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**THE CORRELATION OF STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF SIMPLE  
PRESENT TENSE AND THEIR ABILITY IN MAKING TELEPHONE  
CALL AT THE SECOND GRADE OF *SMP PLUS RAUDLATUL  
MUTA'ALLIMIN INDRAMAYU***

**A THESIS**

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



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## ABSTRACT

**NURHANY:** **“The Correlation of the Students’ Understanding of Simple Present Tense and Their Ability in Making Telephone Call at the Second Grade of *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta’alimin Indramayu*”.**

Simple present tense is the first basic tense that should be mastered by students in junior high school. Before students understand the other tenses or other grammar, students should be able to understand simple present tense first. Because understanding about English can help students in understanding about the next grammar. How about making telephone call? Do students need to understand simple present tense first in making telephone call? Making telephone call is daily activity that could be the simplest and the most efficient in practicing English. It’s very important to develop their ability in English.

The aims of the research are to find out the students’ understanding of simple present tense, to find out the students’ ability in making telephone call and to find out if there is a significance correlation of the students’ understanding of simple present tense and their ability in making telephone call.

The approach of the research in writing this thesis is a quantitative approach, it is correlation research. It means that data which is obtained from the field of research then analyzed statically. The Pearson’s product moment correlation formulation, the formula of  $t$  and the formula for degree of freedom (dF) was used to compute the correlation between two variables.

The population of the research is all of students at the first grade of *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta’alimin*. All of students at second grade consist of one class. In the research the writer took 100 % of the Population.

The analysis of the test shows that the average score of the students’ test of simple present tense was 72 and the average score of the students’ test in making telephone call was 71. Both of these score can be categorized in good. Meanwhile, the calculation by using Product Moment Correlation by Pearson, indicates the result of the correlation between the students’ understanding of simple present tense and their ability making telephone call is 0.37, its mean that the between X and Y variable has weak correlation. In other words, there is a positive influence of the student’s understanding of simple present tense on their ability in telephone call dialogue at the second grade of *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta’alimin Indramayu*.



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### RATIFICATION

This thesis which entitled "THE CORRELATION OF STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE AND THEIR ABILITY IN MAKING TELEPHONE CALL AT THE SECOND GRADE OF *SMP PLUS RAUDLATUL MUTA'ALLIMIN INDRAMAYU*" written by Nurhany, student number 58430770 has been examined on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. It has been accepted by the board examiners. It has been recognized as one of the requirements for Undergraduate Degree in English Language Teaching Department at *Tarbiyah* and Teacher Training Faculty *Syekh Nurjati* State Islamic Institute Cirebon.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. The Background of the Problem

The human beings feel the meaningfulness of the existence of language. One of them is the created communication between someone and others in the forms of the expressions of feelings, ideas, and thoughts. Language can be someone's identity. The human beings can know the other one through language which they use. It can be said that language has important role for the human beings.

A language is a system of conventional vocal signs by means of which human beings communicate. This definition has several important terms, each of which is examined in some detail. Those terms are system, signs, vocal, conventional, human, communicate. (Algeo, 2005: 2) In addition, Hall asserts that language is the institution whereby humans communicate and interact with each other by means of habitually used oral-auditory arbitrary symbols.

According to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia:

*Bahasa adalah 1. Sistem lambang bunyi berartikulasi (yang dihasilkan alat-alat ucap) yang bersifat sewenang-wenang dan konvensional yang digunakan sebagai alat komunikasi untuk melahirkan perasaan; 2. Perkataan-perkataan yang digunakan oleh suatu bangsa (suku bangsa, negara, daerah, dsb).*

Language is 1. Articulated system of sound symbols (produced by the organs of speech) which are arbitrary and

conventional used as a means of communication to express feelings and ideas; 2. Words used by a nation (ethnics, groups, countries, regions, etc.).

The role of language in daily live is being premiere, because of its advantages. Language and human beings are not able to be separated each other such as body and soul. Therefore, language and human beings are one unity like body and soul. The researcher has an opinion that language is meaningful sounds or groups of sounds produced by the organs of speech to express feelings, ideas, and thoughts of someone to others.

Communication in an oral language can be done directly face to face, while communication in a written language cannot be done directly face to face, but using a written language to express feelings, ideas, and thoughts. In that case, someone who learns and uses English in direct communication, he or she absolutely should understand the rules of English (Grammar).

Basically, Grammar always appear in every language event both in oral and especially, in written. So, there is no reason for everyone who learns English not to have knowledge of grammar. Unfortunately, nowadays, there are some people who do not care about the rules of English. They have opinion that the rule is the important thing to be able to speak. On the other hands, the incorrect speaking (without using of the rules of English Grammar) will describe incapability of someone in using language.

There are some definitions of grammar quoted from experts. According to Swan (2005: xix) defines grammar as the rules that show how words are combined, arranged, or changed to show certain kinds of meaning. In his



statement, Lado assert (2001: 141) grammar is the study of rules that are claimed to tell the students what he should and should not say in order to speak language of the social educated class. Then, Cook and Sutter (2004: 1) states that grammar is a set of rules by which people speak and write. These rules are not always understood consciously because the rules we refer to are those hardly anyone ever thinks about, but wish allow people to use their language easily and naturally most of the time.

Based on the experts' definition of grammar above, it can be concluded that grammar is rules of how words and their component parts are combined to make sentences. In the process of learning and teaching in making telephone call at *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta'allimin Indramayu*, students should understand tenses; firstly, the teacher gives definition about making telephone call and explain what the tenses which are related with making telephone call. So that, students could understand the use of tenses in making telephone call.

After understanding definition about tenses and making telephone call, teacher explains the written examples of making telephone call. If they were understood, he is going on to give the other written example, then, he orders them to answer the questions directly on the whiteboard. From those, the researcher found a problem about how they compose telephone call.

The researcher found different ability in making telephone call. Some of them could make telephone call well, but others could not do that well. Therefore the researcher would like to know further what makes their ability



different in making telephone call. That's why; the researcher finally was interested to research this problem. And the researcher relates the problem with students' understanding of simple present because the telephone call that students face is in present, exactly in simple present tense.

There are two problems in the explanation above. The first problem is the students' understanding of simple present tense. And the second is some students could understand simple present tense well, and others students could not understand simple present tense.

The researcher tried to relate the students' understanding of simple present tense to analyze what is the correlation on their ability in making telephone call in present. Because in the researcher's opinion that the students' understanding of simple present tense have a correlation their ability in making telephone call in present that happened at *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta'allimin Indramayu*.

The reason why the researcher's test students' ability in making telephone call use present tense because it's usually to make a telephone call according to reality that happen in present or their daily life. Because of that reason, the researcher interested to write this thesis about tenses. Then to understand tenses, we need understand of simple present tense first deeply. So, simple present tense has to be understood before learning, before continuing to all tenses and before we make a telephone call.

Telephone call is spoken language which acts with partner. Usually, teachers give exercise of making telephone call according to present context



or daily activity. Making telephone call has many advantages for students' ability in learning English. It can help students to like English step by step also it can help students to use English in their daily activity.

The use of simple present tense in all tenses is how to understand everything that related to all tenses, like to be, auxiliary, negative sentence, interrogative sentence, negative interrogative sentence, making question word, nominal and verbal sentence and the main point is how to understand about the characteristic of English itself. Before we had understood it all, researcher's opinion, we couldn't understand all tenses, and furthermore all grammar and in making telephone call also. Therefore, researcher will prove it in this research.

Meanwhile, to make a telephone call well, we need understand grammar. And to understand grammar, we need to understand tenses. And before we understand tenses, we need understand simple present tense first. And if these had been done well, we will be able in making telephone call and speak English well.

Based on the above explanation, the main problem is locked in the students' understanding of simple present tense on their ability in making telephone call. And it is supposed to be the interest for the researcher to do research at this school. And this is also becoming the researcher's reason to write this thesis.



## 1.2. The Identification of the Problem

To identify the problem in writing this thesis, the researcher has classified it into the following parts:

### 1.2.1 The Research Area

The research area in writing this thesis is grammar, discussing the simple present tense relating to making telephone call.

### 1.2.2 The Method of the Research

The kinds of the research in writing this thesis taken by the researcher are a quantitative method. It means that data are presented by numbers; accordingly, it can be calculated and interpreted by means of using statistical analysis. The technique of analyzing the data of the research to find out the correlation of the students' understanding of simple present tense and their ability in making telephone call in present, the researcher used the formula of Product Moment Correlation by Pearson.

### 1.2.3 The Main problem

In relation with the background, the main problem of this research is about the correlation between students' understanding of simple present tense and their ability in making telephone call.

## 1.3 The Limitation of the Problem

In this research, the researcher will limit the problem which has correlation with the title of the research. Therefore, the researcher had



limited in the students' ability in understanding simple present tense and making telephone call. The researcher researched the kind of problem to find out correlation both of them.

#### 1.4 The Questions of the Research

The questions of the research are:

- 1) How are the students' understanding simple present tense at the second grade of *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta'allimin Indramayu*?
- 2) How are the students' abilities in making telephone call at the second grade of *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta'allimin Indramayu*?
- 3) Are there any positive correlations of the students' understanding of simple present tense and their ability in making telephone call at the second grade of *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta'allimin Indramayu*?

#### 1.5 The Aims of the Research

The Aims of the research are:

- 1). To find out the students' understanding of simple present tense.
- 2). To find out the students' abilities in making telephone call.
- 3). To find out if there are a positive correlations of the students' understanding of simple present tense and their ability in making telephone call.



## 1.6 The Usages of the Research

The uses of the research are hoped that:

- 1) For Students as a respondents, understanding simple present tense would give you many advantages, especially in memorizing vocabulary of verb form and by learning and practicing of making telephone call, you would be able speaking spontantly and help you in chosing better word to speak.
- 2) For teacher, it can give a valuable contribution to the school dealing with the process of learning and teaching English, especially understanding simple present tense and making telephone call.
- 3) For other researchers, it would be better if you are increase the number of respondents dealing with research result accuracy. And in X variable, you need to added some other tenses form in order to get more valid research result.
- 4) For readers, it will present the real condition and situation dealing with the second grade students of junior high school grade in understanding simple present tense and the ability in making telephone call assignment in daily class meeting in *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta'allimin Indramayu*.





## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 5.1. CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the writer would like to conclude the result of the research which entitled “The Correlation of Students’ Understanding of Simple Present Tense and Their Ability in Making Telephone Call at The Second Grade of *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta’alimin Indramayu*” as follows:

- 1) To find out the students’ understanding of simple present tense (X variable) at the second grade of *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta’alimin Indramayu*, the writer give a test to respondents. The test of simple present tense are consist of twenty multiple-choice questions that should have done in thirty-five minutes. From the test result, the average score is 75, the lowest score is 35 were achieved by one respondent and highest score were 100 achieved by seven respondents. Its mean that the respondents understanding of simple present tense is in good level.
- 2) Then, to find out the students’ ability in making telephone call (Y variable) at the second grade of *SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta’alimin Indramayu*, the writer also give test which held in the same time with simple present tense test. In this test, respondents have to make a simple dialogue according to the situation gave by writer based on respondents daily activities. This test performed in pair which only has three minutes available. For the rest result, the writer know that the average of entire respondents was 70.7, which

the lowest score is 57 that achieved by one respondents and the highest score was 86 achieved by one respondent. According to Arikunto's theory the test result means the respondents' ability in making telephone call is in good level.

- 3) And after calculating of "r" coefficient of product moment, the result of the correlation between the students' understanding of simple present tense and their ability in making telephone call is 0.37. Then to find out the contribution of X variable to Y variable the researcher use the formula for degree of freedom (dF), the result was 2.51. From the calculation,  $t_o = 2.51$  is bigger than  $t_t = 2.05$  ( $t_o > t_t$  or  $2.51 > 2.05$  or 2.51 is bigger than 2.05) by 5% of t formula significance. It means that the correlation of students' understanding of simple present tense and their ability in making telephone call has positive correlation.

## 5.2. SUGGESTION

The writer would like to give some suggestion for improving the students understanding English especially in mastering tenses and speak fluently. She hopes that these following suggestions can give some advantages to the students and the English teacher in order that the process of teaching and learning English can be more useful and interesting. The suggestions are as follows:



- 1) For students, which in this research is respondents, by understanding simple present tense and making telephone call, they are able to communicate in writing and spoken language directly.
- 2) For teacher, it can give a valuable contribution to the school dealing with the process of learning and teaching English, especially understanding simple present tense and making telephone call.
- 3) For the other researcher, it would be a reference to the next researcher who has an interest to do research in this school to develop more about the research findings.
- 4) For readers, it will present the real condition and situation dealing with the second grade of students in understanding of simple present tense and the ability in making telephone call assignment in daily class meeting in SMP Plus Raudlatul Muta'allimin Indramayu.





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