

**AN ANALYSIS ON STUDENT'S ABILITY IN USING PAST TENSE AT  
SECOND GRADE SMP NEGERI 4 BATANGHARI**

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**ABSTRACT.**

The purpose of this non-experimental quantitative study was to find out the students' ability in using simple past tense and past continuous tense at second grade SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari. The sample consisted of 47 students were taken by applying total sampling. The data were collected by using multiple choice test. Tests were analyzed by using descriptive quantitative technique. The test consisted of 40 test items. The results showed the following, mean score was 63.93. Students ability in using simple past and past continuous tense was 64.26% belonged to sufficient category. The highest score in the test was 100 gained by two students. The fourth, the lowest score in the test was 30 gained by one student. It can be concluded that students' ability in using simple past and past continuous tense at second grade SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari belonged to sufficient category. Because of that, the researcher would like to suggest that students' ability in using simple past and past continuous tense need to improve thought effective and efficient in teaching and learning process.

## **Background of the Study**

English is as foreign language in Indonesia. English is taught from elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, until college student. In learning English besides four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) the students also learn language competence, one of which is grammar. Jeremy Harmer (2001:12) said that, the grammar of a language is the description of the ways in which words can change their forms and can be combine into sentences in that language. In other words, grammar is the explanation about how to form sentences.

Based on English teacher experienced, in teaching and learning process simple past and past continuous tense has been taught by second grade students' at Senior High school. Based on the fact above, the reseacher is interested in doing the reseach which is entitled "An Analysis on Students Ability in Using Past tense at Second grade Students' SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari".

### **1.2 Reseach Question**

To investigate student's ability in using past tense at the following research question: How is students' ability in simple past tense and past continuous tense at the second grade SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari?

### **Objective of the Study**

Based on the research question above, the purpose of the study as follow:

To find out the students ability in using past *Simple Past Tense* and *Past Continuous Tense* at SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari.

### **The Scope and Delimitation of the Study**

This research focused on discussing students' ability in past tense at second grader in SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari. The tenses were simple past and past continuous tense.

### **Significances of the Study**

This study is expected to know the students ability in simple past and past continuous tense. This study can be contribution to the English teacher in develoving students' ability in past tense and use suitable materials.

### **The Definition of Key Term:**

#### **1. *Ability***

Ability is the competence in doing skills and knowledge (Webster, 1980).

#### **2. *Past tense***

Basic meaning of the Past tense in English is to locate an event or state in the past. Angela Downing and Philip Locke ( 200

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## **The Concept of Grammar**

According to Linda Gerat and Piter Wignel (1994:2), grammar is a theory of language, of how language is combining and how it works.

## **Previous Study**

Maisaroh (2013) the purpose of this study was to know the students ability and level of their ability at second grade in using simple past tense. This study focused on students' ability in using past tense. The finding of this research showed that the average score in the form of the simple past tense is 52.09% and the average score in making sentences of the simple past tense is 29.57

Otulawa (2013) the objective of this reseach was to know the students ability in using past tense.. The total of students answer is 567 with persentase 65.17% and the total of students incorrect answer is 303 with persentase 34.83%. Therefore the total of students score is 65.17% and can be classified into high level in intensity 61%-80%.

Fadzilyna (2013) the purpose of this reseach to describe the errors in using past tense made by eight graders of MTSN Model Trenggalek in writting recount texts. The result from the analysis stated that there are 66 errors in the use of past tense found in 36 pieces of students writing

## **Research Design and Approach of the Study**

This researcher investigated about student's ability in using past tense at second grade SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari. This study used a non-experimental quantitative design with a descriptive approach. Burke Johnson and Larry

Christensen (2008:377) stated that the primary purpose of descriptive research is to provide an accurate description or picture of status or characteristics of a situation or phenomena

### **Research Site and Access**

The site of the study was at second grade junior high school in SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari. This school was one of favorite Junior High School in Kecamatan Batin XXIV.

### **Research Population and Sampling Procedures**

#### **Population**

According to CR.Kothri (2004:152 ) population refer to the total of items about which information is desire.Populaation in this reseach consist of 71 students.

#### **Sample**

According to CR.Kothri (2004:152 ) sample as the selection of some part of totaly. To conducted this study, the researcher used total sampling. In this reseach, the reseacher used class VIII B and VIII C as sample.This caused by the number of sampling of this reseach were 47 students.

### **Data Collection Method**

In collecting the data the researcher followed some steps of data collection. Firstly, the reseacher gave a formal letter to doing this reseach, then the reseacher

distributed multiple choice test to the participants. After that the researcher asked students to answer the multiple choice test. It used to find out students ability in using past tense and got score.

### **Pilot Study of the Test**

The test was pilot to one class at second grade students at SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari. It was pilot to second grade students at class C which consists of 24 students out of the sample but they were still the same population.

### **Validity and Reliability**

#### **Validity**

According to Burke Johnson and Larry Christensen (2008 :150) “Validity refers to accuracy of the inferences, interpretation or action made on the basis of test scores. scores on tests of accepted validity, successful performance or behavior, or the expert judgment of recognized authorities.

#### **Reliability**

According to John W. Best and James V.Khan (1959 : 378) a test is said to be reliable to the degree that it measures accurately and consistently, yielding comparable results when administered a number of times. To see the reability of the test, the student’s answer of the data has been analyzed by using SPSS 16.

### Method of Data Analysis

The data of this research analyzed by using SPSS. In order to calculate the mean score, the researcher uses descriptive statistics and the formula used as follow: Burke Johnson and Larry Christensen (2008: 473)

$$M = \frac{T}{N}$$

After that, the researcher used the descriptive analysis technique ( percentage).

The researcher analyzed students' answer and counted them by formula as follows

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

After having the frequency and percentage of error for each item .the researcher found the average by using formula :

$$P = \frac{F}{N \times n} \times 100 \%$$

After that, the number of students' comprehension level will categorize by use the following scoring interval Arikunto (2013)

### Scale Categories of level comprehension

| No | Score     | Level of mastery |
|----|-----------|------------------|
| 1  | 80%– 100% | Excellent        |
| 2  | 66% – 79% | Good             |

|   |           |              |
|---|-----------|--------------|
| 3 | 56 %– 65% | Sufficient   |
| 4 | 40– 55%   | Insufficient |
| 5 | <30%-39%  | Poor         |

Based on criteria the criteria of correct result percentage above, It can divided into the high, middle, and low score:

### **Overview of the Study**

The purposes of this non-experimental quantitative study with a descriptive approach to find out the students' ability in using simple past and past continuous tense. The population of this study was all of the second grade students at SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari. The total number of students were 71 students .

### **Findings**

#### **Preliminary Analysis of Pilot Study**

The The pilot study of the test conducted at one of Junior High School in Batanghari. It tested to 24 students out of the sample but they were still in the same population. They were 10 males and 14 females. The validity of the test estimated by using SPSS 16. ( see Apendix B)). The result of the reliability analyzed by using SPSS 16. The result proved that test reliability was 0.899. It means that the instrument was reliable.

### **Students' Ability in using Simple past and Past Continuous Tense**

The data showed that total of correct answer is 1208 or 64.26%. The total of incorrect answer is 672 or 35.74%. It showed that percentage that students' incorrect answer in using simple past tense is 19.78% and students' incorrect answer in using Simple Past Continuous tense is 15.95%. Data above showed that some students' still get difficulty in using simple past tense and simple past continuous tense.

### **Discussion**

After analyzing the data, the researchers found that mean score students at SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari are 63.93. Ability of the second grade students SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari in using simple past and past continuous tense were 64.26 % belonged to sufficient category.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings and discussion in chapter IV, the researcher concluded that mean score students at SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari is 63.93. Students' ability at second grade SMP Negeri 4 Batanghari in using past tense was categories sufficient..

### **Suggestion**

In order to improve students' ability in using simple past and past continuous tense. English teacher should pay attention to some students who got difficulties in learning grammar, especially in using simple past and past continuous tense three tenses.

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