

contraction of auxiliary/be with subject. In a question tag, a positive statement is followed by a negative tag, a negative statement is followed by a positive tag.

The researcher had tried to interview some of the second year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University on March 26th, 2019 about question tags. They said that some of them were still confused to complete a sentence using question tags. Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher was interested in doing a research on the second year students' ability in completing sentence using question tags.

## **1.2 The Identification of the Problem**

There are some problems appearing in completing a sentence using question tags. One of them includes the lack of understanding of agreement of the subject and “verb” or “be” in a sentence. A sentence is a complete set of words that conveys meaning (Andersen, 2014). It is composed of one or more clauses. A clause contains a subject and a verb. In general, there are two classifications of sentences: based on its predicate and its function. Based on its predicate, a sentence is divided into two: a nominal sentence and a verbal sentence. A nominal sentence uses “be” as its predicate. In addition, a verbal sentence uses “verb” as its predicate. While based on its function, a sentence is divided into four. They are declarative sentence that contains statement, imperative sentence that expresses a command/order/request, interrogative sentence that asks a question, and exclamatory sentence which expresses a sudden emotion. An interrogative sentence is divided into three, a yes/no question, an open-ended question with a question word, and a question tag.

In addition, the next problem was the students were still confused to determine tense that must be used. A tense is a characteristic of verbs that indicates the time

of the action or state being described (Panggabean, 2016). Mubaraq (2018) states that tenses are divided into their time of occurrence and their characteristic. Present, Past, Future and Past Future are tenses which are based on their time of occurrence. Moreover, a tense is also categorized into four by its characteristic. They are Simple Tenses, Continuous Tense, Perfect Tense, and Perfect Continuous Tense. If they all put together, then 16 types of tenses are formed: 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, and Past Future Perfect Continuous Tense.

The other problem was that the students had less understanding in matching the “auxiliary/be” in the question tags with the subject and the “be/verb” in the statement. Question tags is a statement that is followed by a short question. A question tag contains a statement that is ended with a tag and it is translated into “*bukan?*” in Bahasa Indonesia. There are two types of question tags. A positive question tag appears after a negative statement, and a negative question tag appears after a positive statement. The function is to make other people agree with our statement or to make the listener sure about the statement.

### **1.3 The Limitation of the Problem**

The researcher limited this study on students’ ability to complete a sentence using question tags. It was focused on positive statement. The tag will be put after positive statement in three simple tenses: simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense. The researcher chose both nominal sentences and verbal

sentences. Three simple tenses were chosen because the second year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University have learnt them.

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

Based on the limitation above, the researcher formulated the problem of this research as follows: “How is the second year students’ ability to complete a positive sentence using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University?”

#### **1.5 Research Questions**

Based on the formulation of the problem, the research questions were formulated below:

1. How is the second year students’ ability to complete positive nominal sentences in simple present tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University?
2. How is the second year students’ ability to complete positive verbal sentences in simple present tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University?
3. How is the second year students’ ability to complete positive nominal sentences in simple past tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University?
4. How is the second year students’ ability to complete positive verbal sentences in simple past tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University?
5. How is the second year students’ ability to complete positive nominal sentences in simple future tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University?

6. How is the second year students' ability to complete positive verbal sentences in simple future tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University?

### **1.6 The Purposes of the Research**

The main purpose of this research was to find out the second year students' ability to complete sentences using question tags. Specifically, the purposes were:

1. To find out the second year students' ability to complete positive nominal sentences in simple present tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University.
2. To find out the second year students' ability to complete positive verbal sentences in simple present tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University.
3. To find out the second year students' ability to complete positive nominal sentences in simple past tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University.
4. To find out the second year students' ability to complete positive verbal sentences in simple past tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University.
5. To find out the second year students' ability to complete positive nominal sentences in simple future tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University.
6. To find out the second year students' ability to complete positive verbal sentences in simple future tense using question tags at English Department of Bung Hatta University.

### **1.7 The Significance of the Research**

This study was expected to be useful and to give contribution for the lecturers, the students, and the researcher. For lecturer, this research could be a meaningful information about students' ability to complete sentence using question tags in positive statement of three simple tenses. For the students, they would know about their ability to complete sentence using question tags in positive form of three simple tenses. For the researcher, she hoped that this research could be useful to improve her research experience for the future and also in improving her own English skill.

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

The key terms were:

1. Students' ability is students' skill in compliting sentences using question tag.
2. Simple present tense is a tense that is used to express factual and habitual.
3. Simple past tense is a tense that is used to express an event in the past.
4. Simple future tense is a form tense that is used to express an event which will happen in the future and end in the future.
5. Question tag is a short question that is added after negative or positive statement.
6. Verbal sentence is a sentence that uses a verb as a predicate.
7. Nominal sentence is a sentence that uses "be" as a predicate.