

AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN MASTERING
SIMPLE PAST, SIMPLE PRESENT AND SIMPLE FUTURE
TENSE AT THE ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS
IN SMA NEGERI 3 LANGSA

THESIS

Submitted by :

PUJI AZAN NINGTIYAS

The Student of English Department

Tarbiyah Faculty

Reg. No : 141000482

SEKOLAH TINGGI AGAMA ISLAM NEGERI (STAIN)

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By :

PUJI AZAN NINGTIYAS

The student of English Department

Tarbiyah Faculty

Reg no : 141000482

Approved by :

Main Supervisor

Co Supervisor

Drs. Zainuddin, M.A

Fakhrurrazi, M.Hum

It has been Defended in Sidang Munaqasyah in front of
The Council of Examiners for Working Paper and
has been Accepted as a Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for Sarjana Degree S in
Teacher Education

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Langsa

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Certified by:

The Head of STAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa

Dr. H. Zulkarnaini, MA
NIP: 19670511 199002 1 001

PERNYATAAN KEASLIAN TULISAN

Saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Puji Azan Ningtiyas

NIM : 141000482

Jurusan/Program Studi : Tarbiyah/PBI

Fakultas/Program : Sarjana (S1)

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Yang membuat pernyataan,

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ABSTRACT

AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS DIFFICULTIES IN MASTERING SIMPLE PAST, SIMPLE PRESENT AND SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE AT THE ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS IN SMA NEGERI 3 LANGSA

The purpose of this study is to describe the students' difficulties in mastering simple past, simple present and simple future tense at the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 3 Langsa. It includes what kinds of difficulties faced by the students of SMA Negeri 3 Langsa in mastering simple present and simple future tense.

The aim of the research is to analyze about what kinds of difficulties faced by the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 3 Langsa in mastering simple past, simple present and simple future tense. It analyzes what factors which cause the students' difficulties and identify what are the reasons that make students difficult to master the tense. The object of the research is about 34 respondents. This research used qualitative descriptive method by collecting data from questionnaire and interview.

The finding of study states that The main difficulty faced by the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 3 Langsa is lack of memorizing the pattern of simple past, simple present and simple future tense. It occurs because many factors that influence them to learn the tense well. Based on questionnaire done by the writer, it was obtained there were 49,26% students were influenced by the internal factors of difficulty in learning and there were 41,17% students were influenced by the external factors. The students' difficulties in simple present tense such as they often forget to add suffixes for the subject, she, he, it. They did not know the use of do and does in negative and interrogative sentence. The students' difficulty in simple past tense is they are still unfamiliar with the second form of the verb. The students difficulty in simple future tense that they did not know the use of will, shall and be going to because they seldom use that tense. The reason why the students have many difficulties in mastering simple past, simple present and simple future tense because they are lazy to learn and they are lack in memorizing the pattern of the tense.

The writer suggested that the students to learn more about simple past, simple present and simple future tense because that are the most basic in making sentences. They must improve their memorise and often practice to make sentences. The writer's suggestion for the teacher must work hard to find the appropriate way to teach English. The teacher must know the interesting way to make the student interested in learning English grammar.

Key words : mastering difficulties, simple past, present and future tense

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT	i.
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	v
ABSTRACT	vi
CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION	1
A. The Background of study.....	1.
B. The problem of study.....	4
C. The purpose of study.....	5
D. The significant of the study.....	5
E. Terminology.....	6
CHAPTER II : LITERATUR REVIEW	7.
A. Tenses	7
B. Simple Past, present, future tense.....	11
C. Theory of difficulty.....	24
CHAPTER III : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	30
A. The location and time of the research.....	30
B. Population and sample.....	31
C. The method of the research.....	32
D. The technique of collecting data and instrumenst of study...	33
E. The technique of data analysis.....	34
F. Steps of the research.....	36
G. Data validity.....	37
CHAPTER IV : FINDING AND DISCUSSION	39
A. Result of the research.....	39
B. Discussion.....	46
CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	47
A. Conclusion.....	47
B. Suggestion.....	48
BIBLIOGRAPHY	49
LIST OF APPENDICES	

List of Tables

Table 2.1. Internal and external factors difficulty	29
Table 4.1. Students answer per item question.....	40
Table 4.2. The result of students response percentage.....	42

List of Figures

Figure 3.1. Integrated model of data analysis.....	36
Figure 4.3. The number of students influenced by the factors of difficulty in learning.....	43

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

Many English learners are worry too much about tense particularly the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 3 Langsa. If it is stopped 100 native English speakers in the street and asked them about tense, one of them might give an intelligent answer. The other 99 would know little about terms like "past tense" or "present tense" And they would know nothing about aspect, voice or mood. But they can all speak English fluently and communicate effectively. Of course, for ESL it helps to know about tense¹. Therefore tense also must be mastered by the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 3 Langsa.

Some writers believe that in learning english as a foreign language or second language the learner should, first of all, master the grammar structure system, the basic structural pattern of the simple past, simple present and simple future tense items.

Grammar is one of the language aspects which are taught to every language learner. It has an important role in understanding the english language. As said by W. Stannard Allen in living english structure stated, "English has three main divisions: past, present, future....², absolutely, the verb in english influenced by the time when it happens or will happen (past, present or future). So, a verb should be concord or related with the time.

¹Pro trial version English Grammar Tense provide : <http://www.pdfactory.com//>, accessed on October, 4th 2013.

²W. Stannard Allen, Living english structure, London : Longman, 1987, p.75.

In this thesis, the writer will not discuss grammar in general. She will write about tense, especially simple past, simple present and simple future tense. Tense is one of discussions of grammar in general. The time of the action is commonly expressed by the verb. Almost all verbs can show the difference between the past and present by changing the verb form. With tense, students can know when the action occur, and understand the correspondence between the form of the verb and their concept of the time.

There are two aspects which must be seen. The first is structure of the tense. It means how do the tense is made. It is too difficult to the student to master the structure of tense. Most of the eleventh grade students do not understand how do they make the tense. The second is use of the tense. It means when and why the tense is used. Most of the eleventh grade students do not know when and why they use the tense. It makes the students find many difficulties in mastering kinds of tenses.

Ideally, the eleventh grade students must have mastered simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense. They are not only expected to memorize the formula of those tenses, but also they must be able to explain again and make good sentence. As it is known that at the second grade senior high school, English has been taught at the high level. The students must be able to string up the sentences become paragraph or text. They must be able to analyze the language feature in the text.

³Ibid.

The reality that many learners are confused by the number of tense form that is used for expressing present time in English. They often have difficulty in mastering the form of the past simple. In particular, they often need opportunities to study and practise. They have far more difficulty in using future tenses correctly than understanding them. Even if they do not know or are unclear about the difference in meaning between different tenses. Especially the eleventh grade students at SMA Negeri 3 Langsa they are not able to master simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense in English grammar. They found many difficulties in learning those tenses. The students cannot determine the sentence that they make in the form of past, present or future. The students cannot use the right verbs in making sentences. They often forget to add the suffix s / es in simple present tense to the subject, he, it. They also often add to be in verbal sentence. Still many students are unfamiliar with the second form of verb to make sentence in past tense. Even though simple present, simple past, and simple future tense are the basic in learning kinds of tenses, almost all of the eleventh grade students are not able to master it.

Therefore, the teacher must work hard to find the appropriate way to teach English. The teacher must know the interesting way to make the student interested in learning English grammar. It is expected that the students no longer face many difficulties in learning English grammar and they can master kinds of tenses.

⁴Martin Parrott, Grammar for English Language Teachers, Cambridge : Cambridge university press, 2000 , p.151.

It is known that mastering simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense is very important to the eleventh grade students at SMA Negeri 3 Langsa. The school expects that all of the eleventh grade student must be able to make sentences correctly and arrange sentences become a paragraph or a text. However, it is found that still many eleventh grades student face many problems to do so because they can not make sentences correctly and find many difficulties in mastering it

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in conducting a research entitled "An Analysis of Students' Difficulties in Mastering Simple Past, Simple Present and Simple Future Tense at The Eleventh Grade Students in SMA Negeri 3 Langsa,."

B. Research Problems

Based on the background study, the researcher states some problems of study in this research are formulated as follow :

1. What kinds of difficulties faced by the eleventh grade students at SMA Negeri 3 Langsa in mastering simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense?
2. What are the factors that make the eleventh grade students at SMA Negeri 3 Langsa find many difficulties in mastering simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense?

3. Why do the eleventh grade students SMA Negeri 3 Langsa find many difficulties in mastering simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense

C. The Purpose of Study

1. To identify kinds of difficulties which is faced by the students in mastering simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense
2. To know the factors that make the eleventh grade students SMA Negeri 3 Langsa find many difficulties in mastering simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense.
3. To elaborate the reasons why the eleventh grades students at SMA Negeri 3 Langsa have many difficulties in mastering simple present tense, simple past tense, and simple future tense

D. Significances of Study

The significances of this study are :

1. Theoretically
 - a. Be a reference in education field to develop science.
 - b. The result of this study expected to improve motivation of all students and the researcher to learn English without hopeless when they find difficulties and problems.

2. Practically

- a. For teachers, can be made as guidance in teaching.
- b. For students, can be a motivation to practice more than they did before and they are encouraged to learn grammar seriously, therefore they can master kinds of tenses.
- c. For readers, becoming an early guidance to the reader which want to start in making a research.

E. Terminology

1. Tenses

Collins states that tense is a set of verb forms that indicate a particular point in time or period of time in the past, present, or future.⁵ It means that tense is the verb form that determine the time in past, present, or future.

2. Difficulty

According to Meriam, difficulty is something that is a cause for suffering or special effort especially in the attainment of a goal.⁶ It means that difficulty is the situation which is not easy to do and can cause the problem.

⁵Collins Cobuild, English Grammar London : Harper Collins, 1990, p.245.

⁶Meriam, Definition of Difficulty, provide : <http://www.meriamwebsitersonline.com/>, accessed on January, 8th 2014.