



AN ANALYSIS STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING PAST TENSE OF TENTH GRADE AT SMK SWASTA MULIA PRATAMA MEDAN

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the researcher is to know the students' ability in use simple past tense of Tenth Grade at SMK Swasta Mulia Pratama Medan. The method of this research is a case study in the form qualitative research method. The total samples of this research are 24 students. The researcher analyzed the data by multiple choice test. The result show that the mean score of students 27,95. The students were belonged into weak category gained by 12 student (50%). The other students were belonged into very good category gained 2 students (8%). The other students were belonged category fair 3 students (12%). 7 students (30%) who belonged to poor category. The students still do not understand and confuse about simple past tense, but some of them can able to answer the test very well because they are more learn and already know about past tense. And some of them could not able to answer the test is because they really do not know about simple past tense.

Keyword: Simple Past Tense, Students' ability, tense

INTRODUCTION

In addition grammar is important, especially when the learners communicate with other. Moreover by mastering English grammar, the learner will know how to transfers and receive a message either in written or spoken language without misunderstanding. When English learners hear the world about grammar, they directly relate it to the study of tenses. The reason is because tenses are the basic of grammatical study in English.

Simple past tense is a sentence tense that is used to express events that occurred in the past and have past and have ended in the past. According As Jimmy (2009) states that the past tense with the use of verb and time signal is one of the problems in tenses.



Sometimes the students place verb and time signal past tense in present tense question. According Pinter (2011) simple past tense is quite difficult to be mastered by young learners because of the usage of the irregular verb in its sentences. The students have difficulty in learning simple past tense since it also has the rule of the changing of verb. This is because the students fail to understand the functions of tenses. For that reason, the teachers need a good method.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

Tenses is a form of verb in English to indicate the time (present, future, or past) of an action or event it is change in verb form to express an event that is closely related to the time of the event. Broadly speaking, tenses can be divided into two parts, namely: past (past), present (present) but in general can be divided into three parts, namely: past (past), present (present), future (future)

Past tense is a simple form of verb functioning to be able to show an event that happened in the past (past), which has ended and has nothing to do with the present. The time of the event or also the time period can be specified.

This past can be a long time ago, a few years ago, a few months ago, a few weeks, days, or also a few hours ago. Simple past tense is formed from the word verb 2 (past tense) or linking verb (a verb that connects a subject with information or a description of the subject) in the form of to be namely were and was. The second verb form can be divided into two, namely the regular form and irregular form.

Past forms are used to talk about events, actions, or situations that occur in the past. In learning past tenses, students must deal with three forms of verbs; verbs I, verb II and verbs III. Students must memorize many verb and both other forms when dealing with complicated formulas of the sentence structure of the past. The form sometimes causes a large number of difficulties for students. Although the fact that students have been taught about past forms since grade one middle school but many of them still don't know how to use past tenses properly some. The sample students of this research are 24



students of Tenth Grade at SMK Swasta Mulia Pratama Medan which has been questioned by researchers is still finding it difficult to use simple past.

The aim of the researcher is to know the students' ability in use simple past tense. And the problem of this researcher are How the students ability to answer the test about simple past? and How extent of students' ability to use past tense?

The researcher has previously been carried out by Suhartina (2017) with title of research *An Analysis On Students Ability In Using Past Tense at Second Grade SMP NEGERI 4 BATANGHARI* which uses quantitative research method, the research of consist of 47 students.

The researcher decides to conduct research on the ability of students to use the past. Tense because this field of study is very interesting because it is very important learn a language. So this kind of research will always be useful and actual. Based on the above situation the researcher conducted a study entitled *An Analysis Students' in Using Past Tense of Tenth Grade at SMK Swasta Mulia Pratama Medan*.

METHOD

This research was to know the students' ability in use simple past tense. In conducting this research, the method of this research is a case study in the form qualitative research method. According Moleong (2006:3) states the descriptive qualitative method is a procedure that generates the data in the form of descriptive words in written or spoken from people and observed behavior.

The research conducted at SMK Swasta MULIA PRATAMA, Jl. Jahe Raya No.1, Mangga, Kec. Medan Tuntungan, kota Medan Sumatera Utara consist 24 students. The researcher used some technique to collect the data by observation and gave the multiple choice test about simple past tense. Firstly, the researchers do observations the school to know the conditions of the classroom. The last the researcher gave the multiple choice test to every students to know ability of students about simple past tense.



The technique that researcher used to analyze the data are: First, the researcher did observation to the school to know the conditions of the classroom. Second, after that the researcher explains about the tenses especially about simple past tense to the students.

Third, after the researcher knew the conditions of the class and explains about the topic, the researcher gives the multiple choice test.

Fourth, after the students done all of the questions that researcher give to them, the researcher collect the test and analyzed the data based on the answers test and put the data into percentage.

The formula of percentage:

$$N = \frac{X}{Y} \times 100$$

N= Scores Of Each Student
X= Number Of Correct Answers
Y= Number Of Items

Table 1.1
Criteria of correct result percentage

The Interval Of Percentage Of Ability Degree	Categories
85-100	Very good
75-84	Good
60-74	Fair
40-59	Weak
0-39	Poor

FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the research, the researcher found these data by analyzed the students ability by give the test to students after explain them about the past tense tenses. In the research, the researcher act as a teacher. Teaching and explain about past tense, teacher



asking the students if there were any students who knew what past tense is. Then the teacher stimulates students by giving questions about descriptive text. Then the teacher explains in detail the meaning, generic structure, characteristics, and gives several examples of past tense.

Table 1.2
Frequency of students' Ability in the simple past tense

No	Number of correct answer	Number of incorrect answer	Score gained	Number of student
1	36	4	90	1
2	34	6	85	1
3	26	14	65	1
4	24	16	60	2
5	23	17	58	3
6	22	18	55	3
7	21	19	53	3
8	19	21	48	1
9	17	23	43	2
10	14	26	35	2
11	12	28	30	1
12	11	29	28	2
13	5	35	13	1
14	3	37	8	1
Total (score gained X number of student)			671	24
Average				27.95
Highest score				90
Lowest score				8



Based on the table 1.2, the researcher get the English score from the test students' ability in using past tenses. The average score is 27.95% , the highest score is 90 with the total of correct answer 36 was gained by 1 student, and the lowest score with 8 score was gained by 1 students. To know the average score of the students' ability in SMK MULIA PRATAMA MEDAN , the researcher used formula:

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{\sum x}{N}$$

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{671}{24}$$

$$\text{Mean} = 27.95$$

After counting the mean result of the student's scores, the researcher count the student's score into percentage by using the formula

$$X = \frac{\sum x}{N \times 100} (100\%)$$

$$X = \frac{671}{24 \times 100} (100\%)$$

$$X = 27.95\%$$

Based on the percentage of ability degree by the tenth grade students of SMK Mulia Pratama Medan got 27.95%, so the ability of tenth grade students of SMK Mulia Pratama Medan is weak. The following table shows the percentage of students' score and categories based on the student's score.



Table 1.3
Classification of student score.

No	Score range	Classification	Number of student	Percentage
1	85-100	Very good	2	8%
2	75-84	Good	0	0%
3	60-74	Fair	3	12%
4	40-59	Weak	12	50%
5	0-39	Poor	7	30%
	Score		24	100%

Based on the table 1.3, it can be seen that from 24 students, 12 students were categorized weak. From 24 students, only 2 student were categorized very good, 0 students were categorized good, 3 students were categorized fair and the other 7 students belonged to poor categories. From those result, it can be conclude that tenth grade students of SMK SWASTA MULIA PRATAMA MEDAN has no comprehended Past Tenses quite well.

DISCUSSION

After the researcher done, the researcher found that the students' ability in using past tense at the tenth of SMK SWASTA MULIA PRATAMA MEDAN can used and



answer the test that the researcher give to them about past tense. Table 1.3 state that the students were belonged into weak category gained by 12 student (50%). The other students were belonged into very good category gained 2 students (8%). The other students were belonged category fair 3 students (12%). 7 students (30%) who belonged to poor category. After the researcher analyzed the students' ability in using past tenses, the researcher counted the total of correct answer based on particular forms of past tense.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data the researcher find the students in SMK Swasta Mulia Pratama Medan still do not know and confuse about simple past tense. Two of the students can answer the test that researcher give very well. This is because that student wants to learn and already know about simple past tense. Three of the students answer the test is fair. This is because they still do not know to make difference of tense. Twelve of the students answer the test is weak. This is because they do not understand and just answer randomly the test that researcher give. And the last seven of the students answer the test is poor. This is because they do not know about simple past tense obviously.

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