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

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ABSTRACT

This research was conducted to determine the types of errors made by management 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 10 students. While errors in the use of simple past tense verb forms (irregular verb) from the previous 14 students. Furthermore, errors in the use of the help word in negative sentences were carried out by 13 students. Then errors in use to be in the simple past tense carried out by 15 students.

Keywords: *Simple Past Tense, Error Analysis, Writing*

INTRODUCTION

Mastering grammar is not easy for leraners. It makes students often make errors on their writing when related to grammar. It as Tomas (2011) and Zinsser in (Saputra, Prof. Dr. Dewa Komang Tantra, M.Sc., & Ma Ni Made Ratminingsih, 2014) stated that errors can be caused by "Absence of knowledge, less practice, and forgetting". The study result shows many students do not make a good score in writing task. Tenses especially simple past in a writing has become a big homework for the learner who tries to make writing. More, for the beginner writing, simple past tense tenses become a thing that adds the feeling of lazy to write. Errors or mistakes may occur in this part mostly.

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.

English is the first foreign language in Indonesia, which is taught from elementary level to university level. English is also intensively used in international communication either in written or in spoken communication. In addition, many books of science, technology, art and other published issues are written in English. In learning English there are four skills that should be mastered by the students, those are listening, reading, speaking, and writing. These four skills are often regarded as serious problems by them. They commonly feel anxious when they are assigned to do the task, especially when they are asked to understand an English text. Among the four skills, based on the researcher experience, writing is considered as the most difficult one to learn by students. This is because it involves several components which must be considered in writing, namely: content, rhetoric vocabulary grammatical structures and writing mechanics such as punctuation and capitalization.

According to Langan (2011), writing is a skill which grows as a result of constant practices. From this perspective, writing implies the successful transmission of ideas from a speaker to a listener via a text, and this exchange of information becomes a powerful means to motivate and encourage the development of language skills. In writing skill of English, the past tense pattern is very important to study. For example, the students want to write their experience about vacation in a place it will be easy for them because all the past event will be used in the writing task. In English, there are integrated skills to master such as: speaking, listening, reading, and writing and three components of language learning that should be mastered by the students, that is; vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar. Learners are supposed to master grammar because it provides a set of rules that enable them to produce correct sentences.

Grammar occupies a central position in the study of language because grammar is essential for the learners to identify the punctuation and help in understanding literary and non-literary texts. Nowadays, grammar has been taught in all Indonesian educational institutions. However, the students face many

difficulties in mastering grammar since they must master many rules in producing sentences in English, for example, tenses in English and other grammatical forms.

Based on the background above, the researcher done the research and analyse more deeply the types of errors in the use of past tense in the second semester students of Management at Pasundan 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 analyse 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.

LITERATURE REVIEW

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.

(Brown, 2007) stated that a mistake refers to a performance error that is either a random guess or a "slip," in that it is a failure to utilize a known system correctly. Meanwhile, error is a noticeable deviation from the adult grammar of a native speaker, reflecting the interlanguage competence of the learner. The errors can be happened because of some factors, based on (Norrish, 1983) there are some factors that can cause the errors, they are:

1. The carelessness from the foreign learners.
2. The interferences from the learners' mother tongue which was believed as one of the aspects that caused the errors.
3. The translation from their mother tongue to another language so it caused the difficulty where there are not any synonyms between those two languages.
4. The learners could not translate the materials which were given to them based on what was expected by the native speaker.
5. The mistake analogy which was might be made to ignore the exact patterns.
6. The language could not be predicted and the learners might be made the errors using the language that they have studied but they have not heard the certain words. The writer quotes from Hopper in (Brisard, Otsman, & Jef Verschueren, 2009), "Grammar is discrete set of rules which are logically and mentally presupposed by discourse." According to Hopper, grammar is the way to make word, phrase, clause, and sentence structure properly, presence of interconnected between one word with another word which make the text acceptable and easily understood by the reader.

Simple Past Tense

1. **Definition of Simple Past Tense**
   English simple past tenses is one of English tenses form that used by students to write simple paragraph that possible for students to appearing their story or an event that happened in the past time in correct way. Martin (2005:8) states that, English past tense is the simplest tenses to talk about a single complete in the past event.

2. Formulas and Example of Simple Past Tense
   Murphy (1990: 13) defines those formulas and examples of simple past:
   Nominal form: You/they/we + to be (were) I/he/she/it + to be (was) Verbal form: I /You/they/we/he/she/it + V2 Example:
   1. I was here last night

2. They were happy last week

3. I went last week Simple past tense in interrogative sentences: If we are going to make an interrogative sentence, To be (was/were) in nominal form put on the front of subject, then for verbal form add with Did that place on the front of subject.

Example:

1. Was I broke the glass?

2. Were they noisy in the room last night?

3. Did we move the chair?

Simple past tense in negative sentences:

If we are going to make negative sentences, we need to add –not behind to be (was/were) on nominal form. While in verbal form add did behind it and follow.

Example:

1. They were not busy when my father came

2. She was not here last month

3. You did not (didn't) kick the table

Time Signal:

Yesterday

yesterday morning

Last Monday

hour ago

Two days ago

in 1980

Last night

the other day

Last year

Everyday last year

3. **The Form of Simple Past**
   a. Most Verbs Most verbs conjugate by adding –ed like the verb "play" in Table 1.

   Table 1. The Example of the Use of Most Verbs in Simple Past Tense

Positive	Negative	Question
They played	We did not play	Did they play?
We played	I did not play	Did we play?
I played	You did not play	Did I play?
You played	He did not play	Did you play?
She played	Shinta did not play	Did she play?
He played		Did he play?

Shinta played		Did Shinta play?

b. Irregular Verbs There are many verbs people can find. In this thesis paper, the researcher takes word write that takes irregular forms in the Simple Past. Notice that the irregular verbs are only used in positive statements. In negative form and questions, did indicates Simple Past. The application of write in simple past.

Table 2. The Example of the Use of Irregular Verbs in Simple Past Tense

Positive	Negative	Question
They wrote	They did not write	Did they write?
We wrote	We did not write	Did we write?
I wrote	I did not write	Did I write?
You wrote	You did not write	Did you write?
She wrote	She did not write	Did she write?
He wrote	He did not write	Did he write?
Rian wrote	Ria did not write	Did Ria write?

c. **To be**
The verb "be" is also irregular in the Simple Past. Unlike other irregular verbs, there are two Simple Past forms: was and were. It also has different question forms and negative forms. Notice that I did is not used with the verb be in the Simple Past. The use of the verb be in simple past sentence can be seen in Table 3.

Positive	**Negative**	**Question**
They were	They were not	Were they?
We were	We were not	Were we?
You were	You were not	Were you?
I was	I was not	Was I?
She was	She was not	Was she?
He was It was	He was not	Was he?
	It was not	Was it?

d. **Modal Verbs**
Modal verbs behave very strangely in the Simple Past. The most important verb to remember is must.

Notice how it becomes had to in the Simple Past.
Must become had to:
- I must call my mom now => I had to call my mom yesterday
- She must meet the chairman now => She had to meet the chairman yesterday
- They must study now => They had to study yesterday

METHODOLOGY

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 second semester of class MJD Management study program in the academic year of 2022/2023 in Pasundan University. The number of students in this class was 43. Data collection techniques in this study were in the form of tests before having a final test.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

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
This video explains about …	This video explained about …
Partner interviews a woman	Partner interviewed a woman
She work for as an entrepreneur	She worked for as an entrepreneur
The manager working	The manager worked

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
The manager meets the clients last Monday.	The manager met the clients last Monday.
My employers understands about the planning project.	My employers understood about the planning project.
Younger workers says achieving work-life balance.	Younger workers said achieving work-life balance.

3. 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
His small team is very busy.	His small team was very busy.
Workers are dealing with this point.	Workers were dealing with this point.
Life balance were more impressive.	Life balance was more impressive.

4. Errors in the use of "did" in negative sentence Errors in removing the word "did" found in the study were as follows:

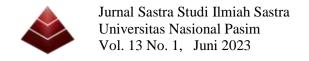| Sentence	Correction
I am not have time for this project.	I did not have time for this project.
Somebody is not maintain work life.	Somebody did not maintain work life.
Weekend job are not giving extra demand.	Weekend job did not give extra demand.

CONCLUSION

The results of the research had been conducted related to the analysis of errors in the use of past tense in Management students. The Management study program after collecting data found four types of errors including:
 (1) Errors in the use of verb suffix (-ed, -d) in regular verbs conducted by 17 students
 (2) Errors in the use of irregular verbs made by 12 students
 (3) Error using to be in past tense conducted by 15 students
 (4) The mistake of using the word in the negative sentence was done by 19 students

The researcher would like to offer some suggestion to students':
 (1) The language system underlying simple past tense is complex. So, it is suggested to the lecturer to create good strategy in teaching the formulas of simple past tense, by giving the students' more practice.

(2) It is suggested to the students to remember the used of V2 and practice using simple past tense in spoken or written form as productive skill.

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