CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher presents the background of the problem, the identification of the problem, the limitation of the problem, the formulation of the problem, the objective of the research, and the significance of the research.

A. Background of the Problem

In general, English is the most popular language in the world. In this global era, English is very important to learn. It has become the key instrument of globalization. English has become increasingly essential for international communication. English used in many fields of life for example, in international commerce, transportation, banking, tourism, technology, diplomacy, scientific research, international meeting, education, and many others.

English is taught from kindergarten to the university for many years. In the kindergarten, English is taught only to introduce it to the students. In the elementary school, English is taught more comprehensively and the material has been prepared well. In junior high school, English becomes more complicated to learn because the materials become specific and complete. In senior high school, English is learned more specifically and the material density is increasing. In the university, the students learn English not only as a subject like in the elementary school, junior high schools or senior high schools but also as something more specific. English becomes one of compulsory subject for general college students’
at least 2 credits. Indonesian people realize that English is very important in their life nowadays, so they try to learn English as well as they can.

English becomes one of important school objects in our country. The students learn English not only as a local content at their school but also as a primary subject. English becomes one of school subjects that influence the students’ result in their final examination. Therefore the students should learn English seriously to get a good achievement and pass the examination.

SMP 2 Nusawungu, Cilacap also teaches English to the students. Many difficulties are found in the teaching and learning process in SMP 2 Nusawungu, Cilacap. The teachers sometimes use inappropriate method to teach the students. The teachers do not have interested technique to teach English to the students. They do not have attractive techniques in presenting the materials. They teach their students in a monotonous way. This technique creates a boring atmosphere to the students in the classroom. The use of traditional technique in teaching English makes the students become unmotivated to learn. On the other hand, the students find difficulties in understanding the lessons the teachers present within the classrooms, especially, in teaching and learning the English grammar. This leads to the students’ low achievements in their grammar score. The students need interesting ways to learn English grammar to make them interested in learning it. When the students are interested in learning English grammar, they are likely to increase their grammar score.

One of the ways to make the students interested in learning English grammar is by using media. Media can help the students understand the grammatical
materials given by the teacher easily. The use of media attracts the students’ interest and motivates them to learn more seriously. There are many kinds of media that can be used in the teaching and learning process. Media can be divided into three parts, audio, visual, and audiovisual. One of the media that can be used in English grammar teaching and learning process is magic disc. Magic disc is a visual media which consist of two parts shape like a disc. There is a front part and a back part, which are united by a key in the middle. The back part is bigger than the front part and cannot be separated. The benefits of using the magic disc for example, it is simple and the shape is unique so that it can make the students interested in learning English grammar.

In regard to the problem above, the researcher decided to conduct a relevan research to see the effectiveness of using magic disc in improving students’ grammatical competence in SMPN 2 Nusawungu Cilacap in the academic year 2010/2011.

B. Identification of the problem

In reference to the background of the problem, it can be concluded that to make students learning English grammar is the major and one of the most difficult tasks confronted by English teachers in SMPN 2 Nusawungu, Cilacap in the academic year 2010/2011. The problem may occur in almost every English teaching-learning process. In the English teaching-learning process, especially grammar, students still found some difficulties, particularly in comprehending English tenses. The difficulties became more complex as teachers did not seem to have
appropriate teaching techniques and no support from the environment around the school itself. There were some problems found in the teaching-learning process at SMPN 2 Nusawungu, Cilacap.

Firstly, it concern with teachers. Teacher is a very important aspect in teaching learning process. Yet, teachers did not have an interesting way to teach English to the students. In presenting the materials in the classroom the teacher did not use variative instructional media. Moreover, the students were lazy to learn English materials the teachers presented.

Secondly, it relates to students. The students did not have high interest in learning English materials as they did not know how to learn it well. The students felt English was not important for their daily life, as a result, they were not interested in learning it. This was likely due to the fact that they were not using English for their daily communication.

Thirdly, it relates to teaching methods. The way the teachers delivered the materials was likely to influence the students’ interest in learning the material. The teacher only gives the materials from the text book without other instructional media.

Fourthly, it concerns with materials. Materials also influenced the teaching learning process. These materials were not designed well, thus the students were not interested in learning. The teachers also can improve the interest of the students to learn through developing the material of the lesson.

Lastly, other aspect influenced the teaching learning process is the media. In presenting the materials in the classroom the teacher did not use sufficient
instructional media. The teacher only uses text books without other instructional media.

C. Delimitation of the Problem

From the identification of the problem authorized above, it shows that the teachers did not have interesting and exciting ways in their teaching. The teachers’ teaching seemed to be monotonous and commonly used traditional techniques especially in teaching tenses. On the other hand, the students found difficulties in understanding the lessons the teachers presented within the classrooms. The students also got bored to learn English grammar. This led to the students’ getting low score in English grammar especially tenses; this also influenced the students’ grammatical achievement in general. Ideally, the students would not have high interest to learn the English grammar especially tenses material if they did not know how to learn it well. They also would not have spirit to learn English grammar especially tenses material if the teachers can not invite them to learn English grammar especially tenses material in an interesting way. In reference to the background and identification of the problem above, the researcher thought that it was important to discuss the problem in relation to the teaching technique. Therefore, the researcher conducted a study on teaching technique, i.e affected the one which the effectiveness of using magic disc in improving the students grammatical competence of the grade VIII students of SMPN 2 Nusawungu in the academic year 2010/2011.
D. Formulation of the Problem

In regard to the background of the problem, the identification of the problem, and the limitation of the problem, the problem of the study is formulated as follows:

Is there any significant difference in the students’ grammatical competence between the grade VIII students of SMPN 2 Nusawungu before they were taught by using the magic disc and after they were taught using the magic disc in the academic year 2010/2011?

E. Objective of the Research

The objective of this research is to find out whether there is any significant difference in the students’ grammatical competence between the grade VIII students of SMPN 2 Nusawungu in the academic year 2010/2011.

F. Significance of the Research

The significances of this study are:

1. Theoretically

The findings of this study may verify the validity of the theories that the magic disc can improve the students’ grammatical competence especially tenses. This study may also support and clarify theories of grammatical competence.
2. Practically

The results of the study can be a reflection for English teachers particularly those in SMPN 2 Nusawungu, Cilacap, so that they become more careful in using and giving appropriate media within their teaching. In addition, it would be an opportunity for the teachers to improve the quality of their grammar teaching especially the one related to tenses to the students.