

LEMBAR PENGESAHAN ARTIKEL ILMIAH

**AN ANALYSIS ON STUDENTS' MASTERY IN USING GERUND AT
THE FIFTH SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH STUDY
PROGRAM IN UNIVERSITY OF PASIR PANGARAIAN**

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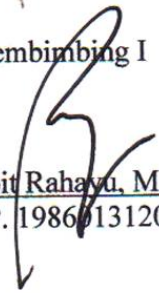
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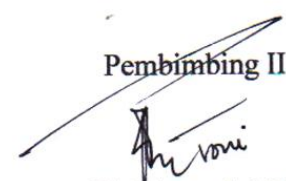
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AN ANALYSIS ON STUDENTS' MASTERY IN USING GERUND AT THE FIFTH SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM IN UNIVERSITY OF PASIR PENGARAIAN

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui dan menganalisa kemampuan siswa semester 5 program pendidikan bahasa inggris di universitas Pasir Pangaraian dalam menggunakan gerund. Dalam pengumpulan data, peneliti mengadakan 2 sesi yaitu try out dan post test, dimana tujuan dari try out itu sendiri adalah untuk menentukan kevalidan soal-soal yang diberikan kepada mereka. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Selain itu ada beberapa tipe gerund yang dianalisa dalam penelitian ini, Dari hasil penelitian yang diikuti para siswa menunjukkan bahwa dari 30 soal isian dan pilihan ganda yang diberikan persentasi jawaban yang benar dari keseluruhan siswa adalah 50 % sehingga mereka masuk dalam kategori level "poor" (lemah).

Kata kunci : Mastery dan Gerund

ABSTRACT

This research was aimed to find out and analyze the skill of the fifth semester students of English study Program in University of Pasir Pangaraian in using gerund. In collecting the data, the researcher conducted 2 sessions of the test, they were try out test and post test where the purpose of the try out test is to determine the validity of the test items given to the students. The method used in this research was descriptive qualitative research. There were several types of gerund used in this research. Overall, based on the result of this research, the whole test result which was done by students explain that from the 30 multiple choice test items given the percentage of the correct answer from the all respondents was 50 %. It means that their skill in using gerund can be categorized in the poor level (weak).

Keywords : Mastery and Gerund

INTRODUCTION

Language is a very important means of communication in daily human life. Human being uses language, both in written and spoken form, to express their ideas. In a wider scope, language functions as a means of international communication by at least two persons.

In a smaller group whose members share the same language, for instance, there are likely no difficulties in using the language since the persons involved in the process of communication are used to speaking their own native language. Otherwise if the people taking part in the conversation speak different languages, they must have difficulties or obstacles in getting along with each other. One of the problems to the difficulties is the language used.

English is a language of high importance in the international relationship either formally or informally. Considering that English has a crucial position, the Indonesian Government realizes that the language has to be learned by the Indonesian people without ignoring the status of the Indonesian language as their own national language.

In Indonesia, the government encourages the Indonesian citizens to learn English. English is taught as a compulsory subject from Junior

High School up to even some semesters of college level. It is because as an international language, English has an important role in international relation between Indonesia and other countries in the world.

However, learning English is not as easy as we may imagine. Since English is the first foreign language in Indonesia, it requires great efforts for the students to learn the elements of the language, such as grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and spelling. The elements of English differ from those of "Bahasa Indonesia". It is identified through Contrastive Analysis (Tarigan, 2005:4-5) that the differences between two languages cause problems to students. The problems can also be caused by the interference of the students' first language. For example, "Bahasa Indonesia" does not have tenses like those in English. This difference constitutes problems in learning English. They often make a lot of mistakes.

In learning the target language, the students' errors may occur in the components of the language. Students often make a sentence which is syntactically right but lexically wrong or vice versa. This shows that the students have difficulties in using words or sentences appropriately.

For the case to the fifth semester students of

English Study Program in University of Pasir Pengaraian the researcher found that they still have problem in understand and using gerund whether it is in their daily conversation or the grammar lesson and examination. Although they had learnt about gerund in their subject Structure 2 at the second semester but it can not be a guarantee that all of them are able to master it.

Based on the researcher's observation, some of the problems were faced by the students due to the lack of the grammar mastery were the low score on the grammar test on related subject and also on the communication or conversation.

Based on the case above the researcher can take a conclusion that what they are facing related to their lack of understanding about gerund caused by several factors. Firstly, lack of motivation to improve their grammar skill influences their ability to master the English Grammar, especially gerund which is taught by their lecturers it makes them get the low score on the exercise given by the lecturer to the gerund test item. Secondly, lack of practicing their grammar skill also becomes another factor of their less mastery of gerund.

Purpose of the Research

Concerning to the previous problem, the purpose of the research is the researcher wants to identify how is the mastery of the fifth semester students of English Study Program in using gerund.

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

The Nature of Grammar

Scrivener (2004:54) says that when thinking of 'grammar' many people probably imagine a book full of explanations and rules that tell them which verbs have what endings, how to use adverbs, how to make a superlative, etc

In other words, grammar is the systematized knowledge or the theory of sentence structure. Grammar may also be defined as the basic signals by which a language transmits meaning. Therefore, if people know how to construct sentence in order to say that grammar consists of the patterns of utterance in using a language. So grammar will usually control the use of language. Related to Robert's definition, Veit (1986:1) defines grammar as follows:

"Your grammar is what enables you to understand the very words you are now reading as well as to speak and write words and sentences on your own. You have had a grammar of English for as long as you have known English."

1. The Nature of Gerund

Words derived from a verb stem with the suffix –

ing may occur in a variety of meanings and functions. It depends on the contexts where they occur. In the first place, the *-ing* form may be used as verbal noun that is as nouns with verbal meaning and it is called gerund.

Thus, gerund is a verb *-ing* functioning as a noun. This *-ing* form is a part of noun and a part of verb since it is formed from a verb. Meanwhile, gerund phrase is composed of the gerund and any words organized with it. Like nouns, commonly, gerund may function as subjects, complements and objects.

As it is said Suter (2005:191): "Speakers of English will often take a verb form that has an *-ing* ending and use it as nouns instead of as a verb.

Zandvoort (2001:25) gave an explanation that a gerund may exhibit all the syntactic properties of a noun. Thus, it may be preceded by an article, a possessive pronoun, a noun in genitive, or an adjective, or followed by a noun-adjunct with 'of' (or another preposition). It may function as the subject, object, nominal predicate of a sentence, and form part of a prepositional adjunct.

Gerunds as Subjects

Azar (2004) says that gerunds like nouns and pronouns, are used as the subject of the sentence, as in the following examples:

Cooking is a good hobby.

Fishing relaxes my soul.

Reading is a pleasure. we all enjoy it.

Gerunds as Direct Objects

Azar (2004) says that gerunds are used as nouns in another way, too: they can serve as direct objects of transitive verbs as in the following examples:

She admits *cheating*.

I like *swimming* very much.

My father tries to stop *smoking*.

We can see the gerundive phrases playing this role in the following sentences: We missed living on the old farm.

He does not enjoy studying that lesson.

They do not mind coming to the party.

Gerunds as Subjective Complements

Since gerunds can be used as nouns, they can serve as subjective complements as well. In the following sentences, the gerundive phrases that function as complements are equivalent to the subject:

His favorite sport is bicycle riding.

Tommy's hobby is collecting stamps.

What we want is making a study club.

Simon's need was knowing that someone cared.

Gerunds Used in the Negative Adjective 'No'

Azar (2004) says that the negative adjective no is used of the adverb not with certain types of

gerundive phrases.

(1) After there + a form of be

There is no stopping him.

There is no denying that she is very efficient.

Prohibition against certain activities

No smoking is allowed in this classroom.

No trespassing on these premises will be permitted.

No cheating in the test! The supervisor instructs.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The design of this research was descriptive quantitative research. Gay (2000 : 275) said that a descriptive research determines and describes the things are. In this problem a descriptive research is used to find out the mastery of the fifth semester students of English Study Program of Pasir Pengaraian University in using gerund. In addition, descriptive research takes place in the natural setting of language usage where the researcher is able to make interpretation of the data. It involves numerical data such as written test and observation for the information sources.

Technique of Collecting the Data

In general, instruments used to collect data can be divided into two types, a test and a non-test (Arikunto, 2002:122). A test is a written set of questions to which an individual responds in order to determine whether the students pass the test or not. In this research, the researcher used the test to know how good the students' skill in mastering gerund.

Technique of Analyzing the Data

In the calculation of the result of the test, the researcher classified the students' attainment of the course objectives taken from Arikunto (2002) by using five letters: A, B, C, D and E system, which expresses various levels of achievement. Additionally, it is relatively easy to translate from letter grading to percentage grading and back.

After collecting the data the researcher wants to know the students score. In analyzing the data the researcher use the following formula:

$$M = \frac{x}{n} \times 100\%$$

Where :

M = Each students score

X = Total of correct answer

N = Total of items

100 = constant number

(Hassan Harahap, 1998

:52)

Although there are many such conversions from percentage to letter grades, one common method of assigning letter grades is based upon the following percentages.

Table 1. percentage of the level in correct answer

No	Range score	Grade	Category
1	85-100	A	Very good
2	70-84	B	Good
3	55-69	C	Fair
4	50-54	D	Poor
5	0-49	E	Very poor

Arikunto (2002)

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Based on the students' try out test, it can be found that there were 2 students got 8 correct answers, there were 5 students got 11 correct answers, there were 2 students got 12 correct answers, there were 6 students got 13 correct answers, there were 3 students got 14 correct answers, there was 1 students got 16 correct answers, there was 1 students got 17 correct answers, there was 1 students got 19 correct answers, there were 2 students got 21 correct answers and ther was 1 students got 22 correct answers.

From the calculation of the total correct answer where it divided into the total population of this research, the researcher got the average correct answer of the total population is 13 correct answers. Then, the researcher tried to find out the percentage of the total average correct answers. the result is 43 %, where it can be categorized in very poor level. So, it means the average mastery of the fifth semester students in using gerund at the try out test is *very poor*.

Based on the result of the post test, the researcher found that there were 14 students got very poor level (E), there were 3 students got poor level (D), there were 3 students got fair level (C) and there were 4 students got good level (B) and there was no one got excellent level. (A). The researcher then calculated the total percentage of the all students and found the average percentage of the all students result in the post test was 43%, It means that the average of the fifth semester students' mastery for the gerund mastery test is very poor.

Types of gerund can be found in the post test divided into several ones, such as: gerund as subject (5 items), gerund as direct object (2 items

), gerund as complement (4 items) and gerund used in the negative adjective “no” (4 items). The researcher analyzed the students correct answer on every type of gerund below

Gerund as subject

Gerund as subject in the post test of the research consist of 4 test items where they were put on the test number 11, 13, 21, 26. Based on the table above, it can be seen that only there were 4 students got 4 correct answers, there were 5 students got 3 correct answer, there were 5 students got 2 correct answers, there were 6 students got 1 correct answer and there were 4 students could not get any correct answer. From the calculation of the percentage level in this type of gerund, the students' result of the average correct answer was 48 % and it can be categorized as very poor level.

Gerund as Direct Object

Gerund as direct object in the post test of the research were only 2 items. Based on the table above, not all students could answer all the items of this type of gerund. There are several students got different marks such as: there were 15 students could answer those 2 items of this type, there were 6 students only could answer 1 correctly, and there were 3 students could not answer correctly. In this type of gerund test, the average students' percentage of the all correct answer was 75 % and it can be categorized in good level.

Gerund as Subjective Complement

Gerund as subjective complement in this research were consist of 4 items, where divided into items number 13, 18, 23, 30. The result of the test showed that there were only 7 students got 4 correct answers, there were 11 students got 3 correct answer, there were 4 students got 2 correct answer and there were 2 students got 1 correct answer. The average students' percentage level of the correct answer from this type of gerund was 73 % and it can be categorized in good level.

Gerund used in the adjective “no”

Type of gerund used in the negative adjective “no” in this research consist of 4 test items, where they were put on the item number 15, 19, 25, 29. The result of the students' answer in this type of gerund shows that only there were 4 students got 3 correct answers, there were 13 students got 2 correct answers, there were 5 students got 1 correct answer and there were 2 students got no any correct answer. The average students' percentage result of this type of the test was 44 % and it can be categorized in very poor level.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

This research is a descriptive qualitative research. This research was conducted at University of Pasir Pengaraian and the sample was the third semester students of English study program. The purpose of this research was to analyze the students' mastery in using gerund. The data collecting step was conducted on 27 November to 06 December 2014. The population were 24 students. Considering the small number of the population, the researcher used total sampling method for taking the data of the research.

There are two steps in collecting the data, the first step was conducting the try out test which was given to the students aimed to measure the validity and reliability of test items. After taking the data of try out test, the researcher calculated the result by using Microsoft Excel application to measure the validity and reliability every test items, it can be found that there 17 invalid test items and 13 valid test items on try out test. The reliability coefficient of the test items was categorized in high (0,62).

After changing the invalid test, the researcher took the data on the post test. Based on the result of the post test, the average of the fifth semester students skill in using gerund is 43 % or it can be categorized into the very poor level.

In this research, the researcher used several types of gerund such as: *gerund as subject, gerund as direct object, gerund as subjective complement and gerund used in the adjective “no”*. In gerund as subject, there were 4 students got 4 correct answer, 5 students got 3 correct answers, 5 students got 2 correct answers, 6 students got 1 correct answer and 4 students got 0 correct answer. The calculation of total average percentage in this type of gerund was 48 % or it can be categorized in *very poor level*.

Gerund as direct object consist only 2 items in the test. There were 15 students got 2 correct answers , there were 6 students got 1 correct answer and there were 3 students got 0 correct answer. The calculation of total average percentage in this type of gerund was 75 % or it can be categorized in *Good level*

In gerund as subjective complement there were 7 students got 4 correct answers, there were 11 students got 3 correct answer, there were 4 students got 2 correct answer and there were 2 students got 1 correct answer. The calculation of total average percentage in this type of gerund was 73 % or it can be categorized in *good level*.

In gerund used in the adjective “no” there were consist of 4 items from all of the test items. In this type of gerund, there were 4 students got 3 correct answers, there were 13 students got 2 correct answers, there were 5 students got 1 correct answer and there were 2 students got 0 correct answer. The calculation of total average percentage in this type

of gerund was 44 % or it can be categorized in *very poor* level.

Suggestions

Based on the result of the research, researcher would like to give some suggestions below:

1. For English Teachers, in teaching grammar, the teachers are suggested to apply the strategy to attract the students' motivation to improve their grammar skill. they need to be motivated that English grammar also important part of English to be mastered whether in verbal or written communication.
2. For students, grammar is very important beside the vocabulary to be mastered when they learn English. Because they not just speaking English orally but also in written form. it can be seen in English written form the correct or incorrect grammar pattern they made.
3. For the next researcher, the researcher suggests to find out the relevant aspect of grammar, especially in observe the students' mastery in using gerund to the university or senior high school students.

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