

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS' MASTERY ON PREPOSITION AT MTS MAULANA ISHAQ KABAT

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ABSTRACT

This research is a descriptive study of students' mastery using descriptive quantitative approach. This research aimed to know the Seventh grade students' mastery on preposition at MTs Maulana Ishaq Kabat in the Academic Year 2020/2021. The researcher used test and documentation to collect the data. The indicators of the test were divided into two part; indicators of preposition of time and preposition of place. The data were analyzed bby Donald's formula. The researcher used the The Classification of The Score Level by Depdikbud (1995). The results of the research show that the score of the seventh grade students' mastery on using preposition of time was 47,6%. Then, the classification of the students' mastery on using preposition of time was categorized as "poor". Since, the score of the seventh grade students' mastery on using preposition of place was 54,5%. Then, the classification of the students' mastery on using preposition of place was categorized as "poor". Therefore, the average score for preposition of time and preposition of place were 51,5% and it concluded that classification of students' ability on using preposition was "poor".

Keyword: *Preposition, Students' Mastery*

A. INTRODUCTION

English as an international language has an important role in many aspects of life. Declaration from French (in Binti, 2009:1) clearly stated that "English is undoubtedly the most important of world's language at present. The world wide uses of English in Diplomacy, commerce, and science is as evidence of its importance in this regard, and serves to explain why many million people around the world find it desirable and sometimes necessary to learn it as a second language. The same statement is also said by Lie (2009:2) that mastering foreign language, especially a dominant language in the world, it can be one of accesses to get success.

In interacting with others, people have to communicate and in doing so they need a medium. It is generally admitted that language is a means of communication. It is through language that we are able to interact with others in our world (Derewianka, 1990: 3). Through language people can express their ideas, wishes, thought, and desire. Most activities involving more than one person require a language. Therefore, it plays a significant role in our life.

Problems, however, appear when people coming from different countries with different conditions culture and backgrounds meet and speak different languages. When they have to communicate and cooperate, they are confronted with a problem: they do not understand each

other. Therefore, they have to master a certain language which they can get from understand each other. In this case they have to master on international language. English is as one of the international languages that are widely used in the world, it has been used by many people from different countries. Most of non-native speakers use English to establish relationship with other people coming from different countries, (Harmer, 2001:1).

Language is a media of communication. Learning language means learning to communicate using the language both spoken and written. To learn language, one should have a good knowledge about the component which builds the language itself. Some of those components are vocabulary, phonology, orthography and grammar. This study is dealing with one of those components of grammar, specifically about preposition, a part of speech in English. English is the first foreign language learned in Indonesia. English is usually learned by students twice or three times a week at junior high schools and senior high schools as a foreign language. The students not only learn reading but also speaking, writing and listening. In addition, the four language component, are also taught to develop the four language skills (Depdiknas, 2003). In teaching learning process, the students' ability is an important factor for learning success. We believe that each student has different background in the class, so they have different ability to master a certain subject. Many researches show that the student who has ability in a certain subject is faster than the student who has not ability in mastering the subject. They need some more time to master a certain subject.

For Indonesian students, mastery of English grammar is still very difficult. One part of grammar that has to be learnt seriously is preposition. Student often makes mistakes when using it since there is an interference of the learner's native language. Interesting question now arises concerning with the students' ability about English preposition. The question is whether they can use preposition correctly or not. Swan (in Zangana et al, 2016) said "it is difficult to learn to use preposition correctly in foreign language, especially English. Most of English preposition have several different function, and this may correspond to several different preposition in another language. At the same time different preposition can have very similar uses (in the morning, on Monday morning, at night). Many nouns, verbs, adjectives use with particular preposition (the reason for, arrive at, angry with, different from, on a bus)".

In fact, a lot of students still have a problem in arranging or placing preposition in sentences. Even they omit the preposition in some sentences they made. However, the students must aware of using preposition. They have to be careful to change or put the preposition on the right place in sentence. This problem comes because they think that English is like their mother language. In view of the importance mastery of preposition, the researcher is anxious to do the study in one of the junior high schools right at MTs Maulana Ishaq Kabat. The strongest reason why researcher does the research at MTs Maulana Ishaq Kabat, because the researcher is eager to know the students' difficulties mainly the seventh grade are very poor in arranging preposition into right sentence. Realizing the students' problem, finally researcher wants to do research is entitled "A Descriptive Study on the Seventh Grade Students' Mastery on Preposition at MTs Maulana Ishaq Kabat in the Academic Year 2020/2021".

English Grammar

Crystal (2017) defines grammar as the study of all meaning contrasts that could make within sentences. The rules of grammar told that using one count, there would be more 3,500

such rules in English. In line with Crystal, Michelle defined grammar as the rules that how words are constructed to show different meanings. Grammar means the rules of language in sentences. In other hand, grammar is the role for forming words and combining sentences (Hornby, 1995).

In linguistic, grammar refers to the structural rules which are dictated the clause, phrases, and words composition in any natural language. Grammar also means the study of rules consist of morphology, syntax and phonology and fit up with phonetics, semantic and pragmatics (Astri, 2019).

People who are be able to to communicate well because they master the language system. It is in line with Ur (1988) statement that ability of communication actively is not achieved quickly by means of practice but by mastering grammar. It is one of the means to master the language as the whole.

In general, people used to think that grammar always relate to structure. Celce (p.252) described that there are some dimension of grammar, those are form, meaning and use. Evidently, it explained that grammar is not only focus on the structure simply but semantic and pragmatic. In can be conclude, students build the ability to use structure accurately, understand meaningfully and make appropriately.

English Preposition

According to Litkowski (2013), A preposition is “a word governing, and usually preceding, a noun or pronoun and expressing a relation to another word or element in the clause.” The definition of a preposition takes two principal forms: (1) a usage expression characterizing the relation or (2) an expression that can be substituted for the preposition. A substituting preposition definition usually consists of a prepositional phrase (including both a preposition and a noun phrase) and a terminating preposition (e.g., for around, one definition is “on every side of”). A preposition links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. The word or phrase that the preposition introduces is called the object of the preposition. Fayden (2012:1) said that a preposition is a word which shows the relationship between things, people, or events. Cramer et al (1984:83) gives definition that preposition is a word used with an object to form a prepositional phrase. And prepositions are words normally placed before nouns or pronouns (Baldwin, et al, 2009). It shows how the noun or pronoun that follows it relates to another word or words in the sentence. Herman (1981:174) defined preposition is as a word or word equivalent used with a noun or pronoun (and usually placed before it) to form a phrase which usually perform the function of an adjective or an adverb, in one element of a sentence. Prepositions are commonly define as relationships between nouns and locate words, actions or ideas in a particular time or place. It need to remember the role of prepositions, notice that "position" appears in the word "preposition" (Yule, 2006).

A preposition may be in the form of one word or group of words that function is unity, the form of preposition can be classified as Simple Preposition (small scale preposition) and Complex Preposition (large scale preposition). Simple preposition are those wich consisting of one word such as: at, on, in, by, for, etc. While other preposition consisting of more than one word (group of word), is called complex preposition, such as: a head of, apart from, by way of, instead of, by means of (Quirk et al, 1974:300). According to the statement above, the form of preposition can be divided into two forms, namely, simple preposition and compound preposition. But the form of: for, from, in, on, to are called one word preposition and therefore they are classified as simple preposition.

An important element of English sentences is the prepositional phrase. It consists of a preposition (PREP) and its object (O). The object of the preposition is noun or pronoun (Azar, 1989). In the use of this preposition, of course, there is a formula that you need to know. The formula is :

Prepositional Phrase = Preposition + Object of Preposition.

e.g.

<i>S</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>Prep</i>	<i>Obj of Prep</i>	
The students	study	In	the library	
<i>S</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>Prep</i>	<i>Obj of Prep</i>
We	Enjoyed	the party	at	your house

Some times a prepositional phrase comes at the beginning of the sentences.

e.g.

- o In the afternoon, we went to the zoo.
- o At the library, Mary did her home work.

Quirk et al (1970:300), explains that a preposition must be followed by its complement, but there are some circumstances in which this does not happen because the complement has to take the first position in the clause, a preposition must be criticized in the past as contrary to good grammar.

1. Preposition of Time

On	I saw him “ on ” Saturday. (On used with a day of the week)
	I saw him “ on ” September 12. (“On” used with a day of the month)
	I saw him Saturday. (“On” as a preposition of time may be omitted)
At	I saw him “ at ” noon (or night, midnight). (“At” used with apart of the day considered as appoint) But: He heard strange noises “ in ” (or “during”) the night. (“in or during” here imply duration rather than a point)
	I saw him “ at ” five o’clock. (“At” used with an hour of the day) Occasionally, in informal usage, “at” may be omitted _ I saw him five o’clock)
In	I saw him “ in ” September. (In used with a month)
	I saw him “ in ” 1968. (“in” used with a year)
	I saw him “ in ” the morning (or afternoon, evening). (“in” used with a part of the day)
	I saw him “ in ” the spring (or summer, winter, autumn). (“in” used with a season)

2. Preposition of Place

- o Hang your coat “**in**” the closet.

("in" gives the area of something enclosed _ a container, a drawer, a room, a building, the world).

- o Put the dishes "on" the table.
("On" indicates the surface of the something _ a floor, a wall, a ceiling, a desk, a street).
- o He is "at" school (at home, at the store).
("At" refers to general vicinity. Mere presence at a place is indicated).
- o He lives "at" 200 Park Avenue (but He lives on Park Avenue).
(At is also used with addresses with street numbers).

The Ability of Using English Preposition

In learning English especially for English as a foreign language, learners need to master English four skills in order to understand and use the language correctly. Those four skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These skills cannot be separated; it supported one to another. According Afandi et al (2013), besides those basic skills, in teaching and learning English, there are any others skills that support the four main aspects of English, such vocabulary, pronunciation, and also grammar.

Grammar is one of the important aspects to make correct and meaningful the sentences or utterances. Grammar is a basic to form and use a language. It is a language system or rules which related to correct sentences in language (Klammer et al, 2000:3). Preposition is one English grammar component which is classified as function words. Preposition is a word that used with noun or pronoun (usually placed before it) to sign the relation with other word or to build a phrase, which usually appears the function of an adjectives or adverb (Yule, 2009:160).

The ability of using English preposition needed to be mastered. The word ability refers to cleverness or intelligence (Hornby, 1994). It means that people with his ability can search knowledge and skill to learn language. In this learning language process, the ability of the student is focused to their ability of using English preposition in a sentence. The students hoped to have knowledge and skill of constructing sentence in target language.

However, preposition is one of the most difficult aspects of English grammar for English non-native speakers. There are some reasons why prepositions become one of most difficult aspects of English that are being used both in written and spoken language. Sometimes, preposition can be used in the same sentence but express different meaning (He is sitting in the chair; He is sitting on the chair). The use of in shows that someone is using armchair, and the use of on indicates that someone is using a chair without the arm. Hence, prepositions are often combined with a verb to make a phrasal verbs (to look after someone; to look down on someone). Another reason is a single preposition also can be used to convey different ideas (He is tall for his age; I swam for an hour). It can be concluded that a preposition can be used in some different context. Therefore, in line with these reasons, using prepositions might be confusing if the learners do not understand the function of each preposition.

From the statement above, the researcher concluded that preposition may have various kind of relating meaning, the primary function is to express its' relationship with adverb of time (preposition of time). The relationship between the preposition and adverb of place (preposition of place) may refer to a certain place. While the relationship between preposition

and time value, however point to period of time. Another meaning will also be formed as preposition is fixed with instrument, cause, agency purpose, etc.

B. THE RESEARCH DESIGN

This research is categorized as descriptive research. Therefore it is not intended to prove a hypothesis. The researcher used the descriptive quantitative research because there were still many difficulties in using preposition for the seventh grade of MTs Maulana Ishaq Kabat in the Academic Year 2020/2021, even they have very limited knowledge in it, while analyzing the quantitative data.

This research was taken at MTs Maulana Ishaq Kabat. The reason for choosing this school is because this school is relevant area to conducted this research besides it is one of the “B” accredited schools in Kabat. This school suitable to be research area because English is also taught in this school as a compulsory subject.

In this research, the researcher took the respondent (sample) from the seventh grade students of MTs Maulana Ishaq Kabat by random. The number of sample in this research was 51 students.

The data needed by the researcher in this research are gotten through primary and secondary data:

Primary data was gotten by having a test. In this thesis, the researcher uses test to collect data. By doing this method, the writer is able to know the quality of the students’ mastery on preposition. The type of the test is objective test by using multiple choice tests that consist of 20 questions (10 Preposition of time and 10 preposition of place).

The researcher always got the secondary data from the document as the result of all steps from interviewing, completing data from office staffs and library staffs and giving the test in MTs Maulana Ishaq Kabat in the Academic Year 2020/2021. The data taken from the documentation method are:

- a. The condition of MTs Maulana Ishaq Kabat
- b. The list of the teacher of MTs Maulana Ishaq Kabat
- c. The respondents

The data analysis method is a method of collecting data respondents’ power in mastering preposition by using a formula as follows:

The average score:

$$\Sigma n = n / N \times 100\%$$

Notes:

Σn = the percentage of the students test achievement of each indicator

n = the test score of each indicator obtained by the students

N = the total scores of the test item of each indikator

(Donald Ary, Introduction to Research and Education, p.128)

Table 1. The Classification of The Score Level

Range (%)	Category
96 % - 100%	Excellent
86 % - 95 %	Very Good
76 % - 85 %	Good
66 % - 75 %	More Than Enough
56 % - 65 %	Enough
36 % - 55 %	Poor
< 35 %	Failed

(Adapted from Depdikbud 1995:10)

The steps of analyzing the data are as follows:

1. Scoring the students' results of the literal reading comprehension test.
2. Analyzing the collected primary data quantitatively in the percentage.
3. Classifying the results qualitatively based on the classification of the score levels presented in table 1.
4. Describing of the results of the data analysis to answer the research problems.

C. FINDING

In this research, Test was given to the seventh grade students at MTs Maulana Ishaq Kabat in academic year 2020/2021. The number of students are 51 students, It consists of 29 students of 7A and 22 students of 7B. The result of test is provided as follow:

Preposition of Time

After analyzing the students' preposition mastery by using test, and found the score percentage and frequency obtained by the students based on the classification of the score level proposed by Depdikbud. The following would be presented the score of preposition time obtained by students.

The score and frequency of ability on using English preposition of time could be described as the following. There was 2 students had score between 96% - 100%, it can be said 4% of the students' score was "excellent". Then, there also were 2 students had score between 86% - 95%, or 4% of the students' was "very good". There was 1 student who had score between 76% - 85%, it can be said that 2% of the students' score was "good" and 5 Students had score between 66% - 75%, it can be said that 10% of the students' score was "more than enough". There were 8 students had score between 56% - 65%, it means 16% of the students' score was "enough". There were 16 student who got score between 36% - 55%, or 31% of the students' score was "poor" and 17 Students had score under 36%, it means that 33% of the students was "failed".

Based on those data, it shown that the score of the seventh grade students' mastery on using preposition of time was 47,6%. Therefore, the classification of the students' mastery on using preposition of time was "poor".

Preposition of Time

The following would be presented the score frequency of preposition of place obtained by students.

The score and frequency of ability on using English preposition of time could be

described as the following. There were 4 students had score between 86% - 95%, or 8% of the students' was "very good". There was 11 student who had score between 76% - 85%, it can be said that 22% of the students' score was "good" and 2 Students had score between 66% - 75%, it can be said that 4% of the students' score was "more than enough". There were 6 students had score between 56% - 65%, it means 12% of the students' score was "enough". There were 17 student who got score between 36% - 55%, or 33% of the students' score was "poor" and 11 Students had score under 36%, it means that 22% of the students was "failed".

Based on the data above, the score of the seventh grade students' mastery on using preposition of place was 54,5%. Therefore, the classification of the students' mastery on using preposition of place was "poor".

D. DISCUSSIONS

Based on the results of the data analysis, the students' ability of using preposition can be described as follows:

A preposition is a word governing, and usually preceding, a noun or pronoun and expressing a relation to another word or element in the clause (Litkowski, 2013). The definition of a preposition provides two principal forms: (1) a usage expression characterizing the relation or (2) an expression that can be substituted for the preposition. A substituting preposition definition usually consists of a prepositional phrase (including both a preposition and a noun phrase) and a terminating preposition (e.g., for around, one definition is "on every side of"). A preposition links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. The word or phrase that the preposition introduces is called the object of the preposition. Fayden (2012) said that preposition is a word which shows the relationship between things, people, or events. Cramer et al (1984:83) gives definition that preposition is a word used with an object to form a prepositional phrase. And prepositions are words normally placed before nouns or pronouns (Baldwin, et al, 2009). It shows how the noun or pronoun that follows it relates to another word or words in the sentence. Herman (1981:174) defined preposition is as a word or word equivalent used with a noun or pronoun (and usually placed before it) to form a phrase which usually perform the function of an adjective or an adverb, in one element of a sentence.

The ability of mastering English preposition is needed. People with his ability can search knowledge and skill to learn language. In this learning language process, the ability of the student is focused to their ability of using English preposition in a sentence. The students hoped to have knowledge and skill of constructing sentence in target language.

However, preposition is one of the most difficult aspects of English grammar for English non-native speakers. There are some reasons why prepositions become one of most difficult aspects of English that are being used both in written and spoken language. Sometimes, preposition can be used in the same sentence but express different meaning (He is sitting in the chair; He is sitting on the chair). the use of in shows that someone is using armchair, and the use of on indicates that someone is using a chair without the arm. Hence, prepositions are often combined with a verb to make a phrasal verbs (to look after someone; to look down on someone). Another reason is a single preposition also can be used to convey different ideas (He is tall for his age; I swam for an hour). It can be concluded that a preposition can be used in some different context. Therefore, in line with these reasons, using prepositions might be confusing if the learners do not understand the function of each preposition.

Based on the research finding, In general it was obvious that the result of the data that were analyzed provided a shocked result. It could be seen from the result of the test that the score of the seventh grade students' mastery on using preposition of time was 47,6 %, and the mean score of the seventh grade students' mastery of using preposition of place was 54,5 %. These results are not much different from the two previous studies which provided the score in the range of 46%-60%.

Based on the percentage the result, the researcher provided the simplification of the results of the data analysis that the students' mastery on using preposition through the following point:

1. The score of the seventh grade students' mastery on using preposition of time was 47,6%. Therefore, the classification of the students' mastery on using preposition of time was "poor".
2. The score of the seventh grade students' mastery on using preposition of place was 54,5%. Therefore, the classification of the students' mastery on using preposition of place was "poor".

Based on the result above, the classification of students' ability on using preposition was poor with the average score for preposition of time and preposition of place were 51,5%.

E. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings and discussions that was provided in chapter IV, it can be concluded that the score of the seventh grade students' mastery on using preposition of time was 47,6%. Then, the classification of the students' mastery on using preposition of time was categorized as "poor". Since, the score of the seventh grade students' mastery on using preposition of place was 54,5%. Then, the classification of the students' mastery on using preposition of place was categorized as "poor". Therefore, the average score for preposition of time and preposition of place were 51,5% and it concluded that classification of students' ability on using preposition was "poor".

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G. REFERENCE

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