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THE COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN THE STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF SIMPLE PAST TENSE WITH USING ENGLISH STORY AND ENGLISH SONG OF THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS AT *MTs HASANUDIN INDRAMAYU*

A THESIS

Submitted to the English Education Department of *Tarbiyah* Faculty of *Syekh Nurjati* Institute for Islamic Studies in partial fullfilment of the requirements for Islamic Scholar Degree in English Education Department (S.Pd.I)

Arranged By:

ANNESIA PUTRI MARETHA

Reg. Num. : 58430704

ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF *TARBIYAH* FACULTY OF *SYEKH NURJATI* STATE INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

CIREBON

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ABSTRACT

ANNESIA PUTRI MARETHA : "THE COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN THE STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF SIMPLE PAST TENSE WITH USING ENGLISH STORY AND ENGLISH SONG OF THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS AT *MTs HASANUDIN INDRAMAYU*"

Language plays an important role for people wherever they live to communicate one another. They use their own ethnic languages and national language in their daily life. Besides they need to master the international language such as English in order that they can communicate with people all over the world. And the more important thing is that English is supposed to be one of the school subjects which is given from the elementary schools up to the universities. It must be admitted that to learn English is not an easy thing, because English has so many rules of language of which confusing people especially, the students who learn it. In this case, the writer only discusses about one of the rules of language namely; tenses and especially, the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English story and English song. And finally, comparing those two learning strategies to find out the more effective and efficient learning strategy.

The aims of the research in writing this thesis are: to find out about the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English story, to find out about the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English song, and to find out if there is positive and significant comparison between the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English story and English song.

The method of the research in writing this thesis is quantitative approach. It means that the data which was obtained from the field of the research was then analyzed statistically used the formula of T-test.

The population of the research is all of the eighth grade students of *MTs Hasanudin Indramayu* namely, 166 students. The writer has taken the sample of the research just 25% out of the whole population, that is 42 students that has been taken at random from 5 classes, so she has taken 8 students from each class, except 2 classes were 9 students.

The average score of the students' knowledge or the students' achievement test of simple past tense with using English story is 7.52. The average score of the students' knowledge or the students' achievement test of simple past tense with using English song is 6.64. The result of *dsg* after comparing the result of the students' knowledge or the students' achievement test of simple past tense with using English story and English song is 1.05. The score of t_{count} is 8.89. The score of t_{table} is 7.31. So, t_{count} is bigger than t_{table}. If t_{count} is bigger than t_{table}, t_{count} is admitted and t_{table} is rejected. And it means that there is positive and significant comparison between the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English story and English song.

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RATIFICATION

The thesis entitled **"THE COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN THE STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF SIMPLE PAST TENSE WITH USING ENGLISH STORY AND ENGLISH SONG OF THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS AT *MTs HASANUDIN INDRAMAYU* "** written by **ANNESIA PUTRI MARETHA** whose registration number **58430704** has been examined in the viva voice held by the Tarbiyah Faculty of Syekh Nurjati State Institute for Islamic Studies on Thursday, 31st January 2013. It has been recognized as one of the requirements for undergraduate degree in English Education.

	Date	Signature
Chairwoman of English Education Department Dr. Hj. Huriyah Saleh, M. Pd NIP. 19610112 198903 2 005	11-02-2013	
Secretary of English Education Department Sumadi SS, M. Hum NIP. 19701005 200003 1 002	08-02-2013	
Examiner I Dr. Ilman Nafi'a, M. Ag NIP. 19721220 199803 01 00004	05-02-2013	
Examiner II Sumadi SS, M. Hum NIP. 19701005 200003 1 002	05-02-2013	
First Supervisor Drs. Sukenda, M. Ed NIP. 19470717 196701 1 001	07-02-2013	
Second Supervisor Tedi Rohadi, M.Pd., SE., Dipl. TEFL NIP. 19680309 200801 1 017	07-02-2013	

Acknowledgment,
The Dean of *Tarbiyah* Faculty,

Dr. Saefudin Zuhri, M. Ag.
NIP. 19710302 199803 1 002

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Problem

In this globalization era, people realize that communication is important. They use language to interact each other all over the world. Language is a medium or tool of communication used by people to interact and express what they want. So, they can call language as a tool of uniting a nation, besides it is also used as a tool of communication. People have been given language acquisition by God in order to be able to communicate between or among them all over the world. Language is also a tool to get all kinds of knowledge and science available all over the world.

Considering that language is important, people have to be able to use language in order to be able to communicate with the other people. Everybody will have a language naturally. Language is supposed to be the inner capacity or a reward from God since the first human beings namely, Adam and Eva. Of course, they used a language so that both of them could communicate each other. As a matter of fact, until now there is nobody knows what language they used. But, they absolutely used a language as the only tool of communication in order to be able to communicate one another.

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The writer is of the opinion that language is the meaningful sounds produced by the organs of speech such as, tongue, lips, mouth, throat, and so on to express everything available in someone's mind and feeling to someone else. Then, those sounds are in the forms of words, phrases, and sentences that in reality can be presented both orally and written.

> According to Compact Dictionary of Canadian English (1976: 382), language is n.1 all of the system by which human beings combine sounds into meaningful units, such as words, to convey ideas and feelings. 2 any such system that is or has been used by a group of people: the French language. 3 the words, phrases, etc. peculiar to special fields of knowledge or activity; terminology: technical language. 4 anyway or means of communicating: the language of animals. 5 any style of verbal expression: diction: simple language.
>
> According to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (1990: 66), language is 1 *sistem lambang bunyi berartikulasi (yang dihasilkan alat-alat ucap) yang bersifat sewenang-wenang dan konvensional yang dipakai sebagai alat komunikasi untuk melahirkan perasaan dan pemikiran;* 2 *perkataan-perkataan yang dipakai oleh suatu bangsa (suku bangsa, Negara, daerah, dsb); -Perancis; -Bali; -Toraja;* 3 *percakapan (perkataan) yang baik; sopan santun; tingkah laku yang baik; baik budi-nya;* 1 the system of articulated sound symbols (that is produced by the organs of speech) that is arbitrary and conventional used as a mean of communication to express feeling and thought; 2 words that are used by a nation (tribe, country, region, etc.); -French; -Balinese; -Torajas; 3 conversation (good words); politeness; good behavior; good character;.

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Brams's (1995: 2) defines that language is as a structured system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which members of a social group interact.

Sapir (1921: 7) defines that language is as a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols.

Hughes (1962: 6) defines that language is as a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by which thought is conveyed from one human being to another.

Devito (1970: 7) defines that language is as a potentially self-reflexive, structured system of symbols which catalog the object, events, and relation in the world.

Based on the definitions of language above, so it can be totally known that language is supposed to be a system of arbitrary sound symbols that is produced by the organs of speech to express ideas, thoughts, emotions, and desires from someone to someone else in a social group or community. The forms of a language are the meaningful sounds in the forms of words, phrases, and sentences that show the objects, events, and relation in the world used by members of a social group or community to interact or communicate one another.

Language is connected with almost everything that people do as human beings and can be said that language is available wherever people live. In the environment of a family there is a language, in the environment of a community there is a language, even in every country in the world they surely have their own national language. Like Indonesia, as a developing country, has a national language mastered by most of Indonesian people namely,

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Indonesian as a national language. It is used by Indonesian people to communicate in their daily life. Besides a national language, people need the other language. In this case, they need English which is supposed to be an International language used by people all over the countries in the world to communicate one another.

English is supposed to be an international language that plays an important role in the various modern lives. Having a good mastery of English is very useful, especially for people in the developing country like Indonesia for improving knowledge and science, technology, culture, and the other aspects. It is because English is become the main language or the communicating language to communicate with people in the other countries all over the world, such as : diplomacy, tourism, trade, business, correspondence, and the other international communication. In addition, there are many scientific books written in English, such as : books of politics, economics, laws, medicines, education, and so forth. That is why, people have been motivated to learn English for their study, business, and their social lives.

In Indonesia, English is supposed to be the first foreign language that has to be learnt by the students from the elementary schools until universities. It has been proven by the government of Indonesia who has placed English into the curriculum of the schools as one of the school subjects that have to be learnt by the students. It shows that the government through the National

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Education Department very cares to the progress of the children of the nation in order not to be left with the children of the other nations all over the world. Unfortunately, not all of citizens of Indonesia realize to the importance and the benefit of English mastery.

It is better if people, as good and educated citizens of Indonesia have the ability to use English. Honestly speaking, until now it can be said that there are a very few of Indonesian people who are competent in English. For instance, almost there are no educated people, say, in Cirebon, when they gather together then they have conversation with using English. But, in the big city like Bandung and Jakarta, there are some families of which in their homes they use English besides their own native languages. Such families should become the sample for the other families. The ex of finance ministry Sri Mulyani, now becoming a director of the World Bank because she is a qualified expert and competent in English.

It must be admitted that the senior high schools graduates or the other schools of the same levels even universities, their ability of using English is very low or poor. It shows that the process of teaching and learning English at school can be said as having not been successful. Unlike the other secondary schools of the other developing countries, like Malaysia, Singapore, and India which at the average that the secondary graduates are able to use English. The inability to use English is supposed to be a challenge for the teacher to be able to find out the strategy of the process of teaching and learning which is

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more effective and efficient. The curriculum of the process of teaching and learning English has experienced various changes, but the result can be said as almost the same.

Generally, almost of the secondary schools nowadays, use the curriculum which is called *Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (KTSP)* Curriculum-Level of Educational Unit.

> Muslich (2007:12) states that *Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (KTSP) yang merupakan penyempurnaan dari kurikulum 2004 (KBK) adalah kurikulum operasional yang disusun dan dilaksanakan oleh masing-masing satuan pendidikan/sekolah. Terkait dengan penyusunan KTSP ini, BSNP telah membuat panduan penyusunan KTSP. Panduan ini diharapkan menjadi acuan bagi satuan pendidikan SD/MI/SLB, SMP/MTs/SMPLB, SMA/MA/SMALB, dan SMK/MAK dalam penyusunan dan pengembangan kurikulum yang dilakanakan pada tingkat satuan pendidikan yang bersangkutan. Departemen Pendidikan Nasional mengharapkan paling lambat tahun 2009/2010, semua sekolah telah melaksanakan KTSP*.
>
> The Curriculum-Level of Educational Unit which is supposed to be the perfection of 2004 curriculum is the operational curiculum which is arranged and carried out by each educational unit or school. Related with the arrangement of *KTSP*, *BSNP* has made a guide book of the arrangement of *KTSP*. The guide book is expected to become a reference for educational unit of *SD/MI/SLB, SMP/MTs/SMPLB, SMA/MA/SMALB,* and *SMK/MAK* in the arrangement and development of curriculum which will be carried out in the concerned educational unit level. Department of National Education expects that at least 2009/2010, all schools have complemented *KTSP*.

In addition, Muslich (2007:1) informs that

> *KTSP (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan) disusun dalam rangka memenuhi amanat yang tertuang dalam Undang-Undang Republik In donesia No.20 Tahun 2003 tentang Sistem Pendidikan Nasional dan Peraturan Pemerintah*

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> *Republik Indonesia Nomor 19 Tahun 2005 tentang Standar Nasional Pendidikan.*
> The Curriculum-Level of Educational Unit is arranged in line with fulfilling the message which is exposed in the Regulation of Republic of Indonesia number 20, 2003 about the System of National Education and the Government Regulation of Republic of Indonesia number 19, 2005 about the National Standard of Education.

Based on the statement and information above, so it can be clearly known that the curriculum which is carried out by the educational institutes or schools nowadays is Curriculum-Level of Educational Unit. This curriculum is different from curiculum before namely, 2004 curriculum which is arranged by the central government, in this case, *Depdiknas*, the Curriculum-Level of Educational Unit is arranged and carried out by each level of educational unit, in this case the concerned schools. This curriculum is arranged as the complement curriculum from the curricula before, but it is still with the same purpose namely, for reaching the certain educational purpose and still refers to the available instruction in the Regulation of Republic of Indonesia number 20, 2003 and the Government Regulation of Republic of Indonesia number 19, 2005.

Generally, most of the eighth grade students at the Private Islamic Junior High School/ *Madrasah Tsanawiyah (Mts) Hasanudin Indramayu* although not all of them have not comprehended yet various kinds of tenses especially, about simple past tense. It was known when they did the exercises about tenses given by the teacher. They made many mistakes especially, about

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the use of irregular verbs. There were some students considered or wrote irregular verbs as regular verbs. Besides, they were also confused to differentiate one form of tenses from another form of tenses, say, simple past tense and simple present tense. The inability of the students to use the forms of tenses correctly especially, simple past tense was supposed to be the problem in the process of teaching and learning English at school. Such a condition of study interested the attention of the writer to do research in this school with the purpose to help overcome the students' difficulties in learning the use of simple past tense correctly. It was becoming the reason for the writer to give the title of the thesis namely, "The Comparative Study between the Students' Knowledge of Simple Past Tense with Using English Story and English Song of the Eighth Grade Students at *MTs Hasanudin Indramayu.*"

B. The Identification of the Problem

The identification of the problem is needed to give clarification about the problem taking place at *MTs Hasanudin Indramayu*. The writer had arranged the identification of the problem refering to the background of the problem as follows:

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1. The Field of the Research

The field of the research in writing this thesis is grammar. English has a lot of language rules (grammar). One of those language rules is tenses. In this case, the writer had already discussed one kind of tenses namely, simple past tense.

2. The Kind of the Problem

As a matter of fact, in the process of teaching and learning language rules (grammar) epecially, about tenses, most of the students made mistakes in almost each form of tenses. The mistakes which they made in writing the forms of tenses correctly were supposed to be the kind of the problem in writing this thesis. But, in this case the writer just concentrated on discussing one kind of tenses namely, simple past tense relating to the forms of verbs including auxiliary verbs and adverbs of time available in these thesis.

3. The Main Problem

The main problem of the research in writing this thesis is the differences of the students' knowledge in mastering simple past tense with using English story and English song in the process of teaching and learning English of the eighth grade students at *MTs Hasanudin Indramayu.*

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C. The Limitation of the Problem

Learning English not only for the students but also for non-students is not supposed to be a very easy thing. It is because English is very different from Indonesian or ethnic languages available in Indonesia, both it is seen from the way of writing and pronouncing the words (vocabulary) or it is seen from the language rules (grammar). Language rules are supposed to be the foundation of language. From so many English rules, one of the rules is tenses. Tenses are also supposed to be the foundation of their own language rules.

English has so many forms of tenses until reaching the number of more than 15 which is different one another both in the form of sentence structure, its implementation, and its adverb of time. This case caused the students become confused when they learned and tried to use the forms of tenses so that, in turn, they made many mistakes. That is why, the writer limited the students' learning difficulties namely, in the process of teaching and learning of one kind of tenses namely, simple past tense by way of correcting and explaining any form of mistake made by the students so that they were really able to implement this kind of tenses both orally and especially, written.

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D. The Questions of the Research

The questions of the research in writing this thesis are as follows:

1. How is the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English story?
2. How is the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English song?
3. Is there any differences between the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English story and English song?

E. The Aims of the Research

The aims of the research in writing this thesis are as follows:

1. To find out about the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English story.
2. To find out about the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English song.
3. To find out if there is differences between the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English story and English song.

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F. The Usefulness of the Research

The usefulness of the research is hoped that it is able to improve the students' knowledge about the forms of tenses especially, simple past tense. In every process of teaching and learning, a teacher will surely make use of various kinds of teaching methods or teaching strategies. The writer had made use of teaching strategy namely, teaching language with using English story and song and in turn getting one strategy which is more useful for the students in the process of teaching and learning English at school.

G. The Framework of Thinking

Learning a foreign language, say, English is not an easy thing and it needs a long enough and regular time. It is because English is absolutely different from the students' native language whether it is seen from the way of writing and pronouncing the words (vocabulary) or it is seen from the language rules (grammar). Both of these language components are supposed to be a unity which cannot be separated one another. It means that knowledge of vocabulary must always be followed by knowledge of language rules. Both of these language components are then step by step not only learned and mastered but also implemented in a language event both orally and written. The fact shows that the students who learn English even those who have

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graduated from Senior high schools show that their ability in using English is so bad or low. Such a fact must actually not happen.

The eighth grade students of *MTs Hasanudin Indramayu* or the other schools of the same levels like Junior high schools, as a matter of fact, have not long yet learned English. Accordingly, it can be understood if their knowledge of vocabulary and language rules is very limited. But, it must be admitted that there are a number of words and language rules which have been taught to them. Language rules are supposed to be the foundation of language. English has so many language rules, and one of them is tenses. Tenses are also supposed to be the foundation of language rules. It means that learning language rules has to be started by learning or having knowledge about tenses. English has so many kinds of tenses that are surely confusing people who learn them especially, the students.

To help the students be able to use English and also learn English more comfortable, the writer had tried implementing teaching strategy by telling a story and singing a song. In the story and the song there will absolutely be a number of words in the form of sentence and pharagraph. Generally, the students like singing. Such students' likeness are then made use of learning a language by way of discussing the words and structures of sentences which were not known by the students. Also in the story, the writer discussed the words and structures of sentences which were not known by the students. Such a learning strategy looked very interesting the students'

attention so that the situation of the process of teaching and learning English in the classroom was alive.

In the process of teaching and learning English, the writer just concentrated on the implementation of one kind of tenses namely, simple past tense. It did not mean that it did not include the other kinds of tenses. It was very impossible that a teacher taught one kind of tenses without touching the other kinds of tenses. In a language event is also very impossible that people just use one kind of tenses in communicating one another, for example, in a conversation. Every mistake made by the students was always corrected so that the students really understood and were able to implement everything which they had learned in a real life without making the same mistakes. The mechanism of the process of teaching and learning English could be seen in a graphic below:

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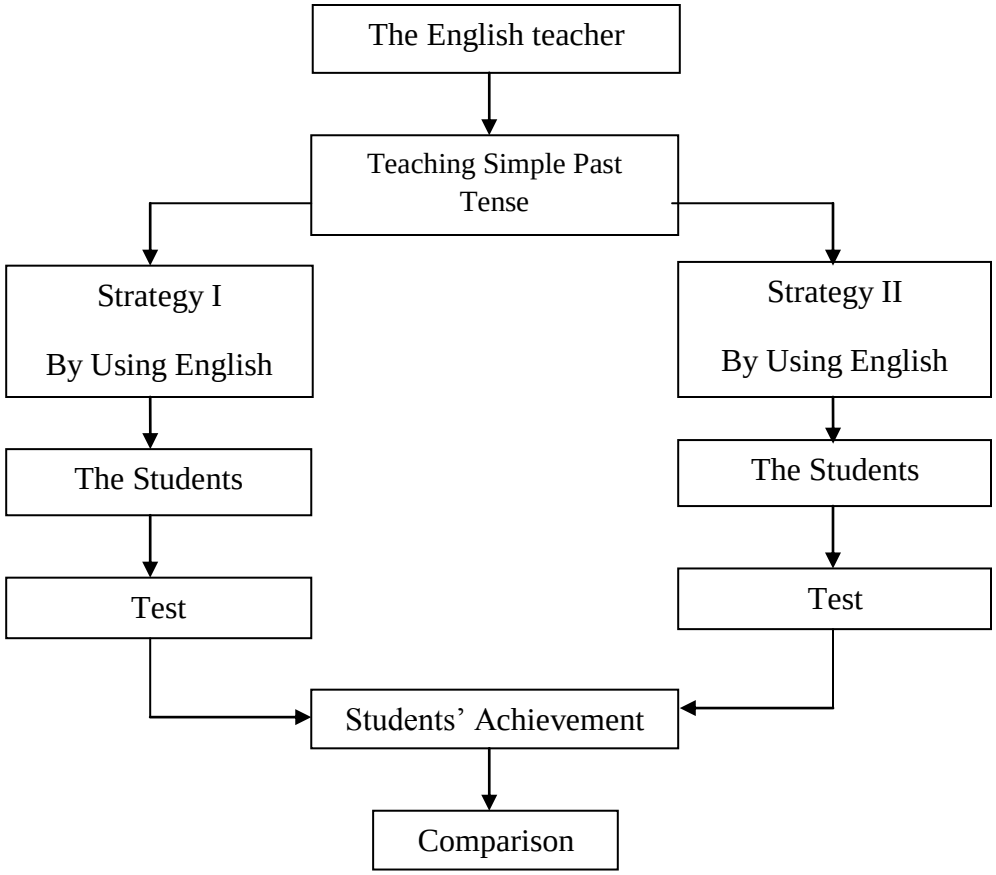
Graphic of the Mechanism of Making Use of Strategy



H. The Hypothesis of the Research

The hypothesis of the research in writing this thesis is if there is positive and significant comparison between the students' knowledge of simple past tense with using English story and English song.

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