CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Topic

The using of tenses in an article is important. That's why understanding of tenses used in writing is definitely needed. The writer should know when he/she should use past, present, even future tense. It is done to reach the true meaning of what the writer actually wants to deliver through his/her writing. Especially in a research article, tenses used influence the meaning of information, whether the writer wants to show that the information is a general truth that is recognized until present or is only information in the past.

Generally, an information or research result in a research article uses present tense. If the writer writes an article in a wrong way, then the meaning may be changed. What I mean by a wrong way is, when the writing does not apply a correct tense in delivering a research. For example, there is a research result; *Genetic information is encoded in the sequence of nucleotides on DNA.* It is clear that this research result is a general truth that is widely known, but then the writer writes it in a wrong way; *Genetic information was encoded in the sequence of nucleotides on DNA*. When he/she writes this information in a wrong way, then it is no

longer a general truth but only a fact that has no relation with present or that the fact may have changed at present. Therefore, it is no longer valid.

When doing a job as an assistant of language consultant, the present writer is expected to be able to edit student articles, to correct which part of the writing that does not meet the required condition. So I must understand how tenses applied in each writing, especially in a research writing, in order to be able to differentiate which information that should use present of past tense. During job training, I found some research results that make me doubt whether they should use present tense or past tense.

Through this paper which is entitled *"The Using of Past Tense in Three Articles,"* I try to discuss and analyze how past tense are applied in the research articles.

1.2 Scopes

The source data was taken from Althea Media Journal (AMJ) articles, which entitled and the writers are as in the following:

1. Success Rate of Phacoemulsification for Cataract Patients with High-Degree Myopia in Bandung Indonesia, written by Nadia Khairina Budiman, Andrew Maximilian Knoch,dr.,Sp.M, and Yuni Susanti P,dr.,M.Kes,AIFO.

2. Hemoglobin between Hemoglobin Level, Attention, and Working Memory Scores, written by Jannatin Aliya Indrina, Anam Ong, and Ihrul Prianza Prajitno.
3. Topical Application of Binahong [*Anredera* cordifolia (Ten.) Steenis] Leafes Paste for Wound Healing Process in Mice, written by Gurwinder Kaur, Novi Vicahyani Utami,dr.,M.Kes, AIFO, Hermin Aminah Usman,dr.,Sp.PA.

The scopes will be focused on:

1. In what condition is past tense applied in research article?

1.3 Objectives

The purpose of the research from this paper is as in the following:

1. To analyze in what condition past tense is applied in research article.
2. To give a practical overview concerning to the using of past tense in articles

1.4 The Significant of Knowledge

This research is expected to make the reader know and understand about the using of past tense in a research, in order to be able to know how to apply it in a research writing. Therefore, the result of this research is useful and can give advantage to the reader practically.

1.5 The Framework of The Theory

In a writing, moreover a research article, it is important to use the correct tense to deliver what the writer means correctly. As I know, generally, a widely known information or research result in a research article uses present tense. Like what Azar said in her book, *"the simple present said that something was true in the past, is true in the present, and will be true in the future. It expresses general statements of fact and timeless truths."* (page 13, 1999).

This Azar's theory is the theory that I use to support my thought about research article that generally use present tense to deliver what the writer means by the research, whether it is a general truth or a fact that is still recognized until now or just a temporary fact in the past.

1.6 Research Method

The method used in this research is descriptive analytic that collected the data first from articles found then analyzed it. Sugiono (2009:205) defines that *"Metode deskriptif analisis adalah metode yang digunakan untuk menganalisa data dengan cara mendeskripsikan atau menggambarkan data yang telah terkumpul sebagaimana adanya."* In this method, the present writer should analyze with finding the reason behind the using of past tense in these three articles.

1.7 Place and Time

I did this job training in Scientific Publications and Intellectual Property Rights Unit, Padjajaran University, addressed at Jl. Prof. Eijkman No. 38 Bandung. The period of job training began on July 10th until August 23rd 2013, within 23 days. I did this job training from Monday to Friday, began from 8am – 3pm.