

AN ANALYSIS OF THE THIRD YEAR STUDENTS' PROBLEMS IN
WRITING SIMPLE SENTENCES AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF BUNG
HATTA UNIVERSITY

THESIS



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*Submitted to Fulfill a Partial Requirement for Getting S.1 Degree at English
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Dinyatakan **LULUS** setelah dipertahankan di depan tim penguji skripsi Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan Universitas Bung Hatta pada hari Selasa tanggal 20 Juni 2017.

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Dengan ini saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi yang berjudul “An Analysis of The Third Year Students' Problems in Writing Simple Sentence at English Department of Bung Hatta University” adalah benar hasil karya saya sendiri.

Sepanjang pengetahuan 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.

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Saya yang menyatakan

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ABSTRACT

Yesi, Adri . 2017. “ An Analysis of the Third Year Students’ Problems in Writing Simple Sentence at English Department of Bung Hatta University.”

**Advisors : 1. Dra. Ernati, M.Pd.
2. Dra. Lisa Tavriyanti, M.Pd.**

The purpose of this research was to describe the third year students’ problems in writing simple sentence at English Departmen of Bung Hatta University. Descriptive method was used as the design of this research. The number of population members was 53 students. The researcher used total sampling technique to select the sample and the total number of sample members was 53 students.

The instrument used to get the data was writing test. The students were asked to write 6 sentences in affirmative form, 6 sentences in negative form, 6 sentences in yes/no question form, 6 sentences in information question form. It was found that the reliability index of the test was very high (0.96) . It means that the test was reliable. Then the test was valid in terms of content validity.

From the result of the research, generally the third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University had problem in writing simple sentence. They were problems in affirmative, negative, yes/no questions, information questions. Among those problems, the most problems that the students faced was problem in writing information questions. It was supported by the fact that (34.13%) had problem in writing information question. In writing information question, the most problem was problem in mechanic (65.36%) especially in capitalization (49.66%).

Referring to the result of the research, the researcher suggests the lecturers to give more exercises and pay attention to the students’ problems in writing information questions. The researcher suggests the third year students to minimize their problems in writing information question and pay attention to the use of capital letters. Then, further researchers are expected to find and analyze the factors which cause the students’ problems in writing simple sentence.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses several points about background of problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, research questions, purposes of the study, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Problem

In Indonesia, English is one of compulsory subjects taught beginning from junior high school up to university level. In learning English, there are four skills that should be mastered namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In fact, these basic skills are not easy to be mastered well, while one of the purposes of studying English is that the students are able to communicate orally or in written form.

Writing is one of the most important language skills that should be mastered by the students. According to Graham (2007:445), writing allows people to communicate with other people. It means that distance is not a reason for people to communicate. Writing can help people to communicate with other people in long or short distance.

Most students whose first language is not English often find some difficulties to write English sentence because English has different pattern. At the time of writing students have difficulty to start and what they should do. The causes of the students' difficulty in writing are that they have no idea and motivation in writing, and they also have lack of vocabulary to develop their ideas.

The third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University had studied simple sentence in Writing Sentence, Writing Paragraph, and Writing Essay subject and they also studied tenses in Basic Grammar and Intermediate Grammar subject. For writing sentence subject, the students are expected to be able to understand the concept of a sentence, know the types of sentences and be able to write sentences. Supposedly, they do not have problems in writing simple sentences because they have learnt it.

In fact, most of students still found problems in writing sentences. It is identified from the previous research done by Aryani (2016) and Gusti (2016). Aryani (2016:8) did the research entitled “an analysis of the first year students’ difficulties in using verb 2 and to be 2 in writing simple sentence to express past activities at English Department of Bung Hatta University”. She found that the students have difficulties in using to be 2 in writing simple sentence to express past activities. It was supported by the fact , 25 students (67,57%) found difficulties and only 12 students (32.43%) did not get difficulties to do the exercise in using to be 2 in writing simple sentence to express past activities. Gusti (2016:12) also did the research entitled “an analysis of the second year students’ grammatical errors in writing simple sentences using linking verb at English Department of Bung Hatta University”. She found that the students made omission errors in writing simple sentence using linking verb. It was proved by the fact that there were 35 errors in omission of article, 12 errors in omission of –s and 7 errors in omission of plural form. The result of previous research showed that the students still had problem in writing simple sentence.

In addition, the result of interviews done at February 7, 2017 toward 5 students of the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University and their writing showed that they still have problem in writing simple sentence. They have problem in subject-verb agreement and the use of appropriate tense. Actually, they have already studied all kind of tense. So it is assumed that they have already mastered writing sentence. Here are a few example of students' problem in writing simple sentence :

1. She **read** a book. (incorrect)

She **reads** a book (correct)

The first sentence is not correct because there is no ending "s" for the verb.

2. I will go to champus. (incorrect)

I will go to campus. (correct)

The firts sentence is not correct because there is wrong spelling in the word "campus".

This phenomenon encourage the researcher to analyze the students' problem in writing sentence to prove students' problem scientifically.

Based on the explanation above , the researcher is interested to do the research about the third year students' problems in writing simple sentence at English Department Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Bung Hatta University Padang.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

In learning English, there are some problems that the students faced when they are writing. The first problem faced by students is writing sentences whether in simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence, or compound complex sentence. According to Refnita (2014), a sentence is a group of words that express a complete idea. Every sentence has subject and predicate. A compound sentence is the combination of two or more simple sentences joined together by a connector. A complex sentence is a sentence that is composed of an independent clause and a dependent clause. A compound-complex sentence contains one or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses. A compound-complex sentence contains one or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

In writing simple sentence, the students had problems in subject-verb agreement, subject-object agreement, subject-possessive agreement, and the use of tense. Most of students are confused with the tense used. Actually, There are 16 tenses in English . They are : simple present tense, present continuous tense, present perfect tense, present perfect continuous tense, simple past tense, past continuous tense, past perfect tense, past perfect continuous tense, simple future tense, future continuous tense, future perfect tense, future perfect continuous tense, past future tense, past future continuous tense, past future perfect tense, past future continuous tense.

The second problem faced by the students in writing sentence is expressing idea and mechanics. Idea is a thought, a plan, or suggestion about what to do. Mechanic problems are like the use of capital letter, spelling, and punctuation. Punctuation is one of the common fault in writing. Capital letters use at beginning of each sentences, whether a statement, a command, or a question. Spelling is forming words with the correct letters in the correct order.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Because the scope of this problem is quite large, the researcher limited the scope. From identification of the problem, the researcher focused her research on problems in writing simple sentence in the tense that they have learnt. It covers affirmative, negative, yes/no question, and information question. The researcher also pays attention to mechanic problem because it is important in writing sentences. This research is conducted on the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The researcher formulated the problem as follow ; “ what are the third year students’ problems in writing simple sentence at English Department of Bung Hatta University .

1.5 Research Questions

To describe the problems of the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University in writing simple sentences. The researcher formulated research questions as follows:

1. What are the third year students' problems in writing affirmative form of simple sentence?
2. What are the third year students' problems in writing negative form of simple sentence?
3. What are the third year students' problems in writing yes/no question form of simple sentence?
4. What are the third year students' problems in writing information question form of simple sentence?

1.6 Purposes of the the Research

Generally, the purpose of the research is to describe students' problems in writing simple sentence. Specifically, the purposes of this study are :

1. To describe the third year students' problems in writing affirmative form of simple sentence.
2. To describe the third year students' problems in writing negative form of simple sentence.
3. To describe the third year students' problems in writing yes/no question form of simple sentence.
4. To describe the third year students' problems in writing information question form of simple sentence.

1.7 Significance of the Research

This study gave contribution to the lecturers, the students, the English Department, and the researcher. For the lecturers, especially the lecturers who teach writing and grammar subject. They know the problems faced by the third year

students in writing simple sentence. Then, they pay attention or consider the solution of the students' problems. For the students, they know the problem that they face. By having known their problem they can do some consideration to improve their ability to write simple sentence. For English Department Leader , this research is useful to evaluate teaching and learning process especially writing sentence. For the researcher, the researcher will increase her research experience in the future.

1.8 Definitions of Key Terms

The key terms of this research will be defined as follows :

1. Students problem is something difficult for the third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University to write simple sentence.
2. Writing is one of the four basic language skills to express the idea in written form.
3. Simple sentence is a sentence that has subject and predicate and has a complete meaning.