

# AN ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS' ABILITY IN DIFFERENTIATING THE USE OF PRONOUNS AT MTsN DANGUNG-DANGUNG, LIMA PULUH KOTA REGENCY

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## Abstract

**The purpose of this research was to describe the first year students' ability in differentiating the use of pronouns at MTsN Dangung-Dangung, Lima Puluh Kota Regency. The design of this research was descriptive method. The population of this research was the first year students of MTsN Dangung-Dangung, Lima Puluh Kota Regency. The number of population was 285 students; they were distributed into eight classes: class VII.1 until VII.8. The researcher used cluster random sampling technique to get the representative sample. The total number of sample was 40 students.**

**The data of this research were the students' ability in differentiating the use of pronouns. The result of the data analysis showed that the first year students' ability in differentiating the use of pronouns at MTsN Dangung-Dangung, Lima Puluh Kota Regency was moderate. It was proved fact that 30 students (75%) had moderate ability in differentiating personal pronoun (as subject and object) and 26 students (65%) had moderate ability in differentiating possessive adjective and possessive pronoun.**

**Key words:** Analysis, Differentiate pronouns, Students' ability.

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## Introduction

Human cannot be separated from language. Each person needs at least one language to communicate. Language is the way for people to express their experiences, abilities, ideas, and opinions through oral or written form.

English is an important language for communication in this world. English influences many aspects such as economic, social, art, science, and education. In Indonesia, English is used as a foreign language. The Indonesian government states English is as one of the important

subjects in school which is studied from junior high school until university.

To comprehend English, the students have to master four language skills very well. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing. English is also made by several elements such as structure, vocabulary, pronunciation, etc. One of the important elements is grammar. As we know, grammar is the basic foundation in learning English. According to Thornbury (1999:1), grammar is a description of the rules that govern how sentences in a language are formed. The language skills of English have intensive relationship with grammar.

English has many components that must be learned. The students learn English from the smallest to the largest topic. One of them is pronoun. Pronoun is one of the topics of English and it is often used in daily communication. Based on the competence-based curriculum, pronouns have been studied by the students in junior high school since the first year. The pronoun is found in the sentences, dialogues, texts, and etc.

Pronoun is an element of grammar. Based on the informal interview with an English teacher, Mrs. Asyathur Hamni, S.Pd who teaches at MTsN Dandung-Dandung Lima Puluh Kota Regency on June 2013, the students learnt pronoun in semester one and they often got difficulties

in differentiating pronouns. In fact, they sometimes made mistakes in differentiating personal pronoun as subject, personal pronoun as object, possessive pronoun, and possessive adjective in the sentences even though they had learned them before. Finally, they could not use the correct pronoun in sentences. The purposes of this research were formulated as follows:

1. To describe the ability of the first year students of MTsN Dandung-Dandung in differentiating the use of personal pronoun as subject and personal pronoun as object
2. To describe the ability of the first year students of MTsN Dandung-Dandung in differentiating the use of possessive pronoun and possessive adjective

This research has some significances for English teacher and students. First, for English teachers, this research will give contribution and useful for english teacher to improve or revise the teaching of pronouns. Second, for the students, they will know about their weakness especially in differentiating pronouns. So, they will try to increase their abilities by studying more seriously.

### **Research Method**

This research was aimed to described the ability in differentiating pronouns of the first year students of MTsN Dandung-

Dangung, Lima Puluh Kota Regency. Gay (1987:189) says that descriptive research involves collecting data in order to test the hypothesis concerning the current of the study about phenomena or knowledge through careful description or analysis. So the design of this research was a descriptive research. The population of this research was the first year students of MTsN Dangung-Dangung, Lima Puluh Kota Regency. The researcher chose the first year students as population because they had studied about the personal pronoun (as subject and object) and possessive (adjective and pronoun). The total number of the population was 285 students that were separated into eight classes; class VII.1, VII.2, VII.3, VII.4, VII.5, VII.6, VII.7 and VII.8. The researcher chose cluster random sampling technique because the students had the same teaching materials such as books, lesson plan and learning process, so researcher chose just one class. The researcher followed some steps to choose the sample; the researcher prepared eight small paper then she wrote the name of the class from class VII.1 to VII.8. The pieces of paper were put into the box and then the researcher shook it. Finally the researcher selected one paper randomly. The selected paper was class VII.6. So, it was as sample of this research and consisted 40 students. The instrument that the researcher use in

collecting data was a grammar test in the form of completion items. The test consisted of 30 sentences which related to the pronouns. The researcher gave 60 minutes for the students because the time was enough for the students to do the test. Before giving the real test, the researcher gave try out test to the students out of the sample because the test was non standard test. Non standard test is test made by the researcher. The purposes of the try out test were to make sure that the students understand about instruction of the test, and the researcher know whether the time allocation to do the test was enough or not, and to know whether the test was good or not (valid and reliable). To find out the reliability of grammar test, the researcher used split half method by using Pearson Product moment formula. In gathering the data, the researcher used the following procedures.

- a. Giving the test to the sample.
- b. Collecting the result of the test.
- c. Checking the students' answers.  
The researcher gave 1 for the correct answer and 0 for wrong answer.
- d. Counting the total score for each student.

To analyze the data, the researcher used steps (procedure) as follows :

1. Calculating Mean (M) and Standar Deviation (SD)

$$\text{Mean Score} = \frac{\Sigma X}{N}$$

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

Where :

M = Mean

$\Sigma X$  = Total score of the students

N = Number of students

SD = Standar Deviation

2. Classifying the students' ability based on their groups :

High ability =  $> M + SD$

Moderate ability =

between  $M - SD$  and  $M + SD$

Low ability =  $< M - SD$

3. Calculating the percentage of the students who had high, moderate and low ability using the formula (Arikunto, 2012) :

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

Where :

P = Percentage of the student's ability

R= The sum of the students who have high, moderate, or low ability.

T = Total sum of students

The researcher found the percentage of the students' ability in differentiating pronouns.

### **Findings and Discussions**

The researcher presents the finding of this research in general; that is students' ability in differentiating the use of personal pronouns (as subject and object) and possessive (adjective and pronoun).

#### **Students' Ability in Differentiating Personal Pronoun as Subject and Personal Pronoun as Object**

Based on the result of the data analysis, the researcher found the ability of the first year students in differentiating the use of personal pronoun as subject and personal pronoun as object was moderate. In this study, the researcher found 5 students (12.50%) had high ability, 30 students (75 %) had moderate ability and 5 students (12.50%) had low ability.

#### **Students' Ability in Differentiating Possessive Adjective and Possessive Pronoun**

Based on the result of the data analysis, the researcher found the ability of the first year students in differentiating the use of possessive adjective and possessive pronoun was moderate. In this study, the researcher found 10 students (25%) had high ability, 26 students (65 %) had moderate ability and 4 students (10%) had low ability.

### **Discussions**

Based on the result of the research, the researcher found out the ability of the first

year students at MTsN Dandung-Dandung Lima Puluh Kota Regency in differentiating personal pronoun (as subject and object) and possessive (adjective and pronoun). Each of them was moderate. It was indicated that the majority of the students had moderate ability; there were 75% students had moderate ability in differentiating personal pronoun as subject and object. There were 65% students had moderate ability in differentiating possessive adjective and possessive pronoun.

### **Conclusions and Suggestions**

After having discussion in the previous chapter, the researcher found the students' ability in differentiating pronouns. Based on the data analysis in general, the finding of this study can be concluded that the ability of the first year students at MTsN Dandung-Dandung Lima Puluh Kota Regency in differentiating personal pronoun (as subject and object) and possessive (adjective and pronoun) was moderate. This conclusion was indicated by the fact that there were 30 students (75%) who had moderate ability in differentiating personal pronoun (as subject and object) and 26 students (65%) who had moderate ability in differentiating possessive adjective and possessive pronoun. In specific, the conclusion can be seen as follows:

- a) The ability of the first year students at MTsN Dandung-Dandung Lima Puluh Kota Regency in differentiating personal pronoun as subject and personal pronoun as object was moderate. It is supported by the fact that there were 5 students (12.5%) got high ability, 30 students (75%) got moderate ability, and 5 students (12.5%) got low ability in differentiating personal pronoun as subject and personal pronoun as object.
- b) The ability of the first year students at MTsN Dandung-Dandung Lima Puluh Kota Regency in differentiating possessive adjective and possessive pronoun was moderate. It is supported by the fact that there were 10 students (25%) got high ability, 26 students (65%) got moderate ability, and 4 students (10%) got low ability in differentiating possessive adjective and possessive pronoun.

### **Suggestion**

Based on the conclusion above, the researcher gave some suggestions that are recommended :

1. For English teacher

- The English teachers have to pay more attention to students' ability in differentiating pronouns and make students comprehend the using of pronouns correctly.
- The English teachers have to give more exercises to the students about using of pronouns.
- It is suggested to English teachers to find out the best way in teaching pronouns.

1. For the students

The students should learn pronouns seriously and care about using pronouns and they have to do more exercises in using correctly pronouns.

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