

An Analysis of the Third Year Students' Difficulties in Using Adverb Clauses in the Complex Sentences at English Department of Bung Hatta University

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Abstract

This research was designed to describe the difficulties of the third year students in using adverb clauses in the complex sentences at English Department of Bung Hatta University. The design of this research was descriptive research. The population of this research was the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University in academic year 2014/2015. Total number of population was 80 students and they were divided into three classes; class A, B, and C. The researcher used cluster random sampling technique in order to select the sample. The class selected was class B. After analyzing the data, the researcher found the students' difficulties in using adverb clauses had difficulties. In using adverb clauses, there were 7 students (41.18%) had no difficulties and 10 students (58.82%) had difficulties. In detail, there were 7 students (41.18%) had no difficulties and 10 students (58.82%) had difficulties in using adverb clause of time. And there were 7 students (41.18%) had no difficulties and 10 students (58.82%) had difficulties in using adverb clause of opposition. It can be concluded that the third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University had difficulties in using adverb clauses. Based on the conclusion, the English lecturers should review the material and give more exercises and explanations which focus on using adverb clause of time and adverb clause of opposition in order to lead the students' comprehension in this subject.

Key Words : Students' Difficulties, Adverb Clauses, Complex Sentences.

A. INTRODUCTION

In order to use English effectively, the students should pay attention to the four basic language skills namely, listening, speaking, reading and writing. Moreover, English also has language components; vocabulary, pronunciation and structure or grammar. According to Hornby (2000:586) grammar is the rules in a language for

changing the form of words and joining them into sentences. The purpose of it is that students should be able to use correct structure in written and oral form. In other words, the students should be able to construct complex a good sentence.

One of the types of sentences is complex sentence. Complex sentence is defined as group of words which contain of

two different clause and it is also composed by at least two predicates linked within a hierarchical complementing structure or conjoined in a non embedded structure (Sekali, 2012; 2). It is subordinated by which, who, what, whom, whose, while, that, when, while, after, before, since, if, where, although, though, and etc (Byrd and Benson, 2001:45).

Complex sentence can be used in the form of noun clause, adjective clause, and adverb clause. Noun clause is used as a subject or object. In other words, a noun clause is used in the same ways as a noun phrase. Adjective clause is a dependent clause that modifies noun. It describes, identifies or gives further information about noun. Adverb clause is a dependent clause that modifies the verb of sentences. According to Azar (1999:259) Adverb clause consists of four types; adverb clause of time, adverb clause of cause and effect, adverb clause of opposition and adverb clause of condition.

Adverb clause of time uses subordinating conjunction such as; *after, before, when, while, as, by the time, (that), whenever, since, until, as soon as, once, as long as*. Adverb clause of cause and effect consists of *because, since, now that, as/so long as, in as much as, so (that), in order that, due to the fact that, therefore, and consequently*. Adverb clause of opposition

consists of *even though, though, whereas, and while*. Adverb clause of condition consists of *if, unless, only if, whether or not, even if, providing (that), in case (that), in the event (that)*.

Based on the researcher's experience during studying structure, some students still had the problems, especially in complex sentences. It could be proved when the researcher saw her friends' exercises. They still did not understand complex sentences. When they wrote sentences using adverb clauses, it was difficult for them to understand the form of pattern, to remember the form, and to use appropriate adverb clause of opposition. Based on this phenomenon, the researcher expected that the students should understand about grammar and can construct the correct sentences.

Based on the reason above, the researcher interested in conducting a research about the third year students' difficulties in using adverb clause of time and adverb clause of opposition. The researcher chose these adverb clause because many mistakes were found in using adverb clause of time and adverb clause of opposition.

The main purpose of this study was to find the students' difficulties in using adverb clause in the complex sentences.

Specifically, the purposes of this research were as follows:

1. To find out the difficulties of the third year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University in using adverb clause of time in the complex sentences.
2. To find out the difficulties of the third year students of English Department at Bung Hatta University in using adverb clause of opposition in the complex sentences.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research was descriptive research. Gay and Airisian (2000:276) suggest that a descriptive research involve collecting data in order to answer questions concerning the current status of subject of research. In this research, the researcher described difficulties faced by the students in using adverb clause of time and adverb clause of opposition in the complex sentences.

population of this research was the third students of English Department at Bung Hatta University in academic year 2014/2015. They were chosen as population of the research because they had studied Structure I, II, III, IV and Advanced structure. The total number of population was 80 students. They were divided into 3 classes; class A, B, and C. The sample is chosen by using cluster random sampling.

In this research, the researcher used essay test to collect the data. The test was used to analyze students' difficulties in using adverb clause of time and adverb clause of opposition in the complex sentences. The researcher asked the students to write 10 complex sentences which used adverb clause of time with subordinating conjunction; after, when, before, since, until, while, whenever, as soon as, by the time, and the first time with appropriate tenses, and also 10 complex sentences which used adverb clause of opposite with subordinating conjunction; even though, although, though, whereas and while with appropriate tenses too.

In gathering the data, the researcher used procedures as follows :

1. The researcher gave the test to the sample of the research.
2. The researcher collected the test.
3. The researcher copied the students' sheet for the second scorer.
4. The researcher and the other scorer gave the score to the students' sheet based on the certain criteria.
5. The researcher calculated the average scores of two scorers.

In analyzing data, the researcher used the procedures as follows :

1. The researcher counted the total score for each student (see apendix 4).

- The researcher calculated Mean and Standar Deviation (SD)

To calculate Mean, the researcher used the following formula :

$$M = \frac{\sum x}{n}$$

To calculate Standar Deviation, the researcher used the following :

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

- The researcher classified the students' score based on the criteria as follows :

- Having no difficulties at all $> M + 1.5 SD$
- Having no difficulties $= M + 0.5 SD - < M + 1.5 SD$
- Having small difficulties $= M - 0.5 SD - < M + 0.5 SD$
- Having difficulties $= M - 1.5 SD - < M - 0.5 SD$
- Having big difficulties $< M - 1.5 SD$

- The researcher calculated the percentage of the number of students who have difficulties and have no difficulties.

C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the result of the data analysis, the researcher found that the students' scores in using adverb clauses. The lowest score in using adverb clause of time

and adverb clause of opposition was 40 and the highest score was 81 and the researcher got mean 67 and standard deviation was 13.

The findings above showed that students had difficulties in using adverb clause of time and adverb clause of opposition in the complex sentences. In fact, 7 out of 17 students (41,18%) had no difficulties and 10 out of 17 students (58,82%) had difficulties in using adverb clause of time and opposition (see appendix 4-7).

Having known the analyzing of the students' difficulties in using adverb clauses as general, the researcher analyzed students' difficulties in using adverb clause of time. The researcher found that students had difficulties in using adverb clause of time in the complex sentences.

The lowest score using adverb clause of time was 13 and the highest score was 41. The researcher found that the mean of the students' total score was 33.3 and the standard deviation was 7.52.

The findings above showed that students had difficulties in using adverb clause of time in the complex sentences. In fact, 7 out of 17 students (41.18%) had no difficulties and 10 out of 17 students (58.82%) had difficulties in using adverb clause of time (see appendix 10-11).

The result of analyzing data gathered from test which was given to the students, the researcher found that students had difficulties in using adverb clause of opposition in the complex sentences. The lowest score in using adverb clause of opposition in the complex sentences was 17 and the highest score was 44. The researcher found that the mean of the students' total scores was 33.7 and the standard deviation was 7.

The findings above showed that students had difficulties in using adverb clause of time in the complex sentences. In fact, 7 out of 17 students (41.18%) had no difficulties and 10 out of 17 students (58.82%) had difficulties in using adverb clause of opposition (see appendix 12-13).

DISCUSSION

Based on the findings the data, the third year students of English Department found difficulties in using adverb clauses. It was proved that 10 students (58.82%) had difficulties in using adverb clause of time and 10 students (58.82%) had difficulties in using adverb clause of opposition. The students still did not understand how to write complex sentences. They did not comprehend that complex sentences have to use dependent and independent clause. A few of them understood about complex sentences, but they did not understand about the appropriateness of tenses.

The researcher assumed that the difficulties may be caused by lack of understanding or mastering the subject about adverb clause and the basic rules to write complex sentences. Therefore, based on the fact above, the students need to improve their knowledge to use adverb clause of time and opposition in order to make good sentences.

D. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the result of the data analysis, the researcher concludes that generally, the researcher has three conclusions as follows:

- The third year students of English Department of FKIP Bung Hatta University has difficulties in using adverb clauses in the complex sentences. It was proved by the fact that 10 out of 17 students (58.82%) had difficulties.
- The third year students of English Department of FKIP Bung Hatta University has difficulties in using adverb clause of time in the complex sentences. It was proved by the fact that 10 out of 17 students (58.82%) had difficulties.
- The third year students of English Department of FKIP Bung Hatta University has difficulties in using adverb clauses of opposition in the

complex sentences. It was proved by the fact that 10 out of 17 students (58.82%) had difficulties.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the conclusions that have already discussed before, the researcher would like to propose several suggestions as follows:

- Based on the result of the study on the students' difficulties in using adverb clauses in the complex sentences, the English lecturers are expected to give more explanations and exercises and also give motivation for them.
- For students, they are suggested to do more practice about adverb clause of time and opposition.
- For the next researcher, the researcher suggest to find out what the causes or factors that made the students had difficulties in using adverb clauses in the complex sentences.

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