

**AN ANALYSIS ON THE SECOND YEAR STUDENT'S ABILITY  
IN WRITING SIMPLE SENTENCE USING SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE  
AT SMPN 19 SOLOK SELATAN**

*Zulkarnain<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan

Universitas Bung Hatta

E-mail: zulkarnaini\_amd@yahoo.com

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**Abstract**

This research was aimed to know the ability of the second years students' ability in writing simple sentence on various form of sentences, positive form (+), negative form (-), and interrogative form (?), The design of this reseach was descriptive. The number of sample in this research was 28 students. The researcher used cluster random sampling technique in taking the sample. In collecting the data, the researcher used writing sentence test. In this test the students are asked to make sentences. In analyzing the data based on the result of writing test, the researcher presented raw score, then calculated the students' scores, classified the students' ability into high, moderate and low ability. Finally, the reseacher counted the percentage of students who got high, moderate, and low ability in writing simple sentence. The result of this research showed that in general the ability of second year students of SMPN 19 Solok Selatan in writing simple present tense was moderate. It was proved that 21,43% students had high ability, 60,71% students had moderate ability, and 17,86% students had low ability. In positive sentence, Their ability was also moderate and it was proved that 25% students had high ability, 46,43% students had moderate ability and 28,57% students low ability. In negative sentence, their ability was moderate and it was proved that 14,29% students had high ability, 71,43% students had moderate ability, 14,29% students had low ability. In writing Interrogative sentence their ability was moderate and it was proved that 10,71% students had high ability, 82,14% students had moderate ability, 7,14% students had low ability. Based on the findings, it could be concluded that the ability of the second year students of SMPN 19 Solok Selatan in writing simple sentences using simple present tense was moderate. consequently, it is suggested to the English teachers to give students more exercises in order that the students' ability to write simple sentence using simple present tense can be improved.

**Key words: Ability, Writing, Simple Sentence Using Simple Present Tense.**

## **Introduction**

In Learning English as foreign language, the students are expected to master the four language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing in order to prepare them to face any changes and challenges in the global era. Writing is a kind of complex process especially for non native speakers because the writing activities are ranged from the transformation of thought into word using structure and coherent organization and need control for several variables like content, vocabulary, etc.

Based on the curriculum of English for Junior High School (KTSP), the teaching English for students is aimed at achieving the functional level namely the students are expected to be able to communicate in oral and written form. In oral communication they are expected to communicate orally with other people in certain appropriate manners according to the situation of the

discourse, while in written form they are also expected to be able to convey their ideas or messages through word by word, sentences to sentences until short paragraph.

In this curriculum, the learners are also expected to be able to produce sentences. To achieve this purpose, it is necessary for the students to know the strategies in teaching sentences in order to produce the sentences well. However, in fact the researcher found some problems in teaching writing at the second grade of SMPN 19 Solok Selatan. The students often complain when the teacher asked them to write sentences. They thought that writing is a complicated skill. If they are given a writing test or assignment, most of them had got confused of choosing words, organizing their ideas, developing the topic, and arranging the words in grammatical sentences. As result they are not interested in writing. They thought that it is a hard task for them. However, as far as the writer knows, there is no research that

studied about the student's ability in writing simple sentences at SMPN 19 Solok Selatan.

Based on the above explanation, the researcher was interested in conducting a research entitled: "An Analysis of the second Grade students' ability in writing simple present tense at SMPN 19 Solok Selatan".

Writing skill covers writing sentences and paragraph. There are some problems that can be identified from the students. Most of the students have lack of knowledge on the use of grammatical rules especially in writing word into sentences. Besides the students have lacks of vocabulary, As a result it is difficult for them to write sentences.

Sentences can be classified into positive sentences, negative sentences, and question form. Each form of sentence has different pattern in term of placing Subject and predicate. Sentences can be also categorized into simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences,

and compound complex sentences. Present Tense can be categorized into simple present tense, present continuous, present perfect, present perfect continuous tense. Questions can be divided into yes no question and information question. In writing sentences there are some aspects to that should be considered. They are subject, verb, and also punctuation.

Based on identification of problem above, the researcher limited his study on the students' ability writing in simple sentences using simple present tense. From various forms of sentences, he focused on positive form (+), negative form (-), and interrogative form (?). The aspects of sentence evaluated are subject, verb, subject agreement, and mechanics (punctuation), capitalization, and spelling

In general the purpose of the research was to describe the second year students' ability in writing simple sentence in simple present tense at SMP N 19 Solok

Selatan. Specifically, the purposes of the research were as the followings:

1. To describe the ability of the second grade students of SMP N 19 Solok Selatan to write positive sentence in simple present tense.
2. To describe the ability of the second grade students of SMP N 19 Solok Selatan to write negative sentence simple present tense.
3. To describe the ability of the second grade students of SMP N 19 Solok Selatan to write interrogative sentence in simple present tense.

### **Research Design**

This research used descriptive design. It describes the ability of students in writing sentences. According to Gay (1987:186), descriptive research involves collecting data to test hypothesis or to answer the questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study.

Based on definition above, it could be concluded that descriptive research is used to measure or describe the problem in the field in order to get fact or real information. So, the researcher used this descriptive research design to know the students' ability in writing sentences.

Population is the group to which the writer would like the result of study to be generalized (Gay, 1987:101-102). The population of this research was the second year students of SMP 19 Solok Selatan. The total number of population was 120 students; they were distributed into five classes: VIII<sub>1</sub>, VIII<sub>2</sub>, VIII<sub>3</sub>, VIII<sub>4</sub>, and each class had 30 students. The reason of the researcher chose the second year students of SMP 19 Solok Selatan, because they have studied simple present tense and simple sentence.

To conduct this study, the researcher used sample because of the large size of population. Sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study

in such a way that the individuals represent the larger group from which they are selected (Gay, 1987:101). A minimum size of sample for descriptive study is 10%. Therefore, the researcher used a sample as much as 20% out of population.

There are many sampling techniques that can be used to take sample but the researcher used cluster random sampling technique. Cluster sampling was used because the population was distributed in groups or classes while random sampling was used because population was homogen. The members of population were taught using the same curriculum, syllabus, and teaching materials and allocated time.

In the research, the researcher used writing sentence test as the instrument to collect the data. Here, the students were asked to write simple sentences using simple present tense sentences for each form. To do the test, the researcher asked the students to do the test in 60 minutes. The

researcher did try out of the test to the students out of the sample before giving the real test. The function of tryout was to see whether the time allocation was enough or not, and to see whether the students understood the instruction or not.

A good test should be valid and reliable. A test is valid if it measures what is supposed to be measured. In order to see the validity of the test, the researcher used content validity. Arikunto (2010:64) states that one of the characteristics of the test validity is content validity. It means that the test is valid if it fits with the materials that have been given to the students. Thus, the test was constructed based on syllabus and teaching materials used at SMP N 19 Solok Selatan

## Findings

### 1) The Students' Ability in Writing Simple Sentence.

The result of the test proved that the highest score was 127,5 and the lowest score

was 110. The result of mean was 116.61 and standard deviation was 4,66. The result of data analysis can be seen in table below .

The Score Range	Categories	Number of Students	The Percentage
> 88.81	High	4	14.29 %
75.59 until 88.81	Moderate	20	71.43 %
< 75.59	Low	4	14.29 %
Total		28	100 %

## 2) The Students' Ability in writing Positive Sentence

The result of the test proved that the highest score was 30 and the lowest score was 17.5. The result of mean was 39.28 and the standard deviation was 2.36. The result of data analysis can be seen in table below .

The Score Range	Categories	Number of Students	The Percentage
> 33.48	High	5	17.86 %
26.42 until 33.48	Moderate	18	64.29 %
< 26.42	Low	5	17.86 %
Total		28	100 %

## 3) The Students' Ability in Writing Negative Sentence

The result of the test proved that the highest score was 42,5 and the lowest score was 30. The result of the mean was 37,68 and the standard deviation was 3.18

result of data analysis can be seen in table below .

The Score Range	Categories	Number of Students	The Percentage
> 19.4	High	1	3.57 %
15.66 until 19.4	Moderate	25	89.29 %
< 15.66	Low	2	7.14 %
Total		28	100 %

## 4) The Students' Ability in Writing Interrogative Sentence.

The result of the test proved that the highest score of the students' ability in writing Interrogative sentence was 47,5 and the lowest was 35. The result of mean was 37,68 and standard deviation was 3,18. The result of data analysis can be seen in table below .

The Score Range	Categories	Number of Students	The Percentage
> 18.36	High	3	10.71 %
15.64 until 18.36	Moderate	20	71.43 %
< 15.64	Low	5	17.86 %
Total		28	100 %

## Discussions

Based on the result of the data analysis, the students' ability of the second year student at SMPN 19 Solok Selatan in writing simple sentences in Simple Present

Tense was moderate. It was indicated that the majority of the students got moderate ability and only a few of students got high ability.

#### **Students' Ability in Writing Simple Sentence**

As already discussed, another finding was that the ability of more than half in writing simple present tense of students 77, 8% was moderate ability. This means that many of students still had a problem in writing simple sentence in Simple Present Tense. Based on the students' sheet, the students did not understand what the Simple Sentence. In fact, some students still had error in using of be.

#### **Students' Ability in Writing Positive Sentence**

As already discussed, another finding was that the ability of more than half students in writing positive students was 75, 8% moderate. This means that many of

students still had a problem in writing positive sentence. Based on the students' sheet, the students did not understand what the positive sentence. In fact, some students still had error in using -s or -es the end of verb.

#### **Students' Ability in Writing Negative Sentence**

As already discussed, the next finding was that the ability of second grade students in writing simple present tense was moderate. This means that many students still had a problem in writing negative sentence. Based on the students' sheet, the students did not understand what the negative sentence. In fact, some students still had error in using -S or -es the end of verb.

#### **Students' Ability in Writing Interrogative Sentence**

The researcher also found that there were 71, 43% students had moderate ability in writing interrogative sentences. This

indicates that many students still had errors in writing the correct interrogative sentences.

### Conclusions and Suggestions

Based on the result of data analysis, the researcher concluded that ability of the second grade students of SMPN 19 Solok Selatan in writing simple sentence in simple present tense was moderate. It was supported by the result of the data analysis that 53,579/student got moderate ability in writing simple sentence in Simple Present Tense. In more specific; it could be concluded as follows.

1. The ability of the second grade students of SMPN 19 Solok Selatan in writing positive sentence in simple present tense was moderate. It was supported by the fact that 18 students (75%) got moderate ability.

2. The ability of the second grade students of SMPN 19 Solok Selatan in writing negative sentence in simple present tense was moderate. It was supported by the fact that 12 students (42,86%) got moderate ability.
3. The ability of the second grade students of SMPN 19 Solok Selatan in writing positive sentence in simple present tense was moderate. It was supported by the fact that 20 students (71,43%) got moderate ability.

Based on the conclusions, the researcher proposed some suggestions to the teacher, students, and further researcher as follows.

1. For the English teacher, they should give more clear explanation and exercises about writing positive, negative and Interrogative of simple sentences



in simple present tense, to the students to improve their ability to write simple sentence in simple present tense.

2. For the students, they must learn much about and do more writing exercises on simple sentence in simple present tense.

3. For the further researcher, the researcher suggests to study other relevant aspects in writing simple sentence in simple present tense, For example, the difficulties of the second year students at SMPN 19 Solok Selatan to write Simple Sentence Simple Present Tense.

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