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THE CORRELATION BETWEEN STUDENTS' COMPETENCE OF PAST TENSE AND THEIR ABILITY IN EXPRESSING PAST ACTIVITIES IN WRITING ENGLISH AT THE SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF *MTs N CILEDUG CIREBON*

A THESIS

Submitted to the English Education Department of
Faculty of Education
State Institute for Islamic Studies of Syekh Nurjati
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Islamic Scholar Degree
in English Education Department



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CIREBON**

2012



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ABSTRACT

Dewi Nurjannah : **"THE CORRELATION BETWEEN STUDENTS' COMPETENCE OF PAST TENSE AND THEIR ABILITY IN EXPRESSING PAST ACTIVITIES IN WRITING ENGLISH AT THE SEVENTH GRADE OF MTs N CILEDUG CIREBON."**

In my opinion's most students in Indonesia have problems in mastering grammar which can be considered complicated. In the skill of writing for instance, at least students have to master not only vocabulary but also grammar well. In this case, verb tenses have essentials role, because they tell readers when actions are taking place. Careful and accurate use of tenses is important to clear writing. For instance, if the verbs in a passage refer to actions occurring at past actions, then the past tense is definitely needed to be used.

Based on the 2006 English Curriculum (Depdiknas: 24), the standard of competence of English for Junior High School is spoken and written by using kinds of language which suitable fluently and accurately using common utterances in the daily life. The objective of the writing skill in this curriculum is students can express their daily life activities into a writing text. The indicator that shows students achieve the goal of the skill is they can produce a simple text in the notion of daily life context.

The method of the research is quantitative research. The sample of the research is 40 students. The instruments of collecting data are observation, interview and test. The technique of analysis data for correlation research by using the formula is product moment correlation by Pearson.

In MTs N ciledug English was good. And my research shows that the students' competence of past tense is sufficient with prove 6.68. And the students' ability in expressing past activities in writing english is sufficient with prove 6.07. The result of the correlation between the students' competence of past tense and their ability in expressing past activities in writing English is 0.51. Based on the value of "r" it can be categorized that there is enough or sufficient.

After the result analysis data of test, based on the value that has analyzed can be said that there is positive correlation between the students' competence of past tense and their ability in expressing past activities in writing english at the seventh grade. For the English teacher should better to motivate the students to use English all the time, especially in writing skill and tenses.



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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Problem

In order to be fluent English learners, the students have to master the four of English skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in the language learning processes. All these language skills are related to each other. In this relation, Alexander (1967: vii-viii) says that in order to be a skilled performer, the students must become proficient in using the units of a language. It means, they have to study about vocabulary, sound system and grammar.

The students must be trained adequately in all the four basic skills to make them easily practice and use the language. Although the learners have mastered the rules, they have not learned the correct distribution of rules yet. In fact, some students in Indonesia get some difficulties in learning English. They find many differences in grammar, sound system and culture concepts found in English but not in Indonesia. These differences can cause learning problems.

In my opinion most students in Indonesia have problems in mastering grammar which can be considered complicated. Grammar is essentials as the rules of wording to make meaningful utterances. In the skill of writing for instance, at least students have to master not only vocabulary but also grammar well. In this case, verb tenses have essentials role, because they tell readers when actions are taking place. Careful and accurate use of tenses is important to clear



writing. For instance, if the verbs in a passage refer to actions occurring at past actions, then the past tense is definitely needed to be used.

Simple past expresses completed actions in the past, but it can also be used to describe a habit which stopped in the past. It can have the same meaning as “used to”. To make it clear that we are talking about a habit we often use expressions such as always, often, usually, never,when I was a child ‘ or ‘when I was younger. In the sentences:

- I studied French when I was a child
- He played the Violin
- He always carried an umbrella
- She worked at the movie theater after school
- They never went to school, they always skipped
- We had a drive to town every week
- They never drank wine

Frequently adverbial phrases play an important role in describing habitual sentences in the past: they are the ones that signal a habitual sentence. Let us consider the following examples taken from Joana Stefanescu (1988:272)

“John got up at noon”

“John got up at noon everyday during his childhood”

In the first example “at noon” lead to reporting an event which took place in the past, while in the second example “at noon” in the part of the

frequency adverbial phrase “at noon everyday “which clearly indicates the repetition of the event of getting up.

In order to express repeated actions or states in the past various tenses are used, mainly past tense (accompanied by adverbs expressing frequency), but the verbal forms used (to) and would are also employed other forms, was/were in habit of + - ing and had the habit of + - ing, also convey the idea of past routine.

Meanwhile, Ronald F. Lunsford and Charles W. Bridges (1988:2) state Writing is a process of discovering and shaping meaning, implicit definition is that writing requires communicating that meaning to someone, whether this audience consist solely of the writer or is a group of someones beyond the writer the need to communicate is one of human kind's dominant traits, and writing well is one of the best way we can communicate with others. Both of Ronald and Charles defines that writing is stage in which the writer produces a rough draft of the paper (1988:7).

By writing we mean any of the many visual (non-gestural) systems for representing language, including handwriting, printing, and electronic displays of these written forms. It might be argued that today we have electronic means of recording sound and cameras to produce films and television, so writing is becoming absolute. If writing become extinct, however, there would be no knowledge of electronics for TV technicians to study; there would be in fact, little technology in years to come. There would be no film or TV scripts, no literature, no books, no mail, no newspapers. There would be some advantages –



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no bad novels, junk mail, poison- pen letters, or fine print’;but the losses would far outweigh the gains.

May be many thesis that title is same but every researcher certain have reason different for make this research important. The first, Most of student still get difficulty in using past tense even they have been learning it. They can not use it properly when they make a writing text, especially in expressing their past experience. The past tense they use is still poor. The second, writing is one of the English skills which is difficult to be mastered, students need to have an extra exercise to have a good writing. By constructing a text express their own past experience, hopefully it becomes very helpful for students to have a good skill in writing.

Based on my experience that the students ability in make writing text in the past. They still not understand about how the construction in good writing, and certain in the writing text in expressing past activities need tenses. So, I think this research is important for to know there are and how correlation between students competence of past tense and their ability in expressing past activities in writing English.

The benefit can we take from my research is especially for me as teacher, I know how I teach the material which considered between past tense with expressing past activities in writing. For the students, they can be know about past tense and how to expressing past activities in writing text. And for other,



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knowledge or science can we get from anywhere without except in my research or my thesis. Certain can be benefit for everyone that know or read my thesis.

In line with the background of this study, I am interested in knowing how well students mastery grammar especially in past tense and how well they use it to express their past activities in the form of writing.

Based on the problems, the writer would like to investigate how the ability of the seventh year of MTs N Ciledug on Mastery of past tense and Their Ability in expressing past activities in writing English. Is there any correlation between students' competence of past tense and their ability in expressing past activities in writing English? To answer the questions, the writer will try to formulate the thesis under the title ***“THE CORRELATION BETWEEN STUDENTS' COMPETENCE OF PAST TENSE AND THEIR ABILITY IN EXPRESSING PAST ACTIVITIES IN WRITING ENGLISH AT THE SEVENTH YEAR OF MTs N CILEDUG CIREBON”***.

B. Identification of the Problem

The problem in the research is classified into the following sections:

1. The Field of the Research

The field of the research of this thesis is writing

2. The Kinds of the Problem

The research approach of this thesis is quantitative approach

3. The Main Problem





The main problem of this thesis is to describe the students' competence in past tense, their ability in expressing past activities in writing English, the understanding of grammar, and the understanding about good writing construction.

C. The Limitation of the Problem

To limit the problem, the writer has divided it into three kinds of problem, they are the students' competence of past tense, the students ability in expressing past activities in writing English, and analyzing the data.

D. The Questions of the Research

1. How is the students' competence of past tense?
2. How is the students' ability in expressing past activities in writing English?
3. Is there any positive correlation between students' competence of past tense and their ability in expressing past activities in writing English?

E. The Aims of the Research

1. To know the students' competence of past tense
2. To know the students' ability in expressing past activities in writing English
3. To know the positive and significant correlation between the students' competence of past tense and their ability in expressing past activities in writing English

F. The Usefulness of the Research

The research product hoped to be able to increase the developing of language learning, especially in increasing the students' competence of past tense and their ability in expressing past activities in writing English.



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