

# AN ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS' PROBLEMS IN WRITING SIMPLE SENTENCE USING FUTURE TENSE AT SMAN 6 PADANG

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## Abstract

The purpose of this research was to describe the first year students' problems in writing simple sentence using future tense at SMAN 6 Padang. Descriptive method was used as the design of this research. The population of this research was the first year students of SMAN 6 Padang 2014/2015 (270 students). The researcher used cluster random sampling to select the sample. The total number of sample was 27 students. The writer took class X9 (27 students) as the sample. The researcher used inter-rater method to make test reliable. The result of the test was reliable with coefficient correlation .99. It was categorized as very high correlation. The test was valid in term of content validity because it had covered all materials which students had learnt. Generally, the result of analyzing data showed that 15 students (55.5%) had problems and 12 students (44.5%) had no problems. Specifically, 7 students (25.9%) had problems and 20 students (74.1%) had no problems in writing simple affirmative in verbal sentence using will, 13 students (48.1%) had problems and 14 students (51.9%) had no problems in writing simple negative in verbal sentence using will, 14 students (51.8%) had problems and 13 students (48.2%) had no problems in writing simple interrogative in verbal sentence using will, 16 students (59.2%) had problems and 11 students (40.8%) had no problems in writing simple affirmative in verbal sentence using be going to, 18 students (66.6%) had problems and 9 students (33.4%) had no problems in writing simple negative in verbal sentence using be going to and 20 students (74.1%) had problems and 7 students (25.9%) had no problems in writing simple interrogative sentence using be going to. Based on the result, the researcher gives suggestions to the teachers to explain and give more exercise about the future tense. The students are suggested to study harder and learn more about the future tense especially in writing simple sentence using future tense.

**Key words:** Sentence, Future tense

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## Introduction

Indonesian government has decided English subject as the foreign language that should be taught as stipulated in the curriculum of every level of educations from junior high school until university level. In

learning English as a foreign language, there are four basic skills that have to be achieved, and one of them is writing skill. Writing is one of the important skills in English because writing is a media to convey ideas, thought and information in written form.

Writing becomes a tool for a communication and it is important to be included in teaching English. It means that the learners will express their own ideas to other people through writing process.

In addition, writing is the mental work of inventing ideas, thinking about how to express them, and organize them into statements, paragraphs or essays. Writing is an activity that is always evolving. It means that writing is not an easy subject in learning English. In addition, writing is the most complicated and difficult subject because the students have to master vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation.

According to Pardiyono (2007:22), sentence is classified into four types, and one of them is simple sentence. Simple sentence is basically an independent clause which contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. In addition, simple sentence is a part of writing that has a pattern. The pattern of sentence consists of subject, predicate and object. Subject is the part of sentence or clause that commonly indicates what it is about. It performs the action. Predicate is one of the two main parts of a sentence or clause, modifying the subject and including a verb, object, or phrases governed by the verb. Object is a

word or group of words, functioning as a noun or a pronoun that is influenced by a verb (direct object), a verbal (indirect object), or a preposition (object of a preposition).

In producing sentences students should consider about the tenses. There are sixteen tenses that should be mastered by the students at senior high school such as, simple present tense, simple past tense, future tense and etc. The simple future tense is used to show an activity that will happen or will be done in the future time (Cysso, 2000:21). As one of the English grammatical subject simple future tense is very important since it is used in daily communication and it is used to tell a plan in the future.

According to Haryono (2002: 238), there are two ways of talking about future. They are Will and Be going to. "Will" and "Be going to" are possible to use in expressing a prediction. But, when the speaker is expressing a prior plan only "be going to" is used. "Will" is used when the speaker wants to express promises and willingness.

The main purpose of this research is to describe the students' problems in writing simple sentence using future tense of the first year students of SMAN 6 Padang. The purposes of this research were as follow:

- (1) To find out whether the first year students' problems in writing simple affirmative sentences in verbal sentence using future tense in the form of will and be going to.
- (2) To find out whether the first year students' problems in writing simple negative sentences in verbal sentence using future tense in the form of will and be going to.
- (3) To find out whether the first year students' problems in writing simple interrogative (yes/no question) sentences in verbal sentence using future tense in the form of will and be going to.

### **Research Method**

Descriptive method was used as the design of this research. Gay (1987:189) states descriptive method involves collecting data in order to answer question concerning the current status of subject of the study. Descriptive research is a research that describes the condition to get the real information without experimental manipulation. Therefore, the researcher used this descriptive research design to know the problems in writing simple sentences using future tense had by the first year students of SMAN 6 Padang.

According to Gay (1987:102), population is a group which the researcher would like the result of the study to be generalized. The population of this research was the first year students of SMAN 6 Padang. The total number of the population members was 270 students. This is the distribution of the population shown in the Table 3.1 below.

**Table 3.1**  
**The population of the First Year Students of SMAN 6 Padang Academic Year 2014/2015**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Population</b>
X1	30
X2	30
X3	30
X4	30
X5	30
X6	30
X7	30
X8	30
X9	30
Total	270

*Source: SMAN 6 Padang*

Gay (1987:103) explains a sample is representative of the population from which is selected. The researcher used cluster random sampling as sampling technique. It was used because of some reasons. First, the population was distributed in groups or classes and all of populations have the same chance to be selected as sample in this research. Second, the students in nine classes have the same curriculum, teaching material,

allocation of time and the teacher. The last, the members of population in groups or classes are homogenous.

In selecting sample, the researcher used the following procedures. First, he used nine small pieces of paper and wrote the name of each class X 1, X 2, X 3, X 4, X 5, X 6, X 7, X 8 and X 9 on them. Then, he rolled them up and put them into the box. And then, shook the box. After that, he took out one piece of paper. The selected the class is X9. It means that the students in class X9 were the sample of this research. They were 30 students in this class, but three students were absent. So, the number of sample was 27 students.

### **Instrumentation**

In this research, the researcher used writing test as the instrument to collect the data. The materials of the test were made by researcher using internet and English text book as the references.

A good test should be valid and reliable. Validity is the degree of a test measures what is supposed to be measured (Gay 1987:128). In order to see the validity of the test, the researcher used content validity. Gay (1987:129) states that one of the types of validity is content validity. It

means that the test is valid if it fixes with the materials that have been given to the students. In other words, to have a valid test the researcher constructed the test based on curriculum, and teaching materials then he consulted with English teacher of SMA N 6 Padang.

Reliability is the degree to which a test consistently measures whatever it measures (Gay, 1987:135). To find out the reliability of the test, the researcher used inter-rater technique. It means that there were two assessors (assessor 1 and assessor 2) to check student's writing. This technique was used to minimize the subjectivity in scoring. The researcher became the first assessor and the researcher chose Okta Priyaldi, as the second assessor because he has a good skill in writing and grammar subject, indicated by the grade of B+ for both subjects. The researcher found the correlation coefficient by using Pearson Product Moment formula as suggested by Arikunto (2012:87) as follows:

$$r_{xy} = \frac{n\sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{\{(n\sum x^2) - (\sum x)^2\} \{(n\sum y^2) - (\sum y)^2\}}}$$

Where:

$r_{xy}$  = the coefficient correlation between  
variable X and variable Y

$x$  = the total number of problems identify  
by assessor 1

$y$  = the total number of problems identify  
by assessor 2

$\sum x$  = the sum of x

$\sum y$  = the sum of y

$n$  = the total number of the students who  
follow the test

$\sum xy$  = the total scores of cross product XY

The researcher uses the degree of coefficient correlation based on Arikunto's idea (2012:89):

0.81-1.00 = very high correlation

0.61-0.80 = high correlation

0.41-0.60 = moderate correlation

0.00-0.20 = low correlation

0.00-0.20 = very low correlation

After calculating it, the researcher found out that the degree of the coefficient of the test was 0.99. It means that was reliable, so that it can be used as instrument for collecting the data of this study.

## **Findings and Discussion**

### **Findings**

#### **Students' Problems in Writing Simple Sentence Using Future Tense**

Based on the result of data analysis, the students were said to have problems in writing simple sentence when there were more than 50% students had problems. In general, the students had problems in writing simple sentence using Future tense in the form of "will" and "be going to". It was supported by the fact that 15 students (55.5%) had problems in writing simple sentence and 12 students (44.5%) had no problems.

#### **Students' Problems in Writing Affirmative Sentence Using Future Tense Using "will" and "be going to"**

The result of data analysis demonstrated that most students had no problems in writing simple sentence in affirmative sentence using "will" and the students had problem using "be going to". It was supported by the fact that 20 students (74.1%) had no problems and 7 students (25.9%) had problem using "will". The students had problems in writing affirmative sentence using be going to. It was supported by the fact that 16 students (59.2%) had problems and 11 students (40.8%) had no problem.

### **Students' Problems in Writing Negative Sentence Using Future Tense Using "will" and "be going to"**

The result of data analysis demonstrated that most students had no problems in writing negative sentence using "will" and the students had problems using "be going to". It was supported by the fact that 13 students (48.1%) had problems and 14 students (51.9%) had no problems using "will". Then, students had problems in writing negative sentence using be going to. It was supported by the fact that 18 students (66.6%) had problems and 9 students (33.4%) had no problem.

### **Students' Problems in Writing Interrogative Sentence Using Future Tense Using "will" and "be going to"**

The result of data analysis demonstrated that most students had problems in writing interrogative sentence using "will" and "be going to". It was supported by the fact that 14 students' (51.8%) had problems and 13 students (48.2%) had no problem using "will". Then, the students had problems in writing interrogative sentence (yes/no question) using "be going to". It was supported by the fact that 20 students (74.1%) had problems and 7 students (25.9%) had no problem.

### **Discussions**

#### **Students' Problems in Writing Affirmative Sentence Using Future Tense in the Form of "will" and "be going to"**

The finding of this study indicated that most students had no problem in using "will" in affirmative sentence using future tense. It means that some students still had problem in using "will" in writing sentence using future tense. The form of making future tense using "will" is (S + Will + V 1). The researcher found that the students do not use V 1 after "will". It also indicated that many students made mistakes when they are writing simple sentence using future tense. The students also had problem using "be going to" in affirmative sentence using future tense. The form of making future tense in using "be going to" is (S + be going to + V 1). The researcher found that the students used incorrect "be" in "be going to". It happened, because the students did not understand the use of future tense. Here are the examples of students' problems in writing affirmative sentence using "will" and "be going to":

#### a. "Will"

Students Sentence:

- We will learning how to describe a place.
- They will are study

Correct Sentences:

- We will learn how to describe a place.
- They will study

b. "Be Going To"

Students Sentence:

- Tomy be going to Jakarta next year.
- We is going to go to Bali next month

Correct Sentence:

- Tomy is going to go to Jakarta next year.
- We are going to go to Bali next month.

**Students' Problems in Writing Negative Sentence Using Future Tense in the Form of "will" and "be going to"**

Based on the result of data analysis, the researcher found that most of students had problem in writing negative sentences using future tense in the form of "will". It means that some students still had problem in using "will" in writing simple sentence using future tense. The form of making future tense using "will" is (S + Will + Not +V 1). The researcher found that the students did not put "not" before verb 1 and did not use verb 1 after "not" in future tense using "will". The students also had problem in writing negative sentence using future

tense in the form of "be going to". The form of making future tense using "be going to" is (s + to be + not + going to +V 1). They still made mistakes in writing negative sentence using future tense. The students did not use correct "be" after subject and did not use verb 1 after "be going to" in writing simple sentence using future tense. The researcher found that a few students were not correct in making simple sentence using future tense in the form of "will" and "be going to", because they did not understand about future tense. To make sure, here are some example of students' writing simple sentence using future tense:

a. "will"

Students Sentence:

- I will not loving you.
- Shinta will not going to go to school.

Correct Sentence :

- I will not love you.
- Shinta will not go to school.

b. "be going to"

Students Sentence:

- She is going to not library.
- She is not be going to Bandung next week.

Correct Sentence:

- She is not going to go library.
- She is not going to go to Bandung next week.

### **Students' Problems in Writing Interrogative Sentence Using Future Tense in the Form of "will" and "be going to"**

Another finding of this study was that the students had serious problems in writing interrogative (yes/no question) sentence using "will" and "be going to". Below are examples of students' problem in writing yes/no question sentence in future tense:

#### a. "will"

Student Sentence :

- Will I eating tonight?
- Will I beautiful today?

Correct Sentence :

- Will I eat tonight?
- Will I go to Jakarta next week?

#### b. "be going to"

Students Sentence :

- Are Farid going to his grandmother home?
- Are I going to go to swimming?

Correct Sentence :

- Is Farid going to go to grandmother home?
- Am I going to go to swimming?

## **Conclusions and Suggestions**

### **Conclusions**

1. Generally, the students had problems in writing simple sentence using future tense. It was supported by the fact that 15 students (55.5%) had problems and 12 students (44.5%) had no problems.
2. The students had no problems in writing affirmative sentence using will. It was supported by the fact that 20 students (74.1%) had no problems and 7 students (25.9%) had problems. On the other hand, the students had problems in writing affirmative sentence using "be going to". It was proved by the fact that 16 students (59.2%) had problems and 11 students (40.8%) students had no problem.
3. The students had no problems in writing negative sentence using "will". It was supported by the fact that 14 students (51.9%) had no problem and 13 students (48.1%) had problems. However, students had problems in writing negative sentence using "be going to". It was indicated that 18 students (66.6%) had problem and 9 students (33.4%) had no problem in

writing simple negative sentence using future tense.

4. The students had more problems in writing interrogative sentence in using “will” and “be going to”. It was supported by the fact that 14 students (51.8%) had problems and 13 students (48.2%) had no problems in using “will” and 20 students (74.1%) had problem and 7 students (25.9%) had no problem using “be going to” in writing simple sentence using future tense.

## **Suggestions**

### **A. For the Teacher**

- In general, since the students have problem in writing simple sentence using future tense, the writer suggested to the teacher to give more exercise to students in writing simple sentence using future tense.
- The teacher is suggested to pay attention to the students’ problems in using future tense especially, “be going to”. The teacher should give more explanation and give various exercises about “be going to”. Because students had problems in using “be going to” in affirmative, negative, and interrogative sentence.
- Since students had problems in writing future tense in interrogative sentence, the

teacher should ask students to write more interrogative sentence in future tense.

### **B. For the Students**

1. For the students who had problem in writing simple sentence in simple future tense, they should pay more attention when the teacher explains about the lessons and do more exercise.
2. For the students who had no problem in writing simple sentence using future tense, they should improve their ability and it will be good if the students increase their ability in writing especially in using future tense

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