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**THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE  
OF SIMPLE PAST TENSE AND THEIR COMPREHENSION IN NARRATIVE TEXT AT  
THE SECOND YEAR  
OF MTs AL-HIDAYAH GUPPI CIREBON CITY**

**A THESIS**

Submitted to the English Education Department of *Tarbiyah* Faculty of *Syekh Nurjati Cirebon*  
State Institute for Islamic Studies in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Islamic Scholar  
in English Education (S.Pd.I)



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## PREFACE

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. All praises and thanks belong to God, the Lord of universe. And thanks to His permission, the writer has been able of doing research and finishing this thesis. May invocation and safety always be given to the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), his family, his companions, and his followers till the end of the world.

This thesis entitled in **“THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE STUDENTS’ KWOLEDGE OF SIMPLE PAST TENSE AND THEIR COMPREHENSION IN NARATIVE TEXT AT THE SECOND YEAR OF MTs AL-HIDAYAH GUPPI CIREBON CITY”** is presented to the English Department of *Tarbiyah* Faculty of requirements for the Degree Islamic Scholar in English Education(S.Pd. I).

In composing this thesis, there are so many people who have participated, helped, and advised directly or indirectly. So on this opportunity, the writer would like to convey her sincerity and profound thankfulness and gratitude to:

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9. All the lecturers and staff administration of Faculty of *Tarbiyah Syekh Nurjati* State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN) *Cirebon*.
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The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect and there are possibly many mistakes her in the arrangement or in the content. So, the writer is broadly welcome to accept any criticism, and suggestion to make her thesis much better.

Hopefully, this thesis will become a valuable thing to the readers especially, for the writer herself and for *Tarbiyah* Faculty of *Syekh Nurjati* State Institute for Islamic (IAIN) *Cirebon*.

Cirebon, December, 2012

The Writer



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## ABSTRACT

**MONALISA : “THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE STUDENTS KNOWLEDGE OF SIMPLE PAST TENSE AND THEIR COMPREHENSION IN NARRATIVE TEXT. AT THE SECOND YEAR OF *MTS AL-HIDAYAH GUPPI CIREBON CITY*”.**

Language will only exist with human beings. With language human beings can communicate one another. In other words, language is supposed to be the only instrument for them to communicate. The number of so many languages and different from one another is not becoming the hindrance of them because language can be learned by anyone who wants to. Language is a sound or a series of sounds that are meaningful produced by the organs of speech which convey someone's ideas, thoughts, and feelings to someone else. English has many rules, one of them is tenses which are very confusing the students. The students of the second year of *MTs Alhidayah GUPPI Cirebon city* generally made many mistakes in writing various forms of sentences especially, which relate with tenses.

The formulation of the problem in this thesis is divided into four parts namely, the identification of the problem, the limitation of the problem, the questions of the research, and the aims of the research. In this case, the writer discusses about the students' knowledge of simple past tense, their comprehension in narrative text, and the correlation between both of them.

The aims of the research in writing this thesis are as follows: to find out the students' knowledge of simple past tense, to find out the students' comprehension in narrative text, and to find out if there is any positive and significant correlation between the students' knowledge of simple past tense and their comprehension in narrative text.

The instruments of collecting the data in writing this thesis are as follows: observation, interview, and test. The data which have been collected are then analyzed by means of using the formulation of Pearson's Correlation Product Moment.

The result of the test shows that the average score of the students' knowledge of simple past tense as X variable is 6.79. This score can be rounded into 7. It means that the students' knowledge of simple past tense at the second year can be considered as “enough”. And the average score of the students' comprehension in narrative text as Y variable is 6.325. This score can be rounded into 6. It means the students' comprehension in narrative text at the second year can be considered as “enough”. The correlation score 0.77 shows that between the students' knowledge of simple past tense and their comprehension in narrative text there is strong or high correlation. It means that there is positive and significant correlation between the students' knowledge of simple past tense and their comprehension in narrative text.



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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. The Background of the Problem

Language comes up after the existence of human beings. It means that language will always be with human beings. In other words, language and human beings cannot be separated one another. Where human beings are there will be language. Or on the contrary, where language is there will be human beings. Language is the only instrument for them to be able to communicate one another. With language, human beings are able to search knowledge and science, technology, religion, culture and so many others not to mention here.

Since the first human being was created by God namely, Adam and Eva, they use a language in order that they can communicate to express his, ideas, thoughts, and feelings. From that communication then giving birth to the other human beings until now reaching a number of thousands even millions of human beings. From such big a number also producing many languages that one another was absolutely different both seen from the point of the way of pronouncing or writing the words and seen from the point of the rules of a language (Grammar). And in communication, it is very impossible that human beings use two languages or a different language. Because such a communication is absolutely not understood by one another. They must use one language or the same language in order that it can be understood by one another.

The writer is of the opinion that language is a sound or a series of sounds that are meaningful produced by the organs of speech which convey someone's ideas, thoughts, and feelings to someone else. The sounds which are not meaning full are not a language.

According to Compact Dictionary of Canadian English (1976:382) language ('lan\_ gwij)  
n. 1 all of the systems by which human beings combine sound 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. *Simtem lambang bunyi berartikulasi (yang dihasilkan alat-alat ucap) yang bersifat sewenang-wenang dan konvensional yang dipakai sebagai alat komunikasi untuk melahirkan perasaan dan pikiran ; 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 budinya;* I the system of articulated sound symbols (that is produced by the organs of speech that is arbitrary and conventional used as a means of communication to express feelings and thoughts; 2. Words that are used by nation (tribe, country region, etc); French \_ Baliness; \_ Torajas; 3. Conversation (good words); politeness; good behavior; good character;

Devito (1970:6) defines that language is a potentially self- reflexive, structured system which catalog the object, events, and relation in the world.

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

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

Based on of definitions of language above, so it can be absolutely known that language is supposed to be a system of arbitrary sound symbols that is produced by the organs of speech to convey an idea, thought, emotion, and desire from someone to someone else in a social group. The forms of a language are the words, phrases, and sentences that show the objects, events, and relations in the world that are used by members of a social group to interact or communicate.

By the existence of a language, human beings all over the world and along of their lives can communicate with the other fellow human beings. As a social creature, human beings cannot live alone. There is no human being or any nation can live alone. Nation also needs



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communication with the order nations and then it is organized by the world organization that is called the United Nations Organization (UNO). With the existence of the United Nations Organization, so a nation will be easy to communicate with the other nation. The existence of the United Nations Organization actually have to be able to create someone to be the citizen who has the right to live in any country as a long as he does not break the rules of the laws of the country. Even for Muslims, the communication between or among human beings is not only supposed to be the basic need of their lives, but also it is supposed to be the order of God. God reveals (Al-Hujurat:13) that:

Mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well- acquainted (with all things).

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ  
ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ  
لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ  
اتَّقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ  
(١٣)

Based on the verse above, so it can be absolutely known that God created human beings from a single pair of a male or a female and made human beings into nations and tribes in order



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that human beings can know each other not that to despise each other. Indeed, the most honored human beings between or among them in the sight of God is those who are the most righteous. And God knows all about human beings and universe.

God orders human beings to know one another. Such an activity of course needs an instrument. And the only instrument used to know or communicate one another is language. Naturally, the existence of language. Every ethnic group and nation definitely have their own language of which one another is different. This different of language causes human being, learn the other language of human beings for the sake of communication.

The writer is of the opinion that anyone in particularly the students who learn English at schools know about the definition of language. By knowing the definition about language, they will learn the language alertly and energetically so that being able to use language both in an oral and in a written language to communicate with nations around the world even in a simple form. In reality, the student of Senior High School graduates can be assessed have not been able to use English both in a written an especially, in a oral language (speaking). This proves that the process of teaching and learning English at schools can be considered has not been successful.

Every language which exists all over the world will of course has the four language skills namely, listening, speaking, reading and writing. To learn a language or another language, say, English means to introduce or to learn the four language skills. Honestly speaking, to learn English is not an easy thing and will take a long regular time. From the four language skills, the writer realizes that speaking is one of the language skills which is the point most standing out. It means that speaking is the one language skill which is frequently used rather than the other three language skills namely, listening, reading and writing.

Fromkin and Rodman (1978:3) inform that whatever else people may do when they come together \_ whether they play, fight, make love, and make automobiles \_ they talk.



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We live in a world of word. We talk to our friends, our associates, our wives and husband, our loves, our teacher, our parent, and in laws. We talk to bus drivers and total strangers. We talk face to face and over the telephone. And everyone responds with more talk. Television and Radio further swell this torrent of words. Is a result, hardly a moment of our walking lives is free from words, and even in our dreams we talk and are talked to. We also talk when there is no one to answer. Some of us talk aloud in our sleep. We talk to our pets and sometimes to our selves. And we are the only animals that do this – that talk.

Based on the information above, it is exactly known that people in their life from getting up and doing all kind of activities up to they are back to sleep they cannot be separated from speaking. Even in a condition of sleeping sometimes they also talk. For example, in a dream people can talk with the other people like friends, associate, wives, husband, and so many others not to mention here. This condition indicates that speaking is one of the language skills which is the most standing of compared with the other language skills namely, listening, reading, and writing.

Although speaking is supposed to be one language skill which is the most standing out compared with the other language skills; however, the writer will only discuss about the rules of language (Grammar) with concentrating on one of the forms of tenses namely, simple past tense. The students of the second year of *MTs Al – Hidayah Guppi* generally made many mistakes in writing various forms of sentences especially, which relate with tenses. Such mistakes can be known when the students answer the question of a reading text which were given to them. Such learning difficulties were supposed the problem in the process of teaching and learning English in the class. This thing interested the writer attention to do research in the school with the purpose to help solve the students difficulties to learn tenses especially, about simple past tense and then it was related with their comprehension when reading a narrative text. That is why, the writer had given the title of the thesis namely, “THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE



## STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF SIMPLE PAS TENSE AND THEIR COMPREHENSION IN NARRATIVE TEXT AT THE SECOND YEAR OF *MTS AL-HIDAYAH GUPPI*.”

### **B. The Identification of the Problem**

The identification of the problem in writing this thesis is as follows :

#### a. The Field of The Research

The field of the research in writing this thesis is reading. As one of the language skills, reading plays a very important role in the world of education. The success of someone in study especially, from high schools to Universities will be very determined by his or her ability in reading.

#### b. The Kind of The Problem

The kind of the problem in writing this thesis is about the students' comprehension in narrative text. English has so many rules of language. Among so many rules of language is tenses. The rules of language are supposed to be the foundation of language; meanwhile, tenses are supposed to be the foundation of the rules language. To comprehend the content of a reading text, so it needs knowledge about tenses besides the other language component namely, knowledge about the words.

#### c. The Main Problem

As having been mentioned above that the kind of the problem in writing this thesis is the students' comprehension in narrative text. Generally, most of the students made many mistakes and there were also some of the students who were not able to answer the questions at all in

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accordance with a reading text. Their mistakes were because they did not understand about one forms of tenses namely, simple past tense and knowledge of vocabulary which was very limited. These two kinds of learning difficulties were supposed to be the main problem in writing this thesis.

### C. The Limitation of the Problem

As a matter at fact, to learn English is not an easy thing and of course will take a relative long and regular time. This thing is because English is much more different from the students native language or any language existing in the world as having been mentioned above that most of the students made many mistakes when answering the Questions of a reading text, say, narrative text given to them. Their mistakes was because they did not understand about the form of simple past tense and their knowledge of vocabulary was very limited. That is why, to help overcome their learning difficulties so the writer only limited to one form of tenses by discussing various forms of the verbs and the improvement of their knowledge of vocabulary through a reading text given to them.

### D. The Questions of the Research

The questions of the research in writing this thesis are :

- 1) How is the students' knowledge in simple past tense at the second year of *MTS Al-Hidayah Guppi Kota Cirebon* ?
- 2) How is the students' comprehension in narrative text at the second year of *MTS Al-Hidayah Guppi Kota Cirebon* ?



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- 3) Is there any positive and significant correlation between the students' knowledge of simple past tense and their comprehension in narrative text at the second year of *MTS Al-Hidayah Guppi Kota Cirebon* ?

## E. The Aims of the Research

The aims of the research in writing this thesis are :

1. To find out about the students' knowledge in simple past tense
2. To find out about the students' comprehension in narrative text
3. To find out if there is any positive in simple past tense and their between the students' knowledge of simple past tense and their comprehension in narrative text.

## F. The Framework of Thinking

Learning a foreign language, say English is not supposed to be an easy thing and needs a long and regular time. The fact indicates that graduates of Senior High Schools or the other schools of the same level, their ability of English can be considered as low. Such a learning achievement of course must be changed in order to get a better learning achievement. As a matter of fact, English has many rules of language which confuse a person who learn especially, the students who learn English at schools.

The rules of language (Grammar) are supposed to be the foundation of a language itself. One of the rules of language is tenses. Tenses can also be considered as the foundation of the rules of language. That is why, to have knowledge and master about tenses is very important in learning English. In this case, the writer only concentrated on one form of tenses namely, simple past tense. This tenses are then related with the text namely narrative text. Generally most of the teaching material given to the students of Junior high school/ *Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP)* or Islamic Junior Schools/ *Madrasah Tsanawiyah (MTs)* is reading. However in this case, the writer only gave one kind of the text namely, narrative. In narrative text paragraphs which exist generally are in the form sentences with using simple past tense. The writer is of the opinion that



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2. Language is exactly supposed to be habit. It means that everybody who learns English especially, the student should be used to practicing and to using English. And they do not need to afraid to take risk namely, making mistakes when using an oral language and written language. It is said that “Practice makes Perfect”. Therefore, it is better for the teacher that she is able to create and condition her students in order that they always use English especially, in every process of teaching and learning, generally in the school environment. This thing is supposed to be an effort to improve the students knowledge of vocabulary. And the students are suggested that they should be fond of reading not only the books but also magazines, and newspapers written in English with taking a note and learning the words that do not know the meanings. If necessary they are asked to write weekly or monthly reports about everything that they read or do.

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