

**AN ANALYSIS OF SECOND GRADE STUDENTS' ABILITY TO  
WRITE SIMPLE SENTENCE USING SIMPLE PAST TENSE AT  
SMP NEGERI 2 KUANTAN HILIR SEBERANG  
KABUPATEN KUANTAN SINGINGI RIAU**

**THESIS**



**BY  
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THE FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY  
PADANG  
2024**

**UNIVERSITAS BUNG HATTA**

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*Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement  
for Getting the Strata One (S1) Degree*



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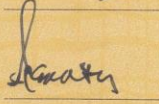

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Dinyatakan LULUS setelah dipertahankan di depan Tim Penguji Skripsi Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan Universitas Bung Hatta pada hari Jumat, 23 Agustus 2024.

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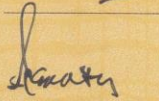

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Padang, 14 August 2024

The Researcher,

Erdia Majholla

## **ABSTRACT**

**Majholla. E. 2024. An Analysis Of Second Grade Students' Ability To Write**

**Simple Sentence Using Simple Past Tense At SMP Negeri 2**

**Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau**

**Advisor: Dra. Ernati, M.Pd**

The purpose of this study is describe the ability of second grade students in write simple sentence using simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang, Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi, Riau. The researcher used quantitative descriptive methods. The population of study was second grade students. The researcher used cluster random sampling technique to select samples, and the number of sample was 32 students. The instrument to collect data in this study was writing sentence. For the test to be reliable, the researcher used the inter-rater method. The result of analysis showed that test was reliable. This is supported by fact that the correlation coefficient is 0.93 (appendix 5)

In general, the second grade students at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang, Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi, Riau had moderate ability in writing simple sentence using simple past tense. This supported by the fact that 32 students (62%) had low in writing simple sentence using simple past tense, 12 students (37.5%) had low ability in writing simple sentence using simple past tense in positive form, 19 students (59.37%) low ability writing simple sentence using simple past tense in negative form, 17 students (53%) low ability writing simple sentence using simple past tense in question form.

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that students ability in writing simple sentence using simple past tense was low. In this regard, teachers should provide further explanations and exercises on writing simple sentences using simple past tense. Students should improve their skills simple sentences using simple past tense. For further researchers, it is hoped that they can identify and analyze the factors that cause students' low ability in writing simple sentences using simple past tense.

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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

#### **1.1 The Background of The Problem**

English is a foreign language in Indonesia. It is crucial because it is international language and it helps us to communicate with other all over the world. According Pandarangga (2015) using English to communicate may also help people to know, understand, and respects each other, particularly those who have different backgrounds such as languages, cultures. Because of that Indonesian government includes English in the education curriculum to prepare the young generation to face global competition in various fields, such as business, politics, economics, technology, culture, etc. English has been taught from junior high school to university level. The students learn four language skills in English. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. One of the goals in teaching English itself is to develop communicative skills in the language. Learning English means learning how to communicate with that language as the target language, both in speaking and writing expressions.

Writing is an important skill to master because it is also a communication medium that can help us to have good socialization. By writing, people can express their ideas, feelings and opinions. According to Himmaturijal (2018), writing is a

difficult skill for native speakers and non-native speakers because in writing they must consider some aspects, such as content, grammar, organization, vocabulary, and mechanics consisting of punctuation, spelling, and capitalization. Susanti (2015) states that writing has been characterized as written thinking. It means that writing is a process to express the idea that comes from thought, so it can develop the ideas to make a good sentence or essay. Writing does not only include your ideas, arrange the words to be a good sentence and clause, but also when someone writes, they should be able to organize some interesting ideas. Writing is a way of thinking and learning. It gives a unique opportunity to explore ideas and acquire information.

When people are going to write, they may think that the purpose of writing a paper is to complete the assignment or to get a good grade. It is by paying attention to aspects of writing and related to writing itself. According Jacob (1983, p.139) that there are five components to make good writing, they are content, organization, vocabulary, language use (grammar), and mechanics. To write well it is necessary to consider all of those writing component aspects such as the idea, grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. Grammar is one of components in learning English. It can be called the foundation in producing sentences. Having knowledge of the grammar makes students more easily to produce sentences and catch the ideas of sentences they write. One of the important components in grammar tenses. It can be said that the most important thing to make a good sentence.

Many Indonesian students are struggle with writing English sentence because they do not master the structure and rules of the English sentences. They

do not know to change the form of the verb to reflect the time signal. However, in English most verbs can be changed according to time signal.

The simple past tense is one of tenses which students learn in the school but it sometimes makes students confused and many of them make mistakes in several exercises. Students' difficulties are in learning, remembering, and applying the formula of the sentence. Fitria (2020) states that the simple past tense describes activities or conditions that began and ended in the past. In solving these problems, the English teachers have to work hard to solve the problem; they should increase students' ability in using simple past tense in writing sentences.

According to Danesi (2006), learners often have difficulty in mastering the types of the past tense. Their difficulties are; (1) question and negative forms, (2) irregular past tense forms (3) the spelling of regular past forms. Usually, the students are confused in implementing the simple past tense in writing a sentences.

Based on the researcher's interview with one of the English teachers at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang, Kuantan Singingi Riau Regency, students had difficulties in writing sentences in the past. They have difficulty in writing sentences because they forget patterns, don't know the verbs change and don't really understand how to use verb forms, time signals, and the use of be.

Based on the reason above, the researcher is interested in doing research entitle **“An Analysis of Students Ability to Write Simple Sentence Using Simple Past Tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau”** This study is conducted at Second Grade Students of SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

In learning English, there are some problems that the students faced when they are writing, such as difficulty in expressing ideas in written form, lack of knowledge about punctuation, lack of vocabulary, and difficulty in determining grammar. Students also often face challenges in learning the use of simple past tense, especially related to regular, irregular, and yes/no questions. Some of the problems as follows:

First, students experience obstacles in mastering vocabulary. They have lack of vocabulary, both for regular and irregular verbs, it is difficult for students to compose correct simple past tense sentences. Without a good understanding of the various forms of verbs in the past, students are hampered in expressing their ideas into writing.

Second, inadequate understanding of grammar is also a problem for students. They do not fully understand the structure and rules for forming simple past tense sentences, especially in distinguishing the use of regular and irregular verbs. In addition, students also often have difficulty in applying the correct simple past tense sentence structure, including in forming yes/no question sentences.

Third, students are confused with kind of sentences. There are four kind of sentence, they are simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence and compound-complex sentence.

In addition, limited understanding of proper writing guidelines is also an obstacle for students. Students do not understand the use of punctuation and

appropriate sentence structure, so they have difficulty in composing simple past tense sentences correctly.

### **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 writing simple sentence in simple past tense. It covers positive, negative and question. So, this research is conducted on the second grade students at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau.

### **1.4 Formulation of The Problem**

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the researcher will formulated the general problem of this research as follows: “How is the second grade students’ ability to write simple sentence in simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau?”

### **1.5 Research Question**

The research question of this research are formulated as follows:

1. How is the ability of the second grade students to write simple sentence in positive form using simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau?
2. How is the ability of the second grade students to write simple sentence in negative form using simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau?



3. How is the ability of the second grade students to write simple sentence in question form using simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau?

### **1.6 Purpose of Study**

The purpose of this study is to describe the second grade students' ability in writing simple sentences using simple past tense. In particular, the objectives of the study are;

1. To find out the ability of second grade students in writing simple sentence in positive form in simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau.
2. To find out the ability of second grade students in writing simple sentence in negative form in simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau.
3. To find out the ability of second grade students in writing simple sentence in question form in simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau.

### **1.7 Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to be able to give contribution to the teacher, the students, and the researcher. For the teacher, it could be expected to have scientific information about their students' ability to write simple sentences in simple past tense, so that the teacher can consider various aspect of teaching . For the students, they will know their ability in writing simple sentence in simple past tense. By having known it, they will improve their ability to write sentence. And for the

researcher, this research will be useful to increase her knowledge in doing a research and report it for the future.

### **1.8 Definition of The Key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation in this research, the researcher provides definition as the follow:

1. Writing is a way to communicate by expressing knowledge or ideas processed by a writer.
2. Sentence is a group of words, that subject and verb (predicate) and has meaning.
3. Simple sentence is a sentence with only one independent clause and it consists of one subject, one predicate or one subject, two predicate.
4. Simple past tense is a verb tenses describing events that already happened.