

A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE FOURTH SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM FKIP UNIVERSITAS RIAU IN USING PAST EXPRESSION (COMPLEX SENTENCES)

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Abstract: *This research investigates the ability of the fourth semester students of English department study program FKIP universitas Riau Pekanbaru in using past expression (complex sentences). The population of this research was the fourth semester students of English department study program FKIP universitas Riau Pekanbaru in academic year of 2018/2019. There were 30 students who participate as the sample of this research. The students are tested using a simple test. The result of the test given was then classified into certain categories. The test results of 30 students shows that 6 students (20%) are in good to excellent category, 8 students (26,67%) are in good to excellent level, 8 students (26,67%) at average to good level, 8 students (26,67%) in poor to average level, and last 8 student (26,67%) in poor level. In addition, the average score of the students in past expression (complex sentences) is 61,16. It means that the students' ability in past expression(complex sentences) was in the average to good level. Based on the tests, it can be concluded that the fourth semester students of English department study program FKIP universitas Riau Pekanbaru already were in average to good ability in past expression(complex sentence). Researcher recommended the students and other researchers to conduct similar research to get further information.*

Key Words: *Ability, Past Expression, and Complex Sentences*

STUDI TENTANG KEMAMPUAN MURID SEMESTER EMPAT DARI PROGRAM STUDI BAHASA INGGRIS FKIP UNIVERSITAS RIAU DALAM MENGGUNAKAN EKSPRESI MASA LALU (KOMPLEKS KALIMAT)

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Abstrak: Penelitian ini menyelidiki kemampuan siswa semester empat dari program studi bahasa inggris FKIP universitas riau Pekanbaru dalam menggunakan past expression (complex sentence). Populasi atau subjek penelitian ini adalah siswa semester kemampuan siswa semester empat dari program studi bahasa inggris FKIP universitas riau Pekanbaru tahun akademik 2018/2019. Ada 30 siswa yang berpartisipasi sebagai sampel penelitian ini. Para siswa diuji menggunakan tes sederhana. Hasil tes yang diberikan kemudian diklasifikasikan ke dalam kategori tertentu. Hasil tes dari 30 siswa menunjukkan bahwa 6 students (20%) berada dalam kategori sangat bagus, 8 siswa (26,67%) berada dalam kategori bagus sampai sangat bagus, 8 students (26,67%) berada dalam kategori rata-rata sampai at bagus, 8 students (26,67%) berada dalam kategori buruk sampai rata-rata, dan 8 siswa (26,67%) dalam kategori buruk. Selain itu, skor rata-rata siswa dalam ekspresi masa lalu (kalimat kompleks) adalah 61,16. Ini berarti kemampuan siswa dalam menulis ekspresi masa lalu (kalimat kompleks) berada pada level yang rata-rata sampai bagus. Berdasarkan tes, dapat disimpulkan bahwa siswa semester empat dari program studi bahasa inggris FKIP universitas riau Pekanbaru sudah memiliki kemampuan yang baik untuk dalam ekspresi masalalu (kalimat kompleks). Peneliti merekomendasikan siswa dan peneliti lain untuk melakukan penelitian serupa untuk mendapatkan informasi lebih lanjut

Kata Kunci: Kemampuan, Ekpresi Masa Lalu, dan Kalimat Kompleks

INTRODUCTION

Grammar is useful in writing aspect because grammar helps in constructing a good sentence. Another reason is grammar makes the writing easily understood by the audiences. According to syllabus of English Education Department, Faculty of Education and Teachers Training of Riau University Pekanbaru, especially in Structure-one subject, past expressions are one of subject matters which must be learned by students, and one of the past expression in complex sentence. In the syllabus, students are expected to understand and be able to apply this subject.

One of the principal parts of grammar is about the use of tenses. But first of all, it should be clear about the distinction between “tense” and “time”. **Eckersley, (1975)** state that the notion of time such as present time, past time, and future time is universal, and is independent of any particular language. While tense, on the other hand is language device, varying from one language to the other language. Tense means the verb-form that is used to express certain relation. For example: *I speak English everyday* indicate present time, *I spoke English to john yesterday* indicate past time, while *I will speak English to my class tomorrow* indicate future time.

One tense can have more than one function in sentence. Many tenses mean that more aspects of language should be memorized and understood, such as the usage of each tense. The pattern of tenses, the change of verb form, and indicator of time.

The researcher conducted simple test to identify whether the students have understood this subject or not, in accordance with the researcher’ assumptions on it, this research was expected can give contribution to realize students’ background knowledge, and then increase their understanding of these past progressive, in order to use those in a sentence correctly.

Based on the background above, the writes is interested to do research about the ability of the fourth semester students in using past expression with time clause in complex sentence at University of Riau Pekanbaru (academic year 2018/2019).

Overview Tense

Seaton (2007) defines that a sentence is a group of words expressing a complete thought. A sentence must have a subject and a verb, but it may or may not have an object. It means that sentence will not complete without subject or verb. The sentence will be awkward and have meaning and not giving sense to the reader. **Hogue (2008)** states that a sentence is a group of word contains at least one subject and one verb, and expresses a complete thought. It means that, the sentence has both subject and verb. However, if it does not have a complete thought and give no sense to the reader, the sentence has still not been completed yet.

Based on the definition above, sentence usually expresses a complete sentence thought and meaning consisting of subject and verb. When writing a sentence, we must be able to make sure that the subject and the verb are agreed.

Therefore, in a sentence, the subject and the verb need each other in order to make a sense. In conclusion, sentence is a group of words consisting of subject and verb expresses a complete thought.

Simple Past Tense

The past tense expresses an action which happened at specific time in the past, or it may tell about something that happened several time or for long time in the past. (**Frank Marcella, 1972**). The past tense indicates definite time terminating in the past, whether a time word is given or not.

The past tense may refer to:

1. One event completed in the past
2. Repeated events completed in the past and no longer happening.
3. Duration of an event complete in the past

Past Progresive Tense

The past progressive tense emphasizes the duration of one past event that has possible beginning and ending. (**Frank Marcella, 1972**). The action had begun before the other action happened and was continuing at the time when the other action happened.

The past progressive is required for a past action in progress which is suddenly or unexpectedly interrupted by another past action. The implication is that the action in progress is uncompleted (at least momentarily) because of the interruption.

Complex Sentences

A complex sentence is a sentence having a two or more full predication. One of these is and independent clause that is similar to form of simple sentence and one or more of these is dependent clauses (**Frank Marcella, 1972**). A dependent clause is similar to independent clause or complete sentence, but it lack one of the elements that would make it complete sentence.

A complex sentence joins an independent clause with one or more dependent clauses. The dependent clause can go first in the sentence then followed by the independent clauses.

The term *periodic sentence* is used to refer to a complex sentence beginning with a dependent clause and ending with an independent clause, as in “while my father coming to the school, I was on my way home”. Periodic sentence can be especially effective because the completed though occur at the end of it, so the first part of the sentence can build up the meaning that comes at the end.

METHODOLOGY

This is descriptive research that has only one variable that is to investigate the ability of the fourth semester student of University of Riau Pekanbaru (academic year 2018/2019) in using past expression with time clauses in complex sentences. **Gay (1990)** “a descriptive research involved collecting the data to test a hypotheses or to answer a question concerning the current state of the subject of the study.”

This research had been conducted at the fourth semester students of English Education Department, Faculty of Education and Teachers Training, universitas Riau for Academic year 2018/2019. The university is located at Kampus Bina Widya KM. 12,5, Simpang Baru, Kec. Tampan, Kota Pekanbaru, Riau

The researcher conducted probability sampling technique, it was exactly purposive sampling. Subjects were handpicked by the researcher on the basis of his or her own estimate of their typicality. In this case, the researcher determined to choose 10 students from each class of A B and C as the sample of this research after considering to the treatment that given by the lecturer while lecturing the course. The researcher was sure that class A B and C had the same treatment in learning Structure-three particularly about past expression(complex sentence)..

Population

The population was the subject of the research. In this study, the population was the fourth semester students of English Education Department, Faculty of Education and Teachers Training, universitas Riau for Academic year 2018/2019. consisting of three classes; Class A consists of 40 students, class B consists of 40 students and class C consists of 38 students. So that, the total of the population was 118 students

Sample

Sample is the selected numbers of those representing the population of the research. Gay (2000) defines that sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that they represent the larger group from which they are selected. Since the population is more than 100 the number of sample taken is 25% of total population

The number of sample : 25% of total population
Total students : 118 student
 $25\% \times 118 = 30$ students will be taken for sample

Table 1. The distribution of the research population and sample

No	Classes	Population	Sample
1	IVa	40	10
2	IVb	40	10
3	IVc	38	10
	Total	118	30

Instrument of the Research

To identify the students' ability in using past expression (complex sentences), the instrument used was test. Test is the instrument in quantitative research to open the

research question in this research. Test was used when the researcher works on the inquiry of numbers using statistics in analyzing the obtained data. This instrument had been used by the researcher to gain the data and identify the percentage and level of students' ability.

Technique of Collecting the Data

To find out the students' ability in using past expression in complex sentences, the writer collected the data by giving essay test in form of completion adopted by writer to the respondent. The total number of test was 20 questions and each question has 2 items. So there was 40 items of test. The answers submitted by students were assessed by the researcher to score. The scores gained were analyzed by the researcher.

Table 2. Blue Print of the Test Items

No	Component of the test item	Number of the Test Items	Total
1	past action in progress interrupted by another action (Complex sentence)	1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15,17,19	10
2	Two event completed in the past (Complex sentence)	4,6,12,16,18	5
3	two past action are in progress simultaneously (Complex sentence)	2,8,10,14,20	5
	Total	40	20

Technique of Analyzing the Data

To investigate the student's ability in using past expression the following formula is used:

$$M = \frac{X}{N} \times 100$$

M = Individual score
X = the number of correct answer
N = the number of the items
(Wayan and Sumartana, 1983)

The result is present in table below:

Table 3. Level of Ability

The score of the ability	Category
80-100	Good to Excellent
60-79	Average to Good
50-59	Poor to Average
0-49	Poor

(Harris, 1969)

To find the average score of the students, the writer used the following formula:

$$M = \frac{\sum fx}{N}$$

Where M = Mean score
 $\sum fx$ = the sum of Student score
 N = the number of the students

(Heaton, 1975)

The writer calculates the percentages for the classification of student's ability in using past expression in complex sentence by the following formula:

$$P = \frac{CR}{r} 100\%$$

Where: P = Percentage
 CR = Number of frequency
 r = Number of respondents

(Hate & Farhadi: 1985)

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher conducted the test to collect the data. There were 30 number of students as the samples in this research, they had been tested at the fourth semester students of English Education Department, Faculty of Education and Teachers Training Universitas Riau. The test was implemented to get the answer of the research question: to find out students' ability in using past expression (complex Sentences). The students were directed to answer by filling the gaps in the questions by using past expression was, were, as/as. The total number of test was 20 questions and each question has 2 items. So there was 40 items of test.

After giving the test, the researcher calculated the scores of students from individual correct answer. Each number was given score 5, and they got 100 for them who answered the question correctly at all numbers based on the direction of the test.

Table 4. The students' score in using past expression (complex sentences)

Total	CA	students	score	Categories	percentage
	743	30	1835		100%
Mean			61,16	Average to good	

From the table above, the average score of the students in using past expression in complex sentence is:

$$M = \frac{\sum fx}{N} = \frac{1835}{30} = 61,16$$

Fx = total score

N = total students

It mean that the ability of the fourth semester students of the fourth semester students of English Education Department, Faculty of Education and Teachers training Universitas Riau in using past expression (complex sentences) is in *Average to good* level.

Table 5. The Students' Ability in Using past Expression
(Complex Sentences)

Score	Level of ability	Frequency	percentage
80-100	Good to excellent	6	20%
60-79	Average to good	8	26,67%
50-59	Poor to average	8	26,67%
0-49	Poor	8	26,67%
Total		30	100%

Based on the table above, the Table show that out of 30 students who took the test, six students (20%) in the good to excellent level, eight students (26,67%) in average to good level, eight students (26,67%) in poor to average level, and the other eight students (26,26%) in the poor level.

Related to the mean of students' scores 61.16, and dealing on the percentage of classification of the students' ability in using past expression (complex sentences), it can be described that there were more than a half number of students who were categorized into "good, average, and poor"

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

After conducting a research entitled “A Study ON the Ability of The Fourth Semester Students of ENGLISH Study Program FKIP Universitas RIAU in Using Past Expression (Complex Sentences).” Some conclusion can be drawn as follow:

1. The mean score of the whole students’ in using past expression (complex sentences) is 61, 16. In conclusion, the ability of the fourth semester students of ENGLISH Study Program FKIP Universitas RIAU is *average to good* level.
2. Through the data analysis in chapter four, it can be seen that using of two events completed in the past is more difficult than using of past action in progress interrupted by another past action an using two past action are in progress simultaneously (complex sentences). It is obvious that the mean score of the students in using two event completed in the past ($M = 56$) is lower than the mean score of the students in using past action in progress interrupted by another action ($M=62,33$) and using two action are in progress simultaneously (complex sentences) ($M=63,33$), it mean that the students’ ability in using of two events completed in the past is in *poor to average* level and the using past action I progress interrupted by another past action and two past action are in progress simultaneously (complex sentences) are in *average to good* level.
3. From the data above it can be considered that of 30 students shows that 6 students (20%) are in good to excellent category, 8 students (26,67%) are in good to excellent level, 8 students (26,67%) at average to good level, 8 students (26,67%) in poor to average level, and last 8 student (26,67%) in poor level. So most of the student understood how to use past expression (complex sentences)

Recommendation

Based on the result of this study, the writer would like to give suggestion in dealing with teaching and learning English structure especially in using past tense and past progressive tense (complex sentence)

The suggestion is as follows:

1. The fourth Semester students of English Study Program FKIP Universitas Riau need to do more practice, not only know the pattern and function of the two tenses, but also can apply them in proper context. So there no confusion in deciding which verb form or tense to use in written or spoken form.
2. The English teacher / lecturer / professor should give more attention and explanation to this subject, because exercise in the textbook which is used for the student is not enough or too little. So in this case the teacher/ professor should make additional exercise and deep explanation about past expression in complex sentences.

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