

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS' PROBLEMS IN USING
QUANTIFIERS IN WRITING SIMPLE SENTENCE IN SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE
AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY**

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ABSTRACT

This research was aimed to describing the problems faced by the second year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University in using quantifiers in writing simple sentence in simple present tense. The design of this research was descriptive. The total population was 97 students and the total sample was 37 students. The samples were selected by using cluster random sampling technique. The instrument used to get the data was writing test. Based on data analysis, it was found that 6 students (16.21%) have problems in using quantifiers in writing simple sentence in simple present tense. Specifically, from data analysis of writing test, it showed that 5 students (13.51%) had problem in using quantifiers for plural countable noun and 6 students (16.21%) had problem in using quantifiers for uncountable noun. Referring to the findings of this research, it can be concluded that students have no problems in using quantifiers in writing simple sentence in simple present tense. Therefore, the researcher proposed several suggestions. First, for the teachers, it is suggested to enrich students' knowledge about using quantifiers in writing simple sentence in simple present tense. Second, for the students, it is expected that they can minimize problems to differentiate between plural countable noun and uncountable noun. Last, for the next researchers, it is expected that they find out problems which is related in using quantifiers in writing simple sentence in simple present tense.

Key words: Grammar, Quantifiers, Students' Problems

Introduction

English is one of the important languages in the world. It is needed in

economy, social, education, etc. Grammar is learned from junior high school up to university level. In junior high school and

senior high school, English is taught by using an integrated teaching. It means that there is no special subject for grammar, reading, listening, speaking, and writing. All of them are learned together under English subject. In learning English, the students should master four language skills. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing and grammar needed in those skills.

As mentioned before, grammar is important in language skill. Brown (1994:362) states that grammar is the system of rules governing the conventional arrangement and relationship of words in sentences. Grammar tells us how to construct a sentence (word order, verb and noun system, modifiers, phrases, clauses, etc).

In addition, Thornbury (1999:1) states that grammar is a description of the rules that govern how language's sentences are formed. Grammar attempts to explain why sentences are acceptable. Grammar is one of important skills besides listening, speaking, reading and writing. Many people think that grammar is not really needed in studying English. In fact, grammar should be considered in the four language skills.

One of the grammar topics that have to be considered is quantifiers which consist

of two forms, namely: (1) quantifiers for countable nouns and (2) quantifiers for uncountable nouns. According to Veit (1984:73), quantifiers provide quantity information about the nouns that follow them. A noun can be place, thing, idea, emotion, or quantity. Werner *et.al* (2002:40) states that there are two basic noun groups: those you can count (count nouns) and those you cannot count (uncountable nouns). Count nouns have singular and plural forms.

Based on the result of interviewing the researcher to the second year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University, many students did not understand quantifiers well. They were still confused how to use appropriate quantifiers for countable and uncountable noun. It means that they did not understand the usage of quantifiers for count and uncountable noun. They also did not understand how to use form of sentences for each kind of quantifiers. Besides that, they sometimes forgot to add -s at the end of plural noun.

Concerning with the explanation above, the problem of this research was as follow "What problems do the second year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University have in using quantifiers in writing simple sentence in simple present

tense?”. Especially, the problem was “What problems do the second year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University have in using quantifiers for plural countable noun and uncountable noun in writing simple sentence in simple present tense?”. Then, the general purpose of this research was to find out the second year students’ problems in using quantifiers noun in writing simple sentence in simple present tense. Especially, to find out the second year students’ problems in using quantifiers for plural countable noun and uncountable noun in writing simple sentence in simple present tense.

Research Method

The design of this research was descriptive. According to Gay (1987:189) descriptive research involved collecting data in order to answer question concerning current status of the subject of the study.

The population of the research was the second year students of English Department of Teacher Training and Education of Bung Hatta University in academic year 2012/2013. They were divided into three classes: class A, class B and class C. To select the sample, the researcher used cluster random sampling technique. The researcher wrote each name

of classes on three pieces of paper and put them into the box and shook the box, in which each piece of the paper was given class A, B, C. The researcher closed her eyes and took one of the papers in the box. So, one of the classes that were taken was students in class B and it was the sample of this research.

The instrument that was used in this research was writing test in using quantifiers’ plural countable and uncountable noun. The researcher asked the students to use quantifiers in writing simple sentence in simple present sentence. The researcher asked the students to write 10 simple sentences by using quantifiers for countable noun in the simple present tense, 10 simple sentences by using quantifiers for uncountable noun in the simple present tense. The researcher gave the quantifiers. They were some, any, much, many, a lot of, a few, a little, and no/not any. The students were given 60 minutes to do the test. Arikunto (2012:82) states that one of the types of the test validity is content validity. To have content validity, this test was constructed based on curriculum, syllabus, and teaching material of structure 1 used at English Department of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Bung Hatta University. To make sure, the test was

consulted with the lecturers who taught structure subjects.

To know the reliability of the test, the researchers used inter rater technique. It means that there are two assessors (assessor 1 and assessor 2) to check students' writing. The technique was used to minimize the subjectivity. The researcher was the first assessor and the researcher chose her friend, Aryalita Putri as second assessor. She was good at writing and grammar. She got A- for writing subject and A for grammar subject.

To find out the correlation coefficient of the students' problems identified by two assessors, the researcher used Pearson Product Moment formula (20012:87) as follows:

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

Where:

r = coefficient correlation of two variables of the test (x and y)

x = the students' problems from the first assessor

y = the students' problems from the second assessor

N = the number of the students who follow the test

$\sum xy$ = the total students' problems of cross product xy

The researcher used the degree of coefficient correlation based on Arikunto's idea (2013: 89):

.81 – 1.00 = Very high

.61 – .80 = High

.41 – .60 = Enough

.21 – .40 = Low

.00 – .20 = Very Low

Based on the result, the reliability of the test was .99. It means that the test was reliable and the instruments can be used to collect the data

There were several steps in collecting data from writing test as follows:

1. The researcher copied the students' answer sheet. The original one was for the first assessor and the other one was for the second assessors.
2. The researcher gave criteria of students' problem to the second assessor.
3. The researcher and the other assessors read the answer sheet one by one.
4. The researcher identified problems based on the criteria;
 - a. Students had problems in quantifiers and noun, if they do not use correct quantifiers for plural countable and uncountable noun and did not add – s at the end of plural noun.

- b. Students had problems in quantifiers and form of sentences, if quantifiers and form of sentences that students used was not suitable.
- c. Students had problems in using subject verb, be agreement, if they do not use appropriate particular grammatical feature in a certain part of written.

The data of this research is students' problem in using quantifiers in simple sentence in simple present sentence. Then, in analyzing the data, the researcher used the following procedures:

1. The researcher counted and presented the number of students who had problem in using quantifiers.
2. The researcher counted average number of problems identified by two assessors.
3. The researcher calculated the percentage of the students who had problem and who had no problem by using formula:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

Where:

P= percentage of students who have/have no problem

F= frequency of students who have/have no problem

N= total number of Students

4. The researcher concluded the students who had problems in using quantifiers in writing simple sentence in simple present tense. The students were said having problem if the average number of percentage of students' problem classically was $\geq 50\%$ and the students would be said having no problem if the average number of percentage of students' problem classically was $< 50\%$.

Findings and Discussions

a. Findings

At the result, after analyzing the data, the researcher found that the students had no problem in using quantifiers in writing simple sentence in simple present tense. It could be seen from the fact showing that there were 6 students (16.21%) who had problem in using quantifiers in writing simple sentence. In detail, there were 5 (13.51%) students had problem in using quantifiers for plural countable noun in writing simple sentence in simple present tense and 6 students (16.21%) had problem in using quantifiers for uncountable noun in writing simple sentence in simple present tense.

Component	Number of students	Percentage	Explanation
Quantifiers in using quantifiers in writing simple sentence in present tense	6 students	16.21 %	No Problem
Quantifiers for plural countable noun	5 students	13.51 %	No Problem
Quantifiers for uncountable noun	6 students	16.21 %	No Problem

b. Discussions

a) Students' Problems in Using Quantifiers for Plural Countable Noun

The real test of quantifiers for plural countable noun items were distributed on number 1, 2,3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in part I. As already stated previously, the result of data analysis shows that students had no problem in using quantifiers for plural countable noun. Even though the result is having no problem, it does not mean that students had no difficulty in using quantifiers for plural countable noun. In fact,

some students had mistake on questions number 2, 4 and, 8, 9.

▪ Quantifiers for Plural Countable Noun “any”

For example:

Write the simple present tense by using quantifiers below. Use quantifiers before plural countable noun.

2. _____ (any)

The answer: She buys any banana

The instruction of this test is to write simple sentence in using quantifiers “any” in plural countable noun. It means that suffixes –s is needed in noun. In fact, 27 students (number item 2) and 30 students (number item 9) did not add –s at the end of noun.

Based on the result, students did mistake in using quantifiers for plural countable noun. It may happen because they did not read the instruction carefully.

▪ Quantifier for plural countable “a lot of”

For example

4. _____ (a lot of)

The answer: I have a lot of sugar/money.

As we know that, sugar and money is uncountable noun. In fact, 22 students (number item 4) used uncountable noun like sugar or money in writing quantifiers *a lot of*.

Based on the result of analysis, students did mistake in using quantifiers for plural countable noun because they still confused about the usage of quantifiers *a lot of* that indicated something in large amount. They assumed that noun likes sugar or money are plural count even though the meaning of this noun is large amount. Therefore, they assumed that *sugar or money* is plural countable noun..

Based on the result of analysis, students did mistake in writing quantifiers *no/not any*. It happened because students did not understand how to use quantifiers “no/not any” in negative sentence.

Therefore, it is indicated that some students had problems in using quantifiers for plural countable noun in writing simple sentence in simple present tense. It is proved by statements above.

b) Students’ Problems in Using Quantifiers for Uncountable Noun

The real test of quantifiers for uncountable noun were distributed on number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 in part II. As already stated previously, students had no problem in using quantifiers for uncountable noun. It means that students had difficulty in using quantifiers for uncountable noun. Some of students had

mistake on questions number 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10.

▪ **Quantifier for uncountable “any”**

For example:

Write the simple present tense by using quantifiers below. Use quantifiers before uncountable noun.

2. _____ (any)

The answer: she has any candy.

As we know that, *candy* is not uncountable noun. It is one of countable noun that is singular noun. In fact, 21 students (number item 2) and 21 students (number item 9) used singular noun in using quantifiers for uncountable noun.

Based on the result analysis, they assumed that plural noun without –s is uncountable noun. As explained before that, noun can plural countable noun can divided into two: singular noun and plural countable noun.

▪ **Quantifier for uncountable “much”**

For examples:

Write the simple present tense by using quantifiers below. Use quantifiers before uncountable noun.

3. _____ (much)

The answer: I have much money.

The correct answer for this question is *I do not have much money*. In fact, 28 students (number item 3) and 24 students (number item 10) answered in positive statement.

Based on the result of analysis, students did mistake in using quantifiers *much*. As explained in chapter II, *much* appears in negative statements and questions. In fact, most of students used *much* in positive statements. It happened because they did not understand how to use *much* in writing sentence.

▪ **Quantifier for uncountable “a lot of”**

For example

4. _____ (a lot of)

The answer: I have a lot of candy.

As we know that, candy is one of plural countable noun that is singular noun. In fact, 27 students (number item 4) used singular noun in writing quantifiers *a lot of*.

Based on the result of analysis, students did mistake in using quantifiers for uncountable noun because they still confused the different singular noun and uncountable noun. Therefore, they assumed that *candy* is uncountable noun.

Therefore, it is indicated that students still had problems in using quantifiers for

uncountable noun. It is proved by statements above.

Conclusions

Based on the result of data analysis, the researcher concludes that in general the students of English Department of Bung Hatta University had no problems in using quantifiers in writing simple sentence in simple present tense. The stated conclusion can be drawn as follows:

1. Some second year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University had problems in using quantifiers in writing simple sentence in simple present tense. It was proved by the fact that there were 6 of 37 students (16.21%) had problems.
2. Some second year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University had problems in using quantifiers for plural countable noun. It was proved by the fact that there were only 5 of 37 students (13.51%) had problem.
3. Some second year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University had problems in using quantifiers for uncountable noun. It was proved by the fact that there were 6 of 37 students (16.21%) had problem.

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