**THE CORRELATION BETWEEN STUDENT ABILITY IN USING SIMPLE PAST TENSE AND IN THEIR RECOUNT TEXT RECOGNITION AT THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP N 2 MIRIT KEBUMEN**

**IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF**

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**Abstract**

As a foreign language, English is not easy language to be learnt. English has four important skills to be mastered. To master the four skills, we have to master the grammar as the basic. Based on the statement above, the objective of this study is to find out the correlation between the students ability in using past tense and in their recount text recognition at the eighth grade students of SMP N 2 Mirit, Kebumen in the academic year of 2012/2013. The type of this research is descriptive quantitative research. The number of the population in this research is 192 students. The number of the sample is 32 students. The instrument that used to collect the data is a test. There were 35 questions to be tested. The data was analyzed by using descriptive analysis and inferential statistic.The research data were analyzed by using product moment Pearson. The results of this research are as follows, the average score of the student’s ability in using past is 65. The average score of the student’s recount text recognition is 76.87. The result of correlation from the formula was 0.159.It shows that the correlation between the studentsability in using past tense and recount text recognition was very low category.The finding shown above can be proved that the amount of samples (N=32) and the level of significance (5%), the result of the computation done both manually and SPSS is 0.159. Based on the value in the table r product moment, the computation shows that *robatined* was lower than *rtable* (ro<rt) that is 0.159 < 0.339 and it is categorized as very low correlation. It means that there is a significance correlation between the students’ ability in using simple past tense and in their recount text recognition at the eighth grade students of SMP N 2 MiritKebumen in the academic year of 2012/2013 but the significance value is very low correlation.

Key Words: *Correlation, Past Tense, Recount Text*

1. **Background**

English is one of the international languages used by many people the world. It is the international language which has an important role in communication by people to interact with others around the world. It is used not only in English speaking but also in other parts of the world. Therefore, any people tend to master English to compete in globalization.English has four important skills to be mastered. They are speaking, writing, reading and listening. To master the four skills, we have to master the grammar as the basic.

Grammar is always used in speaking, writing, reading and listening. The reason why the students get bad mark in English is they do not understand about grammar. In this case, verb tense have an essential role, because they tell reader when actions are taking place.

1. **Research Method**

The researcheruses quantitativeresearch.The researcher chooses the eighth grade students of SMP N 2 MiritKebumen at the academic year of 2012/2013 as the population is 192 students and 32 students as a sample. The test is distributed to know the correlation between students’ ability in using simple past tense and in their recount text recognition ability. To know the students’ ability in using simple past tense and in their recount text recognition ability, the researcher uses a documentation technique. To analyze the data, the researcher applies an appropriate technique to find out the correlation between students’ ability in using simple past tense and in their recount text recognition ability.

1. **Finding and Discussion**

From the result of test, the researcher got the data. The highest score (H) is 92, the lowest (L) score is 36, the mean (M) is 65. It is categorized medium. The standard deviation (SD) is 13.96, the median (Me) is 64 and the mode (Mo) is 64. The total variable X is 2080. From the result of documentation, the writer got the data, the highest score (H) is 100, the lowest (L) score is 50, the mean (M) is 76.87. It is categorized high. The standard deviation (SD) is 15.9, the median (Me) is 80, the mode (Mo) is 70. The total of variable Y is 2460.From the test of normality, it shows they were 0.438 and 0.505. It means that the data is normal. The result of the computation shows that the value of correlation is 0.159. It shows that the correlation between the students’ past tense ability and the students’ recount text recognition was in very low category.Based on the value in the table of product moment, for N=32 and the significance level = 5%, the value of r product moment (rt) was 0.349. The computation showed that *robatined* was lower than *rtable* (ro>rt) that was 0.159 < 0.349. Thus, the hypothesis was rejected. It means that there is a significant correlation between the students’ ability in using simple past tense and in their recount text recognition at the eighth grade students of SMP N 2 MiritKebumen in the academic year of 2012/2013but the significance value is very low category, because the value of correlation was 0.159 or very low in degree of correlation and The computation showed that *r obtained* was lower than *r table* (ro>rt) that was 0.159 < 0.344 because from coefficient determinacy is *robatined2*×100% (2.5281) or 2.52 percent. Thus, the students’ ability in using simple past tense has significant correlation with students’ ability in recount text recognition approximately 2.52%, and 97.48%. The researcher concluded that there is a significant correlation between the students’ ability in using simple past tense and in their recount text recognition at the eighth grade students of SMP N 2 MiritKebumen in the academic year of 2012/2013but the significance value is very low category.

1. **Conclusion**

The result shows that the coefficient correlation (r) equals to 0.159, it means that there is a significant correlation between the students’ past tense ability and the students’ recount text recognition ability. It is very low category. Knowing the result of study, the researcher would like to improve students’ ability in expressing past activities in writing. The researcher hopes these suggestions will be useful, especially for the teacher and students. The teacher should provide an opportunity for students to have an extensive writing practice in the class and give students more writing assignments.

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