STUDENTS' GRAMMATICAL PROBLEMS IN WRITING PARAGRAPH AT ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020 OF STKIP PGRI SUMATERA BARAT

Syilvi Anwar, Siska, Herfyna Asty
Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggirs STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat
Syilvianwar31@gmail.com

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini dilatar belakangi oleh pentingnya mempelajari grammar dalam menulis, khususnya menulis grammar dalam pengunaan tenses dalam *paragraph writing* di STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat untuk mengetahui kesalahan-kesalahan yang dilakukan mahasiswa saat menulis *paragraph writing*. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian yang menggunakan metode penelitian *descriptive research* dengan pendekatan *qualitative research*. Peneliti melakukan analisa pada *source of data* dari *paragraph writing* mahasiswa dengan metode pengambilan sampel yaitu purposive sampling. Populasi penelitian ini adalah sebanyak 3 kelas dari program studi pendidikan bahasa Inggris tahun ajaran 2019/2020, atau sebanyak 79 data mahasiswa dengan instrument yaitu dokumen ceklis. Pengumpulan data dengan cara menganalisa lembar jawaban ujian English writing paragraph mid semester mahasiswa sebanyak 79 lembar data. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa beberapa mahasiswa memiliki masalah dalam pengunaan grammar khusunya pada simple present tense yang tidak sesuai dengan aturan simple present tense. Jadi peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa 8 data yang peneliti temukan didalam *paragraph writing* belum benar berdasarkan *rules* dari penggunaan simple present tense itu sendiri.

Kata Kunci: Grammar, Tenses, Menulis Paragraf.

INTRODUCTION

Writing became one of the important parts of mastering English, besides reading, listening and speaking, especially for English education department. Writing is the ability to communicate their ideas, feeling to people and information. By writing students can show their skills in development ideas, opinion and others. There are two types of writing that can be learnt, especially for English students in STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat. They are writing essay and writing paragraph. Writing paragraph is a batch of sentences that

flashes out a singular idea. In sequence paragraph begin with a topic sentence and supporting main idea. The purpose of paragraph is to express speaker's thoughts. Paragraph should not be mixing thoughts or ideas. In writing paragraph, students must pay attention to the grammar. Grammar has important role in the use of writing.

According to Richards and Schmidt (2010: 215-252) grammar is how the language units such as phrases words are formed into sentences and a description of the structure of a language. So, grammar has important part in language, mastering grammar makes sentences become structured and will give effect to language skill. When learning grammar, the writer should follow the rules and do it by processing. Grammar is central to teaching learning of languages, by following the rules that form and structure of grammar will make possible for us to talk about language and the sentences can be more understandable.

A good grammar also needs in writing. There are many tenses that can be learnt and written in writing class, such as present tenses. Present tense relates to the daily activities and to talk about the general truth or fact. In grammar, there are lots of things related to sentence structure such as verb and tenses. Tense usually refers to the grammatical expression of the time of the situation described in the proposition, relative to some other time. Tenses also connected with some verbs.

The tenses are group of verbs that describe the time when the action showing to in the sentence took place. In the English Language there are two tenses: the present and past. In this research, the researcher only focused on grammatical problem in present tense. Richards & Schmidt (2002) said that tense is the relationship between the form of the verb and the time of the action or state it describes.

There are many rules in English grammar that people can learn, and the

common in grammar that should be known is using tenses, in this research the researcher focuses on grammatical problem of student writing paragraph especially the using of present tense.

According to Swan (2000) simple present tense usually use when talking about permanent situations. From the definition above, it is clear that the simple present tense is the activities or the actions which are done by the subject all of the time. It does not mean in temporary time but whenever and wherever. The simple present tense has a specific characteristic. This characteristic can be seen from the form and the use of the simple present itself. (Swan 2000)said that the forms of simple present tense follow as:

- Affirmative (S + V + O)
  Example: I study, you study, she/he/it Studies
- Question (Do/does + S + C)
  Example: Do I study?, do you study?, does she/he/it study?
- Negative (S + Do/does +Not + C)

Example: I do not study, you do not study, she/he/it does not study

- Add -*s* to infinitive
  Work $\longrightarrow$ work**s**
  Play $\longrightarrow$ Plays
  Clean $\longrightarrow$ Cleans
- Verbs ending in consonants + *y*: change *y* to *i* and add -*es*
  Study $\longrightarrow$ studies
  Hurry $\longrightarrow$ hurr**ies**
  Reply $\longrightarrow$ repl**ies**
- Verbs ending in -*s*, -*z*, -*ch*, -*sh*, or -*x*: add -*es*to infinitive
  Miss $\longrightarrow$ miss**es**
  Push $\longrightarrow$ push**es**
  Fix $\longrightarrow$ fixes

When the researcher read the document of students' English writing paragraph midterm exam the researcher found that the students still have grammatical problem in using present tense on writing paragraph and it is not based on the rule, such as students have problems in choosing tenses to use, student cannot stand with only one tenses.The next problem

is students have problem in using the rules of tenses. Meanwhile, when writing a sentence that tense must follow the rules by the tenses itself. The last problem, students cannot identify the verb that use in tenses, such as the students still use verb two in simple present tense. Example in one of student midterm paper the researchers found the sentence*"I woke up irregular as usual"* based on the context of sentence, this sentence is talking about present, but the student wrote verb in past tense. And present verb of word *"woke up"* is *"wake up",* simple present tense is tense to show about the daily activities and general truth, the sentence should be *"I wake up irregular as usual"* because simple present tense using verb 1 and showing the daily activity. The next example that researchers found in sentence *"my cousin ask me to cook together for lunch"* this sentence is related to simple present tense. According to Swan 2000 said that for simple present tense should add "s/es" after verb if

the subject third singular person (she/he/it) and this sentence use the person as subject.The student should understand the rules of present tense to write good paragraph.

RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher used descriptive research to explain the grammatical problem of student writing paragraph of English Department STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat Academic Year 2019. Gay and Airasian (2012:275)stated that descriptive research determined and described the way are. The descriptive method is use for investigating a variety of educational problems and issues. It means descriptive research includes the data to get answer of the research question. In this research the researcher used document analysis. The researcher used documents from middle exam made by students in writing paragraph class academic year 2019. The researcher took the data focus on grammatical problem in using simple

present tense of student writing paragraph. The sample for this research was purposive sample. The researcher took a sample based on the students' middle exam. Researchers chose the document based on purposive sampling. The Researchers select the documents which use present tense in midterm writing paragraph exam.

This research used document checklist as one of the instrument in this research. The purpose of this document checklist was to make the researcher easier to analyze the data. In this research the researcher focused on grammatical problem of student writing paragraph made by students at English department STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat.

The first step in technique of data collection was collecting the students' middle exams in writing paragraph. The second was checking the students' middle exams that used present tense on writing paragraph. The third was taking students' middle exams which

use present tense on writing paragraph and soft copy of the document. This soft copy document was the document for research data.

Technique of data analysis, first, the researcher got documents from students' middle exam in writing paragraph. The second was analyzing the grammatical problem of student writing paragraph. The third was checking the using of grammatical problem especially in present tense whether it is correct or not based on the rule. The last the researcher analyzed the grammatical problem of student writing paragraph that student made correctly.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this research, the researcher analyzed the document from the students' middle exam project in paragraph writing. Researcher got this document from lecturers who teach paragraph writing in academic year 2019/2020. The documents were taken after the license of a research was

given from STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat. The researcher took three classes as the population which have seventy nine students' exams to analyze and found the data. This research focused on the grammatical problem of student writing paragraph made by students. The document that researcher took was the students' middle exam project in essay writing academic year 2019/2020. The paragraph writing that researcher took was that paragraph contained present tense.

After the researchers analyzed the document one by one, the researchers found amount 8 documents have grammatical problem of writing paragraph in their middle exam project. The researchers used purposive sampling. According to (Etikan, 2016) purposive sampling technique also called judgment sampling which means the researcher takes some sampling in this research who were already study about present tense in Grammar. After getting the

data, the researcher analyzed about grammatical problem of student writing paragraph at STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat in academic year 2019/2020. In this research, the researcher focused on the purpose of the research is to know the grammatical problem of student writing paragraph at STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat**.** The researcher collected the middle exam project in writing paragraph amount seventy nine exams.

Then, the researchers read English writing paragraph midterm exampaper, the researchers would look for the grammatical problem of student writing paragraph. After the researchers got the grammatical problem in the students' writing paragraph, then it would be described as detail. The researchers focused on the grammatical problem found in the students' writing paragraph when wrote in English writing paragraph midterm examproject.

Next, the researchers classified the

data based on the document checklist. In this classification, the researcher divided the rule from present tense, and the researchers would see the sentence correct or not based on the rule present tense that almost students used in middle exam. The last, researchers would interpretation the data to find the result of this research. . From seventy nine English writing paragraph midterm exam project documents, only eight students make mistakes in grammatical problem in writing paragraph middle exam project. The researcher found grammatical problem as bellow:

1. Researchers finds the grammatical problem between choosing tense to use in writing paragraph, some students have many tenses in their writing paragraph and sometimes student mix the tense in writing paragraph. In one of the datum, the student use more than one tenses, in the first line use present past tense, then the next sentence change into present tense.

2. Researchers found the student's sentence is not based on the rules of making sentence, and make there is missing subject or compliment. And some sentences related to ambiguity sentence. The example I one of datum in sentence *"finish tidying up the room, breakfast, and check e-learning…"*based on the context of making sentence, this sentence is not correct, according to Sundari (2017) a sentence has subject and verb, and also contain one independent clause which covey thought. Meanwhile this sentence does not have subject and also it is not convey clear meaning. It should add "I" as subject, and change the verb "tidying up" become "tidy up" as the rules of simple resent tense, said that using verb one. The sentence should be *"I finish tidy*

up the room,have breakfast and check e-learning…"

3. Researchers found mistake in using to be "is/are" for simple present tense. The using of "are" use plural as subject (you/we/they) .And students have problem in using ""'s/es" for verb of present tense, meanwhile simple present tense must use verb one with adding "s/es" after verb or singular third person (she/he/it). Example in one of datum, the researchers found sentence *"my cousin ask me to cook together for lunch"* this sentence is related to simple present tense. According to Swan (2000) that for simple present tense should add "s/es" after verb if the subject third singular person (she/he/it) and this sentence use the person as subject. The sentence should be *"my cousin asks me to cook together for lunch"* and also can

using -es, if the verb ending with (-s, -z, -ch, -sh, -x).

4. The researchers already analyzed the grammatical problem and found problem in using modals such as do not add verb in using modals, and make mistake in writing negative modals. Example in one of datum in sentence *"it can make me not bored"* this sentence is related to modals. According to the rules of making negative sentence of modals, the word "not" should add after modals (S + modals + not + verb1). Meanwhile in this datum 7 the student added the word "not" after noun and verb. And the sentence should be *"it cannot make me bored"*

5. The researcher found mistake in writing passive voice, the student do not add verb 3 for passive voice, and student also do not add to be. The example in one of datum in the sentence *"the tasks given by the lecturer"*. This

sentence related to passive voice. Hidayat 2008 said that passive voice is a grammatical voice in which the subject receives the action. According to the pattern of making passive voice said that (subject + to be + verb 3), meanwhile this sentence does not have "to be", the sentence should be *"the tasks are given by the lecturer"* using to be "are" for plural noun

6. The researcher found some of the sentence is not consistent, the sentence should be consistent and make it parallelism, the example in one of datum in sentence *"then my daily life seems to revolve around me and talk to y family, going to bed and listening to music, and playing cell phones, reading books, and spending time either watching horror movie".* This sentence is not also parallelism, the sentence should be parallelism because parallelism showing consistent of

the paragraph, because from the first verb use verb one, the next verb should use verb one , the sentence should become *"then my daily life seems to revolve around me and talk to my family, go to bed and listen to music, and play cell phones, read books, and spend time either watch horror movie"*

Total of the students make grammatical problem in middle exam project is eight students, student have mistake in grammatical problem using present tense. Present tense almost use by students when write paragraph in academic writing. But some student use tense correctly on writing paragraph academic year 2019/2020 at STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat*.*

CONCLUSION

The researcher analyzed the grammatical problem in using present tense based on the structure of present tense. After the researcher analyzed

the student's middle exam project, the researcher found that students already used present tense in middle exam project. There are 79 data, and only 8 data related on this research, It means that student still do not know the structure of present tense.

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