

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS' ABILITY IN WRITING SIMPLE SENTENCE BY USING TO-INFINITIVE AND BARE INFINITIVE AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY**

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**Abstract**

This research was aimed to describe the first year students' ability of Bung Hatta University in writing simple sentence by using to-infinitive and bare infinitive. The design of this research was descriptive. The number of members of population of this research was 57. The researcher used cluster random sampling in taking the sample. The researcher took 29 students as sample by using random sampling technique. In this research, the researcher gathered the data by using writing test to measure the first year students' ability in writing simple sentence by using to-infinitive and bare infinitive. The researcher concluded that the ability of first year students at Bung Hatta University in writing simple sentence by using to infinitive and bare infinitive was moderate. It is supported by the result of the data analysis that there were 19 students (70, 37%) had moderate ability, 3 students (11, 11%) had high ability, and 5 students (18, 52 %) had low ability. The value of coefficient correlation the test was 0.98. The researcher showed students' ability in writing to-infinitive after adjective. The result of this calculation showed that 6 students (22.22 %) had high ability, 15 students (55.56 %) had moderate ability, and 6 students (22.22 %) had low ability. It means Students' ability in writing to-infinitive after adjective was moderate. The researcher also calculated students' ability in writing simple sentence by using bare infinitive after modal was moderate. The result of this calculation showed that 3 students (11.11 %) had high ability, 21 students (77.78 %) had moderate ability, and 3 students (11. 11%) had low ability. Based on the result found, it was found that students' ability was moderate in writing simple sentence by using to infinitive and bare Infinitive. The researcher suggests for the lecturer to give more explanations and exercises to write simple sentence by using to-infinitive and bare infinitive. Students should learn the components of to-infinitive and bare infinitive. And also do more practices in writing simple sentences.

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**Introduction**

English, as an international language, has developed rapidly. In Indonesia, it has been taught as one of the compulsory subjects from the first year of junior high school until university level. To master English as a foreign language, there are four skills that should be acquired

by the students. They are listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

As a skill in English, writing has become an indispensable skill for future life because it is required in various aspects such as science, technology, etc. Writing is an essential skill in language teaching besides listening, speaking and

reading. Writing is one of important ways to improve someone's general language skills in English. In other words, writing is useful in many purposes. In writing, grammar is one of the aspects that should be considered. Grammar is a study of the structure and features of language. Scotts (1999:4) adds grammar is a process for making speaker's or writer's meaning clear when contextual information is lacking. Grammar usually consists of rules that are to be followed to produce acceptable writing and speaking. Stephen (2006:14) state that grammar could be picked up through simply communicating by exercise of reading, writing, and speaking. All of them belong to grammar. Batko (2004: 25) says that grammar refers to the fundamental principles and structure of the language, including clear and correct sentence construction and the proper forms of words.

From the statements above, a simple conclusion can be drawn that grammar is one of the important aspect in writing sentences. The students who want to write well should master grammar. On the other hand, without considering grammar the students cannot write a good sentence.

Infinitive is a subtopic in grammar subject. Infinitive may be used as a subject, object, predicate, attribute, adverb and complement in sentences. Infinitive is

divided into two kinds. They are to-infinitive and bare infinitive. To infinitive is a verb that must be followed with *to* and bare infinitive is verb which must not be followed with *to*.

There are some difficulties faced by students in using to-infinitive and bare infinitive in the sentence. They do not know about the form of to-infinitive and bare infinitive. That is why they should know the form and the function both of them and kind of infinitive. Based on the case above, the writer wants to find the student's ability in writing infinitive in simple sentence correctly, especially about using *to*-infinitive after adjective and bare infinitive after modal in simple sentence. In addition, the researcher wants to prove it scientifically. So, the researcher is interested in doing a research on students' ability in writing simple sentence by using to-infinitive after and bare infinitive. To-infinitive and bare infinitive have been studied by students at English Department. They should be able to write simple sentences by using infinitive. This research was intended to know the students' ability in writing simple sentence by using to-infinitive and bare infinitive. it could give some benefits, as follows:

1. For English teacher

The result of this research would give information to the lecturer about the students' ability in writing simple sentence

by using to-infinitive and bare infinitive. It was expected that the result of the study could be considered as input for English teacher in teaching the student about grammar comprehension.

## 2. For students

The result of this research would give students information about how their ability in writing simple sentence by using to-infinitive and bare infinitive.

### **Research Method**

This research was a descriptive research. According to Gay (1987: 10) states that descriptive research involves collecting data in order to test hypothesis or answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study.

The researcher tried to find out the degree of the students ability English department of Bung Hatta University

Population is the group of interest to the research, the group to which she or he would like the results of the study to be generalized (Gay, 1987: 102). The population of this study was the first year students of Bung Hatta University. The total members of population were 57 students. The researcher chose this population to be investigated because they had learning the infinitive

The members of population had two classes (class A and class B) and had 57 students. According to Gay (1987: 103),

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 the researcher took sample.

In this research, the researcher used cluster random sampling technique. According to Gay (1987:104), Cluster random sampling is a sampling technique in which the sample in group is randomly selected, and all members of selecting group had similar characteristics.

The researcher chose the sample randomly because they had the same syllabus, teaching materials, time allocation, and teacher. In taking a sample the researcher wrote the name of the students on small papers and put them in a box. Then the researcher mixed them and took out 2 pieces of paper. The class whose names were in the selected papers became the sample of this research.

To collect the data of this research, the researcher used writing test to find out the students' ability in writing simple sentence by using to-infinitive and bare infinitive.

The aspect of writing test that would be the test such as: grammar, mechanic, and vocabulary. The test consisted of 20 items and time allocation was 45 minutes..

To determine the validity of the test, the researcher analyzed content validity. A

good test must be valid and reliable. Arikunto (2012: 80) states that one of the type validity is content validity. It means that the researcher constructed the test based on the curriculum, syllabus and teaching materials.

For this reasons, constructing the tests were based on curriculum, syllabus, teaching materials that was used and they would be consulted with lecturer at English Department.

To calculate the coefficient correlation between the scores of odd and even items, the researcher used Pearson Product Moment formula as the following (Arikunto, 2002:243)

The result of calculation coefficient correlation of students ability in writing to-infinitive and bare infinitive test was 0.98 (see Appendix 4), and it was categorized as very high correlation. It means that the test was reliable.

After giving the test, the researcher collected the data. The function of collecting the data was to determine the result of the research. The researcher did the following procedures:

1. The researcher copied the entire students' answer sheet. The original one is for the first scorer and the other one is for the second scorer.

2. The researcher gave criteria for giving score to the second scorer.
3. The first and second scorer read the answer sheet.
4. The first and second scorer gave scores based the following criteria.

In analyzing data, the researcher analyzed the data as the following steps:

1. The researcher presented the raw score from two scorers (see appendix 3, 9, and 15.)
2. The researcher counted the average score of two scorers by using the formula;

$$\frac{\text{Score 1} + \text{score 2}}{2}$$

3. The researcher calculated the Mean (M) and Standard Deviation (SD)
4. The researcher classified the students' ability into high, moderate, and low ability using the following categories
5. The researcher calculated the number and the percentage of the students who get high, moderate, and low ability, by using the follow the formula:

$$P = \frac{R}{T} \times 100\%$$

## **Finding and Discussion**

The result of the data analysis showed that the highest score was 96.6 and the lowest score was 47.4 (see appendix 2). Then, the researcher calculated the mean and standard deviation. The mean was 80.95 and standard deviation was 11.76. (see Appendix 3 and 4). The result showed that students' ability in writing simple sentence by using to-infinitive and bare infinitive. It can be seen that 3 students (11.11 %) had high ability, 19 students (70.37 %) had moderate ability and 5 students (18.52 %) had low ability (see Appendix 4).

## **Conclusions**

Based on the result of data analysis, the researcher concluded that the ability of first year students at Bung Hatta University in writing simple sentence by using to infinitive and bare infinitive was moderate. It is supported by the result of the data analysis that there were 19 students (70, 37%) had moderate ability, 3 students (11, 11%) had high ability, and 5 students (18, 52 %) had low ability. In more particular, the researcher drew some conclusion as follows:

1. The ability of the first year students at Bung Hatta University in writing simple sentence by using to infinitive after adjective was moderate, It is supported by the

fact that there were 15 students (55.56%) got moderate ability, 6 students (22.22%) got high ability, and there were only 6 students (22.22%) got low ability.

2. The ability of the first year students at Bung Hatta University in writing simple sentence by using bare infinitive after modal was moderate. It was supported by the fact that there were 21 students (77.78%) got moderate ability, 3 students (11.11%) got high ability, and there were only 3 students (11.11%) got low ability.

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