

**IMPROVING STUDENTS' ABILITY TO COMBINE SENTENCE  
BY USING ELLIPTICAL CONSTRUCTION THROUGH AUDIO  
LINGUAL METHOD**  
(Classroom Action Research at Third Grade Students in SMPN 9 Langsa)

**THESIS**

**FITRIA AYUNDA**

**English Education Department**



**FACULTY OF TARBIYAH AND TEACHERS TRAINING  
STATE INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES  
ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA  
1436 H / 2015 M**

## **SURAT PERNYATAAN KARYA SENDIRI**

**Saya yang bertanda tangan dibawah ini:**

**Nama : FITRIA AYUNDA**  
**Tempat/Tgl. Lahir : Langsa, 6 April 1992**  
**NIM : 141000507**  
**Fakultas : Tarbiyah**  
**Jurusan : Bahasa Inggris**  
**Alamat : Jln. Hamzah Fansuri Gp. Seulalah Baru,  
Kec. Langsa Lama Kota Langsa**

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**(Classroom Action Research at Third Grade Students in SMPN 9 Langsa)**

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In English Education Department**

**By**

**FITRIA AYUNDA  
141000507**

**English Education Department**

**Approved by :**

**Main Supervisor**

**Co Supervisor**

**(Cut Intan Meutia, MA)**

**(Dessy Kurniasy, M. Hum)**

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## ABSTRACT

The title of this research is improving students' ability to combine sentence by using elliptical construction through audio lingual method at third grade students in SMPN 9 Langsa. Elliptical construction is a material has been learned by the students where the students have difficulties in combining sentence by using elliptical construction. Therefore, the writer will try to use a method as a technique in improving students' ability about elliptical construction, it is audio lingual method. This research aimed to find out the improvement students' ability to combine sentence by using elliptical construction through audio lingual method at the third grade students in SMPN 9 Langsa. The writer did this research to make the students more interesting and enjoy in learning elliptical construction. This research use Classroom Action Research (CAR) as the method. It is done by 2 cycles include; planning, action, observing, and reflecting. This research was take place at SMPN 9 Langsa and took the third grade, especially class IX-2. The class consists of 28 students. The instruments that used in this research were observation, interview, and test. Based on the research result, learning elliptical construction through audio lingual method made students more interested and enjoy. They looked enthusiast during the learning process. The result of pre-test shows that only 6 students (21.43%) who pass the *Kriteria Ketuntasan Minimal (KKM)* score. In the cycle 1, the result of post-test 1 shows that 13 students (50%) who pass the KKM score and in the end of cycle 2, the result of post-test 2 shows that 24 students (88.89%) who pass the KKM score. Based on these findings, it can be concluded that audio lingual method can improve the students' ability to combine sentence by using elliptical construction at SMPN 9 Langsa.

**Keyword:** *Students' Ability to Combine Sentence, Elliptical Construction, Audio Lingual Method*

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Study

Language is a means of communication.<sup>1</sup> Language is also used as the medium of expressing feeling, ideas, and thoughts. Therefore, people have to master language in order to avoid misunderstanding between the speaker and the listener, between the writer and the reader. English is a language must be studied by all students in Indonesia from Elementary up to University. English is one of significant subject for students. It is caused of English is an International language that must be mastered to get knowledge, science, and technology. Because of that, many people are eager to speak and write English well. Most of the people in the world study English as second language in the school and support it by joining English course.

The main goal of teaching English is to make the students master it soon. But in fact, they failed and even found many handicaps in learning processes, even though they have studied English for a long time. They are still facing some problems in grammar, phonology, spelling vocabulary, listening and speaking. It seems that grammar is more difficult than the other aspects. In studying English, the most important part that the students have to understand is about

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<sup>1</sup> S. Pit Corder, *Introducing Applied Linguistics*, (Penguin Education, 1973), page 32

grammar because it can help the student arrange some words, or sentences correctly. According to Jeremy grammar is important component in learning English in order to gain competency in using English<sup>2</sup> and he also explain in his other book, the grammar of language is the description of the ways in which words can change their forms and can be combined into sentences in that language.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, Veit mentioned that the term “grammar” refers to a set of rules operating in the mind of the native speakers of a language. As we know, every human language has grammar indeed without exception. Grammar is a basic skill when we study language. If we discuss about grammar of course we discuss about sentence because sencece is a part of grammar. Grammar is the rules for forming words and making sentences.<sup>4</sup> It is the most important part to arrange right sentences. Based on the arguments above can be concluded that understanding grammar is significant thing for learners to learn English to be able to make a good sentence so that they can be good speakers or writers in communication.

Sentence is a set of words expressing a statement, a question, or an order, usually containing a subject and a verb. In written English sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop.<sup>5</sup> Sentence is the primary part in language which is constructed by some words which have meaning. Students

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<sup>2</sup> Jeremy harmer, *The practice of English Teaching*, (Great Britain Longman Group UK Limited, 1991)

<sup>3</sup> Jeremy harmer, *The Practice of English Teaching*, (Pearson Longman, 2001), page 225

<sup>4</sup> Clarendon great street, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (New York, 2003), page 187

<sup>5</sup> A. S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learners' dictionary of Current English*, (Oxford University Press, 2000), page 1212

should know how the pattern is used on arranging a good sentence. Many students use repetition when make sentence which can make the reader bored. It is much better omitted, but the meaning is still like what we have understood. It is known by the term “Elliptical Construction or Elliptical Sentence”. In other English structure or English Grammar book, the writer uses the term such as ‘using and + too, so, either, neither’ and also ‘positive agreement too – so, negative agreement either – neither’. Elliptical construction or ellipsis is the process or result of omitting some parts of a word or sentence.<sup>6</sup> The third grade students at Junior High School 9 Langsa have studied about grammar with material elliptical construction. Elliptical construction is learned in order to make the students know how to combine the sentence with using an elliptical construction so they can get an effective sentence without use the repetition of every word.

Ideally, if the students understand of elliptical construction, they will be easy to make a sentence especially for a sentence which has same predicate and object. They can combine it to be a right sentence without repetition word by using elliptical construction. There are two kinds of the elliptic construction that have been learned by students in the school. They are positive elliptical construction and negative elliptical construction. The students can mastery the

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<sup>6</sup> Hartmann and Stork, *Dictionary of Language and Linguistics*, (London: Applied Science Publishers LTD, 1972), page 76

**elliptical construction with remembered the pattern of each kinds of elliptical construction.**

**In fact, many students have not known the using of elliptical construction. Even some of them did not know “what is elliptical construction”, so that they are still confused in using the formula of elliptical sentence. Moreover, most of them have not mastered kinds of elliptical construction. It looks from their task to combine sentences. The students make mistakes in using to be or auxiliary of the sentence. Some of them wrong when put so or too. For example; I am hungry and she is so, not I am hungry and she is too. Not only it, they also wrong in using either neither or so too. There are students use so and too when combine negative sentence.**

**In this research, the writer will apply a method in teaching elliptical construction. The method is Audio Lingual Method (ALM). The writer chooses this method because ALM can drills students in the use of grammatical sentence patterns, such as Siska’s statement in her journal that ALM does not focus on teaching vocabulary but the teacher drills the students in using grammar.<sup>7</sup> In addition, according to Richards and Rodgers’ book which was read by the writer about ALM where one of drill kinds in this method is transposition. The example of transposition drill is about elliptical construction. There are many efforts that are done to increase the students’ understanding English such as,**

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<sup>7</sup> Siska Aris Nita, *Journal of English Language Teaching*, (Padang, 2012), page 66

repeating material, giving time to students to ask the subject that they do not understand, and gives the students some exercises to combine sentence by using elliptical construction. The writer hopes this method can improve students' ability of elliptical construction, so that the students can get higher score than before.

Based on the description above, the writer is interested to conduct a research entitled “Improving Students' Ability to Combine Sentence by Using Elliptical Construction through Audio Lingual Method (Classroom Action Research at Third Grade Students in SMPN 9 Langsa)”

## **B. Research Question**

Based on the background of study above, the writer states the questions as follow:

- 1. Does Audio Lingual Method improve the students' ability to combine sentence by using elliptical construction at third grade students in Junior High School 9 Langsa?**

2. **What are the difficulties faced by the students when combine sentence by using elliptical construction at third grade students in Junior High School 9 Langsa?**

### **C. Purpose of Study**

**The purposes of this research are:**

1. **To identify whether Audio Lingual Method improve students' ability to combine sentence by using elliptical construction at third grade students in Junior High School 9 Langsa**
2. **To find out the difficulties faced by students when combine sentence by using elliptical construction at third grade students in Junior High School 9 Langsa**

### **D. Significance of Study**

**This research is expected that the findings of the study can be useful and give benefit for:**

1. **Theoretical**
  - a. **For students, this research can be motivation for students to be more care of elliptical construction and it can increase the understanding of elliptical construction**



- b. For the teachers, this research can be an information to know the students' ability of elliptical construction and a good method which can be applied of teaching English**

## **2. Practical**

- a. For the students, they will improve their competence to combine sentence by using elliptical construction**
- b. For the teachers, this research can be as feedback to improve students' ability in combining sentence by using elliptical construction through Audio Lingual Method**

## **E. Scope of Study**

**There are eleven kinds of drills in Audio Lingual Method. Therefore, the writer is focus on using transposition drill. The writer chooses this drill because the example of the drill in Richards and Rodgers' book is same with the a variable of this research about elliptical construction.**

## **F. Terminology**

**Terminology is the terms correlate to the title which the writer wants to explain clearly. The terms in this study are:**

- 1. Ability**

**Ability is skill or power of something; the fact that something or somebody is able to do something.<sup>8</sup> In addition, ability is capability or skill of someone in mastering of competence that since he or she was a child, the result of practice or training and to be used to do something that is performed by his or her action. In this study, the ability means that students competences to combine sentence by using elliptical construction.**

## **2. Combine Sentence**

**Combine is joins two or more things together.<sup>9</sup> In this study will combine sentences. Sentence is a set of words expressing a statement, a question or an order, usually containing a subject and a verb. In written English sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop.<sup>10</sup> In this study, there are two sentences which must be combined by the students.**

## **3. Elliptical Construction**

**In English people often omit words rather than repeating them. This is called ellipsis. Some kinds of ellipsis only occur in coordinate clauses**

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<sup>8</sup> AS Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, (USA,2005), page 315

<sup>9</sup> Clarendon great street, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, (New York, 2003), page 78

<sup>10</sup> A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of current English*, (USA, 2000), page 1212

**and coordinated groups of words.<sup>11</sup> The students combine two sentences which same predicate and object by using correct pattern of elliptical construction. Elliptical construction also can be studied by dialogues.**

#### **4. Audio Lingual Method**

**This method is called ‘Structural Approach’ in Britain. The method emphasized speech as the primary mode of expression.<sup>12</sup> This is an improved version of the Direct Method. This method drills student in the use of grammatical sentence pattern. In teaching English through Audio Lingual Method, the students will practice their speaking because in the learning process use full target language.**

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<sup>11</sup> *English Grammar*, (2003), page 396

<sup>12</sup>[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in:8080/jspui/bitstream/10603/13029/12/12\\_chapter%204.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in:8080/jspui/bitstream/10603/13029/12/12_chapter%204.pdf), accessed on November 27, 2014