

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter, discussed several aspects, are background of the research, problem of the research, objective of the research, operational definition of the terms, and scope of the research

### 1.1 The Background of the Research

English is the language that Thai people use as foreign language. Thai people start learning English from elementary school to tertiary level. Many Thai people face problems in learning English into may Thai because English has complicated rules that are different from Thai language. However, Thai people stills and need to learn more English. Alan (2009) noted “Learning is something of which we all have an understanding and in which we have all participated”.

In learning English, there are four language skills that must be learned listerning, speaking,reading, and writing skills. Writing is one of the productive skills that must be mastered in a language. As one of the productive skills students must master writing, because it is an essetial part of learning for students to understand English. Since writing is a powerful skill in learning English (fareed, et.al,2016), writing in any language skill. To writte, Students need to understand grammatical structure, vocabulary, and spelling (Swick,2009).

Writing is a difficult English skill for students especially for foreign language learners (Kumala, et.al 2018), argue that writing is difficult to learn because writing requires extensive knowledge and deep thought processes to form sentences. Identical words and paragraphs with good English grammar to understand.

Preposition error is one of the errors that is considered a serious lexical error in the Thai context because it is one of the most frequent errors of Thai learners (Humeid, 2013). This problem also occurs among L1 Thai learners of English that are common in English sentences. They are the prepositions that are composed of more than one word. They have several functions depending on the context in which they occur. Also, there is no logical reason why one compound preposition is right in a certain context, whereas another is wrong. The proper use of compound prepositions is difficult because most of them have functions. Different prepositions have similar uses.

Errors from learning foreign languages no matter what skill it is are a common matter. According to Pongpairaj, (2002), from experience of teaching English to Thai learners, it has been found various types of error in their work. It is noticeable that some errors occur more often than others. One important cause of errors in language learning is the existence of different linguistic systems between the source language and the target language.

Prepositions in English and Thai employ different collocations and some English preposition do not have equivalents in Thai. Therefore, Thai students may

experience difficulties in using preposition, regarding the difficulties between these two languages.

One of the indicators of the difficulties in the use of prepositions of place and time is that one makes a number of errors. According to Ellis (2003, p.17), errors analysis is carried out for identifying, describing, and analyzing errors in one language, so that certain areas of difficulties will be known. Errors arise because of lack of knowledge of the norms of the target language. To know errors in the use of prepositions of place and time committed by Thai students, errors analysis is needed. And based on the research data of Thai students who have researched on preposition errors, it shows that Thai students still make errors in using prepositions.

The above reasons inspired the author to study the errors in the use of prepositions of Thai students. It is interesting to research the difficulty of using prepositions of place and time of Thai students, because most Thai students are confused in choosing the prepositions.

## **1.2 The problem of Research**

The problems of this research are:

1. What kinds of errors do the Thai students make in the use of prepositions of place and time?
2. What are the causes of Thai students make errors in using the prepositions of time and place?

### 1.3 The Objective of the Research

The objectives of this research are:

1. To determine the types of errors made by Thai students in the use of prepositions of place and time.
2. To determine the causes of errors made by Thai students in the use of prepositions of place and time.

### 1.4 The Significance of Research

1. For the students, it can be used as an additional reference to improve their ability in case of errors in the use preposition of place and time
2. For the other researchers, it can be used as an additional knowledge in doing further research.

### 1.5 The Operational Definition of Terms

In order to prevent misunderstandings, this study define the following main term:

1. Error: Brown (2007) defines error as a visible deviation from the grammar of a native speaker, reflecting the learner's intralingual ability. So, error refers to grammatical errors in the preposition of place and time made by students in their text.
2. A preposition of place is a preposition which is used to refer to a place where something or someone is located.

3. a preposition that allows you to discuss a specific time period such as a date on the calendar, one of the days of the week, or the actual time something takes place.

### **1.6 The Scope of Research**

The scope of this research concerns with the students' errors and causes of the errors in using prepositions of place and time (in, on, at) committed by Thai students in Jember

