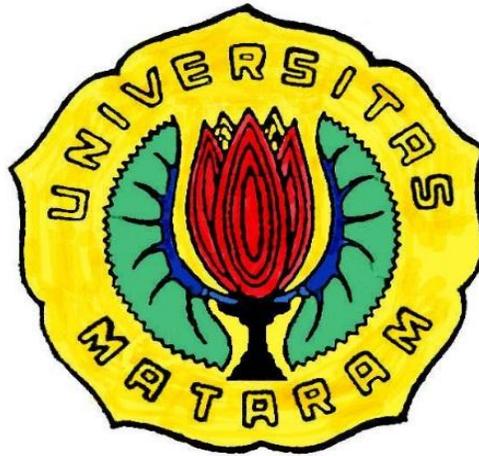


**AN ANALYSIS ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING
SIMPLE PRESENT AND PRESENT PROGRESSIVE TENSES AT
THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMPN 15 MATARAM IN
ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014**



JOURNAL THESIS

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Sarjana Degree (S1) in English

Language Department in Mataram University

By

MURSALIN

EID 108 004

**UNIVERSITY OF MATARAM
FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM
2014/2015**

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YEAR 2013/2014

Has been approved in Mataram on

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ABSTRACT

This thesis entitled "An Analysis on The Students' Ability in Using Simple Present and Present Progressive Tenses at The Second Year Students of SMP Negeri 15 Mataram in Academic Year 2013/2014" aims at finding the students' ability and revealing their difficulties in using simple present and present progressive tenses. The data of this research were collected through tests. The population in this research was the second year student of SMP Negeri 15 Mataram in academic year 2013/2014, in which 94 of them were used as sample. The result of the research shows that, **the mean score** of the students' ability was **38.34**. There were 3 students (**3.19%**) got the fairly good score in range 56-69. Then 21 students (**22.34%**) got the poor score in range 46-55 and 70 students (**74.46%**) got the very low score in range 0-45. It means that the students got very low qualification. It indicates that the second year students of SMP Negeri 15 Mataram found difficulties in using simple present and present progressive tenses. The difficulties faced by the students identified by using the students' incorrect answers in multiple choice tests.

Keywords: simple present, present progressive, qualification, difficulties, test.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini berjudul "Analisis Kemampuan Siswa Dalam Menggunakan Simple Present Dan Present Progressive Tenses Di Kelas 2 Siswa SMP Negeri 15 Mataram Tahun Ajaran 2013/2015 bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa dalam dan menyatakan kesulitan mereka dalam menggunakan simple present dan present progressive tenses. Data dari penelitian ini diambil menggunakan tests. Populasi dari penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas 2 SMP Negeri 15 Mataram tahun ajaran 2013/2014, dimana 94 dari mereka sebagai sample. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa, **nilai rata-rata** dari kemampuan siswa adalah **38.34**. Ada 3 siswa (**3.19%**) mendapat skor dengan kategori cukup antara 56-69. Selanjutnya 21 siswa (**22.34%**) memperoleh skor dengan kategori kurang antara 46-55 dan 70 siswa (**74.46%**) memperoleh skor dengan kategori sangat kurang antara 0-45. Itu berarti bahwa siswa memperoleh kualifikasi sangat kurang. Itu menunjukkan bahwa siswa kelas 2 SMP Negeri 15 Mataram banyak mengalami kesulitan dalam menggunakan simple present dan present progressive tenses. Kesulitan yang dialami siswa diidentifikasi dengan menggunakan jawaban siswa yang salah pada soal pilihan ganda.

Kata kunci; simple present, present progressive, kualifikasi, kesulitan, test.

A. BACKGROUND

Human and language cannot be separated from communication because language has an important role in our society. People use language for communicating in their life. Through language, people gain a better insight into human relation. They can also use the language to express their ideas (Mardianty in Nurhidayati. 2012).

English is an international language that can help us to communicate and interact with people around the world. In Indonesia, English is considered as the second language or first foreign language and has become one of the compulsory subjects taught formally from elementary school up to the university level. In learning English, the four skills should be learnt, those are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They are interconnected one another. To support the ability of using all skills, students need to have the knowledge of grammar. Grammar is one of the important aspects in the use of language that makes it possible for people to talk about language. “The rules that show how words are combined, arranged or changed to show

certain kinds of meaning”, (Swan, 2005).

Realizing the importance of grammar building for the students, teachers should take an effort to develop their students’ ability in grammar. Grammar is one of the stressed points that teacher cannot disregard (Cakir, 2013). In English there are several types of verbs and have different function that make learners confused to use English grammar appropriately. Students should have an ability to classify the verb and need to learn English grammar intensively.

In another case, many Indonesian learners face difficulties in learning grammar especially these aspects that concern the sentences structure. To learn grammar, students need to know about sentences structure accurately especially in simple present and present progressive tense. Frank (1972) states a sentence is a full predication containing a subject plus a predicate with a finite verb. Its arrangement may be symbolized by such formulas as S + V + O (Subject + Verb + Object), N1 + V + N2 (Noun + Verb + Noun) or NP + VP (Noun Phrase + Verb Phrase).

According to Hornby (1975), “tense are any forms of verb that may be used to show the time of the action or state expressed by the verb”. There are sixteen tenses in English. But in this case, the writer focuses on simple present and present progressive tenses, because it often used in daily activities. According to Azar (1992), “present tense as a tense which is used to express habitual, everyday activities or general statement of fact and also timeless truths”. Azar (1992), also states that the present progressive expresses an activity that is in progress at the moment of speaking and often the activity is of a general nature.

Based on the reason above and the writers’ experiences during teaching practice in SMP Negeri 15 Mataram, the writer was interested in analysing the students’ ability and the student’s difficulties in using simple present and present progressive tenses at the second year students of SMPN 15 Mataram. Therefore, the writer takes this title “An Analysis on The Students’ Ability in Using Simple Present and Present Progressive Tenses at The Second Year Students of SMPN 15 Mataram 2013/2014.”

The purpose of this study are to know the student’s ability in using simple present and present progressive tenses and to find out the students’ difficulties on the use of simple present and present progressive tenses.

B. RESEARCH METHODELOGY

This research is a descriptive research. A descriptive research is research that is conducted to know self-supporting variable value, either one variable or more (independent) without making comparison, or attribute to other variable (Sugiyono, 2003). Sometimes, descriptive research is concerned with how and what exist related to some preceding events that have developed or influenced the present condition (Yusra, 2006:27). The writer wants to describe students’ performance in using simple present and present progressive tenses.

According to Arikunto (1998: 115), population is the whole of the research subject. Widiyanto (2010:5) also states that the population is a group or a set of subjects or objects that will be generalized from the results of the study. The populations of this research are the second year students of SMP NEGERI 15 Mataram in academic year 2013/2014 which consists of 468

students who sat in 12 classes, each of which consisted of 39 students.

Sample is a part of population. Arikunto (1998) stated that when we observe a part of population only, the study is called sample study. Furthermore, she states that, if the population is less than 100 it would be better to take all and it is categorized as population research, but if the population is 100 or more, it should be taken 10-15% or 20-25 % or more from all. Thus the writer used random sampling technique because the population is more than 100. So, 20 % of the participants taken as samples were 94 students.

To acquire the data needed, the writer used test. Test is a systematic procedure for observing persons and describing them with either a numerical scale or a category system. Thus test may give either a qualitative or quantitative information (Nitko, 1983). The test consists of 50 items of multiple choice tests where the questions are divided into two parts, the first part is 25 items of simple present tense, and the second part is 25 items for present progressive tense. The participants who had correct answers

got score 2 (two) for one item of test and score 0 (zero) for incorrect answer.

C. FINDINGS

Based on the result of the test given, the highest score was 62 and the lowest one was 20. There were 3 students got the fairly good score. Further, there are 38 students who obtained low scores. Meanwhile, there are 53 students got the very low score. In addition, there was no students got the good score with range 70-84 and the very good score with range 85-100. So, the researcher assumes that the ability at the second year students of SMPN 15 Mataram in using simple present and present progressive tense very low.

The means score of students' ability obtained through multiple choice test is 38.34. It means that the students could answer the test correctly equals to 38.34% question from the total number of 50 questions. As a result, the ability of the second year students of SMPN 15 Mataram in academic year 2013/2014 in using simple present and present progressive tenses is very low.

D. DISCUSSION

1. The Students' Ability in Using Simple Present and Present Progressive Tense

Based on the research result, the students' ability in using simple present and present progressive tense at the second year students of SMPN 15 Mataram was very poor qualification. It is shown by the fact that the means score was 38.34. The range with 0-39 categorized as very poor qualification (Hamalik, 1989).

In the other side, the table 4.2 shows that the ranges of the highest scores from 55-69 was achieved by three (3) students. Thirty eight (38) students obtained low scores with the ranges of score from 40-54. Then, fifty three (53) students achieved very low scores with the ranges of score from 0-39. Further, no student achieved the very good score with range of score 85-100 and the good score in range 70-84. It indicates that the students of SMPN 15 Mataram found many kinds of difficulties in using simple present and present progressive tense. Grammar is one of the stressed point that teacher cannot disregard (Cakir in Sentiani, 2013).

After discussing the students' ability in using simple present and present progressive tense, the writer gave the explanation about the students' difficulties in using simple present and present progressive tense. In identifying the students' difficulties, the researcher checked the number of multiple choice test items that the students answered incorrectly.

2. The Students' Difficulties in Using Simple Present and Present Progressive Tenses

Based on the results of the test, there are several kinds of difficulties faced by the students of the second year students of SMPN 15 Mataram in using simple present and present progressive tenses. They are as follows;

a. The Structure of Sentence in Simple Present Tense

Based on the students' answer sheet, some students did not know the sentence structure of simple present. They used incorrect verb form of simple present tense where

they use it without suffix –es/-s when the subject is the third person singular and uses the base verb with suffix when the subject is not the third person singular. For examples;

- Fahmi _____ his car every week. (*wash*)

Some students put *washing* and *wash* in completing the sentence above. The time signal every week indicates that the sentence above is the present tense. So, it should be changed into *washes* because the subject is the third person singular that the verb changed into base verb by adding suffix –s/-es. The correct answer is “Fahmi washes his car every week”.

- She _____ to school every day. (*go*)

Some students completed the sentence above using the verb *go* and *went*. It should be change into *goes* because the subject is the third person singular. It means that the students faced difficulties in knowing the structure of

present tense and recognize that the sentence above is the present tense that is indicated with the signal word *everyday* (*adverbial of time of present tense*). The correct answer is “She goes to school every day”.

- Aura and Susan _____ film every weekend. (*watch*)

Some students completed the sentence using verb *watching* and *watch*. It should be changed into *watch* because the subject is the third plural person. The correct answer is “Aura and Susan watch film every weekend”

- We _____ the bus to the office every day. (*take*)

Some students used incorrect verb to complete the sentence above using verb *takes* and *took*. It should be changed into *take* (*the base verb without suffix –s or –es*) because the subject is the third person plural. The correct answer is “We take the bus to the office every day”.

Further, there were students could not differentiate the use of

DO and DOES in negative sentence of simple present tense. In this point, students used incorrect auxiliary verb form of simple present where they use auxiliary verb (do) when the subject is the third singular person. Conversely, they use the auxiliary verb (does) when the subject is not the third person singular. For example;

- On Sunday, he _____ read a newspaper. (*do not*)

Some students completed the sentence above using incorrect auxiliary verb in negative sentence of present tense. They put *do not*. It should be changed into *does not* because the subject is the third person singular. The correct answer is “On Sunday, he does not read newspaper”.

- Where _____ they work? (*do*)

Some students completed the interrogative sentence above using auxiliary verb *does*. The subject of the sentence above is the third person plural. So, it should be

change into *do*. The correct answer is “where do they work?”.

- Which question is the correct form of simple present?
 - a. Do she work in an office?
 - b. Does she work in an office?
 - c. do she works in an office?
 - d. does she works in an office?

Some students answer A and C that indicate the students did not know the use of auxiliary verb *DO* and *DOES* in interrogative sentence of present tense. The correct answer is B “Does she work in an office?”, because the subject is the third person singular. So, the auxiliary verb (DOES) is used.

Moreover, there were students used incorrect adverbs of frequency of simple present tense. For example;

- I _____ sit here. (*Incorrect*)

More than a half of sample in this study complete the sentence above using adverbial of frequency *now*. It should be complete using

adverbial of frequency *usually* because the sentence above is present tense. The correct answer is “I usually sit here”.

b. The Use of Present Tense

Based on the students’ answer sheet, there were students faced difficulties in using present tense of use. For example;

- The world is round.
- The sun is rises in the east.

The sentences above using.....

Some students answered that the sentence above is used in *present progressive tense* and *simple past*. The correct answer is *present tense* because the sentences above indicate the present tenses which are used to talk about general truth.

- He works in the library.

What tense is used in the sentence above?

Some students said that the sentence above is used in *present progressive tense* and *past tense*. The sentence above indicates the use of present tense to talk about habitual

aspect or routines. So, the correct answer is *present tense*

In addition, the students cannot differentiate about simple present and present progressive tenses. The students misuse the present continuous as they confused it with the simple present tenses (Cakir, 2011)

c. The Structure of Present Progressive Tense.

Based on the students’ answer sheet, there were students used incorrect *to be* and *verb + ing* in affirmative sentences of present progressive tense. In this case, the students used correct *to be* but they used incorrect *verb+ ingor* they used correct *verb + ing* but they used incorrect *to be*. For examples;

- They _____ now. (*fight*)

Some students complete the sentence above using incorrect verb, they complete it using *are fight*. It should be changed into *are fighting* because the sentence above is present progressive tense that is indicated by *time signal* (now). So, the verb *fight* should be added *ing*.

The correct answer is "They are fighting now".

- Ihsan and Rifki_____a song.
(sing)

Some students complete the sentence above using incorrect verb. They put *is singing*. It should be changed into *are singing* because the subject is the third person plural. The correct answer is *Ihsan and Rifkiare singing a song.*

Furthermore, there were students used incorrect *to be* as a question tag in present progressive tense. For example;

- I am a student, _____?

Almost all of students completed the sentence above using *am i*.it should be changed into *are not I* because the subject is the first person singular. As we know that especially in singular pronoun *I*, its' use *to be(are)* as a question mark when the first sentence is positive. The correct answer is *I am a student, aren't I?*

In the other side, some students used incorrect *subject* and *to be* in giving response of yes/no

question form of present progressive tense. For example;

- Are they playing football?

Some students answered the question above *No, I am not*. It should be change into *No, they are not* because the subject is the third plural person. The correct answer is *No, they aren't.*

- Are they writing a letter?

Some students answered the question above *No, they were not*. It should be changed into *No, they are not* because the interrogative sentence above is used in present progressive tense. The subject is the third plural person. So, it should use *to be (are)*. The correct answer is *No, they aren't.*

d. The Use of Present Progressive Tense

Based on the students' answer sheet, there were students faced difficulties in using present progressive tense. For example;

- Which sentence is in present progressive tense?

- a. She was meeting you again tomorrow.
- b. She is meeting you again tomorrow.
- c. She will meeting you again tomorrow.
- d. She shall meet you again tomorrow.

From the question above, almost all of students answer C “*she will meeting you again tomorrow*”. The correct answer is B “*she is meeting you again tomorrow*”. It indicates the present progressive tense defined plan for future where the plan is already arranged and defined.

e. The meaning of present progressive tense

Based on the students’ answer sheet, there were students did not know the meaning of present progressive tense. It is shown by the result of the given test that more than a half samples of this study answer the question below incorrectly.

- Which is the following action is in progressive tense?

- a. Recently complete action
- b. Repeated action
- c. Action happening at the moment of speaking
- d. General truth

Some students answered A and B that indicate the students did not know the meaning of present progressive tense. The correct answer is C “*action happening at the moment of speaking*”.

E. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the research finding and discussion, the research question stated in the previous chapter was answered as follows:

1. The students’ ability in using simple present and present progressive tenses can be categorized into “very low” qualification.
2. The second year students of SMPN 15 Mataram get many kinds of difficulties in using simple present and present progressive tenses. It was indicated by the fact that the mean score of the students was 38.34 and 53 students (56.38%) out of 94 students got “very low” scores. There are some difficulties faced by the students in using

simple present and present progressive tense. They are as follows;

3. The structure of sentence in simple present
4. The Uses of Present Tense
5. The Structure of Present Progressive Tense
6. Differentiate about simple present and present progressive tense
7. The Uses of Present Progressive Tense
8. The Meaning of Present Progressive Tense

F. SUGGESTIONS

The writer would like to provide some suggestions for both the English teacher and students:

- a. The teacher should explain the function and the rules of simple present and present progressive tense clearly
- b. The teacher should pay attention to the teaching of the grammar especially in simple present and present progressive tense.

- c. The teacher should be able to create the teaching and learning process more interesting by using interesting method and media. The teachers are required to apply appropriate technique in presenting the material.
- d. The teacher should help the students in understanding the usage of simple present and present progressive tenses by giving more exercises.
- e. The students should pay attention to English grammar in their study of English in order to improve their mastery.
- f. The students should always practice in using the tenses either inside or outside classroom.
- g. The students should pay attention to the materials taught by the teacher in teaching and learning process.

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