and pronounciation. Grammar is one of crucial aspect plays an important roles whether in speaking, writing, listening and reading skills in formal context and academic to help students in mastering English well. For example, in speaking and writing the students need to know about grammar in order to arrange a good sentence. This also works on listening skill which the students have to know about grammar in order to understand about the conversation that they heard about.

In reading, grammar also plays an important role in helping the students to know about the stucture of a sentence. Grammar as one of the language components is very important to be learnt. Students are not supposed not to only know the grammar, but also use it in both written and oral communication. Grammar has the function of making a string of words or utterances meaningful. If we want to express something, we need vocabularies to arrange sentences.

Learning English Grammar is important to give the students the knowledge to understand the grammar and its function in learning English.

by learning grammar, students could accomplish the basic language communication skill and the students also could understand the rules and know how the sentences are constucted. The importance of learning English grammar should be explained to the students in order to make the students more interest to learn English grammar.

According to Denham and Lobeck (2010:7) grammar is a complex system of rules that governs how speakers organize sounds into words and words into sentences. It is a complete set of rules needed to produce all the regular patterns in a given language. Grammar is the knowledge that as speakers of our languages, which enable us to produce and to understand language (Crowley, Lynch, Siegel and Piau, 1995:10). It means that grammar is a central of language which is needed to be learnt to build a language. It is quite possible that the students do not realize that these areas are important or they realize it but they do not know how to improve their weakness especially in English Grammar.

One of the topics in English grammar that must be learned by the students is passive voice. Passive voice is the verb form, where the subject receives the action. Hall and Azar (2010:76) stated that "the passive of an active tense is formed by putting the verb *to be* into the same tense as the active verb and adding the past participle of the active verb".

Passive voice construction can be useful to write descriptive passages as well as give instructions. In contrast to passive construction,

using active voice will background the process or the description, the focus of stage is lost and the emphasis shifts to the agent (Swales & Feak, 2008). Nevertheless, Beason and Lester (2003) argue that passive voice can lead to a dull style because it does not stress action and hides the agent doing an action. Tendency to show politeness through employing passive construction may occur, yet providing reason might be necessary. In general, instructional detail of using specific voice is not properly addressed in certain degree. This may become the result of the traditional separation of teaching grammar and teaching writing (Hinkel, 2004). The teaching of grammar covers the use of tenses and voices without relating those to the academic writing, while, in writing instruction, the use of voice varies depending on the purpose of the author stance.

Active construction is the most common, while passive is less common and used for special discourse functions; the passive reduces the importance of the agent of the action and fulfill other discourse function (Biber, et al., 2003). There are several forms of passive, mostly are constructed in form of the auxiliary be and an –ed participle. However, passive can also be formed with auxiliary get, which is called the get-passive.

From the definition it can be concluded that passive voice in grammar view is describes the form of a verb used when the grammatical subject is the person or thing that experiences the effect of an action, rather than the person or thing that causes the effect. By knowing the

forms of active and passive sentences, students can improve their understanding of English reading materials and they can produce active and passive sentences in the appropriate context. So, it is an obligation for Junior and Senior High School students to master grammar especially in passive voice pattern.

Based on the problem above, the researcher intends to analyze the students'mastery of writing passive voice so that it is clear how the students' mastery in passive voice.

B. Research Questions

In order to help the researcher focused in conducting this research, the researcher was aware to the question that was going to analyze. This research was guided by this question to help the researcher conducted the study. Research question in this study are as follow:

1. How good is the students' mastery of the passive voice?
2. What is the dominant problem faced by the students in mastering passive voice?

C. Research Purposes

The purpose of this research is:

1. To find out the students mastery of the English passive voice.
2. To find out the dominant problem faced by the students in mastering passive voice.

D. Scopes of Research

To carry out the systematically, the scope of research should be stated in order to acquire the clarity of the research as well as to avoid ambiguity and misinterpretation.

1. Research Variable

Variable is the condition or the characteristic that the researcher observes, manipulates and controls. Kerlinger in Singh (2006) says that variable is a property that takes on different value. A variable is any feature or aspect of an event function or process that, by its presence and nature, affects some other event or process, which is being studied. In this study, the variable of this research is the students' mastery in writing passive voice.

2. Terminology

In order to avoid the ambiguity and misinterpretation of some terminologies were mentioned in this research as follow:

a. Passive Voice

Passive voice is a grammatical term used to tell whether the subject of the sentence is acting or receiving the action expressed by the verb (participle)

b. The second year students of SMA Negeri 6 Pontianak

The students who are sitting in second year in SMA Negeri 6 Pontianak which is located at Pontianak Jl. Tanjung Raya II Gg. Tani Kelurahan Saigon.

E. The Significance of Research

The researcher considered that this research was important to be done, because it found out what the difficulties were faced by the students in listening. This research is very useful for the students, English teachers and also for the other researchers. They are as follows:

1. For the Students

The result of this research expected to encourage students in mastering passive voice. Therefore, the students can have more understanding about passive voice. And also they can know the importance of passive voice and can elaborate function of it.

2. For the English Teachers

The result of this research can give the teachers a point of view and some information about the students's mastery of passive voice and students' difficulties in learning. These enable them to understand the core of teaching passive voice, to know factors that caused the difficulties in learning passive voice which their students faced, and determine appropriate steps to overcome the problems. The finding of this research can help the teachers to find the

strategies that can improve the students' understanding in passive voice.

3. **For the Other Researcher**

The finding of this research can be useful for other researchers, such as give an overview about the students' difficulties in passive voice. The information of this research can be use as the reference for the other researchers and they also can do further research that relevant to the difficulties area that students faced in passive voice.