

**A CORRELATION STUDY BETWEEN THE FIRST GRADE STUDENTS'
PROFICIENCY OF THE SIMPLE PAST TENSE AND THEIR ABILITY
IN WRITING SIMPLE PAST SENTENCE AT SMA PERTIWI 1 PADANG**

Thesis



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BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY
PADANG
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*Submitted to fulfill a Partial Requirement for Getting S.1 Degree at English
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Bung Hatta University*



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Padang, January 2017

The Researcher

ABSTRACT

Ikhsan, Bob (2017) : A Correlation Study between the First Grade Students' Proficiency of the Simple Past Tense and Their Ability in Writing Simple Past Sentence at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang.

Advisors : 1. **Dra. Lisa Tavriyanti, M. Pd.**
2. **Dr. Welya Roza, M.Pd.**

This research was aimed to find out a correlation between the first grade students' proficiency of the simple past tense and their ability in writing simple pas sentence at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang. The hypothesis of this research was that there was a significant correlation between the first grade students' proficiency of the simple past tense and their ability in writing simple past sentence at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang.

The number of population was 342 students. They were distributed into ten classes; X₁, X₂, X₃, X₄, X₅, X₆, X₇, X₈, X₉, and X₁₀. The researcher used convenience technique. To choose the sample, the researcher took the sample who are conveniently available participated in this study. The class selected as sample was class X₃. The researcher gathered the data by using grammar test and writing sentence test. To analyze the data the researcher used the SPSS version 22.

After analyzing the data, the researcher found there was significant correlation between the first grade students' proficiency of simple past tense and their ability in writing simple past sentence at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang, the coefficient correlation (r) between simple past tense proficiency and writing simple sentence was .669 (see Appendix 16). It was clasified as having *strong correlation* for both variables. The coefficient determination (r^2) was 44.76% (see table 4.1). It could be claimed that 45% of the variance in writing simple past sentence ability is caused by grammar proficiency. In the other word, grammar gives 45% contribution toward writing simple past sentence ability. Finally, *Ho was rejected and Ha was accepted*. It was proved by the coefficient correlation (r) and significant.

From the result, it can be concluded that there was a significant correlation between students' simple past tense proficiency and their writing simple past sentence ability of the first year students of SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang. The correlation was categorized as strong correlation. It means that, grammar gives strong effects to writing simple past sentence ability.

Based on the conclusion, the teacher is suggested to pay more attention to simple past tense proficiency of students because simple past tense proficiency and writing simple past sentence ability have significant relationship each other. The students should pay more attention to their ability in simple past tense proficiency because their writing simple past sentence ability will also be determined by their ability in simple past tense proficiency. If the student has good mastery in simple past tense proficiency he/she will also have good ability in writing simple past sentence.

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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 hypothesis of the research, the purpose of the research, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

English is one of the international languages used by many people in the world. Most of source of information including book, science, and technology are written in English. Thus it is not surprisingly that English role is getting more and more important in our lives.

In Indonesia, English is taught at junior high school, senior high school and at university. In this case, English is studied as a foreign language. Thus it is clear that English is the first foreign language taught in Indonesia. In order to be fluent in English students have to master the four of language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in the language learning process. Besides, students should master language component (grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary). All these language components are related to language skills.

According to syllabus of KTSP 2013 in teaching English at senior high school, students learn a lot of expressions, various forms of tenses, a variety of texts such as recount, procedural, narrative, and the descriptive texts. Students should master grammar and they should be able to apply it to writing sentences. By writing students can freely express everything without having embarrassed to speak.

At senior high school the students write simple sentence in the form of simple past. They must understand grammar in order to write a good sentence. It means that grammar plays role in writing. In order to write a simple sentence in the form of simple past tense, student should master the tense in the simple past. Therefore the simple past tense should be correlated with writing. According to Jackson in Mayana (20015:8), grammar is the set of rules for speaking and writing English properly. Grammatical rules vary from one variety of language or context of language use to another. By learning grammar, the students will know about system of language so they will be able to combine and build words into meaningful sentence.

Based on the researcher's observation most students at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang had problems in mastering simple past tense which can be considered complicated. Students were still confused about using the verb because there are three forms of the verb (base form, past simple and past participle). They did not know the correct form verb for the simple past tense. In addition, they also had problem in writing simple sentence, and they did not know the correct "to be" (was/were) that they want to used in writing.

In this research, the researcher chose the first grade students of SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang, because they had already learnt tense. Because of that the students are familiar with English, simple past tense especially. Based on the phenomena, the researcher is interested in conducting a research to know about the correlation between students' proficiency of simple past tense and their witing simple past sentence ability.

1.2 The Identification of the Problem

There are several simple tenses that should be learnt when studying English. They are simple present tense, simple past tense and simple future tense. Simple past tense has two forms, namely nominal and verbal. In grammar lesson, there are many kinds of materials that be studied, for example: we study about tenses, modal auxiliary, gerunds, infinitive, etc. When we study about tenses, we study sixteen tenses, they are Simple Present Tense, Simple Past Tense, Present Continuous Tense, Simple Future Tense, Present Perfect Tense, Perfect Continuous Tense, Past Continuous Tense, Past Perfect Tense, Future Continuous Tense, Future Perfect Tense, Future Perfect Continuous Tense, Past Future Tense, Past Future Perfect Tense, Past Future Continuous Tense, Past Future Perfect Continuous Tense.

Nominal sentences are sentences which predicate is not a verb, or in other words the nominal sentence is a sentence that predicate form “to be” (was/were). The use of “to be” depends on the subject (plural or singular). Verbal sentence in simple past sentence is a sentence containing a verb 2. In other words the verbal sentence is a sentence that has predicate verb 2.

Writing sentence is divided into writing simple sentence, compound sentence, and complex sentence. The simple sentence is written in the form of affirmative, negative and interrogative. There are basically four kinds of sentences in English: simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex. According to Byrd and Benson (2001:37), simple sentence is a sentence that must have at least a subject and a verb. A compound sentence is two or more independent clauses joined together. A

complex sentence is a sentence consisting of independent and dependent clause. A compound-complex sentence is a combination of two or more independent clauses and one (or more) dependent clauses.

Correlation is a statistical measure that indicates the extent to which two or more variables fluctuate together. A positive correlation indicates the extent to which those variables increase or decrease in parallel; a negative correlation indicates the extent to which one variable increases as the other decreases.

1.3 The Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problems as already discussed previously, the researcher limited the study on simple past tense covering nominal and verbal. It was limited into simple past tense. Along with this, the researcher wants to know whether or not there is a correlation between the first grade students' proficiency of the simple past tense and their ability in writing simple past sentence at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang. The simple past tense focused on verbal and nominal sentence and writing sentence focus on writing simple past sentence.

1.4 The Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the researcher formulated the problem as follows “ Is there any significant correlation between the first grade students proficiency of the simple past tense and their ability in writing simple past sentence at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang”?

1.5 The Hypothesis of the Research

According to formulation of the problem, the researcher formulated the hypothesis as follows :

Ho : There is no a significant correlation between students' simple past tense proficiency and their ability in writing simple past sentence at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang.

Ha : There is a significant correlation between students' simple past tense proficiency and their ability in writing simple past sentence at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang.

1.6 The Purpose of the Research

The main purpose of this research was to find out the correlation between the first grade students' proficiency of simple past tense and their ability in writing simple pas sentence at SMA Pertiwi 1 Padang.

1.7 The Significance of the Research

The researcher hopes this research gave contribution for teacher, students, and researcher. For the teacher it can be reference to improve their students' skill in writing simple past sentence. For the students, it will be a good information about correlation between simple past tense and writing simple past sentence. They will recognize and realize that mastering grammar, especially verb tense, is useful to have a good skill in writing. For the researcher, this research is useful to improve his knowledge in conducting the research and report it for the future and this research can be a guide for the writer to increase the quality of English education in the future.

1.8 The Definition of the Key Terms

To understand and avoid any misunderstanding of key terms used in this study, they are defined as follows:

1. Correlation is relationship between two variables, they are simple past tense proficiency and writing simple past sentence.
2. The simple past tense is a tense that is used principally to describe events in the past.
3. Writing is a process to express the ideas or opinion in written form.
4. Sentence is group of words, usually containing a verb, that express a thought in the form of a statement, question, instruction and exclamation.
5. Simple sentence is a sentence that must have at least a subject and a verb.