**THE STUDENTS’ ABILITY IN USING SIMPLE PAST TENSE IN THE SECOND GRADE OF MTS HIDAYATUSSIBYAN WADASLILITANG IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2012/2013.**

By

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**Abstract**

The objective of the study are to know the students’ ability and to know what the students’ difficulties in using simple past tense in the second grade of MTs Hidayatussibyan wadaslintang in the academic year of 2012/2013. This research is descriptive quantitative research which conducted on second grade of MTs Hidayatussibyan wadaslintang in the academic year of 2012/2013. The researcher took 30 students as the sample. The instrument of this research is test. It is multiple choice form which consists of 30 items. The researcher concludes that the students’ ability in using simple past tense is fair with the mean score 65.11. There are 9 students are include in very good category or 30%, 3 students are include in good category or 10%, 11 students are include in fair category or 36.7%, 7 students are include in poor category or 23.3% and there is no student include in very poor category or 0%. The highest score is 90 and the lowest score is 43.33. There are 4 kinds of the students’ difficulties in using simple past tense, namely, they have difficulty to differ regular verb and irregular verb; they are confused in using to be and auxiliary modal; they are confused in using adverb of time in simple past tense; and they make errors related to the rule after auxiliary did.

(Keywords: students’ ability, grammar, past tense)

A.Introduction

Understanding and mastering the grammar is very important to the students. Without mastering English structure well, the students will face serious problem in learning English and effect their communication with other people. Another factor that causes students’ mistake in their learning English is that both English and Indonesia have different pronunciation and grammatical system.

The difficulties of learning English are caused by the grammatical system that different from those of Indonesia. According to Ramelan (1994: 5), the degree of difficulty of learning a foreign language is also determined by the degree of difference between two languages. The greater the similarity between them, the less difficult it will be for the students to learn the foreign language.

B. Method

The design of the research is a descriptive quantitative. The research was conducted at MTs Hidayatussibyan Wadaslintang. This research was carried out on 24 May 2013. This research took the second grade-students of MTs Hidayatussibyan Wadaslintang in the academic year of 2012/2013 as the subjects of the research. There are 30 students as the sample. In this study, the researcher uses the purposive sampling. It is because some of factor, i.e. the limitation of time and budget. To get the data the researcher give the test method to the students. It is multiple choice form. It consists of 30 items. The techniques of the data analysis, the researcher used descriptive analysis (the highest srore, the lowest score, mean, mode, median, standard deviation). It is used to get the students’ ability and what are the students’ difficulties in using smple past tense.

C. Research Finding

From the test, the researcher find out the students’ ability in using simple past tense, they are: the highest score is 90, the lowest score is 43.33, the mode score is 60, the median score is 60, the mean score is 65.11, the standard deviation score is 12.56 and the mean score is 46.67. A student who gets the highest score and also a student who gets the lowest score. There are 9 students are include in very good category or 30%, 3 students are include in good category or 10%, 11 students are include in fair category or 36.7%, 7 students are include in poor category or 23.3% and there is no student include in very poor category or 0%.

There are 4 kinds of the students’ difficulties in using simple past tense. They are: the students have difficulty to differ irregular verb and regular verb; the students are confused in using to be and modal auxiliary; the students are confused in using adverb of time in simple past tense; The students make errors related to the rule after auxiliary did. There are 83.33% of the students can’t answer the questions number 26 and 28. It is negative sentense, the students’ are confused in using to be and auxiliary modal. There are 4 numbers that all of the students can answer the question. It is number 2, 3, 4 and number15. It is affirmative sentence.

D. Conclusion

The researcher cancludes that the sudents ability in using simple past tense is fair with the mean score 65.11. There are 9 students are include in very good category or 30%, 3 students are include in good category or 10%, 11 students are include in fair category or 36.7%, 7 students are include in poor category or 23.3% and there is no student include in very poor category or 0%.

There are 4 kinds of students’ difficulties in using simple psat tense. They are, the students have difficulty to differ regular verb and irregular verb; the students are confused in using to be and auxiliary modal; the students are confused in using adverb of time in simple past tense; and the students make errors related to the rule after auxiliary modal.

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