2.1 Concept of ability

2.1.1 Definition of ability

According to Henry (2009, p.1) “ability is a quality or state being able, power to perform, whether physical moral intellectual, conventional or legal capacity, skill or competence in doing, sufficiency of strength, skill, resource, etc. Moreover in Henry (2009, p.1) state that “ability is a natural tendency to do something successful or well”.

Based on explanation it can conclude that ability is state being able to express or to perform what they have known whether physical moral intellectual or legal capacity. Everyone have different ability so that with this condition will help each other to do the activity.

In this research the ability refers to how the students using past tense in recount text.

2.2 Concept of text

2.2.1 Definition of text

According to Siahaan & Shinoda (2008, p.1) defined that text is a meaningful linguistic unit in a context. A linguistic unit is a phoneme or a morpheme or a phrase or clause, or a sentence or discourse. Linguistic context is the linguistic unit before and after a text. Non linguistic text is outside a text. So
text is any meaningful linguistic unit in both linguistic context and non linguistic context.

A text is both a spoken text and written text. A spoken text is any meaningful spoken text. It can be a word phrase or a sentence or a discourse. A spoken discourse can be a monolog or a dialog or conversation. It can be a song or poetry or a drama or lecture. A written text is any meaningful written text. It can be a notice or a direction or an advertisement or a paragraph or an essay or an article or a book. A text refers to any meaningful short or written

Moreover Siahaan (2008, p.1) state that “a text of a language is a text spoken or written in a language. An English text is a text spoken or written in English and an Indonesian text is a spoken and written in Indonesian. A text is spoken or written in any language”.

Brainy state that “text is A discourse or composition on which a note or commentary is written; the original words of an author, in distinction from a paraphrase, annotation, or commentary”.

2.2.2 Kinds of the text

There are many classification of kind of text as follow as:

1. Descriptive text.
Depdiknas (2005, p.1) express descriptive text is how to describe a particular person, place or thing. Generic Structure descriptive is identification (identify phenomenon to be described), Description (describe parts, qualities, characteristics). In this case descriptive text different with report text that describe something in general. Language Features is using simple present tense, using action verb using adverb and using special technical terms. This text not used past tense but used simple present tense, because this text tell about describe a particular person, place or thing.

2. Report text

To describe the way things are (for example: a man-made thing, animals, and plants). The things must be a representative of their class. Text organization report is General classification and Description. Language features report text is Use of general nouns, Use of present tense, Use of behavioral verbs, Use of technical terms, and Use of relating verbs. Usually this kind of text is given in present tense because it tell about to presents information about something. Therefore this text is not used of past tense.

3. Narrative text

Narrative text tell something that made the other entertain and imagine the story. The basic aim of narratives text is to entertain the reader or the listener and made them full pay attention about the story. Dominant Language Features in narrative text is using past tense, using action verb, and chronologically arranged. Therefore narrative text also used past tense.
4. Recount text

Depdiknas (2005, p.1) argued about recount text is defined more or tell about past event for example tell about an accident, report about activity. Recount text nearly the same with anecdote text on the purpose of the text is to express the past event. The distinguish is anecdote text is funny story and enjoy the story. Dominant Language Features is using past tense, using action verb and using adjectives. Recount text usually apply past tense; whether Simple Past Tense, Simple Past Continuous Tense, or Past Perfect Tense.

5. Anecdote text

Depdiknas (2005, p.1) stated that anecdote text is told about the funny story or unusually thing. Anecdote text almost the same with recount, especially in the aim of the text that to show the past event. The main different is anecdote text told about unusually event to entertain the reader or listener. Anecdote text usually used past tense, because in this text tell about past event or unusually event.

6. Procedure text

Depdiknas (2005, p.1) explain about procedure text is kind of the text that occur on our environment as follow manual food resep and everything about “how to “make something. Further more depdiknas explain that procedure text tell about how something occur through sequence of activity. Usually this kind of the text is given in present time because it tell about a procedure of making something. Therefore it is not to use past tense.

Based on the explanation above we can conclude that there are much kind of text that the students should know and study. Each kind of the text has
distinguished form and style in writing. But in this research, the researcher focuses on recount text.

2.2.3 Recount text

a. Definition of Recount Text.

According to Fathoni (2012, p.1) Recount Text is a kind of English Text tell about past event or experience. The purpose of recount text is give information or to entertain the reader.

According Derewianka in Mulyani (1994, p.3) there are three types of recount text such as: (1) personal recount are usually written in the first person, (2) factual recount is concerned with recalling event accurately, (3) imaginative recount have to students to imagine to situation as if they are in the real situation in the past.

b. Communicative purpose

Fathoni (2012, p.1) stated that the communicative purpose of recount text to report event, incident or accident that happen on the past time.

c. Generic structure of recount text

Fathoni (2012, p.1) classify the generic structure recount text are

1. Orientation: orientation or introduction has given the information about who, where, and when the incident or activity happen in the past.
2. Event: Events as the result of record that happen, that express in chronological step, for example "In the first day, I ... . And in the next day ... . And In the last day ..." at the part of events there were personal has given idea about the event or incident that have been told.

3. Reorientation: In reorientation part there was introduction repetition in orientation. In this case repetition made the conclusion about sequence of event, incident or activity that has been talking at the story.

   d. Language Feature of Recount

Fathoni (2012, p.2) classify language feature of recount text are:

1. Using past tense pattern for example we went to zoo, I was happy, etc.
2. Using conjunction and time connectives to rearrange the event or incident for example and, but, the, after that, etc.
3. Using Adverbs and Adverbial Phrase to express place, time and the way like yesterday, at my house, slowly, etc.
4. Using Action Verbs like went, slept, run, brought, etc.

2.3 Concept of past tense

According Manurung (2011, p.107) past tense is used to expresses past action when a definite point of time in the past is given, a past habit, and in conditional sentence. Riyanto (2002, p. 53) defined that past tense is usually used
to denote the existence of or to give information about a person or a thing happened in the past.

Past tense is the form of language used to refer to an event, transaction, or occurrence that did happen or has happened, or an object that existed, at a point in time before now. The text that are usually written in past tense are recount text, report text narrative text, but in this research the researcher use recount text. The past tense in English can be divided into:

a. Simple past tense

According Riyanto (2002, p.60) simple past tense is used to express that something happened, took place, or was finished at some time in the past.

Simple past tense is used to express past event and it can not relate with this time. (S + Verb II).

Example: I visited Rome last holiday
          He went to Japan last week

b. Past continuous tense

According manurung (2001, p.114) past continous tense is used for an action that was going on at given time or period of time in the past. Riyanto (2002, p.57) state that past continous tense is rarely used by itself. It is usually
used to describe an action that was taking place when another activity happened in the past.

Past continuous tense express something that had happen and still running at the past event. S + To Be (was/were) + verb I + ing

Example: I was reading a novel yesterday

They were watching television at nine o’clock last night

c. Past perfect tense

According manurung (2001, p.122) past perfect tense is used to express an action which has been completed before other actions in definite time in the past. Riyanto (2002, p.65) state that past perfect tense is used to express that something had happened in the past before something else in the past happened.

Past perfect tense is used to express something happen on the past time or the accident on the past time and had been finishing before another activity. (S + Had + Verb III).

Example : I had already eaten before i went to campus

Tom said that he had known the bad news about her father.

d. Past perfect continuous tense

According manurung (2001, p.128) state that past perfect tense is used to express an action beginning definitely in the past and was still continuing at the past moment. Riyanto (2002, p.68) state that past perfect continuous tense is used to express how long something had been happening before something else happened in the past.
Past perfect continuous tense is used to express something had happen and still running on the past event with current time. (S + Had + Been + Verb I + ing)

Example:  
I had been typing my English assignment until midnight
She had been studying Japanese for six months

2.4 Previous Study

Sugiman (2010) wrote a skripsi entitled “A Study on Students’ Ability In Using Interrogative sentence at SMP Negeri I Boliyohuto in first grade”. In this research was designed to know the level of the students’ ability in using interrogative sentence in past tense. In this research used quantitative descriptive method. The subject on this research at first grade the total of students was 22 students.

In this research, researcher was use three of type questions to know the level of students’ ability. There are yes/no questions, wh-questions and negative questions. To analyze the students’ ability the researcher used simple formulation based on the students answer and then categorized the students’ ability in whole.

Poio (2010) wrote a skripsi entitled “A Descriptive Study on Students’ ability in using time order in procedure text at VIII grade at MTS Al Falah limboto”. In this research was designed to see the students’ ability in using time order when their using time orders in procedure text. in this research used qualitative method. The subject on this research was students at VIII grade the total of students was 24 students.
In this research, researcher was use complete sentence test to see the students’ ability in using time order when the students using time orders in procedure text. In this research there are four test but still same in complete sentence. There are four test and consist of twenty items of the questions.

Additionally, this research does not similar with two research above because in this research is to know is the students ability in using past tense in recount text. in this research i used qualitative method. In collecting the data I was used a test a called fill in the blank test, and there are two tests into two meetings. On test there are four aspect of past tense there are simple past tense, past continuous tense, past perfect tense and past perfect continuous tense. Overall, i stated that, this researcher does not similar with two researchers above.