ABSTRACT

The purposes of this research are to know the students’ ability in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives in one Junior High School in Jambi and to know the common mistake that students make in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives in sentences. In collecting the data, the researcher used grammar test which consisted of 27 questions. The sample of this research was 62 students of the seventh year students at one of Junior High School in Jambi (SMP Negeri 22 Kota Jambi). In conclusion, the finding showed that that the students’ ability of the use of possessive pronouns and possessive adjective in class V11 SMP N 22 Kota Jambi was good enough. In using possessive pronouns and possessive adjective in class V11 SMP N 22 Kota Jambi still there are the use of possessive pronouns and possessive adjective in class V11, resulting in question that have been anwered by the students there are still many mistakes that must be corrected to improve student learning outcomes with the results obtained were 64.75%.

Key words: ability, possessive pronouns, and possessive adjectives

INTRODUCTION

According to Harmer (2001), “the grammar of a language is the description of the ways in which words can change their forms and can be combined into sentences in that language”. In other words, grammar is the explanation about how to form sentences. Therefore, grammar is an important element to construct a good sentence in both spoken and written communication. Grammar or grammatical structure in English has a variety of important elements
such as nouns, verbs, adverbs, gerunds, active and passive sentences, participles, pronouns, and possessive adjective. For pronouns and adjectives as part of grammar, there are some parts including possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives. These parts of grammar are important for students who learn English as a foreign language.

Pronouns are very important because they are usually used such as in conversation, sentences, and story book to change a word that names a person, place or thing. However, many students are still confused and do not understand with the use of possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives as there are a variety of forms related to possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives.

Based on English researcher experienced teaching practice (PPL), in teaching and learning process possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives in SMP 22 Kota Jambi has been taught by first-grade students at Junior High School. However, many students have difficulties in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjective building a sentence. Probably this happened because some reasons such as weakness of students’ ability in grammar especially in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjective. Moreover, some students were confused to use singular and plural and how to use subject and object pronouns.

All the problems above show that the students did not understand the correct rules of possessive pronouns and possessive adjective. The researcher chose SMP Negeri 22 Kota Jambi as one Junior High School in Jambi to do the research about possessive pronouns and possessive adjective. To measure the students’ ability and to get the data, the research gave test. In preparing the test
items, the researcher adapted the questions from Basic English Grammar (Azar & Hagen, 1992).

The Research Questions

To achieve the purpose of the research, the following questions guide this research.

a. How is the students’ ability in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives in one Junior High School in Jambi?

b. What is the common mistake that students make in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjective in sentences?

The Purposes of the Research

The purposes of this research are to know the students’ ability in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives in one Junior High School in Jambi and to know the common mistake that students make in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives in sentences.

The Limitation of the Research

There are several limitations of this research. First, due to the issue of access, the research site was at one Junior High School which is SMP Negeri 22 in Jambi. Second, it is related to the method. In this research, the researcher used a nonexperimental quantitative design with a descriptive approach by giving the students a test in the multiple-choice form of possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives. Third, this research was only examined the first semester students of
one Junior High School in Jambi, so, the findings of this research might not be
generalized to other students in the same school or other schools.

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

**The Concept of Grammar**

In general, the grammar of spoken sentences is simpler and less strictly
constructed than the grammar of written sentences. It is difficult to divide a
spoken conversation into separate sentences, and the connections between one
clause and another are less clear because the speaker relies more on the hearer’s
understanding of context and on his ability to interrupt if they fail to understand
(Harmer, 2001). Grammar has various descriptions but they are still in term of
rules of language.

Grammar consists of form and rules. Larsen-Freeman (2002) asserted that
“grammar is about form and one way to teach form is to give students rules;
however, grammar is about much more than form, and its teaching is ill served if
students are simply given rules”. It can be supposed from the statement above that
without mastering grammar the students cannot write, read, speak and listen well.
the description of the ways in which words can change their forms, and can be
combined into sentences in that language”.

However, grammar has the differences definition in foreign language.
Grammar is a system of rules which allow the users of the language in question to
create meaning, by building both meaningful words and larger construction of
sentences. Based on the above statement, the researcher can conclude that
grammar is the structure and system of a language. Grammar can help to learn a language more quickly and more efficiently.

**Possessive Pronouns**

Azar & Hagen (1992) stated “possessive pronouns are not followed immediately by a noun, they stand alone”. Possessive pronouns (mine, yours, hers, his, ours, theirs). A possessive pronoun is used to show possession, or to point out the person who owns the object.

Example:

1. *These* clothes are very nice. *Mine* is the expensive one.
2. *This* is your pen, and the red one is *mine*.
3. *My* class is bad. *Theirs* is most beautiful one.
4. It is your plan. *Ours* is delay.
5. I don’t like *my* bag. I like *theirs*.

Possessive pronouns are used in English to avoid repeating information that is already clear. In general, it makes the sentence less confusing because the same information is not being repeated.

Example:

1. This book is my book, not your book. (sounds repetitive)
2. This book is mine, not yours. (mine and yours is possessive pronouns).

In the sentence, mine is a possessive pronoun that replaces my book, whereas, in the sentence, yours is a possessive pronoun that replaces your book.
We use possessive pronouns to refer to a specific person, people, or thing, things belong to a person/people.

Possessive pronouns can be used depending on:

1. Number: singular (mine) or plural (ours)
2. Person: 1st person (mine), 2nd person (yours), 3rd person (his)
3. Gender: male (his), female (hers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Gender (of &quot;owner&quot;)</th>
<th>Person Pronon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Male/Female</td>
<td>Mine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Male/Female</td>
<td>Yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>His</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Neuter</td>
<td>Hers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pluar</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Male/Female</td>
<td>Ours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Male/Female</td>
<td>Yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Male/Female/Neuter</td>
<td>Theirs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Possessive Adjectives**

Azar & Hagen (1992) stated that a possessive adjective is followed immediately by a noun, they do not stand alone. A possessive adjective (my, your, his, her, its, our, their) is similar or identical to possessive pronouns. However, it is used as an adjective and modifies a noun or a noun phrase, as in the following sentences:

1. My house is the biggest one.
2. The city is my home town.
3. Your letter was sent yesterday.
4. My book is here. Your books are over there.

A possessive adjective (my, your, his, her, its, our, their) is similar or identical to possessive pronouns; however, it is used as an adjective and modifies a noun or a noun phrase, as in the following sentence:

- I can't complete my assignment because I don't have the textbook.

In this sentence, the possessive adjective "my" modifies "assignment" and the noun phrase "my assignment" functions as an object. Note that the possessive pronoun form "mine" is not used to modify a noun or noun phrase.

- What is your phone number?

Here the possessive adjective "your" is used to modify the noun phrase "phone number"; the entire noun phrase "your phone number" is a subject complement. Note that the possessive pronoun form "yours" is not used to modify a noun or a noun phrase. Example, the bakery sold his type of bread.

### Table 2.2 Possessive Adjective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
<th>Subject – Possessive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have a book. My book is red.</td>
<td>We have books. Our books are red.</td>
<td>You – Your</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You have a book. Your book is red.</td>
<td>You have books. Your books are red.</td>
<td>He – His</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He has a book. His book is red.</td>
<td>They have books. Their books are red.</td>
<td>She – Her</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She has a book. Her book is red.</td>
<td></td>
<td>We – Our</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: (Azzar, p.A6)*
Table 2.3 Possessive Adjective and Possessive Pronoun

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possessive</th>
<th>Possessive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is my book.</td>
<td>This is mine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is your book.</td>
<td>This is yours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is her book.</td>
<td>This is hers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is our book.</td>
<td>This is ours book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is their book.</td>
<td>This is theirs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is its book.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Lou (2006, p.13)*

Possessive Pronouns Compare Possessive Adjectives

Example:

- His is *my* house (*my* is a possessive determiner. It is followed by the noun *house* which modifies).
- Is that car *yours*? (*yours* is a possessive pronoun. It is not followed by a noun). Pronouns are used for persons or things and change form according to the people or things they refer to and their position in a sentence (Subject or Object).
- Thus “I” is used as the subject of a sentence (I am happy.),
- *Me* is used as an object in various ways (He hit me. He gave me a book. Do this for me),
- and *my* is used as the possessive form (That’s my car.) The same is true of the other personal pronouns: the singular you and he/she/it and the plural you, they, and we. These forms are called cases.
Possessive Pronouns and Their Functions

a. As Object Pronouns

Khodijah (2006) stated that possessive pronouns functioning as object or non-subject group (me, him, her, it, us, you, and them). The examples can be seen below.

Direct object inside the verb

Example: John sent a book to Jacky, John sent it to Jacky.

A book is a direct object immediately follows the verb sent. He gave a bunch of flowers to her. He gave it to her. The sentence “gave a bunch of flower” is a direct object immediately follows.

Direct object is followed by indirect object.

The (female) teacher gave a present to me. She gave it to me. To is morphologically used to mark the indirect object which is the form of me.

b. As Modifier in Possessive

Khodijah (2006, p.29) stated that modifiers are followed immediately by a noun. They do not stand alone but refer to the possessor and not to the thing possessed. My, your, his, her, its, our and determiners. The possessive it is used only with a noun following and do not take apostrophe. It’s (with an apostrophe) means it is or it has in the present perfect. Nouns can modify other nouns. When a noun comes in front of another noun, it functions as an adjective. A noun that is used an adjective is always in its singular form.

1. Correct: He works at a shoes store.
2. Incorrect: He work’s at a shoes store

c. As Object of Possessive

Azar & Hagen (1992) stated that object of possessive is not followed immediately by a noun, it stands alone. It also shows possession the same as in possessive adjective. Mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs are called possessive pronouns as object and there is no pronoun its.

Examples Mine, that book is mine. Mine is the possessive pronoun that shows its possession. Mine in this sentence means my book.”Yours, the red one is yours, yours is the possessive pronouns, shows possession. And “Hers”, the best writing is hers. “Hers is the possessive pronouns, show possession”.”Hers in this sentence means her writing. His, the cat is his, his, possessive pronouns, shows possession. “His in this sentence means his cat. Our, their team is stronger than ours. ”Ours is a possessive pronoun, that shows possession. “Ours in this sentence means our team Theirs. This ball is theirs. Theirs is a possessive pronoun, shows possession. Theirs in this sentence means their ball.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

Based on the issues raised, the results of the research on the ability in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjective in class V11 SMP N 22 Kota Jambi City can be summed up as follows.

(1) The result were obtained 64,75%, the percentage of students’ skills in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives. The percentage are in the interval 60% - 74% (pretty good) in the percentage assessment scale of
student’s ability in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjective. It can be concluded that the ability of the use of possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives in class V11 SMP N 22 Kota Jambi was good enough.

(2) In using possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives in class V11 SMP Negeri 22 Kota Jambi, there are still many mistakes that must be corrected to improve student learning outcomes.

Suggestions

Based on the finding in this research, the suggestions to be conveyed through this research area are as follows.

(1) For students of class V11 SMP Negeri 22 Kota Jambi need to improve the use of possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives, despite of being quite good, and must practice more of their grammar. Then, the students should be more diligent to get the new knowledge to increase their ability in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives not only from the teacher at school, but also from other sources. They are also suggested to be more active in classroom activities especially in grammar.

(2) For English teachers, they are advised to develop material and get the appropriate ways and strategies in teaching their student based on students’ ability in using possessive pronouns and possessive adjective.

(3) For other researcher, perhaps this research can be reference to conduct the same research but with the same topic but the different limitation such as the samples, research design, and research instrument.
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