
AN ERROR ANALYSIS IN WRITING THE SENTENCE OF SIMPLE PAST TENSE ON ENGLISH SUBJECT

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Abstract

This research was conducted to determine the types of errors made by students in writing the sentence of simple past tense in English subjects. The low level of students understanding of simple past tense material is one of the reasons which influence the mistakes in making the sentence of simple past tense. It could be proven through the results of the pre-test, where four types of errors were found, namely (1) Error using verb suffix (-ed, -d) in regular verb words, (2) Error using simple verb forms past tense irregular verb, (3) Error using the help word in negative sentences, (4) Error Using To be. However, after the teaching and learning process was carried out, the error was reduced, including in the use of the suffix on the verb (-ed, -d) in the regular verb of the previous 15 students had been reduced to 5 people. While errors in the use of simple past tense verb forms (irregular verb) from the previous 14 students become 3 students. Furthermore, errors in the use of the help word in negative sentences were carried out by 13 students into 2 students. Then errors in use to be in the simple past tense carried out by 15 people decreased to 2 people.

Keywords: *Simple Past Tense, Error Analysis*

INTRODUCTION

English is one of the most widely used foreign languages in the world. In Indonesia, English had been taught at the school and University. English is a language which must be mastered by every individual. In general, there is different between English and Indonesian language both in pattern and sentence structure. In English, there are three types of time descriptions, namely present tense, past tense, and future tense. To make a sentence in English we must at least know the three descriptions of time. The three tenses are used to indicate time (present, future, or past). Many obstacles experienced by students while learning English. The error arose because some of them were lack of understanding of grammar in English.

According to Lyons see Runtuwene (2013, 2) learning English is one of the biggest problems faced by students, namely grammar. Lyons explains that grammar is a form of words from the language itself and the way they are combined in phrases, clauses and sentences "or it can be said that grammar provides rules about how to combine words into sentences.

During learning English many students make mistakes when writing paragraphs using past tense. The error was caused by many things, namely they did not know the pattern from simple past tense, could not distinguish the first

and second form of verb. According to Tanjung (2014, 35) Simple Past Tense is an action or activity carried out by a subject in the past. The characteristics of simple past tense are past verbs (verb 2) and the past form phrases follow them. The phrase consists of yesterday, last, and ... ago.

The material about tenses was studied by students in the first semester of the informatics engineering study program. This research aims to determine the mistakes made by students when studying Simple Past Tense, namely: first, research conducted by Mubasyira, dkk (2017, 76) entitled "Analysis of Errors in the Use of Simple Past Tense in English Narrative Composition of SMPN 1 Bojong Gede. In these research findings, the use of "simple past tense" in English narrative composition of students at SMPN 1 Bojong Gede, Bogor was a mistake. These errors were errors in the use of to be, errors in the use of verbs, errors in the use of modals, and errors in the use of auxiliary words. Secondly, the second study was conducted by Ayuningtias, et al. (2013, 29) entitled "Analysis of Grammatical Aspects of Errors in the 3rd Semester of English Literature Study Program at Trunojoyo University Madura. From the results of data analysis, it can be concluded that the most common type of error is omission. From these types of errors, the most grammatical aspect errors were using of regular or irregular past verb. The second type of error was misinformation. The most mistakes made by learners who are included in this type were mistakes in using the article. Furthermore, the third and fourth types of errors most often made by research subjects were addition and misordering.

According to Ellis see Luow (2016, 4) there were several ways to found errors, namely by grouping them into grammar categories classified as: omission is an error in removing the parts needed in a sentence in the form of simple past tense, Misformation is an error in using grammar forms into other grammar forms, and misordering is the error of placing words in an incorrect order.

Based on the background above, the researcher done the research and analyze more deeply the types of errors in the use of past tense in the first semester students of Informatics Engineering at PGRI Madiun University as follows:

1. What is the student's understanding of the past tense sentence?
2. What are the types of errors that arise in writing past tense sentences for students?

The benefits of the research include:

1. To find out and analyze errors in using simple past tense
2. To help increase knowledge about learning English in order to understand of errors in the use of simple past tense

METHOD

This study used classroom action research. According to Kemmis see Hanifah (2014, 2) Action research is a form of self-reflective enquiry undertaken by participants in social (including education) situations in order to improve the rationality and justice of (a) their own social or educational practices, (b) their understanding of these practices, and (c) the situation in which the practices are carried out. It is most rationally empowering when undertaken by participants collaboratively, though it is often undertaken by individuals, and sometimes in cooperation with "outsiders". The subject of this study was the first semester of class A Informatics Engineering study program in the academic year of

2018/2019. The number of students in this class was 24. Data collection techniques in this study were in the form of tests, namely giving the initial test (pre-test) and the final test (post test).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study used a preliminary test in the form of 10 questions about the past tense sentence. The results of the initial test found several errors made by students, namely:

1. Error using verb suffix (-ed, -d) in regular verb
2. Error using irregular verb forms of simple past tense verbs.
3. Errors in the use of did in negative sentences
4. Error using to be

In the first error, namely the use of regular verbs and irregular verbs, there were about 13 students who made mistakes. These errors include "*He write a letter yesterday*". The word "*write*" should be "*wrote*" because of the second form of the word "*write*". Then there are 15 students who were wrong in writing *to be*. These errors were among those "*I were reading a book in the library*". The correct sentence should be "*I was reading a book in the library*". Furthermore, in the third mistake, namely changed the positive sentence to negative, there were 13 students who made mistakes. These errors included "*They did not eat some food in the restaurant*". The use of negative sentences in simple past tense in the above sentence is clearly wrong, where the verb in the negative sentence was verb I. The correct sentence was "*They didn't eat some food in the restaurant*".

After conducted the test at the beginning, the researcher then evaluates the learning. Next, the researcher discussed the results of the tests in learning activities as an effort to evaluate and provide understanding related to simple past tense, which as a follow-up the study was given a question back to the final test. The final test results decreased, namely:

1. The use of the verb suffix (-ed, -d) in the regular verb previously 15 students who made mistakes now had been reduced to 5.
2. The use of irregular verb of simple past tense from 14 students had been reduced to 3 people
3. The use of did in negative sentences from the beginning 13 people reduced to 2 people
4. The use of to be which was 15 people became 2 people

In this study there were students which wrong using the past tense incorrectly, where in 10 sentences presented, there were four types of errors including the use of verb ending forms (-ed, -d) in regular verbs, the use of verb forms simple past tense was irregular verb, use of auxiliary verbs in negative sentences, and use to be in past tense. These errors could be explained as follows:

1. Error using verb suffix (-ed, -d) in regular verb words

Error using the verb suffix (-ed, -d) was as follows

Sentence	Correction
I ask my lecturer	I asked my lecturer
She want to go to the mall yesterday	She wanted to go to the mall yesterday
I plan my holiday last week	I planned my holiday last week

The sentence errors written by several students in the error of eliminating the verb suffix (-ed, -d) in the regular verb, where the student wrote the word "*I ask my lecturer*" which should be "*I asked my lecturer*". Furthermore, the second mistake was "*She wanted to go to the mall yesterday*" which was supposed to be "*She wanted to go to the mall yesterday*". The third mistake was "*I plan my holiday last week*", which should be "*I planned my holiday last week*".

2. Error using irregular verb forms of irregular verb

The types of errors in the use of verbs performed by students were as follows:

Sentence	Correction
John seen Jack yesterday	John saw Jack yesterday
Elizabeth sleep to late last night	Elizabeth slept too late last night
Laura eaten a cucumber yesterday	Laura eaten a cucumber yesterday

The sentence error written by some students in the use of irregular verb or the selection of the second form of verb, where the students wrote the word of *seen* in the phrase "*John saw Jack yesterday*". Furthermore, the error in the word of *sleep* in the sentence "*Elizabeth slept too late last night*" was the same mistake, namely irregular verb, where the sentence should be "*Elizabeth slept too late last night*". In addition, the third mistake was the word of *eaten* in the sentence "*Laura eaten a cucumber yesterday*" should be correct was '*Laura eaten a cucumber yesterday*'.

3. Errors in the use of "did" in negative sentence

Errors in removing the word "did" found in the study were as follows:

Sentence	Correction
I'm not have a book	I did not have a book
<i>I not <u>give</u> him a snack</i>	<i>I <u>didn't give</u> him a snack</i>
<i>My mother drink white milk yesterday</i>	<i>My mother <u>didn't drink</u> white milk yesterday.</i>

The error found in the sentence above was an error in removing the word of "did" in a negative sentence. The first error was "*I'm not have a book*, it should be "*I did not have a book*". Then the phrase "*I not give him a snack*" should be "*I didn't give him a snack*". Next in the phrase "*My mother drink chocolate milk yesterday*" should be "*My mother didn't drink chocolate milk yesterday*".

4. Error using To Be

In this study there were several mistakes made by students related to the use of to be in simple past tense sentences, i.e.

Sentence	Correction
My mother were very busy yesterday	<i>My mother was very busy yesterday</i>
The bag were very expensive	The bag was very expensive
My friends was very angry yesterday	My friends were very angry yesterday

In the mistakes made by the students above found the errors were found in the omission to be and were used in simple past tense sentences. The first sentence, namely *'My mother were very busy yesterday'*, should be correct, *'My mother was very busy yesterday'*. Furthermore, the second sentence, namely *"The bag were very expensive"* should be the correct was *"The bag was very expensive"*. The third sentence was *'My friends was very angry yesterday'*, it should be *"My friends were very angry yesterday"*.

CONCLUSION

The results of the research had been conducted related to the analysis of errors in the use of past tense in Informatics Engineering students. The Faculty of Engineering after collecting data found four types of errors including: (1) Errors in the use of verb suffix (-ed, -d) in regular verbs conducted by 15 students in the example sentence *"I ask my lecturer"* should *'I asked my lecturer'* (2) Errors in the use of irregular verbs made by 14 students in the phrase *"John seen Jack yesterday"* should be *"John saw Jack yesterday"*. (3) The mistake of using the word in the negative sentence was done by 13 students in the example sentence *"I'm not have a book"* should be *"I did not have a book"*. Furthermore (4) Error using to be in past tense conducted by 15 students in the example of sentence *"The bag were very expensive"* should be *"The bag was very expensive"*. But after the teaching and learning process was carried out and data collection was done through the final test, the error was reduced. Among them in the use of suffixes on the verb (-ed, -d) on regular verbs of the previous 15 students had been reduced to 5 people. While errors in the use of simple past tense verb forms (irregular verb) from the previous 14 students become 3 students. Furthermore, errors in the use of the help word in negative sentences were carried out by 13 students into 2 students. Then errors in use to be in past tense carried out by 15 people decreased to 2 people.

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