

CHAPTER II

STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN MASTERY OF SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

A. Grammar

Grammar is one of the important elements in learning English. Grammar is the basic component of language that should be learned by students. It has been studying from junior high school.

In linguistics, grammar is the set of structural rules governing the composition of clauses, phrases, and words in any given natural language. The term refers also to the study of such rules, and this field includes morphology, syntax, and phonology, often complemented by phonetics, semantics, and pragmatics. According to Rudy Hariyono and Robert Burnley (2013:11), grammar is a science that teaches how to arrange certain types of words precisely in a sentence. According to Richards and Schmidt (2010: 251-252), grammar is a description of the structure of a language and how language units such as words and phrases are formed into sentences. Based on the explanation above, we can conclude that grammar is the rule of arranging certain types of words to make a sentence by combining the words and their parts.

There is so many scopes of grammar among others: Parts of speech, the articles, modals, noun and pronoun, tenses, etc. In this research, the researcher will discuss tenses. In grammar, tense is a grammar term that expresses time reference. According to Rudy H. & Robert Burnley (2013:229), tense is the time change that affects the verbs in English. In time change, the difference in adverb of time will affect a sentence, especially in the verb of the sentence. In addition, according to Y. Trioga Budi Widodo (2016:37), tense is the changes of verb that caused time changes.

According to Ellis (2009:14), tenses have the meaning of a verb form that shows a change in time. That is, different adverbs of time can

affect the form of the verb used in a sentence. So tenses can be interpreted as a change in the form of the verb in a sentence caused by a change in the form of time or adverb of time. In English, there are 4 main groups of tenses which then form 16 tenses.

1) Present Tense

a) Simple Present Tense

A simple present tense is a form of time used to express an action or activity that is taking place or happening at present in a simple form.

b) Present Continuous Tense

Present continuous tense is the form of time used to express an action, situation, or event that is happening at the time being discussed.

c) Present Perfect Tense

The present perfect tense is the form of time used to express an action or activity that occurred at a certain time in the past.

d) Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Present perfect continuous tense is a form of time used to express actions or circumstances that began in the past and are still ongoing today.

2) Past Tense

a) Simple Past Tense

Simple past tense is a form of time used to explain events or actions that were carried out at a certain time in the past in a simple form. The time of the occurrence of the event or action is known.

b) Past Continuous Tense

The past continuous tense is used to express actions, circumstances, or events that were taking place in the past when other circumstances or actions occurred.

c) Past Perfect Tense

A past perfect tense is a form of time used to explain an action that has been completed in the past, or to explain a situation or event that has occurred.

d) Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Past perfect continuous tense is a form of time used to express an action or situation that has begun and is still ongoing in the past.

3) Future Tense

a) Simple Future Tense

A simple future tense is a form of time used to express actions that will occur in the future.

b) Future Continuous Tense

A future continuous tense is a form of time used to express actions or conditions that will be happening at a certain time in the future when another action occurs.

c) Future Perfect Tense

A future perfect tense is a form of time used to express an action or condition that has been completed at a certain time in the future.

d) Future Perfect Continuous Tense

Future perfect continuous tense is a form of time used to express an action or condition that has been done or will occur at some point in the future when other actions or circumstances occur.

4) Future Past Tense

a) Future Past Tense

Future past tense is a form of time to express an action or situation that will be done or happened in the past. The action is planned but often doesn't happen.

b) Future Past Continuous Tense

Future past continuous tense is a form of time used to express an action or activity or situation that was ongoing in the past, but because of something or another, the action was not carried out.

c) Future Past Perfect Tense

Future past perfects tense is a form of time used to express an activity, action, or state that will have been completed in the past.

d) Future Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Future past perfect continuous tense is a form of time used to express an action or condition that should have been going on at a certain time in the past.

From the explanation above, the researcher only focuses on measuring simple present tense .

B. Simple Present Tense

1. Definition

The simple present tense is one of sixteen kinds of tenses. The simple present tense is the basic tense in grammar that is often used in learning. The simple present tense is one of the tenses that should be mastered by the students because it is commonly used in daily life. According to Taslim (2016:146), they understand that simple present tense is important in learning English because it is used in daily life, either in writing and spoken language.

According to Aarts et al (2014:327), simple present tense is identical to the base of a verb (except in the case of “be”) and adds -s for the third singular person, e.g. He sings in the shower every day. If the subject is a third singular person such as she, he, and it, the verb must add -s or -es. According to Sailendra English Team (2017:41), simple present tense is used to express habitual action.

Based on the explanation above, we can conclude that simple present is the tense used in daily activity.

2. The use of Simple Present Tense

There are several the use of simple present tense, as follow as:

- a. To express habits, general truths, repeated actions or unchanging situations, emotions and wishes.

For example:

I **smoke** (habit), I **work in London** (unchanging situation), London is **a large city** (general truth).

- b. To give instructions or directions

For example: **You walk** for two hundred meters, then **you turn** left.

- c. To express fixed arrangements, present or future

For example: Your exam **starts** at 09.00

- d. To express future time, after some conjunctions: *after, when, before, as soon as, until.*

For example: He'll give it to you when you come next Saturday.

3. The Pattern of Simple Present Tense

The simple present tense is the simple one of tenses. It uses a base verb and if the subject is a third singular person, it is added by the suffix –s or –es. There are two patterns in the simple present tense, they are:

- a. Verbal Sentence

There are three patterns in verbal sentences. According to Krohn (1986) as cited in Fartina (2011:7-9), the pattern of affirmative, negative, and interrogative statements of the simple present tense is as follows:

- 1) Affirmative

Affirmative form:

S (Plural) + V (simple form of verb) + O
S (Singular) + V(simple form of verb)+ s or es + O

Note:

Plural: I, You, They, We

Singular: He, She, It, and name of a person.

O: Object

For example:

1. I/You/They/We play football every weekend.
2. He/She/Joe plays football every weekend.

2) Negative

Negative form:

S (plural) + do not + V1 + O

S (singular) + does not + V1 + O

Note:

Plural: I, You, They, We.

Singular: He, She, It, and name of a person.s

O: Object

In the negative form, if the subject is plural we have to add *do not* after the subject. If the subject is singular, we have to add *does not* after the subject.

For example:

1. I/You/They/We do not play football every weekend.
2. He/She/Joe does not play football every weekend.

3) Interrogative

Introgative form:

Do + S (plural) + V1 + O

Does + S (singular) + V1 + O

Note:

Plural: I, You, They, We.

Singular: He, She, It, and name of a person.

O: Object

For example:

1. Do I/You/They/We play football every weekend?
2. Does He/She/Joe play football every weekend?

b. Nominal Sentence

There are three patterns in a nominal sentence, as follow:

1) Positive

Positive form : S + to be + Non Verb

Note :

To be: Is/Am/Are

Non Verb: Adjective/Noun/Pronoun

For example:

1. Yangyang is handsome.
2. I am a singer.
3. They are dancers

2) Negative

Negative Form : S + to be + not + Non Verb

To be: Is/Am/Are

Non Verb: Adjective/Noun/Pronoun

For example:

1. He is not a teacher.
2. Jake and Jay are siblings.

3) Interrogative

Interrogative form: To be + S + Non Verb + ?

Note :

To be : Is/Am/Are

Non Verb: Adjective/Noun/Pronoun

For example:

1. Is she a student?
2. Are you happy today?

C. Students' Difficulties in Mastery of Simple Present Tense

The difficulties of mastering the simple present tense are complicated. The difficulties in mastering simple present tense means everything that occurs in learning simple present tense process and makes it the students difficult to understand the materials. It can influence the students in using the simple present tense, for instance, the students can make some mistakes in using the simple present tense.

There are several factors that caused the students being difficult. For example, the students have lack of interest in learning English, lack of knowledge, limited in vocabulary knowledge, etc. According to Ellis (2009: 144) as cited in Effendi (2017:45) the difficulty in learning the grammar can be grouped into three, namely: the difficulties associated with environmental factors of language, with linguistic factors, and psychological factors. It can conclude that environmental factor and psychological are the non-linguistic aspect and linguistic factor i linguistic aspect. The difficulties in linguistic aspect such as the difference in structure of the English and Indonesian languages and the occurrence of interference in using the English language. In addition, the students still experiencing difficulties related to the right verb form, adverb, auxiliary verb, noun clause, etc. In the other hand, the difficulties in non-linguistic aspect refers to the ability to learn. For instance, students have lack of motivation to learn the subject, lack of knowledge, limited in vocabulary knowledg. In additionn, the students are less active in asing question in learning process. In addition, Jamarah (2008:237-246) as cited in Maisari (2011:19-21) states that the cause of students' difficulties are: Lack of intelligence, lack of talent, the way teacher teach is lack of good, etc.

Based on explanation above, it can be conclude that the cause of students being difficult in learning simple present tense are linguistics aspects and non-linguistic aspects.

D. Previous Study

There are many kinds of research about students' difficulties in mastery simple present tense. Firstly, Syakur (2014) in his journal "*An Error Analysis of Using Simple Present in Descriptive Writing Text Among Eight Grade Students of SMP IT Baitul Ulum Tempel Gempol*", he found the difficulties experienced by the eighth grade students of SMP IT Baitul Ulum Tempel Gempol to understanding the simple present tense were the use of addition s/-es and *to be* usage.

Secondly, Siswoyo (2014) in his journal "*Students' Error in Using Simple Present Tense Mastery*" he found that the type of errors that are faced by students in using simple present tense are as follows: Omission error (2,58%), misformation error (96,71%), misordering error (0,47%), and addition error (0,23%).

Doing a comparison of the two research above, there are differences and similarities between the previous research and this research. The differences were shown from the theory, the first research use error in present tense and the second research uses the usage of simple present tense. While the similarity is the students' difficulties in tenses.