

## **A Descriptive Study of the Difficulties in Using Regular and Irregular Verbs in Simple Past Tense of the Eighth Grade Students at SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Banyuwangi**

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### **Abstract**

The research design of this study was descriptive. The objective of this thesis was to know the difficulties of the students in using regular and irregular verbs in simple past tense. This research was conducted in SMP Muhammadiyah3 Banyuwangi in which the respondents were the eighth year students. They were chosen by population technique. The number of respondents in this research was 136 students. In this research, the researcher used a test as the main method of collecting data. To analyze the collected data, the researcher used percentage method. They are 136 students as the research sample which was taken by using population. It means the Eighth Grade from VIII A to VIII E. Based on the result of the data analysis, it can be known the percentage of the students' difficulties in using regular and irregular verbs in simple past tense is 47,5%. The number of the students that chose incorrect answer almost equal with the number of the students that chose correct answer. It shows that many students were still having difficulties in using regular and irregular verbs in simple past tense.

**Keyword:** Regular Verbs; Irregular Verbs; Simple Past Tense

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### **A. Introduction**

Students have a lack of understanding a grammar. Most of students cannot comprehend a grammar, so it can be an obstacle to write a sentence. According to Kreidler in Yuniarti (2014: 3) every language has grammatical system and different languages have somewhat grammatical system. For Indonesian students, mastering English grammar is not easy because English and Indonesian language have different rule of grammar. Grammar also deal with the form of sentences and smaller units: clauses, phrases, and words (Huddleston and Pullum: 2010) Learning language is impossible without learning the grammar of that language. According to Hartwell (2008: 109) Grammar is the set of formal patterns in which the words of a language are arranged in order to convey larger meanings. Grammar has structure to make good sentence and has a meaning in order to people can understand what we write.

Pardiyono (2002: 98) states that in English language, verb forms are divided into two groups, a regular verb and an irregular verb. In regular verbs, the verb changes regularly in the past tense form or the past participle. Such as, it is added by suffix *-ed* to the base form of verb. The irregular verbs do not have the form of fixed and do not change regularly. The irregular verbs have to memorize because the changes are not permanent.

In the process of learning English, students sometimes do some mistakes and error. Mistakes and errors are different. Brown (2006: 257) said that a mistake is a performance error that is either a random guess or a *slip*, in that it is a failure to utilize a known system correctly. Then, according to Harmer (2007: 96), errors are mistakes which they cannot correct themselves and which need explanation. So, mistakes can cause by the students who cannot memorize well or slip of finger. Whereas errors are caused by lack of knowledge about the target language that makes the students cannot correct themselves.

The problem of this research is: "How is the students' difficulties in using regular and irregular verbs in Simple Past Tense of the Eighth Grade Students at SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Banyuwangi in the 2015/2016 Academic Year?". Based on the research problem, the objective of this research is to know the difficulties in using regular and irregular verbs in Simple Past Tense of the Eighth Grade Students at SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Banyuwangi in the 2015/2016 Academic Year.

## B. Research Method

### 1. Research Design

In this research, the researcher used descriptive quantitative research design. Sugiyono (2003 : 11) states that descriptive research is the research to know an independent variable value, either one variable or more without making a comparison or correlation with another variable. Accordingly, in this research, the researcher will give description about the students' difficulties in using regular and irregular verbs in simple past tense.

### 2. The Research Area

The researcher applied purposive method in determining the researcher area. In this research, SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Banyuwangi is a private school which has an Islamic conception. SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Banyuwangi is located in Jalan Jaksa Agung Suprpto 60 Banyuwangi. This school has an own building although the location is join with SD Muhammadiyah and SMA Muhammadiyah. Therefore, the students can follow the learning activity in the morning.

### 3. The Research Respondent

According to Castillo (2009), population sampling is the process of taking a subset of subjects that is representative of the entire population. The researcher used population. The subjects take from all the Eighth Grade

Students at SMP Muhammadiyah 3 Banyuwangi. The researcher took sample 136 students from class VIII A to VIII E.

#### 4. Data Collection Method

This research would use a completion test for collecting the primary data Instrument of the research is the researcher uses test to measure and know students' difficulties in using regular and irregular verbs in simple past tense.

Documentation can be interpreted as a way of collecting data from existing documents or records are stored, whether it be a record transcripts, books, newspaper, and so forth.

#### 5. Data Analysis Method

According to Milan (2001 : 43), statistic is a discipline of study dealing with collection, analysis interpretation, and presentation data. In analyzing the data, the researcher applied procedure as stated in the following:

- a. The researcher collected the data from the students' answer sheet of the respondents
- b. After collecting data, the researcher identified each item which had been answered by the students. The identification was focused on the students' work in using regular and irregular verb in simple past tense.
- c. The researcher analyzed and checked the answer if there are an error of spelling or answering the question which is suitable from using regular and irregular verb in simple past tense.

The collected data from observation will be analyzed quantitatively use percentage. The quantitative descriptive is stated from percentages and the qualitative can be started by using excellent, very good, good, enough, and other score. In this research, the researcher used formula as follows:

$$\sum n = \frac{n}{N} \times 100\%$$

Explanation:

- $\sum n$  : The percentage of using regular and irregular verb in simple past tense
- $n$  : The number of wrong answering in using regular and irregular verb in simple past tense
- $N$  : The total answer of the students.

## C. Conclusion

The students still get many difficulties in using regular and irregular verb (47,5%). The number of the students that chose incorrect answer almost equal with the number of the students that chose correct answer. In simple past tense sentences, the students often get difficulties in both of regular and irregular verbs. In regular verbs, the students got a difficulties about 47,67% and in irregular verbs got 47,38%. It means the students got a same difficulties in using regular and irregular verbs in sentences.

Most of students make an error spelling in using regular verbs and less comprehension in using irregular verb. The students still cannot understand how to use *-ed* in the last word in regular verbs. Besides, in irregular verbs, a half students can answer it correctly and the rest can answer correctly.

There are many regular and irregular verbs that should be studied and memorized. From rules that, the students still confused and get difficulties in using regular and irregular verbs. This is one of the reasons why the students get almost 50% difficulties in using regular and irregular verbs.

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