The Correlation between Students' Mastery in Simple Past Tense with the Ability of Writing Recount Text
(The Correlational Study of the Tenth Year Students of SMA Pembangunan Lab UNP)

Oktavia Murdani and Mukhaiyar
English Department
Faculty of Languages and Arts
State University of Padang
email: oktaviamd.97@gmail.com

Abstract
The purpose of this research as follow is to find out whether there is a correlation between simple past tense mastery and writing recount text ability of tenth graders students in SMA Pembangunan Lab UNP. The researcher will use quantitative method since the data concerned appears numbering. The researcher chose one class from seven classes of tenth grade students of SMA Pembangunan Lab UNP in the academic year of 2019/2020. The class that the writer chose was class which learned English Peminatan Program. The writer wants to observe namely students' mastery in past tense and their ability in writing recount, two instruments are utilized. Both are in the form of test. And in this study the writer used two types of tests; objective test in the form of completion test and cloze test to test students' past tense mastery and essay type test for testing students writing ability. To find out whether or not there is a relationship between students' mastery of past tense and their ability in writing recount, the correlation coefficient showing the degree as well as the direction of the relationship between the two variables being investigated will be computed. Because there was always a possibility that the result of the study will show no relationship between the variables, the following Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used

INTRODUCTION

Most of students had difficulties to write the recount text, it has correlate with students' mastery of grammar, especially past tenses (Mubasiroh, 2015). The simple past tense is used to talk about action and situation which is completed in the past. In

a Recount text, the students must retell the sequence of events or experiences which they have ever got in the past (Nafisah and Kurniawan, 2007:65).

Writing recount text is difficult by students because they should write it by using certain tense that is simple past tense. It means that simple past tense refers to complete action that occured in the past. Since the purpose of recount text is to retell our experiences or event that happened in the past, past tense should be utilized in the text. Moreover, students can use severel tenses to write about the past condition, but the simple past tense is often used dominantly.

It is supported by Richards and Renandya (2002:203) who state that writing is considered as the most difficult skills for the students because it is not only in terms of generating and organizing ideas, but also about translating these ideas into printed words that is readable. However, he students also have to use the variation in written language in the contexts of everyday life. One of the common problem that face in writing is grammar.

However, at the Senior High School grammar is an important aspect in learning writing but the ability of the students to generate their ideas and finding ideas about the topic or something they are going to write is necessary in learning writing in Senior High School.
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RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the researcher will use quantitative method since the data concerned appears numbering. The design of this research was correlation study between students' mastery of simple past tenses and students' ability in writing recount text. This research involved two variables, students' ability of past tenses and students' ability in writing recount text indicated the degree correlation between those variables.

In this study, technique of getting the sample is purposive sample. The researcher chose one class from seven classes of tenth grade students of SMA Pembangunan Lab UNP in the academic year of 2019/2020. The class that the writer chose was class which learned English *Peminatan* Program. The program just ruined by IBB class as a vocational class who focused on Language major.

Because there will be two variables that the writer wants to observe namely students' mastery in past tense and their ability in writing recount, two instruments are utilized. Both are in the form of test. And in this study the writer used two types of tests; objective test in the form of completion test and cloze test to test students' past tense mastery and essay type test for testing students writing ability.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding

The objective of this research was to find out whether there was a significant correlation between students' mastery of simple past and the ability in writing recount text. The researcher limited this research on the correct usage of simple past tense and the components of writing, that is, organization, grammar, and vocabulary.

In grammar test, the researcher use cloze test and completion test. They are consisting of 50 questions. Result of the score, there are 10 students (62.5%) who got the high score in mastering of simple past tense, 5 students (31.2%) got the average

score and 1 students (6.25%) got the low score. Most of students had high score and the average score is 71. It is conclude to high average.

For writing test, the researcher asks the students to write a recount text about their last holiday at least 100 words. Result of the score, there are 6 students (37.5%) who got the high score in ability in writing a recount text, 4 students (25%) got the average score and 6 students (6.25%) got the low score. Most of students had high score and low score, however the average score is 52.5. It is still in average score.

To find out the correlation between students' mastery of simple past tense with the ability of writing recount text, the researcher use used the product moment formula. The value of *rratio* is 0.990 and the value of r table with N=14 and 5% significant level is 0.425. It can be conclude that there was a correlation between both variables.

2. Discussion

After finding out the correlation coefficient and stating the rejection of the null hypothesis, the correlation of the two variables was known to be significant. In other words, there is a significant positive correlation between students' mastery of past tense and their ability in writing recount. It can be said positive because the value of rratio is better that r table. Best and Khan (2006:379) state "A perfect positive correlation is +1.00. A perfect negative correlation is -1.00. A complete lack of relationship is zero (0)"

Therefore, the higher the students score on past tense, the better scores the students get on writing recount. It is supported by Masriqon (2011) If the simple past tense mastery was good, the writing ability was good too. It means that if students only have minimum level of past tense mastery, it does not mean that the students also get poor ability in writing recount. There were some students who got low scores in past tense but they got high scores in writing recount.

On the basis of the obtained regression equation, it can be inferred that students' mastery of past tense influences their ability in writing recount. In other words, there is an influence of students' mastery of past tense towards their ability in writing recount.

Comparing to the previous research by Azmi (2011), about the correlation between past tense and recount text, he found the result of his research is 66.15 for the average scores of students' mastery of past tense and 71.075 for the average scores of students' ability in writing recount text. However, the result of the index of determination also indicates that the students' mastery of past tense is not the only factor that influences their ability in writing recount.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This study is proposed to answer whether or not there is a correlation between students' mastery of past tense and their ability in writing recount. The average result of students' mastery of simple past tense is 71 and the average result of students skill in writing recount text is 52.5. By using product momen correlation formula by Pearson, the result of the computation is rratio is 0.999 which is higher than rtable with N=16 and 5% significant level is 0.425. The result of rratio is also between 0.400–

0.999 which means the relationship between these two variables is in the high relationship.

Thus the investigation confirms that there is a significant positive correlation between students' mastery of past tense and their ability in writing recount. This means that the better the students' master past tense, the better they achieve in writing recount.

With regard to the result of the study there are some suggestions that the writer intend to offer. The study reveals that students' mastery of simple past tense affects or at least correlates with their ability in writing recount. Hence, there should be new ways, methods, and techniques for making the teaching of grammar and writing support each other.

In order to make a better improvement in the future. Students should study harder. Even though their simple past test result is excellent, they still need to learn more about grammar. Teacher should give more explanation about tenses relating the kinds of text like simple past and recount text as well as the function in a sentence. They also should motivate, stimulate, and give more chances to the students in teaching learning process in order to make the students get significant improvement in mastering grammar and writing.

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