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An Analysis of Student's Ability in Using Past Tense in Writing Narrative Text

Muhamad Azizul Chakim¹, Haris Dibdyaningsih, M.Pd²

English Student Department, STKIP Al Hikmah – INDONESIA¹;

English Teacher Department, STKIP Al Hikmah – INDONESIA²;

azizchakim17@gmail.com¹, harisdibdyaningsih@gmail.com²

Abstract

This research aimed to know the student's ability in using past tense in writing narrative text. The subjects of this research are thirty students of class VIII in SMP Al Hikmah Surabaya. This research used a descriptive quantitative research. In collecting the data, the researcher used document and interview as data collection technique to know student's ability in using past tense in writing narrative text and to get information about student's difficulties in using past tense in writing narrative text. The result of this research showed that 85% the students were consistent in using past tense in writing narrative text and 15% the students were inconsistent in using proper past form in writing narrative text. The problem of student's ability in using past tense in writing narrative text were the students lack in vocabulary, the students were inconsistent in using past form and the students were over generalization.

Keywords

Simple Past Tense, Writing, Narrative Text

1. Introduction

Mastering writing narrative text is one of skills that Junior High School students have studied. In writing narrative text, the students should know how to write well. It usually uses simple past tense. It means the students should know how to use of simple past tense and then, be able to produce a good narrative text. Simple past tense is an activity that happen in the past or situation that began and ended in the past.

Writing narrative text is one of kinds of text that the students felt difficulties in writing because of several reasons. First, the students argued that they lack vocabulary, it makes the students to develop the idea by using simple past tense in writing narrative text. Second, this is the big problem because the students still inconsistent in using past tense in writing narrative text.

However, simple past should be learned by the students at Junior High School. The problem that is face by the students is important to be analysed. Therefore, the researcher interests to conduct a research about student's ability in using simple past. Simple past in narrative text is one of the elements in language features which becomes the characteristics of narrative text.

According to Azar (1992:25), simple past is used to talk about activities or situations that began and ended in the past. Simple past tense is used for events or situation that exist last year, yesterday, last week, two days ago, etc. There are two kinds of verb : regular and irregular verbs. For example : regular : stayed, arrived, walked, etc. Irregular : ate, took, slept, etc. It means that simple past talk about activities that happen in the past, it used regular and irregular verb.

Nunan (2003:88), writing is the work of inventing ideas, thinking about how to express them, and organizing them into statements and paragraphs that will be clear to a reader. It means that to express the ideas by writers in writing, the writers need to organize into statement, that statement or paragraph it makes to easier understand and interest to read by a reader.

Narratives are stories about person or a group of people overcoming problems (Joyce & Feez, 2000, p. 24). They also explain that narratives show how people react to experiences, explore social and cultural values and entertain the audience. It aims to entertain, to get and retain the attention of the reader or listener of the story (Derewianka, 1990; Joyce & Feez, 2000; Anderson & Anderson, 2003; Gerot & Wignell, 1994).

Based on this research, the students should have the ability in writing narrative text by using past tense. In fact, based on the pre-observation in teaching English at SMP Al Hikmah Surabaya, not at all the students can write narrative text well. Some of the students were difficult to write sentence in using past tense. It was supported by student's score in which is not achieved the standard minimum criteria (KKM) of writing. the students got a difficulties in writing narrative text because they were inconsistent in using past tense in writing narrative text. the researcher wants to know (1) how is student's ability in using past tense in writing narrative text. (2) why the students get a difficulties in writing narrative text. Therefore, the researcher interest to conduct a research about student's ability in using past tense in writing narrative text.

2. Methodology

In this research, the researcher conducts this study as descriptive quantitative research, how the student's ability in using past tense in writing narrative text because the research would find out the data at the field based on the fact. According to (Subana and Sudrajat, 2005) descriptive quantitative research achieves fact, situation, variable, and phenomenon that happen at the present in existence. Moreover, the subject of this research were thirty students of class VIII in SMP Al Hikmah Surabaya.

In collecting data, this researcher used document and interview as the data collection technique to know student's ability in using past tense in writing narrative text and to get information about student's difficulties in using past tense in writing narrative text.

For the procedure of this research is. Firstly, after planning what research that researcher wants and then he arranged the subject that appropriate for this research. Secondly, the researcher asked permission to the teacher directly, does she allow or not to conduct a research there. Because this

research were interviewed and asked the document writing narrative text only. They used to get information of student's ability in using past tense in writing narrative text. Thirdly, the researcher analyzed the student's ability in using past tense in writing narrative text.

The researcher gives an interview to the teacher about the student's ability in writing especially writing narrative text. The researcher prepared the arranging of question to get any information deeply.

3. Finding and Discussion

The findings of this study indicate that 85% of the students were consistent in using past tense in writing narrative text, and 15% of the students that still inconsistent in using past tense in writing narrative text. in was supported by the fact that there were 26 (85%) students who had good score and all of them consistent in using past tense in writing narrative text. And there were 4 (15%) students who had good enough score and most of them still inconsistent in using past tense in writing narrative text. Based on this research, the biggest problem is the students that still inconsistent in using past tense in narrative text. When they were writing narrative text, they only focus exploring their mind in writing narrative. So, they forgot in using past tense in writing narrative text. Moreover, after doing the research in the field and analyzing the collected data, the researcher would like to give some discussions for the students and teacher.

Firstly, for the English teacher to brief problems of the students might face in using past tense in narrative text. By showing the result of this research, they have to more careful and also find the solution of student's problem. The teacher should give more practice and exercise to the students in using past tense in writing narrative text in order to help them understanding the important aspect of narrative text. Hence, the teacher as facilitator in teaching learning process have to do maximal effort to make all students understood about the material. When the students felt difficult in using past tense, the teacher can explain the verb base that want to change into past tense. in the other hand, they also have to increase their knowledge as well as their teaching method, so the students will be motivated to write English especially writing narrative text.

Secondly, for the students, it is to learn and practice more in writing English by themselves. They can apply writing in their experience in using past tense everyday also. So, they will get a good writing narrative text. In addition, they also have motivation to improve thier writing English. Therefore, the students have to practice more in writing English to increase their ability in using past tense in writing narrative text.

The researcher analyses the student's ability in using past tense in writing narrative text. Based on the research findings and discussion, the researcher found any mistakes from the student's writing. When they were narrative text, they have fun with writing their imagination and mind. So, they forgot to focus on the language features of narrative text such as using of past tense, using of time sequence, and using of direct speech. However, they explore their mind to write a narrative text, but they not focus or not consistent in using past tense in narrative text. Moreover, they also still lack in vocabulary. So, when they are writing narrative text, they are

doing redundant the vocabulary. It will make narrative text confusing.

4. Conclusion

The researcher concludes that the students of SMP Al Hikmah Surabaya class VIII were enough able in using past tense in writing narrative text. Based on the research findings, discussion, and conclusion, it is suggested that the teachers should give more more practice and exercise to the students in using past tense in writing narrative text in order to help the students understanding about the important aspect of narrative text. Moreover, the teachers need to put more effort in teaching since they need more guidance in using past tense in writing narrative text.

6.1 From this research, we can know that most of them consistent in using past tense in writing narrative text. there were 26 (85%) students that consistent in using past tense in writing narrative text. And there were 4 (15%) students that still inconsistent in using past tense in writing narrative text. So, from this research, researcher offering a suggestion that the teacher should give more practice the students in using past tense in writing narrative text and more effort to guide the students in writing narrative text.

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