



## **AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING NOUN PHRASES IN DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT SMA N 1 RAO**

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### **Abstract**

This study analyzes the students' ability in using noun phrases in descriptive text at SMA N 1 Rao based on structures of noun phrases by Greenbaum and Nelson and also finds out the structure that the students have the most problem with in descriptive text. The sample of this research is 32 students selected by using cluster random sampling technique. The technique of data collection was writing test. In analyzing the data, the researcher used guideline that are grouped by the structures. From the result of the test, it was found the mean of students' ability in using noun phrases was 74,53% as a fair category. In students' writing, the structures the students have the most problem are: *determiner+pre-modifier+noun* (40,32%), *determiner +noun* (38,93%) and *determiner+pre-modifier+noun+post-modifier* (37,5%)

**Keyword:** Noun Phrase, students' ability, structure of noun phrase.

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

In order to learn English well, especially to written form, grammar is more important thing that students should master in writing. Helen and Susan (2000: 5) state "Grammar is the system of patterns we use to select and combine words. Grammar makes it possible for us to write texts which our experience, ideas, thoughts and feeling. If we use language, we use grammar. Grammar is the heart and powerhouse of language. A lot of students have low scores on English. It caused by failure in grammar mastery. One of the grammars that must be mastered in writing descriptive text is noun phrases, because in descriptive text they must describe something in detail. Although students can usually recognize nouns, they are often less aware of longer noun phrase. According to Frank (1972: 120), the noun phrase is the structure of the head and its modifiers. In English, there are many rules to obey in constructing noun phrases, like the

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structure of pre-modifiers and post-modifiers or the sequence of modifiers. Ba'dulu (2008: 41) states a noun phrase is a group of words with a noun as its head. A noun phrase may consist of a determiner slot filled by an article, a possessive pronoun, a numeral, or a demonstrative, and ahead slot filled by a noun.

Since there are a lot of problems in using noun phrases, several researchers have conducted studies related to this topic. For example, Putra (2012) did a research about students' ability in arranging words into noun phrases with pre-modifiers. Furthermore, Novianti (2018) did a research about grammatical errors in using noun phrases in descriptive text. Then, Ramadhona and Arizah (2019) did a research about the correlation between noun phrases and writing a descriptive text. The last, Monica (2019) did a research about students' ability in analyzing noun phrase within the text.

From the explanation above, most of the researchers discuss the students' ability in using noun phrases in general not specifically on noun phrases structure by Greenbaum and Nelson. Although there are some researchers discuss noun phrase, they only focus on students' errors, students' ability in using noun phrases in general and error analysis in using noun phrase only in type and elements of noun phrases, but there is no researchers discuss noun phrases in using structure of noun phrase by Greenbaum and Nelson. This research discusses the students' ability in using and which structure of noun phrase that students have most problem with in descriptive text at SMA N 1 Rao.

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

The design of this research was descriptive research to see the students' ability using noun phrases and which structure that students have most problem with according to the structure of noun phrases by Greenbaum and Nelson (2012). The population of this research was all the first year students at SMA N 1 Rao. The number of the population was 288 students distributed in nine classes. The sample of this research was taken by cluster random sampling. Cluster random sampling was used because the members of the population were distributed in groups or classes. The researcher used a cluster random sampling technique because all the member of the population was considered homogenous; having the same syllabus and materials. Therefore, there were 32 students involved in this research. The instrumentation used to collect the data in this research was the writing test. In writing test, the students ask to write a descriptive text about a person consist of 10 sentences in 90 minutes. The test instrumentation was validated by one of English lecturer of English Department Universitas Negeri Padang.

## **C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Research Finding**

The findings are presented into main parts; first, the students' ability in using noun phrase and secondly which structures of noun phrase that students have most problem with in descriptive text.

### **The finding of students' ability in using noun phrase**

Table 1. Percentae of Students' Ability

No	Interval	Rating Quality	Number of Students	Percentages
1	76-100	Good	13	40,62 %
2	56-75	Fair	19	59,37 %
3	40-55	Poor	0	0 %
4	<40	Very Poor	0	0 %

The table above shows the students' ability in using noun phrases in descriptive text. There are 13 (40,62%) students who are in good categories, 19 (59,37%) students in fair categories, 0 (0%) students in poor and very poor categories. The students' ability in using noun phrases in descriptive text at SMA N 1 Rao was in a fair category.

### **The finding for which structure of noun phrase have students' most problem.**

Table 2. The most problem structure of Noun Phrase

No	Structure	Percentage
1	Noun	3,81%
2	Determiner+ Noun	38,93%
3	Pre-Mod+ Noun	19,51%
4	Determiner+ Pre-Mod+ Noun	40,32%
5	Noun+Post- Mod	0%
6	Determiner+Noun+ Post-Mod	11,53%
7	Pre-Mod+ Noun + Post-Mod	0%
8	Determiner+Pre-Mod+Noun+Post Mod	37,5%

The percentage of structures of noun phrases that students have most problem with are determiner+pre-modifier+noun was 40,32% , determiner+noun was 38,93%, and determiner+pre-modifier+noun+post-modifier was 37,5%.

## **2. Discussion**

This discussion focus on the students' ability in using noun phrases at first year students in SMA N 1 Rao. To know the students' ability in using noun phrases, the researcher gave the writing test to the students. The first research question aims to find out the students' ability in using noun phrases. The findings that have been obtained from the analysis of students' writing ability in using noun phrase by first year students at SMA N 1 Rao was fair with the average score was 74,53%. This finding is similar with Rahmat (2016) who did the

research about students' ability in using noun phrase it was in fair level (74,8%). Meanwhile, finding of this research is different result form Ningrum (2015). In her findings, the students' ability in using noun phrase was good with the average percentage (95,5%).

From previous study and this study findings, it could be concluded that most of the students had problem in using noun phrases while they know some structure in using noun phrases. One of supporting reasons related to this finding is the students lack understanding to identify each part of speech an its function. The lack capability of students to understand and to identify the various structures of the noun phrases in any classes. In addition, this finding supports Frank's theory that noun is one of the foremost important parts of speech. It arrange with the verb helps to create the sentence core which is crucial to each complete sentence. Additionally, it also function as the head of the sentence. The position of the phrase is usually as a subject, object, and complement of the sentence and as part of prepositional phrase.

The second research question aims to find out which structures of noun phrase that students have the most problem with in descriptive text. From the findings, it was found that determiner+pre-modifier+noun determiner + noun and determiner+pre-modifier+noun+post-modifier are the most problem structures of students. It can be seen from the average score of each structures. The average of determiner+pre-modifier+noun (40,32%), the average of determiner+noun (38,93%) and the average of determiner+pre-modifier+noun+post-modifier (37,5%). The reseach finding was similar with Pratama and Isti'anah (2017). They found three dominant structures with the most significant percentage such as determiner+head (48,9%), determiner+pre-modifier+noun (16,9%), pre-modifier+head (12,4%). Even though one structure that have most problem is different from previous research, this research still has similarities with the other 2 structures that have most problem. There are 2 structures which not appear in students writing, it probably because students do not understand or are not familiar with the structures.

#### **D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

Based on the result of the test, this research was carried out to analyze students' ability in using noun phrases and classify which structures that students have the most problem with, it was found that the percentages of students' ability in using noun phrase was fair (74,53%). Generally, the students' ability in using noun phrases of X IA 1 was in fair grade. The students can write a sentence in descriptive text, but they have problems when they write sentences in using noun phrases. Most students get difficulties in arranging words into a good order by using noun phrase in descriptive text. In classifying which structures of noun phrase that students have most problem with, it was found that the most problem structures of noun phrase that students have are determiner+noun, determiner+pre-modifier+noun, and determiner+pre-modifier+noun+post-modifier.

Based on the findings and the conclusion of the research, there are several suggestions offered. The researcher hopes that the teachers should give more attention and give exercises about noun phrase to the students. For other researchers, it would be valuable to analyze the students' difficulties in using structures of noun phrases in writing especially in descriptive text and noun phrase test.





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