

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITING
SIMPLE SENTENCES USING PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE AT ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT OF BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY**

THESIS



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PADANG
2017**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Alhamdulillahirabbil'alamin. Firstly, the researcher would like to express his gratitude and praise to almighty God Allah SWT who has given health, spirit, inspiration and beautiful life. The researcher would like to give excellent praise to our prophet Muhammad SAW who has given example for all Moslems in the world. Finally, the researcher finishes his thesis entitled” **An Analysis of the Second Year Students’ Ability in Writing Simple Sentences Using Past Continuous Tense at English Department of Bung Hatta University**”. The aim of this thesis was to complete fulfillment of requirements for getting the strata one (S1) degree at Faculty of Teacher Training and Education Bung Hatta University.

The researcher would like to give his grateful to his advisors. Dra. Lisa Tavriyanti, M.Pd. and Lailatul Husna, S.Pd, M.Pd. who had patiently given valuable advices and guidance to finish this thesis. He also thanks to Dr. Lely Refnita, M.Pd as academic guidance. He also expresses his appreciation to Drs. Khairul, M.Sc.as the Dean of Faculty Teacher Training and Education. He also expresses his appreciation to the Chairwoman of English Department, Dra. Ernati, M,Pd. Furthermore, the researcher would like to say thanks for all of the lecturers who have helped during his study in this department.

Next, the researcher gives his gratitude to lovely parents. The late father, Sofyan Usman and lovely, Mother Asriati who have prayed and given motivation

during his study and accomplishing this thesis. The researcher would like to say his thank you to his uncle and his aunt, uncle Didin and auntie Desi who have helped him during his study in Bung Hatta University. He also gives huge grateful to all second year students in English Department Bung Hatta University who had participated as the sample of this research. He also thanks to his best friends at English Department, Nurhida Yana, Triozi, Muhammad Iqbal, Intan Trinanda Chandra, Aidil Hadi, Rifda Hayati, Rani Fadila, Irana Dwi Jayanti, and Dwi Rosa Damasena who have given support to finish this thesis. He also says thanks to his friends in boarding house, Genta Hendri Putra, Muhammad Rian Siddiq, Didi Saputra, Fauzan Deni Afra, for their supports. His gratitude is also presented to all of friends in English Department of Bung Hatta University who have shared ideas, happiness, sadness and beautiful moments together. Finally, he realizes that this thesis is not perfect yet and has several weaknesses. Therefore, he accepts any suggestions and criticisms from the readers.

Padang, July 2017

The Writer

ABSTRACT

Rahmadan, Kurniawan. 2017. *An Analysis of the Second Year Students' Ability in Writing Simple Sentences Using Past Continuous Tense at English Department of Bung Hatta University.*

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The purpose of this research was to describe the second year students' ability in writing simple sentences using past continuous tense at English Department of Bung Hatta University. This research was designed by descriptive method. The population of this research was the second year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University. The total number of population was 31 students, and they were distributed into one class: PING A. The researcher used convenience sampling technique to select the sample. The total number of sample members was 28 students who were available at that time.

To collect the data, the researcher used writing test. The researcher asked students to write simple sentences using past continuous tense. The researcher only measured the ability of the second year students in writing simple sentences using past continuous in the form of affirmative, negative, yes/no question and wh-question by considering three components of writing(grammar, vocabulary, mechanics). In analyzing the data, the researcher did the following steps. The first, he presented the score of each sample that had been given and converted by first scorer and the second scorer. Then he classified the scores into very good, good, moderate and low ability based on Bung Hatta University Criterion.

Based on the result of data analysis, it was concluded that the second year students' ability in writing simple sentences using past continuous at English Department of Bung Hatta University in general is very good ability. It was proved by the facts 50% of them could write simple sentences using past continuous in affirmative form(60.71%) using past continuous in negative form(53.57%) using past continuous in yes/no question form(53.57%) using past continuous in wh-question(46.42%).

Based on the result of the research findings, it can be concluded that second year students' ability in writing simple sentences using past continuous at English Department of Bung Hatta University was very good. Relating to the conclusion, he suggests lecturers to increase the level of exercise. Students are suggested to learn about past continuous and practicing simple sentence

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Dengan ini saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi yang berjudul "An Analysis of the Second Year Students' Ability in Writing Simple Sentences Using Past Continuous Tense at English Department of Bung Hatta University" adalah benar hasil karya sendiri.

Sepanjang sepengetahuan saya, dalam skripsi ini tidak terdapat karya atau pendapat yang ditulis atau diterbitkan oleh orang lain, kecuali sebagai acuan dengan mengikuti tata penulisan karya ilmiah yang lazim.

Demikian surat pernyataan ini saya buat dengan penuh kesadaran dan rasa tanggung jawab sebagai anggota masyarakat ilmiah.

Padang, Juli 2017

Muhammad Kurniawan R

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses some points. They are background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, research questions, the purposes of the research, the significance of the research, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Problem

English is very important for human's life. For example, it is used to express and accept ideas, thought, and feeling. In Indonesia, English becomes a foreign language which is learnt by students from junior high school until senior high school. There are four language skills that should be mastered by English students. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Writing as one of language skills is an important skill for the students because through writing the students can know the structure of sentences. According to Glazier (2009: 204), writing is expressing your own ideas and responding to the ideas of others. Writing is important for the students to make them understand in writing sentence. Through writing, the students can write the sentences.

In addition, students should master language components such as grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. The language components such as grammar and vocabulary are needed in writing skill. Vocabulary is needed to develop students' idea in order to write a sentence. According to Alqahtani (2015:1), vocabulary is an essential part in foreign language learning. It means vocabulary is very

important in English teaching learning process. Without having vocabulary, students are not able to express their both knowledge and idea in writing. Another language components are needed in writing is grammar. Zhang (2009: 186) states that grammar operates at the sentence level. Grammar covers several important aspects in language such as, prepositions, articles, singular or plural form, irregular verbs, tenses, etc (Anjayani 2016: 2).

A tense as one of important aspects in grammar should be mastered by students. Past continuous tense is one of the tenses learnt by students. It is a form tense that shows past time. Aronson (1984: 17) states that past continuous tense is used in sentences with two past actions to show that, while one action was going on. The second year students of English Department in Bung Hatta University had studied writing simple sentences using past continuous tense in the second semester. It means that they had known past continuous and writing sentences using past continuous tense. As a matter of fact, after the researcher did interview with some second students of English Department, the researcher found that they were still confused about writing simple sentences using past continuous tense.

There were three reasons why past continuous became the focus of this research. First, there was no a research about the students' ability in writing affirmative sentences, negative sentences, yes/no question sentences, and Wh-question sentences in past continuous tense yet. Second, the researcher considered that past continuous tense is a tense that is generally only formed dynamic verb because dynamic verb that has continuous form. Third, based on the writer's observation on ninth January at English Department of Bung Hatta University, it

was found that it is still difficult for students to write past continuous tense although they had studied it in intermediate grammar subject and writing sentence subject. Ideally, they have to be able to write simple sentences using past continuous.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher was interested in conducting research about an analysis of the second year students' ability in writing simple sentences using past continuous tense at English Department of Bung Hatta University.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Writing simple sentence was the basic for writing other sentences. In fact, students often made mistake in writing simple sentence. Simple sentence seemed easier than other sentences, but it does not mean students can write simple sentences correctly. Past continuous is a tense that shows past activity that still continuously in the past time. Nettle (2008: 24) says past continuous is used on particular time.

There were some problems faced by students in writing simple sentences using past continuous. The first was expressing the idea. Idea of the sentence consists of subject and predicate. The basic idea of simple sentence is that there is one subject and one verb. There should be key idea in the sentence that consists of subject and predicate. Some students only wrote the subject, but they did not use predicate (verb).

The second problem was meaning. Meaning often became a problem for students in writing simple sentences using past continuous. Students often wrote simple sentence but it had confusing meaning for the reader. For example; he is writing a letter yesterday. Students use *be* 'is' but students write *time signal* 'yesterday'. It is one of students' problem in writing simple sentences using past continuous.

Vocabulary was also the problem for the students in writing simple sentences using past continuous. Students often wrote inappropriate vocabulary in simple sentence. For example: the player was changing. Word "changing" in context was incorrect for the context. In the context, word "changing" can be replaced into "alternating".

Form of sentence was also a problem for students in writing simple sentences using past continuous. The form of the sentence can be divided into affirmative, negative, yes/no question, and Wh-questions. In affirmative sentence, students often made mistake in the use of be 'was' and 'were'. In negative sentence, the students made mistake in the use of verb. Students used verb 1+ ing in negative form. For example; They did not listening to the sounds. It can be seen that students using verb with *ing* after modal. If students want to write simple sentence using past continuous, they have to write *be* 'were' after subject. Students also made mistake in writing yes/no question form. They found it difficult to differentiate between yes/no question form and Wh-questions.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification above, the researcher limited the problem of this research to writing simple sentence using past continuous in the form of affirmative, negative, yes/no question and wh-question sentences.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The formulation of the problem can be formulated as:” How is the second year students’ ability in writing simple sentences using past continuous Tense at English Department of Bung Hatta University?

1.5 Research Questions

The research questions are formulated as follows:

1. How is the second year students’ ability of English Department in writing affirmative form using past continuous tense?
2. How is the second year students’ ability of English Department in writing negative form using past continuous tense?
3. How is the second year students’ ability of English Department in writing yes/no question sentence using past continuous tense?
4. How is the second year students’ ability of English Department in writing wh-questions using past continuous tense?

1.6 The Purposes of the Research

The general purpose of this research was to describe students' ability in writing simple sentences using past continuous tense at English Department of Bung Hatta University. The specific purposes of this research are:

1. To describe the students' ability in writing affirmative sentence using past continuous tense.
2. To describe the students' ability in writing negative sentence using past continuous tense.
3. To describe the students' ability in writing yes/no question sentence using past continuous tense.
4. To describe the students' ability in writing wh-question sentence using past continuous tense.

1.7 Significance of the Research

The results of this research were expected to give contributions to the following people.

1. The lecturer

The results of this research were expected to give useful contribution for the lecturers. By having known students' ability in writing simple sentences using past continuous tense, all the lecturers can consider it for their next teaching.

The lecturers could give more knowledges about past continuous tense, or the lecturers could give appropriate technique for teaching

grammar, especially to increase students' ability in writing simple sentences using past continuous tense.

2. The students

The results of this research were expected to increase students' ability in writing simple sentences using past continuous tense. It can give information or knowledge about past continuous tense.

1.8 Definition of the Key Terms

In order to avoid misconception about this research, here are the key terms mostly used in this research:

1. Ability is student's ability to write simple sentences using past continuous tense.
2. Sentence is a group of words that express as complete idea using past continuous.
3. Simple sentence is a sentence that consists of one independent clause.
4. Past continuous is a tense form that shows continuous activity in past time.