

TENSES UNDERSTANDING IN USING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE*¹Martina Napratilora, ²Seri Yanti Siagian*

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Language is one of the tools for communicating. English is one of the languages that are used to communicate. Mastering simple present tense is able to make English communicating run well, effectively, and clearly. Using the English language to communicate in daily life should comprehend about simple present tense because this tense more often to be used than other tenses for daily communication. This paper will explain how to make sentences using simple present and how to use simple present in communicating. Simple present tense refers to something happened in present time. The students will be easy to understand and use tense by knowing who the subject in the sentence is, knowing the sentence kinds, and knowing the sentence form.

Keywords: *English language, Communication, Simple Present Tense.*

Abstrak

Bahasa merupakan salah satu alat untuk berkomunikasi. Bahasa Inggris merupakan salah satu bahasa yang digunakan untuk berkomunikasi. Penguasaan tenses simple present dapat membantu komunikasi dalam berbahasa Inggris berjalan dengan baik, efektif, dan jelas. Penggunaan Bahasa Inggris untuk berkomunikasi dalam kehidupan sehari-hari harus memahami tentang tenses simple present, karena tenses ini lebih sering digunakan dari pada tenses yang lain untuk komunikasi sehari-hari. Artikel ini akan menjelaskan tentang bagaimana membuat kalimat-kalimat menggunakan tenses simple present dan bagaimana menggunakan tenses simple present dalam berkomunikasi. Tenses simple present menjelaskan tentang sesuatu atau peristiwa yang terjadi pada masa sekarang. Siswa akan mudah untuk memahami dan menggunakan tenses ini dengan mengetahui siapa subjek dalam kalimat, mengetahui jenis-jenis kalimat, dan mengetahui bentuk kalimat.

Kata Kunci: Bahasa Inggris, Komunikasi, Simpel Present Tense

INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool to communicate with other people in the form of spoken and written. There are many languages in the world one of them is the English language. English refers to an international language. It means that many people use English to communicate with others. By mastering English will help us in communicating with other people in different countries, help us to get more knowledge, information, and literature review which is written in English. So, we can master knowledge and skills in many fields like education, science, economic, and so on.

Communicating involves four skills. They are listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Successful communication needs vocabularies mastering and English grammar like tenses. Comprehending in using the tenses will help us to use the language clearly and effectively. Therefore, tense is important to be discussed as one of the English basic to master and understand English

sentences in communication and learning activities.

Mastering English language needs knowledge about tenses. Tense is one of the important components of English which is related to the time of an event occurs in the sentence. In addition, tenses refer to an important thing and basic thing to learn about English. How can we use the language, if we do not know about the language basic itself. Without mastering it, our language will be difficult to be understood by other people especially native speakers. People are not able to use English without mastering tenses first.

Besides that, Spoken and written Communication will run well if the listeners understand what the speakers say. In written communicating, the writers write wrong sentence structure, it will make the readers confused about our message, content, and purposes in the paper. When the writer wants to tell an event that is happened in the past, but the writer writes it in present time. Using the wrong tense

in a sentence will create confusion and misunderstanding about the messages (Geikhman, n.d.).

Besides that, the writer/speaker tells an activity (verbal), but the writer uses the nominal sentence. Many students of EFL (English as Foreign Language) fail to master tense and spend much time to master it (Rahman & Maksud, 2015). For EFL/ESL (English as Foreign Language/English as a Second Language) the difficult thing in mastering English grammar is English verb-tenses (Larsen-freeman, Kuehn, & Haccius, n.d.). Avoiding this, the speakers and writers have to understand and master tenses to make communicating run well. Understanding language aspects are very important for the users to use the language properly (Rahman & Maksud, 2015).

One of the language aspects is grammar (tenses). Grammar is so important to convey speakers' and writers' ideas to the readers and listeners ("Using articles and tense: Improving Grammar; Focusing on

Article and Verb Use," n.d.). In addition, mastering the English language will help college students to write an English thesis and abstract. This paper will explain how to make sentences using simple present and how to use the simple present.

If people want to master English well, the people should master the tenses well too. There are many kinds of tense some of them are present tense, past tense, future tense, and perfect tense. In this paper, the writer will focus on simple present tense.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Language refers to convey idea, opinion, thinking, and feeling to other people. People are able to communicate with others by using spoken and written language. So many languages which are used by people to convey idea, opinion, thinking, and feeling, one of them is the English language. English as a foreign language in Indonesia, it means that Indonesian people do not use English for daily communication

but it is learned in formal and informal education. Communication has closed relationship to the skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Students are able to convey their ideas, opinions, thinking, and feeling effectively, clearly, and efficiently by mastering tenses. Therefore, it is so important to discuss the tenses understanding in using the English language.

Tense refers to the time of an event or activity happened in a sentence. Time refers to the present, past, and future. Generally, tense use specific verbs in sentences like "study-studied-studied, go-went-gone, speak-spoke-spoken, and so on". In other word, tenses explain about the time of speaking moment. So, the speaker, writer, or language users have to consider about time context of ideas, opinion, thinking, and feeling before using the verb or to be in a sentence or statement. Tense in verbs expresses time. It is referenced to the moment of speaking (Cowan, 2008). Getting more understanding of tenses, the first most basic things that need to be understood is parts of time. The

English language has three kinds of time. They are present, past, and future. In this paper will focus on the present tense.

Present tense describes an event or activity which is happened at the time or to tell things in general and to explain the repeated action or habitual. It is also used to express general facts. In addition, present tense refers to present action in the present time and it is not finished. The function of the simple present tense is to explain the present time (Huddleston & Pullum, 2005). Present tense use to say thoughts, feelings, states, things staying the same, fact, thing that is true for a long time, repeated action, and for the future meaning of simple present (Eastwood, 1999). Besides that, simple present talk about actions that we can see as long-term or permanent (Brown & Brown, 2010). There are several uses of simple present tense. They are (Alexander, 1990):

1. Permanent truths

Example:

A human needs food

Cat likes fish

- Summer follows spring
2. The present period
Example:
I am a student
My father works at the office
We learn English with Miss Tina
 3. Habitual action
Example:
I get up at 05.00 o'clock
She always listens to English music
They go to school at 07.00 o'clock
 4. Future reference
Example:
He starts his English course next week
We submit our homework tomorrow
You visit me next month
 5. Observation and declaration
Example:
I like you
She loves me
I am success
 6. Instruction
Example:
You have to go now
Open the door!

- First, you stir the water and sugar
7. Commentaries
Example:
They present their paper
She does not speak English
They do not use school uniform

Present tense has its own formula with its verbs. Simply, the formula starts with the subject and followed by infinitive verb or verb by adding es/s based on who is the doer in the sentence. It means, simple present tense uses verb 1 to show the action in a verbal sentence and use to be (am, is, are) in a nominal sentence. time signal which is often used in the simple present like always, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, seldom, never, and so on. The forms of simple present sentences are (Azar, 2003):

1. Verbal sentence

The Verbal sentence means that the sentence predicate is a verb. In other words, the subjects do an activity in the sentence. the important thing that should be known by the user is who is the

doer in the sentence because the subject will influence verb form in simple present especially if the subject is third person singular (she, he, it) the verb is ending by s, ss, ch, o, and x the verb should get suffix es but if

the verb is not ending by s, ss, ch, x, and o the verb have to get suffix s example he goes to school, she teaches me English, he works at office. The formula of a verbal sentence is:

Verbal Sentence	
Subject	Verb 1
I	Verb 1
You	Verb 1
They	Verb 1
We	Verb 1
She	Verb 1 + es/s
He	Verb 1 + es/s
It	Verb 1 + es/s

Besides that, when the subject is a third singular person (she, he, it), the verb ending *Y* and following by consonant we have to change *Y* become *I* and add suffix *es*. Example: she *studies* English, he *copies* the paper, she *tries* to speak English well.

Statement sentence (positive) is able to be changed into negative and interrogative by adding auxiliary verb (do/does) and not for a negative

and auxiliary verb (do/does) for interrogative.

Example:

Statement : I work at the office

Negative: I do not work

Interrogative : do I work?

Statement: He goes to campus

Negative: He does not go to campus

Interrogative: Does he go to campus?

2. Nominal sentence does not do an activity in the sentence. Characteristic of a nominal sentence is always uses to be (am, is, and are).
- The nominal sentence means the sentence predicate is not a verb. It claims that the doer

Nominal Sentence	
Subject	To Be (am, is, are)
I	am
You	are
They	are
We	are
She	Is
He	Is
It	Is

Example

Statement : I am a student
 Negative : I am not a student
 Interrogative : am I a student/ are you a student?

Statement : She is beautiful
 Negative : She is not beautiful
 Interrogative : Is she beautiful?

Statement : We are in the class
 Negative: We are not in the class
 Interrogative: Are we in class?

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that there

are some ways to uses English clearly and correctly. They are:

1. Knowing who the subject in the sentence is.

Knowing the subject will help us to use and choose the correct verb or to be because the subject will influence the form of a verb and to be. Introduce the third person singular (she, he, it) which prove the most difficult for students. When the student is familiar with a third-person singular, they will be comfortable in speaking (spoken communication) (Beare, 2018).

2. Knowing the kinds of sentence

Kind of sentences here means verbal or nominal sentence. By knowing these things, we will be easy to decide in applying the verb or to be in the sentence. The nominal sentence is describing or telling about daily activity and general truth which does not use a verb in the sentence. Verbal sentence explains about habit activity and general fact which uses the verb in the sentence (Kamil, n.d.).

3. Knowing the form of sentence

The form of the sentence here means statement/positive, negative, and interrogative sentence. The language users have to pay attention to this because different sentence form will have a different pattern. To be good language user have to use sentence form correctly.

Introduce negative and interrogative form of a simple present to make the students familiar with the sentence form. Make sure to point out the difference between yes and no

questions and information questions. Start with yes/no questions to encourage students to answer in the short form and make sure to vary the subject up to help students to be familiar with drop out 's' or 'es' in a negative or interrogative sentence (Beare, 2018). It will help students feel comfortable to use the language in speaking.

In other words, introduce first person singular, second person singular, third person singular, plural person, statement, negative, and interrogative. Example: first, the teacher makes an affirmative statement and then change into negative and interrogative after that ask the students to do the same thing to practice it (Pesce, n.d.). This activity will help the students to be familiar with this sentence form.

However, mastering tense is so important to support our daily communication. When we communicate in the wrong tense it creates confusion and

misunderstanding between speaker and listener. So, making good communication needs to master tense well. If students master simple present tense. They are able to write descriptive text well (Deviga & Widiana, 2006). By mastering 5 basic tenses are able to express thinking, feeling, idea, and opinion in English. Tenses mastering are enough for beginners to begin active communication with others (Elfutriani, Kustini, & Kusnasari, 2014).

CONCLUSION

Simple present tense something happened in present time. Students are able to use the English language by understanding the grammar (tense) of the language itself. Using the English language to communicate in daily life should comprehend about simple present tense because this tense more often to be used for daily communication. Communication will run effectively, clearly, and efficiently when the

speaker/writer has to use the right tense for avoiding misunderstanding or misinterpreting the message. The students will be easy to understand and use tense by knowing who the subject in the sentence is, knowing the sentence kinds, and knowing the sentence form

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