

A STUDY ON THE STUDENT'S PROBLEMS IN USING SIMPLE PAST TENSE IN WRITING NARRATIVE PARAGRAPH

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ABSTRACT

This research is about the student's ability in using past tense in writing narrative text at SMA Negeri 2 Rantauprapat. In conducting this research, the researcher asks the students to write a narrative paragraph to find the students's problems in using simple past tense. As the problem in the research is ,what ate problems of the first year students of SMA Negeri 2 Rantauprapat in using simple past tense in writing narrative paragraph? In conducting this research, the writer follows the methodology of qualitative research. This research is conducted by surveying the student's ability. As the object of thus research, the researcher chooses the students of the first year at SMA NEGERI 2 RANTAUPRAPAT. After analyzing the data, the researcher finds that the student"s problem are about the use incorrect tenses, auxiliary verb, verb pattern, overlapping verbs and some missing verbs.

Keywords: analysis, ability, writing, narrative

I. INTRODUCTION

The writing materials usually about text. There are some types of the text that should be taught by the English teacher. They are transactional and interpersonal text, short functional text. In this study, the writer only focuses to the genre as the material to measure the students capability. A genre approach iss especially appropriate for student in English for specific purposes. Narrative is one of the text genre.it is the material that will be used by the writer. According to Anderson (1997:15), narrative is a genre and activity that can fruitfully examined interms of a set of dimension that a narrative displays to different degrees and in different ways. One way in understanding narrative text is by identifying the generic structure and lexicogrammatical features of the text. The lexicogrammatical features of narrative are it focus on specific participants and usually individualized participants, use of the material process, use of temporal conjunctions and temporal circumstances and use of past tense.

II LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Writing

Writing skills are an important part of communication. Based on Oxford learner"s pocket dictionary (2003:325),Writing means the activity or occupation or skill of composing text for publication. According to Lado (1964:7), writing is putting a graphic symbol that represents the language that is understandable to others.

2.2 Narrative

Narrative is one of the genre text form. Narrative is kind of text which tells about events, or accuracies

which can make the reader feells that is real. Anarrative tells about something that happened in the past. Bonner (1994:48) said that a narrative is a piece of writing that tells a story about something that happened in the past. The story can be imaginary or based on a real incidents. Narrative is any written English text in which the writer wants to amuse, entertain people, and to deal with actual or vicarious experience.

2.2.1 The Generic structure of narrative text

According to Joyce & feez(2000: 57) The generic structures of narrative text are: (1) Orientation/Exposition:

The introduction of what is inside the text. What the text is talk in general.

Who involves in the text. When and where is happen, (2) Complication/rising action: A crisis arises. The complication is pushed along by a serious of events,

during which usually expect some sort of complicating or problem to arise. It expl

ores the conflict among the participant. Complication is the main element of

narrative. Without complication, the text is not narrative. The conflict can be

shown as natural, social or psychological conflict, (3) Resolution: The crises are

resolved. In this part, the implication may be resolved for better or worse, but it is

rarely left completely unresolved although this is of course possible in certain

types of narrative which leaves us wondering "How did it end?"

2.3 Definition simple past tense

the simple past tense is used to describe a completed activity that happened in the past. In

other words, it started in the past and ended in the past.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

In this research, the writer follows the methodology of qualitative perspective research. The writer invites the students to recall their memory about narrative text because it is not strange for them, and asks them to write one of their favourite stories on a piece of paper the writer collect the papers and will analyze the simple past tense that they use in composing the text.

3.2 The subject of research

The writer makes SMA NEGERI 2 RANTAUPRAPAT as the population. The researcher only focused to the grade ten to be analyzed.

3.3 Technique of collecting data

Gives the students some examples of narrative paragraph, explain about the definition of simple past tense and narrative text.

3.4. Technique of analyzing the data

The researcher analyze data by using Sargeant's theory. Verb tense plays an important role in presenting time in narrative Sargeant (2007:20). When the students write about an event in the past the students should know how to use the pattern of tense in the past. Sargeant has given the pattern of the past tense, they are :

A. The tenses

1. Simple past tense (subject + verb2+ Object +time signal)
2. Past Perfect tense
(Subject|+Had+v3+Object+Time signal)
3. Past Progressive Tense
(Subject+was/were+Ving+Object+Time signal|)
4. Past Perfect Progressive Tense
(Subject+Had+Been+Ving+Object+Time signal)
5. Modals
(Subject+would/should/could/might+V1+Object+Time signals)

VI. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Findings

From the collected the data,there are three main data, they are Orientation. Complication, and Resolution. In the analysis to come, the data will subsidize into the smaller data. From all the collected data, the researcher only analyzed 30 data to represent the student's problem in using past tenses. After analyzing the data the students have

some problems in using past tense while they wrote narrative text, the problems are :

1. Simple past tense (e.g Once upon a time, there lived a little girl named Snow White)

2.Past Progressive tense (e.g when they are going to the palace, they called the man quietly)

3. Past Perfect tense (e.g The woman had carried the boy to the hill)

4. Past Perfect Continuous (e.g they had been running up quickly to get the flowers)

From all tenses, the student dominantly used simple past tense. Some of the sentences are written correctly in the right pattern, but some are written incorrectly. They have difficulties in using the right verb from the past. They always use the infinitive without changing the verb based on the tense (e.g The mother **had stay** calm in a long street), they have less comprehension about verb form. Beside that, they also have difficulties in differentiate the regular and irregular verb form.

B. There is no To be after the subject

Example :

1. The **bear always clumsy** and could not use the arrow
2. **The daughter so beautiful**, but she had a very bad attitude.

C. The use of auxiliary verb is written with the verb

Example :

1. she **made can** her sister in the well lived a frog king.
2. they **are run** very quickly

D. The use of the auxiliary verb in the student's writing is overlapping

Example :1. But he **take** it home on second thought and soon find that **is was** egg of pure gold

4.2 Discussion

as what we have analyze in the previous, the researcher find out that the students have less understanding and comprehension in using past tenses while writing narrative paragraph. From all the sentences, they are all have the same mistakes that they use the infinitive. They do not know to differ the regular and irregular verb. Moreover there are some overlapping verbs. Those can be seen by the use of the incorrect verb patterns in parallel sentences. In learning English not only write good paragraphs, but should be in accordance with use of time. In writing about past events, the students will also learn how to make narrative incident in the past. Verb tense also plays an important role in presenting time in narrative (Sargeant, 2007 : 20). When the students write about an event in the past the student should

known how to use the pattern of tense in the past. One things that makes difficulties of students are inclined to be critical correct from beginning. The students should know what tenses must use in narrative paragraph. In order to make the students can comprehend and undertand the tenses well, the teachers need to create an interesting way to teach them or by giving them more practice in changing sentences and creating sentences. Based on that understanding, the teacher can find the easy way to deliver the material to the students in the classroom so that the students can be easily to comprehend acceptably.

V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The researcher can formulated the conclusions as follows :

1. the first year student of SMA NEGERI 2 RANTAUPRAPAT applied four kinds of past tenses in writing narrative paragraph. They are simple past tense, past progressive tense, past perfect tense and past perfect progressive.
2. the student has less comprehension of the verb form in English and the use based on the tenses. They did not use the right form of the verb in their writings.
3. the students dominantly used the simple present tense in their writings.
- 4.the use of the auxiliary verb and the verb is overlapping.
5. the problem mostly found especially in changing the infinitive verb into the past form of the verb.

5.2 Suggestions

From the conclusion above, the researcher would like to give some suggestions as the consideration to the English teacher in teaching English language skills as follows :

1. the teacher should give more explanations and careful attention about how to make a good narrative paragraph with a good grammatical sentences.
2. teacher should be abl to manage the class that suddenly becomes so hysteric and hard to be controlled when some students get difficulty when they are studying about tenses.

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