

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE FOURTH YEAR STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES
TO CONSTRUCT COMPLEX SENTENCES BY USING ADVERB
CLAUSES AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF FKIP BUNG HATTA
UNIVERSITY**

THESIS



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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
THE FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY**

2017

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*Submitted to fulfill a Partial Requirement for S-1 Degree at English
Department The Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Bung Hatta
University*



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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The Researcher

ABSTRACT

Caniago, Yuliani Angreyenni. 2017. *“An Analysis of the Fourth Year Students’ Difficulties to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clauses at English Department of FKIP Bung Hatta University”*.

Advisors : 1. Dr. Lely Refnita, M.Pd.

2. Dra. Lisa Tavriyanti, M.Pd.

The purpose of this research was to find out difficulties made by the fourth year students to construct complex sentences by using adverb clauses at English Department of FKIP Bung Hatta University. Descriptive method was used as the design of this research. The number of population members was 53 students. The researcher used convenience sampling to select the sample and the total number of sample members was 38 students.

The instrument used to get the data was writing sentence test. The students were asked to write 20 complex sentences using adverb clauses: 10 complex sentences containing adverb clause of time and 10 complex sentences containing adverb clause of cause and effect. 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.

Generally, the results of data analysis showed that 23.24% of difficulties related to writing the independent clause, 29.73% of difficulties related to writing the dependent clause, 17.73% of difficulties related to expressing the relationship between independent clause and dependent clause, and 29.28% of difficulties related to applying mechanics. Specifically, the result of data analysis showed that 22.33% of difficulties related to writing the independent clause in adverb clause of time, 30.91% of difficulties related to writing the dependent clause in adverb clause of time, 18.78% of difficulties related to expressing the relationship between independent clause and dependent clause in adverb clause of time, 27.95% of difficulties related to applying mechanics in adverb clause of time. Moreover, 24.17% of difficulties related to writing the independent clause in adverb clause of cause and effect, 28.52% of difficulties related to writing the dependent clause in adverb clause of cause and effect, 16.67% of difficulties related to expressing the relationship between independent clause and dependent clause in adverb clause of cause and effect, and 30.63% of difficulties related to applying mechanics in adverb clause of cause and effect.

Referring to the result of this research, the researcher concluded that the highest percentage of difficulties related to writing the dependent clause in adverb clause of time and applying mechanics in adverb clause of cause and effect. Therefore, the lecturers should give more explanation about the two aspects. The students should pay more attention when the lecturer explains about the lesson and do more exercises.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i
ABSTRACT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF APPENDICES	viii

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Problem	1
1.2 The Identification of the Problem	4
1.3 The Limitation of the Problem	5
1.4 The Formulation of the Problem	5
1.5 The Research Questions	5
1.6 The Purposes of the Research	6
1.7 The Significance of the Research	6
1.8 The Definition of the Key Terms	6

CHAPTER II : REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 The Concept of Writing	8
2.2 The Types of Writing	8
2.3 The Concept of Grammar	10
2.4 The Concept of Sentences	11

2.5 The Kinds of Sentences	11
2.5.1 Simple Sentence	11
2.5.2 Compound Sentence	12
2.5.3 Complex Sentence	14
2.5.4 Compound Complex Sentence	16
2.6 Adverb Clause	17
2.6.1 The Concept of Adverb Clause	17
2.6.2 The Types of Adverb Clause	18
2.6.2.1 Adverb Clause of Time	18
2.6.2.2 Adverb Clause of Cause and Effect	23
2.6.2.3 Adverb Clause of Contrast	26
2.6.2.4 Adverb Clause of Condition	29
2.7 Previous Research	33

CHAPTER III :RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 The Research Design	34
3.2 The Population and Sample.....	34
3.3 The Instrumentation	35
3.4 The Techniques of Collecting Data	38
3.5 The Techniques of Analyzing Data	40

CHAPTER IV : FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Findings	41
4.1.1 Student's Difficulties to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clauses	41
4.1.2 Student's Difficulties to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause of Time	42
4.1.3 Student's Difficulties to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause of Cause and Effect	43
4.2 Discussions	44
4.2.1 Student's Difficulties to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clauses	44
4.2.2 Student's Difficulties to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause of Time	45
4.2.3 Student's Difficulties to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause of Cause and Effect	46

CHAPTER V : CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusions	48
5.2 Suggestions	49

BIBLIOGRAPHY	50
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APPENDICES	52
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LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	: Adverb Clauses to Show Time Relationships	19
Table 2.2	: Connectors of Time and Sequence	22
Table 2.3	: Connectors of Time for Events Happening at the Same Time	23
Table 2.4	: Adverb Clauses to Showing Cause and Effect Relationships	23
Table 2.5	: Connectors of Reason and Result	25
Table 2.6	: Expressing Contrast (Unexpected Result): Using <i>Even Though</i>	26
Table 2.7	: Showing Direct Contrast: <i>While</i>	26
Table 2.8	: Connectors of Contrast: Concession	27
Table 2.9	: Connectors of Contrast: Opposition	28
Table 2.10	: Expressing Conditions in Adverb Clauses: <i>If</i> -Clauses	29
Table 2.11	: Shortened <i>If</i> -Clauses	30
Table 2.12	: Adverb Clause of Condition: Using <i>Whether Or Not</i> <i>And Even-If</i>	30
Table 2.13	: Adverb Clauses of Condition: Using <i>In Case</i>	31
Table 2.14	: Adverb Clauses of Condition: Using <i>Unless</i>	31
Table 2.15	: Adverb Clauses of Condition: Using <i>Only If</i>	32

Table 3.1	: The Table of Population	35
Table 3.2	: Item Specification of Test	36
Table 3.3	: Criteria for Identifying Difficulties in Writing a Complex Sentences	38
Table 3.4	: Table Checklist of Difficulties for Each Students for Assessor 1 and Assessor 2	39
Table 3.5	: Total Difficulties Found by the Students	39
Table 4.1	: The Percentage of Difficulties Found by the Students to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause	42
Table 4.2	:The Percentage of Difficulties Found by the Students to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause of Time	43
Table 4.3	: The Percentage of Difficulties Found by the Students to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause of Cause and Effect	44

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1	: Research Instrument	52
Appendix 2	: Table Checklist of Difficulties for Each Students By First Assessor	54
Appendix 3	: Table Checklist of Difficulties for Each Students By Second Assessor	71
Appendix 4	: Total Difficulties Found by the Fourth Year Students by First Assessor and Second Assessor	88
Appendix 5	: The Calculation of the Test Reliability Coefficient to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clauses	91
Appendix 6	: Average Number of Difficulties Found by the Fourth Year Students to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause of Time from Assessor 1 and Assessor 2	94
Appendix 7	: Percentage of Difficulties Found by the Fourth Year Students to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause of Time	95
Appendix 8	: Average Number of Difficulties Found by the Fourth Year Students to Construct Complex Sentences by	

	Using Adverb Clause of cause and effect from Assessor 1 and Assessor 2	97
Appendix 9	: Percentage of Difficulties Found by the Fourth Year Students to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause of Cause and Effect	98
Appendix 10	: Total Number of Difficulties Found by the Fourth Year Students to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause	100
Appendix 11	: Average Number of Difficulties Found by the Fourth Year Students to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause	101
Appendix 12	: Percentage of Difficulties Found by the Fourth Year Students to Construct Complex Sentences by Using Adverb Clause	102
Appendix 13	: Letter of Permission	104

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 The Background of the Problem

Language is a very important tool of communication to communicate between two or more people in carrying out their daily activities and has main role to make people have mutual understanding. English as the first foreign language in Indonesia is important for developing and applying science and technology, as well as for increasing international relationship and cooperation.

English is very important and useful for everyone in the world to make communication easier. English is one of important subjects to achieve the goal of national education. In Indonesia, English is still a foreign language and it is not often used in Indonesian daily communication. English language teaching has a special position in schools. Especially in a big city or in a town, many people learn English. English becomes a compulsory subject in junior high school.

The English language has two parts, they are language skills and language components. Language skills include listening, speaking, reading and writing. Language components include pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.

In order to learn English well, both the language skills and language components are interrelated each other. Structure is one of the important subjects that must be studied by students. By learning structure, it is easier for the students to construct good sentences and develop the four language skills above.

Structure is also studied at the fourth year students at English Department of FKIP Bung Hatta University. The Structure covers Basic Grammar, Intermediate Grammar, and Advanced Grammar. The purpose is the students should be able to use correct structure in writing and speaking. The researcher focused on Advanced Grammar because they had studied it. In Advanced Grammar, the students studied about complex sentences.

Based on researcher's informal interview with the fourth year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University about adverb clause, they were still confused about constructing complex sentence using adverb clause. The researcher gave some questions about complex sentence. Most of them still had errors in constructing complex sentence using adverb clause. When they wrote sentences using adverb clauses, it was difficult for them to understand the form or pattern, to remember the form, and to use appropriate adverb clause of time and adverb clause of cause and effect. The researcher chose adverb clause of time and adverb clause of cause and effect because some students had errors in writing complex sentences using adverb clause of time and cause and effect.

The researcher concluded that the students had trouble in constructing complex sentences by using adverb clauses although they had learnt about adverb clauses in Advanced Grammar subject. It made the researcher wants to know

further the students' difficulties to construct complex sentences by using adverb clauses. And the researcher chose adverb clauses as the topic in her study because it was familiar for the fourth year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University.

The followings are some examples of students' difficulty to write complex sentence using adverb clause:

1. When Sari at home the father read a newspaper. (error)
 - a. *When Sari was at home*, the father read a newspaper. (correct)
 - b. The father read a newspaper *when Sari was at home*. (correct)
2. Rahmi go to the market, because she was hungry. (error)
 - a. Rahmi went to the market *because she was hungry*. (correct)
 - b. *Because she was hungry*, Rahmi went to the market. (correct)

The sentences become incorrect ones because the students had low ability in constructing sentences using adverb clause. Adverb clauses are dependent clauses. They couldn't stand alone as a sentence in written English; it must be combined with an independent clause to form a complex sentence (Oshima and Hogue, 1998:195).

Based on the problem above, the researcher wanted to describe the fourth year students' difficulties to construct complex sentences by using adverb clause of time and cause and effect.

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

A complex sentence contains one independent clause and one (or more) dependent clause(s). In a complex sentence, one idea is generally more important than the other one. The more important idea is placed in the independent clause and the less important idea is placed in the dependent clause (Oshima and Hogue, 1998:160).

There are three kinds of dependent clauses: adjective clause, noun clause and adverb clause. A dependent adjective clause (relative clause) begins with a relative pronoun such as *who*, *whom*, *which*, *whose*, or *that*, or with a relative adverb such as *where* or *when*. A dependent noun clause functions as a noun and begins with a *wh-question word*, *that*, *whether*, or sometimes *if*. A dependent noun clause can be either a subject or an object, no commas are necessary. A dependent adverb clause begins with an adverbial subordinator such as *when*, *while*, *because*, *although*, *if*, *so that*, etc (Oshima and Hogue, 1998:160-161).

Adverb clause consists of four types; adverb clause of time, adverb clause of cause and effect, adverb clause of contrast, and adverb clause of condition and adverb clauses are used to show relationship between ideas (Azar and Hagen, 2009:365). Adverb clause of time uses subordinating conjunction such as; *after*, *before*, *when*, *while*, *as*, *as soon as*, *since*, *until*, *by the time (that)*, *once*, *as/so long as*, *whenever*, *every time (that)*, *the first time (that)*, *the last time (that)*, *the next time (that)*. Adverb clause of cause and effect uses *because*, *nowthat*, *since*. Adverb clause of contrast uses *even though*, *although*, *though*, *while*. Adverb clause of condition uses *if*, *unless*, *only if*, *whether or not*, *even if*, *in case*.

1.3 The Limitation of the Problem

Based on identification of the problem above, the researcher limited her study on findings the students' difficulties to use adverb clause of time using subordinating conjunction *after, before, when, while, as soon as, since, until, whenever, once, and every time (that)* and adverb clause of cause and effect using subordinating conjunction *because, nowthat, and since* in construct complex sentences.

1.4 The Formulation of the Problem

The researcher formulated the problem of this study as “ what difficulties are found by the fourth year students at English Department of FKIP Bung Hatta University to construct complex sentences by using adverb clause? “

1.5 The Research Questions

The research questions were formulated as the following :

1. What difficulties are found by the fourth year students of English Department of FKIP Bung Hatta University to construct complex sentences by using adverb clause of time ?
2. What difficulties are found by the fourth year students of English Department of FKIP Bung Hatta University to construct complex sentences by using adverb clause of cause and effect ?

1.6 The Purposes of the Research

The purpose of this study was to find out of difficulties made by the fourth year students to construct complex sentences by using adverb clause. Specifically, the purposes of this research were:

- a) To describe difficulties found by the fourth year students at English Department of FKIP Bung Hatta University to construct complex sentences by using adverb clause of time.
- b) To describe difficulties found by the fourth year students at English Department of FKIP Bung Hatta University to construct complex sentences by using adverb clause of cause and effect.

1.7 The Significance of the Research

The result of this study is expected to be very useful for lecturers and students. For lecturers, the information gives contribution and alternative considerations to them to achieve better improvement in teaching writing especially in constructing complex sentences by using adverb clause. For students, it motivates the students at English Department of Bung Hatta University to improve their writing skill especially in constructing complex sentences by using adverb clause.

1.8 The Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding about the terms used in this research, the researcher gave the definition of the key terms as follows:

- a. Difficulty is something that a student cannot do correctly. In this research something refers to writing complex sentences.
- b. Constructing a sentence is to create a sentence by systematically arranging ideas or terms.
- c. A complex sentence is a sentence that contains one independent clause and one (or more) dependent clause(s).
- d. An adverbial clause is a dependent clause introduced by an adverbial subordinator (Oshima and Hogue, 1998:194).