

**THE DIFFICULTIES IN USING PAST TENSE FACED
BY THE TENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMA MUHAMMADIYAH 2
PALEMBANG**

THESIS

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FAKULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
FEBRUARY 2018**

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THESIS

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

MOTTO :

- ❖ Keep friendly, stay humble, become patient and help each other
- ❖ Do not forget to pray, loving your family no matter what happen and even though you are in the top of happiness

This thesis is dedicated to:

- ❖ The Lord of God, Allah SWT and Muhammad Prophet SAW for giving me strength and giving me chance to finish my thesis.
- ❖ My beloved parents Mr. Syarifuddin and Mrs. Sarwati. Thousands of thanksgiving that I have written are not enough for them, also thank you very much for taking care of me and raising me until now. Thank you for all of motivations so I have finished a sheet of this thesis.
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ABSTRACT

Yastuti, R.M. 2018. *The Difficulties in Using Past Tense Faced by the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Palembang.* Thesis, English Education Study, Program Sarjana Degree (S1), Faculty of Teacher Training and Education *Universitas Muhammadiyah Palembang.*

Advisors (I) Kurnia Saputri, S.Pd., M.Pd., (II) Sri Hartati, S.Pd., M.Pd.

Key Words : analysis, past tense, and test

This thesis entitled *The Difficulties in Using Past Tense Faced by the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Palembang.* The main purpose of this study was to answer the problem “What are the students’ difficulties in using past tense faced by the tenth grade students of SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Palembang”. The population of the study was all of the tenth grade students of SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Palembang. The samples were 40 students of the tenth grade students of SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Palembang. The method of the study was qualitative descriptive analysis. The data were obtained by using test of past tense. The data were in the form of two categorizes which were past tense form and past tense usage. Then, the data were analysed by coding. The writer found that the first categorie had less error made by the students because the students could answer the questions correctly. However students difficulties in the second categories were 253 errors made by the students it means that it has more than 50% of errors made by the students. The results of the study depicted that there were four factors. Firstly, several students were still confused to use verb 1 and verb 2. Then, there was an error to compare the use of adverb time for simple present tense and simple past tense. Next, the students were difficult to write negative and interrogative sentences. The last factor was that the students could not determine the subject of the sentences were in the past.

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The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from perfect, therefore she welcomes every comments and suggestion. However, it is hoped that this thesis might give some benefit for all of us.

Palembang, February 14th 2018

The Writer,

Restu Mar Yastuti

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of (1) background of the study, (2) problem of the study, (3) objectives of the study, and (4) significances of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

English has its own system or rules. It is not surprising that many Indonesian students find a lot of difficulties in learning English. It is due to the fact that English and Indonesian are quite different both phonologically and grammatically. It is understandable that it is difficult for Indonesian students to learn it.

Having observed the students' ability at SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Palembang, the students get problems in comprehending the simple past tense because of the differences between their language (Indonesian) and their target language (English). Indonesian does not use tenses the way English does. The verb form in sentences in Indonesian does not change when it is spoken to refer to present, past, or future time. Known that the students of tenth grade at SMA Muhammadiyah 2 have low ability in Past Tense exercise. This low ability is due to the lack of students understanding with forming past tense. As we know English has a complex structure or sentence pattern because it has tenses where the verbs are formed from verb 1 to verb 2 and also verb -ing. These verb changes are often.

This is apparent because students are still not able to distinguish sentence patterns. Sentence patterns that have an Explained structure for example "green car" = "mobil hijau". In addition, students was also less able to understand verb changes adjusted to the form of tenses / for example, in the form of a present tense that uses the verb form 1. make students less able

to distinguish when a form of tenses used to express the intent. For example, in the phrase "I go to Palembang yesterday". Go (Verb I) which should be changed to went (Verb II).

Parrot, M (2010) the past tense is one if the tenses we use to refer to completed events, states or actions. We choose the simple past when we consider that the event, state or action took place within a finished period of time, such as *last week, at the weekend, etc.* In telling stories and describing what happened in the past we use the past simple as a „time anchor“ – to establish the key „time frame“ of events. (p.219-210)

According to Hewings, Martin (1999) “we use the past tense for situation that existed for a period of time in the past, but not now. (p.6) Azar, Betty Schramper (2002) the past indicates that an activity or situation began and ended at a particular time in the past. (p.27) Writer want to found what was the factors that influence the students difficult when do the exercise especially in past tense by tenth grade students.

1.2 Problem of the Study

The problem of this study “The Difficulties in Using Past Tense Faced by the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Palembang”.

1.2.1 Limitation of the Problem

In this study, the writer limited the problem on “The Difficulties in Using Past Tense Faced by the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Palembang”.

1.2.2 Formulation of the Problems

This study was formulated in the following questions:

1. What are difficulties that the students encountered in using past tense? by the Tenth Grade students at SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Palembang.
2. What are the factors of students difficulty in learning past tense?

1.3 Objective of the Study

1. To know what are difficulties that the students encountered in using past tense by the Tenth Grade students at SMA Muhammadiyah 2 Palembang?
2. To know What are the factors of students difficulty in learning past tense?

1.4 Significance of the Study

For the Writer

Hopefully, It can expand the writer's knowledge about the grammar and past tense. The result of this study is also expected to help the other writers to find out information about difficulties students in using past tense.

For the Teachers

It is expected that this study is beneficial for the teacher of English in teaching Grammar to the students. Then, it is hoped that the result of this study gives some contributions to the teacher who wants to know their students' difficulties in using past tense.

For the Students

The result of this study is expected to motivate the students to study past tense more deeply and students can solve the difficulties from the questions.



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