

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

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ABSTRAK

This research aims to describe the ability of second-grade students in writing simple sentence using simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi, Riau. The researcher used a descriptive design. The population of this study was second-grade students at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi, Riau. The sample consisted of 32 students selected through cluster random sampling. The instrument is writing sentence test. It was reliable (correlation coefficient: 0.93) and valid, which is constructed based on syllabus and teaching material of SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi, Riau. Results showed that 62% of students had low ability in writing simple sentences using simple past tense. In detail, 37.5% of students had low ability in writing positive form, 59.37% of students had low ability in writing negative form, and 53% of students had low ability in writing question form. It is recommended that the teacher provide more exercise in writing simple sentences using simple past tense. The students are also suggested to do more exercise.

Keywords: *Writing Ability, Simple Sentence, Simple Past Tense*

INTRODUCTION

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 [1]. 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 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 [2]. Many Indonesian students are struggle with writing English sentence because they do not master the structure and rules of the English sentences [3]. A simple sentence has one independent clause can be formed by one subject and one verb. In addition, the simple past tense shows action in the past at a certain time, even though the time is stated or no [4].

Based on the researcher's interview with one of the English teachers at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan

Hilir Seberang, Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau, 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.

The researcher found several previous studies that related to this research. First, the study was done by Mahmudah (2013) entitled "The Students' Ability in Using Simple Past Tense in Second Grade of MTs Hidayatussibyan Wadaslintang in the Academic Year of 2012/2013" found that the students had a low level of ability in using the simple past tense, particularly in forming the negative and interrogative sentences [5]. Second, a study by Jawi (2022) found that at sixth semester of English Program at IAIN Parepare most students still do not change irregular verb [6].

For these reasons, the researcher decided to conduct research on ability of second grade students in writing simple sentence using simple past tense. The researcher concluded that there are some problems faced by the students 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. There are also several problems that the students face challenges in learning the use of simple past tense. 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. 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, 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.

METHODOLOGY

This research used the descriptive research and quantitative method. The researcher chose to use quantitative data because the researcher wanted to know the students' ability to write simple sentence using simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang, Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi, Riau. 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. The test consisted of 24 items. To validate the test, researchers use content validity. The researcher constructed the test based on the curriculum, syllabus, and teaching materials that had been given to students. The researcher used inter-rater method to find out the reliability of the test. The result of analysis showed that test was reliable. This supported by fact that the correlation is 0.93.

To collect the data, The researcher explained the instruction of the test. The researcher gave the test paper to the students. The researcher asked the students' to do the test in 60 minutes. The researcher collected the students' answer sheets. The researcher checked out the original answer sheets and the second assessor checked the copy of answer sheets. The researcher gave second scorer based on the criteria by SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang, Kabupaten

Kuantan Singingi, Riau. Finally, the researcher and second scorer gave score based on criteria both of us.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

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. Those are presented on the table below:

Table 1. Research Findings

No	Simple Sentence Using Simple Past Tense Form	Percentage	Ability
1	Students ability in writing simple sentence using simple paste tense in all form	62%	Low
2	Students ability in writing simple sentence using simple paste tense in positive form	37.5%	Low
3	Students ability in writing simple sentence using simple paste tense in negative form	37%	Low
4	Students ability in writing simple sentence using simple paste tense in question form	59.4%	Low

1. Students Ability In Writing Simple Sentence Using Simple Paste Tense in All Form

As previously discussed, researchers found that the ability of second grade students at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang, Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau has low ability in writing simple sentences using the simple past tense in all form. Specifically, 20 out of 32, or 62% of students, were

not able to write simple sentence using simple past tense in all form. The analysis found that: 1 student (3%) had a very good ability, 6 students (19%) had a good ability, 5 students (16%) had a moderate ability, and 20 students (62%) had a low ability. This finding is in line with the results of a study conducted by Rianti (2022) found that most students have low abilities in using simple past tense on the second grade of University Palawan tuanku tambusai the academic year of 2021. In fact, most students still have difficulty in writing simple past tense. This means that many students do not understand the simple past tense formula and some still cannot apply the simple past tense formula properly [7].

2. *Students Ability In Writing Simple Sentence Using Simple Paste Tense In Positive Form*

The researcher found that the ability of second grade students in writing simple sentences using simple past tense in positive form at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang, Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau is low. Specifically, 37.5% of students, were not able to write simple sentence using simple paste tense in positive form. The analysis found that: 2 students (6.25%) had very good ability, 9 students (28.12%) had good ability, 9 students (28.12%) had moderate ability, and 12 students (37.5%) had low ability. This finding is in line with the results of Hutapea, M. (2018). who found that eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 9 Medan ability to write simple past tense is low. Meanwhile, in this research, referring to the students answer sheet it was found that most students still do not understand well the changes in the form of irregular verbs in the simple past tense [8].

3. *Students Ability In Writing Simple Sentence Using Simple Paste Tense In Negative Form*

The researcher found that the ability of second grade students in writing simple sentences using simple past tense in negative form at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang, Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau is low. Specifically, 37% of students, were not able to write simple sentence using simple paste tense in negative form. The analysis found that: 0 students (0%) had very good ability, 9 students (28%) had good ability, 4 students (12.5%) had moderate ability, and 19 students (59.4%) had low ability. This finding is in line with the results of Maisaroh, S. (2013) which found that the ability of second grade students of SMP Negeri 3 Tangerang Selatan in writing simple sentences using the simple past tense in the form of negative sentences is

relatively low. The findings is that students are confused about choosing negative form formed by adding "did not" (didn't) before the basic verb [9].

4. *Students Ability In Writing Simple Sentence Using Simple Paste Tense In Question Form*

The researcher found that the ability of second grade students in writing simple sentences using simple past tense in question form at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang, Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau is low. Specifically, 59.4% of students, were not able to write simple sentence using simple paste tense in question form. the analysis found that: 3 students (9%) had very good ability, 5 students (16%) had good ability, 7 students (22%) had moderate ability, and 17 students (53%) had low ability. The results of this study are not in line with the results of the study by Afria et al. (2014), Afria concluded that the average value of students' ability in writing simple sentences using the simple past tense in second grade students of SMPN 1 IV Koto Aur Malintang, Padang Pariaman Regency was moderate ability. Meanwhile, in the researcher's research, based on the students' answer sheets, the researcher found that some students forgot to put question marks in sentences, and the use of capital letters was incorrect [10].

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the second grade students' ability to write simple sentence using simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi Riau was low. The researcher proposed several suggestions related to the study. For the teachers, suggested to give more explanations and exercises in writing simple sentence using simple past tense and teachers can also give in order to improve students' ability in writing simple sentence using simple past tense. For students, They must improve their ability in writing sentences, especially in writing simple sentence using simple the past tense. For other researcher, to make the deepest research with the topic it is suggested to other researcher to do research about the causes of students' low ability in writing simple sentence using simple past tense at SMP Negeri 2 Kuantan Hilir Seberang, Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi, Riau.

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