

**THE CORRELATION BETWEEN STUDENTS' INTEREST AND THEIR ABILITY
IN BASIC TENSES MASTERY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS AT ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT IN BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY**

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to correlate between Students' Interest and Their Ability in Basic Tenses Mastery of The Second Year Students at English Department in Bung Hatta University. The hypothesis of this research was there is significant correlation between students' interest and their ability in basic tenses mastery of the second year students at English Department in Bung Hatta University. The design of this research was correlational research. The population members of this research were 52 of second year students at English Department in Bung Hatta University. In selecting the sample, the researcher used random sampling technique. The numbers of sample members were 30 students. The instruments used to get the data were the questionnaire of interest and grammar test on basic tenses. The researcher tried out the test to the students out of sample. The writer found the reliability of the grammar test by Alpha-Conbach method. It was found that the coefficient correlation was very high (.957). It means that the test was very reliable. Then, the researcher also found the questionnaire of interest test by using Alpha-Cronbach. It was found that the coefficient correlation was very high (.886). It means that the test was very reliable. The test was valid in terms of content validity. The result of the data analysis showed that the value r -calculated in this research was .796 with the level significant 95% ($\alpha.05$) and the degree of freedom (df) $n-2(28)$, the value of r -table was .361. It means that r -calculated (.796) was higher than r -table (28). Therefore, the relationship between two variables, students' interest and their ability in basic tenses mastery was significant. Then, the alternative hypothesis that said there is a significant correlation between students' interest and their ability in basic tenses mastery of the second year students at English Department in Bung Hatta University was accepted. It was categorized as having *strong* correlation, *significant* and *positive* correlation. It can be concluded that the students are good in basic tenses mastery, if they have good interest. Dealing with the conclusion of this research, the researcher has suggestion for the teacher. They should be able to facilitate the development of students' interest in teaching grammar.

Key Words : Interest, Basic Tenses.

A. Introduction

Learning is a process to get knowledge from reading and studying. According to Syah (2004:144), there are some factors that have influenced in learning process.

They are; (1) internal factors that consist of physiology and psychology of the students, (2) external factors that deal with condition surrounding the students, and (3) approach to learning that is strategy and

method used by students in learning process.

Interest is a part of psychology factor in learning process. Interest is related to movement which motivates someone to face or to be concerned with people, activity, things, experiences stimulated by that activity itself (Crow and Crow in Suardi:2013:8). Furthermore, Sawrey and Telford (1958) state interest can be considered as favorable attitudes towards objects. The students will get high achievement if they have good interest toward what they learn. According to Asgari (2013:1), the students must have positive feelings and attitudes in learning grammar. It means positive feeling is a part of interest of the student in learning.

Grammar is one of the most important aspects of language education which is needed in teaching and learning every skill of a language. According to Rodman (1988:13), grammar is the rules for making English sentences. Referring to the opinion above, grammar is the way to communicate easier. Without grammar, the students cannot understand what they say and they write. Because of grammar, the students will understand what they learn in English. In fact grammar is not easy for students to comprehend.

At English Department of Bung Hatta University, grammar is taught integrated with other language skills. However, the students at English Department do not seem to get good improvements in learning English including grammar. We cannot fully blame the lecturers' way of teaching because it also depends on how the students' interest toward the grammar. Furthermore, the students need a lot of practices for grammar. One of the grammar aspect is tenses. There are some kinds of tenses that have been learned by the students of English Department. For example simple past tense, simple present tense, simple future tense, present perfect tense, past perfect tense, past continuous tense, etc. All the tenses have to consider subject, verb form, and time signal. On the other hand, grammar needs the legal of rule to make good sequence sentences.

Unfortunately, based on informal interview that the researcher did with some English students of the second year students at Bung Hatta University on September 2014, it was found that there are some students who still had difficulties in comprehending basic tenses. They got difficulties to comprehend the basic tenses rule. Some students do not like to learn the grammar because they did not have good interest. It means that, interest has a big influence in comprehending basic tenses.

Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher was interested in conducting the study entitled The Correlation between Students' Interest and Their ability in basic tenses mastery of Second Year Students at English Department in Bung Hatta University.

There are some factors that influence students' interest. They are motivation, enthusiasm, attention, and expectation. The first is motivation; to make somebody wants to do something, especially something that involves hard work and effort (Oxford:2010). The second is enthusiasm; a strong feeling of excitement and interest in something and a desire to become involved in it (Mudjiono:2006:11). The third is attention; the act of listening to, looking at or thinking about something or somebody carefully (Oxford:2010). And the last is expectation; a belief that something will happen because it is likely (Oxford: 2010).

Language components consist of grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, etc. Grammar is the rules in a language for changing the form of words and joining them into sentences (Oxford:2010). Vocabulary is all the words that a person knows or uses. Pronunciation is the way in which a language or a particular word or sound is pronounced. Ability in basic

tenses mastery is the students' ability to master basic tenses.

Due to the broad scope of this study as already discussed above, the researcher limited the problem on the correlation between students' interest and their ability in basic tenses mastery of second year students of English Department in Bung Hatta University. The researcher limited this study of the second year students because they already have studied them. This research was focused on interest and simple past tense, simple present tense, and simple future tense as basic tenses.

The main purpose of this research was to describe the correlation between students' interest and their ability in basic tenses mastery of second year students of English Department in Bung Hatta University. It was aimed to describe whether the hypothesis is accepted or rejected.

B. Research Method

The design of this research was correlational research. According to Gay (2009:197), a correlational research involves collecting data in order to determine whether, and to what degree a relationship exists between two or more quantifiable variables.

In this research, the researcher tried to find out the degree of relationship between interest and ability in basic tenses mastery of the second year students of Bung Hatta University. There were two kinds of variables in this research. The first was the students' interest in learning basic tenses and it was considered as independent variable (variable X). The second variable is their ability in basic tenses mastery, it was considered as dependent variable (variable Y).

According to Gay (2009:124), population is the group of interest to the researcher, the group to which she or he would like the results of the study to be generalized. In addition, according to Arikunto (2002:108), population is all members of the research subjects.

In this research, population was the second year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University because they had mastered simple past tense, simple present tense, and simple future tense. The population of this research was divided into two classes.

The Total Number of Population

| Class | Total |
|-------|-------|
| A | 30 |
| B | 22 |
| Total | 52 |

The sample is only a part of population, and a good sample is representative of the population that will be selected. Sampling is the process of selecting a number of populations for a study in such a way that the individuals represent the large group from which they are selected (Gay, 2009:124). Furthermore, Gay (1987:231) states that 30 subjects are generally considered to be a minimally acceptable sample size in correlation study.

The research used random sampling technique to take sample. According to Gay (1987:110), random sampling is sampling technique in which individual is randomly selected. She chose this sampling technique because the population was homogeneous. It means that all members of population used the same material. There were two classes of second year students at English Department in Bung Hatta University. In choosing sample, the researcher wrote the number of registration students on small pieces of paper, put them into a box, shook them, and took out 30 papers from the box and 22 out of 52 students who were not selected as sample became the sample for try out.

The instruments of this research were test and questionnaire. The test was used to measure grammar (33 Items) ability of basic tenses text of the students, and the questionnaire (28 items) was used to measure students' interest.

To see the validity of the questionnaire, the researcher used content validity. The questionnaire was developed by some indicators dealing with interest {motivation in learning grammar (basic tenses), enthusiasm in learning grammar (basic tenses), attention toward the grammar material (basic tenses), and expectation learning grammar (basic tenses)}. The researcher allocated 10 minutes for the students to do the questionnaire. To avoid misunderstanding to the respondents; the researcher used Indonesian in writing the questionnaire. Another characteristic of good instrument is reliability. To find out the reliability index of the questionnaire, the researcher used *Alpha-Cronbach* by using SPSS program ver. 15 for windows. To know reliability index of questionnaire, she tried it out to the students out of sample.

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it out to the students out of sample (Class B). The result of reliability was .846. It means that questionnaire was very reliable. The researcher used the grammar test to find out the students' ability to comprehend simple past tense, simple present tense, and simple future tense. Before giving the test to the sample of this research, the researcher did to try it out to the students of out the sample (class A). The researcher tried out the test in order to make sure whether the students understand the instruction or not and whether the time allocation was enough or not. The test was constructed in the forms of multiple choice test and consists of 33 items.

The result of the try out test was used to find out the index of item difficulty, item discrimination and reliability of the test.

C. Findings and Discussions

Findings

The writer had two instruments to collect the data for two variables; questionnaire on students' interest and grammar test on basic tenses. Both instruments were given to 30 students chose as sample of this research. There were 28 items for students' interest and time allocation was 10 minutes. For grammar in basic tenses test, the researcher gave 33 items and time allocation was 33 minutes.

Based on the result of the tests, it was found that the lowest score for students' interest was 59 and the highest was 89. For grammar test, it was found that the lowest score was 9 and the highest score was 33.

The correlation between students' interest and their ability in basic tenses mastery of the second year students at English Department in Bung Hatta University, the researcher used SPSS ver. 15 for windows. From the data analysis, it was found the value of r between interest and ability in basic tenses mastery was .796.

Discussion

The result of testing hypothesis and the result of data analysis, there was significant correlation between interest and ability in in basic tenses mastery. It was found that the value of $r_{\text{calculated}}$ was .796 (see appendix 13). In relation to classification of correlation of two variables (interest and ability in basic tenses mastery) could be classified as strong. Relating to this, it could interpreted that an increasing grade in students' interest has relationship with an increasing grade in ability in basic tenses mastery. Syah (2004:114) states that interest is one of factor that influences learning process. Accordingly, the coefficient determination

of this study was 63,63%. It indicates interest gives as much as 63,36% toward basic tenses mastery of the second year students at English Department in Bung Hatta University.

In other word, 36.64 % of students' ability in basic tenses mastery is determined others factors such as condition surrounding the students or method and strategy in learning process.

D. Suggestions

1. The teachers should be able to facilitate the development of students' interest in teaching grammar.
2. The students should improve their interest, by having known and handling their motivation, enthusiasm, attention and expectation in learning grammar.
3. The next researchers are suggested to conduct other relevant to make their thesis perfectly

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