

# A STUDY ON THE SECOND GRADE STUDENTS' ABILITY AT MTsN TIKU TO USE DEGREES OF COMPARISON IN WRITING SENTENCES

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## Abstract

The purpose of this research was to describe the ability of the second grade students of MTsN Tiku to use degree of comparison in writing simple sentence. The research design was descriptive, the population was the second grade students of MTsN Tiku in academic year 2012/2013. The number of the population members was 182 students. To take the sample The researcher used cluster random sampling technique and class VIII A had been chosen as the sample of this research, and the size of the sample was 30 students. The instrumentation used to get the data was writing sentence test. The reseacher focused on writing sentence in the form of positive comparative and superlative degree of adjective and adverb. To know the reliability of the test, the reseacher used inter-rater technique. After that, the result of correlation coefficiency was analyzed by using pearson product moment formula. It was found that the reliability was 0.64 ; and it was categorized as high correlation. It means the test was reliable. The result of this study showed that in general the ability of the second grade students of MTsN Tiku to use degree of comparison in writing simple sentence was moderate. It was proved by the fact that 24 students (80 %) had moderate ability. The finding of this research lead the researcher to conclude that the second grade students' ability at MTsN Tiku to use degree of comparison in writing simple sentence was moderate ability. The researcher suggests to English teacher to discuss in more detail and giving more exercises to the students to use degree of comparison in writing simple sentence and to the students, they should learn more about degree of comparison in writing simple sentence.

**Key words:** writing, comparative and superlative degree

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## Introduction

English is very important in our lives because English is an international language. One of important language skills is writing. According to <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/definition.ht>

[m](#),writing is a method of representing language in visual or tactile form. Every language has grammar. Grammar is an important component in English because it is a powerful related to language skills. One of the topics learned in grammar is degrees of comparison which consists of

three forms, they are: positive degree, comparative degree and superlative degree which have to be mastered by students. The students have learned about degrees of comparison in semester two.

According to Brown (1986), writing is the process of selecting, combining, arranging and developing ideas in effective sentences, paragraphs, and often, longer units of discourse. Beside language skill there are some important language component, one of them is grammar. Robert (1962: 1) defines that grammar is something that produces the sentences of language and English grammar would be a set of rules for making English sentences. In grammar usually learn about sentences. Wikipedia (2013) states that a sentence is an expression in natural language. It is often defined as grammatical unit consisting of one or more words that bear minimal syntactic relation to the words that precede or follow it.

Based on the explanation above, there were some problem in teachig and learnig grammar that analized in this research. They were as follows:

1. How is the second year students' ability of MTsN Tiku in using comparative degree of adjective in writing simple sentence?

2. How is the second year students' ability of MTsN Tiku in using comparative degree of adverb in writing simple sentence?

3. How is the second year students' ability of MTsN Tiku in using superlative degree of adjective in writing simple sentence?

4. How is the second year students' ability of MTsN Tiku in using superlative degree of adverb in writing simple sentence?

In general, the purpose of this study was to describe the students' ability in using comparative degree and superlative degree of adjective and adverb in writing simple sentences.

### **Research Method**

The design of this research was descriptive. Gay (1987 : 189) states that descriptive research involves collecting data in order to test hypotheses or to answer questions concerning the currents status of the subject of the study. In this research the population was the second grade students of MTsN Tiku in academic year 2013-2014. They were distributed into six classes. One of the six classes became the sample for this research, the sample was class A.

The instrument used in this research was grammar test in the form of writing sentences. The reseacher asked the

students to use degrees of comparison in writing simple sentences, they were 10 items for comparative degree and 10 items for superlative degree.

The test is good if it is valid, to determine the validity of the test, the researcher used content validity which are measures what it is supposed to be measured (Arikunto, 2012: 82). The test that the researcher gave to the students was based on the syllabus and teaching materials that had been taught by the teacher. To know the reliability of the test, the researcher used inter-rater technique. It means that there were two scorers (scorer 1 and scorer 2).

To analyze the consistency of two assessors, the writer calculated the number of ability identified by assessors 1 and assessors 2 by using Pearson Product moment formula (Arikunto 2012: 87) as follow:

$$r_{xy} = \frac{N \sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[N \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2][N \sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

Where:

$r_{xy}$ = The coefficient correlation between variable X and variable Y

$N$ = The number of the students who follow the test

$x$ = The first score from the first scorer

$y$ = The second score from the second scorer

Finally, the researcher used the degree of coefficient correlation based on Arikunto's idea (2012):

0.81 – 1.00: Very high correlation

0.61 – 0.80: High correlation

0.41 – 0.60: Enough correlation

0.21 – 0.40: Low correlation

0.00 – 0.20: Very low correlation

The researcher used high correlation index.

Data of this research were students' scores in writing simple sentence using degrees of comparison. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the following procedures

1. Present the raw score and calculated the average score of two scorers  $\frac{\text{Score 1} + \text{score 2}}{2}$  (see appendix 11).

2. Calculate Mean (M) ) and standar deviation (SD)

$$M = \frac{\sum X}{N}$$

Where:

M=Mean

$\sum x$ =The total number

$N$ =Number of students

$$SD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum X^2}{N} - \left(\frac{\sum X}{N}\right)^2}$$

- Classify the student's ability into high and low ability by using the following categories (Arikunto, 2012)

High :  $> M + 1 SD$   
 Moderate : between  $(M - 1 SD)$  and  $(M + 1 SD)$   
 Low :  $< M - 1 SD$

- Calculate the percentage of the students who get high and low ability by using the following formula:

$$P = \frac{R}{T} \times 100 \%$$

Where:

P= percentage of students' score  
 R= the sum of the students who get high and low ability  
 T= the sum of the students

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## Findings and Discussion

### 1. The Students' Ability to Use Comparative Degree of Adjective in Simple Sentence

The highest score got by students to use comparative degree of adjective in writing simple sentence was 24.15 and the lowest score got by students was 19. The researcher got for mean 23.22 and 1.40 for standard deviation.

It means that almost all of the students who have understood about to use comparative degree of adjective and 10 % of the students still had problem to use comparative degree of adjective in writing simple sentence.

## **2. The Students' Ability to Use Comparative Degree of Adverb in Writing Simple Sentence**

The highest score got by the students to use comparative degree of adverb in writing simple sentence was 21.5 and the lowest score got by the students 14.75. After calculating mean and standard deviation, the researcher got 17.95 for mean and 2.02 for standard deviation.

It means that most of the students who have understood about to use comparative degree of adverb and some of the students were still confused to use comparative degree of adverb in writing simple sentence.

## **3. The Students' Ability to Use Superlative Degree of Adjective in Simple Sentence**

The highest score got by students to use superlative degree of adjective in simple sentence was 24.25 and the lowest score got by students 13. After calculating mean and standard deviation. The researcher got 21.02 for mean and 3.13 for standard deviation.

It means that many students who have understood to use superlative degree of adjective and just a little of the students' still had problem to use superlative degree of adjective in writing simple sentence.

## **4. The Students' Ability to Use Superlative Degree of Adverb in Simple Sentence**

The highest score got by students to use superlative degree of adverb in simple sentence was 20 and the lowest score got by students 12.5. After calculating mean and standard deviation, the researcher got 5.5 for mean and 2.14 for standard deviation.

It means that many student still had problem to use superlative degree of adverb in writing simple sentence. Here are the example the students still had problem to use superlative degree of adverb in writing simple sentence.

## **Conclusions**

Based on the result of the data analysis, the researcher made conclusions of the ability of the second grade students' ability at MTsN Tiku to use degree of comparison was moderate. This fact could be seen from the result of the data that showed 24 students (80 %) got moderate ability, 3 students (10 %) got high ability, and 3 students (10 %) got low

ability to use degree of comparison in writing simple sentence.

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