

An Analysis of Students' Errors in Writing Personal Experience

Desi Andriani

Universitas Putra Indonesia YPTK Padang – West Sumatera Indonesia

Email: andrianidesi33@gmail.com

Abstract

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There are four skills of english. They are reading, speaking, listening and writing. For some students, writing is the most difficult skill. Writing needs a complex components, such as vocabulary, grammar, spelling and word order. This research was examined students' writing personal experience. This is a descriptive research. The research was done at UPI YPTK Padang. The population was students of UPI YPTK Padang. The sample was management students. Sample used purposive sampling. The reseach chose a class as sample. It was management seven class. They were forty-five students. The data were taken using test. The test is writing test. Students asked to write their own experience. The errors of students' writing were analyzed. The result of analysis showed that students had error in writing simple past sentence, passive voice, compound sentence, noun and comparison degree.

Abstrak

Bahasa inggris memiliki empat keahlian. Yaitu membaca, berbicara, mendengarkan dan menulis. Bagi sebagian siswa, menulis merupakan keahlian yang paling susah. Karena menulis membutuhkan banyak hal seperti kemampuan atau penguasaan kosakata, tata Bahasa, ejaan dan susunan kata yang benar. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif. Pada penelitian ini peneliti meneliti tentang kemampuan menulis mahasiswa dalam menulis pengalaman. Penelitian ini dilakukan di UPI YPTK Padang. Pada program studi manajemen. Teknik pemilihan sampel dari penelitian ini adalah purposive sampling. Yaitu dengan mengambil salah satu kelas sebagai sampel. Kelas yang dipilih adalah keals manajemen tujuh. Sampelnya berjumlah empat puluh lima orang. Data dikumpulkan melalui tes menulis. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan mahasiswa memiliki kesalahan pada penulisan kalimat *simple past*, kalimat majemuk, kata benda dan *comparison degree* (tingkat perbandingan).

INTRODUCTION

Writing is a complex skill. For some students, writing is the most difficult skill. Because writing needs correct grammar, correct spelling and must use correct word choice. Beginning from writing sentence, students should use correct subject, verb and object. Based on the observation, students still had errors in making sentence and also in making sentence to be a paragraph. In structuring sentence, students must use correct subject, verb and object (Andriani & Afersa, 2024). Students may not make mistake in using subject and verb. Moreover, in producing a sentence, vocabulary also plays an important role (Andriani & Sriwahyuningsih, 2020). Vocabulary in making sentence or paragraph by students must be suitable to the context of the sentence or paragraph (Andriani, Desi, 2019)

In making personal experience, students used simple past (Mustafa, 2021). Simple past is used to explain the condition/ situation happen in past (Fathurrahman, 2021). Simple past used second verb (Setiani & Saragih, 2020). Most of students had mistake in using second verb. Verb consisted of regular and irregular verb (Salmiah, 2017). They are also two kinds of sentences. They are nominal and verbal sentences. Nominal sentences are sentences that do not have verb. They have adjective, noun or adverb. For instance, I was at home yesterday. The next, verbal sentence is sentence that uses verb, for example she worked last week.

Verbs are key elements in the sentences. A verbal sentence must have a verb. Verb consists of regular and irregular verb. Regular verb is only by adding -ed at the end of the verb such as walk, second verb (walked), third verb (walked) (Abdi, 1997). Irregular verb is the form of verb that is not same the as the first, second and the third verb such drive (verb 1), drove (verb 2), and driven (verb 3). There are also four types of verb, they are transitive, intransitive, passive and linking verb ((Nilufar et al., 2020). Transitive verb is verb that need object. Intransitive verb is a verb that doing action but does not an object such as I run. Passive verb is the subject of the sentence receive the action that is doing by the verb. Passive verb is using to be and the third form of verb such as 'the car was

washed by my father.’ Linking verb is verb that like ‘feel, smell, or taste’ such as you look so beautiful. Linking verb is followed by an adjective.

There are another kinds of verb. They are stative and dynamic verbs (Lee, 2022). A stative verb is verb that describes a situation or condition and state. A stative verb such as be, have, know, like, own, and seem. The example is now I own the Padang Smart Copy. Dynamic verb indicates an action, process and sensation. The example is I bought a mango.

There were several previous research about writing personal experience and students’ error. Mustafa (2021) analysed students’ ability in writing past tense in making recount text. He did his research at private Vocational High School in West Java. He found students’ grammatical errors in making recount text. There are common errors produced of past tense verb in students’ recount text. Then, errors in adverb happens in omission. The errors of using past tense caused by some reasons. They are affected by different rules between first and second language, also caused by insufficient students’ knowledge about english grammar. The differentiate between the previous research and this research is the previous research only focuses on errors in simple past verb and adverb. Meanwhile, this research focuses on errors in simple past tense, errors in compound sentence, errors in noun, errors in passive voice, and errors in comparison degree.

METHOD

The research is descriptive research. Descriptive research is describing the way as they are (Zellatifanny & Mudjiyanto, 2018). Population is a group people that is correspondence to the research (Willie, 2024). The population of the research was students of Universitas Putra Indonesia YPTK Padang. Sampling technique of this research was purposive sampling. The sample chose a class as the sample. The class was students of management seven class. They were forty-five students. The data took through a test. Test is one of the tools to measure the research (Andriani & Anggraini, 2020). The test was writing test. The students are asked to write an essay about their own experience. Then, the students writing were analysed one by one. Then researcher analysed criteria of students’ errors.

The indicators or criteria of errors were 1) the use of simple past, 2) the use of passive voice, 3) compound sentence, 4) noun, 5) comparison degree.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Students had some mistakes in writing personal experience. They had mistaken in some forms as follow:

Table 1. Kinds of mistake

Kinds of mistake	Percentage
Simple past	25%
Passive voice	15%
Compound sentence	17%
Noun	16%
Comparison degree	15%

Mostly they had mistaken in using second verb. For example, student wrote: I go to market yesterday. The correct is 'I went to market yesterday'. For simple past, the sentence must use second verb. The next sentence is 'I wash my clothes two days ago. The mistake is in using 'wash'. Actually, it should be 'washed'. Other sentence was 'when I am at third grade of Senior High School'. The sentence had mistaken in to be 'am'. The past sentence must use to be 'was or were.' The correct is 'when I was at third grade of Senior High School.' In using nominal sentence such as 'I am not at home last week.' It must 'I was not at home last week.'

The next, students had mistaken in making passive voice. Student wrote: 'a cake is make by my sister yesterday.' The errors are in using to be of past tense and third form of verb for passive voice. The correct is 'a cake was made by my sister yesterday.' Other sentence is 'the house clean my mother.' The errors are missing to be and the use of verb 3 (past participle). The sentence should be 'the house was cleaned by my mother.' Fried rice cook by me. The sentence left to be and past participle verb. The correct is 'fried rice was made by me.' Other sentence, student wrote: 'the car wash by my father.' The student did not used to be and third verb. The correct was 'the car was washed by my father.' Then, a

student also wrote: 'my bedroom clean by me.' Student forgot to write 'to be and past participle.' The sentence must be 'my bedroom was cleaned by me.'

Students' mistakes were also in making compound sentence. The student wrote: 'I cleaned my bedroom. I take a bath.' The sentences can be combined and be a compound sentence. The sentence was 'I cleaned my bedroom and I take a bath. The next sentence was written by student that can be compound sentence 'I went by a car or by riding my motorcycle. The sentence used conjunction 'or' to state a choice. Then, the other sentence that can be a compound was 'I did not study for the test. I did not pass the test. The sentence can be a compound sentence 'I did not study for the test, so I did not pass the test.

Some students also made mistake in adding -s / -es in noun and proper noun. Student wrote: 'I bought two bag.' The mistake was made by student in noun (bag). The noun was plural noun (two). It must be added -s at the end of the noun. The sentence must be 'I bought two bags. Another student also wrote: 'my father had three motorcycle.' The sentence also had plural noun, but the student forgot to add -s at the end of the noun. The sentence should be 'my father had three motorcycles. The student also wrote: 'my sister studied abroad, she was studied in england. The sentence written by student had a proper noun (England). Proper noun must be begun by a capital letter. Proper noun is a noun that states people's name, country, or month. England is name of a country, so it must use capital letter. The correct sentence was 'my sister studied abroad, she studied in England.

In making comparison degree, some students also made mistake. Student wrote: 'I was tall than my brother.' The sentence was a comparison degree. The degree was comparative degree. Comparative degree should add the adjective -er (for one or two syllables of word) and use more (for more than two syllables). The adjective is one syllable. It should add -er (taller). The sentence was 'I was taller than my brother.' Another student wrote: 'I was same beautiful my mother.' The sentence was a positive degree sentence. For positive degree sentence, it must use 'as (adjective) as or the same (adjective) as.' The correct sentence was 'I was as beautiful as my mother. Then, the student also wrote 'I was the young in my

family.’ This was a superlative degree. It should use -est for one syllable, and use more for more than two syllables. For this sentence ‘I was the youngest in my family.’ A student also wrote: ‘I was diligent than my brother. The sentence was a comparative degree. The sentence should use ‘more’ before the adjective because the adjective is more than two syllables of word. The correct sentence was ‘I was more diligent than my brother.’ Another student also wrote: ‘I saw beautiful scenery when I went travelling with my family.’ This was a superlative sentence. Beautiful was more than two syllables, so it must use ‘most’ for superlative. The sentence was ‘I saw the most beautiful scenery when I went travelling with my family.’

CONCLUSION

Students still had some mistakes in making it. The mistakes were in making simple past, compound sentence, passive voice, noun and comparison degree. Mistake in using simple past was mostly caused by they did not remember the second form of verb. The mistakes in using passive voice were also caused by the form of regular or irregular verb. Then, in structuring compound sentence. Compound sentence can be joined by using conjunction. Comparative degree also needs correction in positive, comparative and superlative.

Students should study again how to construct personal experience. Writing personal experience used past tense. Students must study again how to construct a simple past sentence. Students should study from other sources beside they are taught by lecturer. Sometimes, they are had studied, but they forgot to how to use past tense. Students should remember about first verb, second verb to make a past tense sentence. Students also should study again about compound sentence, passive voice, noun, and comparison degree.

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