

**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING DEGREES OF  
COMPARISON IN ADJECTIVE AND ADVERB AT ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE EDUCATION PROGRAM OF UNP**

**THESIS**

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Replacement to Obtain Bachelor of  
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## ABSTRACT

**Novzalia, N.A (2022). *An Analysis of Students' Ability in Using Degrees of Comparison in Adjective and Adverb at English Language Education Program of UNP*. Thesis. Padang: English Language and Literature Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

The purpose of this study was to analyze the fifth semester students' ability in the English Language Education Program of UNP's use of degrees of comparison in adjective and adverb. The Participants in this study were 35 students of the fifth semester students at English Language Education Program of UNP. The study was quantitative research. Tests and interviews were the instruments used in this study. According to the study's findings, 55.42% of students were able to master the items of positive degree in adjective, followed by the items of comparative degree in adjective, with 61.14% of students being able to master those items. Of the students, 77.14% demonstrated the ability to master the items of superlative degree in adjective. In terms of adverb, 72.57% of students were able to master the items of positive degree in adverb, 66.85% of students were able to master the items of comparative degree in adverb and 38.28% of students were able to master the items of superlative degree in adverb. This indicates that more than 50% of students have mastered the degrees of comparison. The respondents supported this finding, stating that the fifth-semester students in the English language education program have problem comprehending comparisons for the following reasons: They misplaced the article "the" in the superlative form and forgot to add "than" after the adjective in the comparative form. They also did not know how to modify words that ended in -y to -i and add -er/-est. Finally, they did not comprehend the purpose of using irregular forms.

**Key Words:** *analysis, ability, grammar, degrees of comparison in adjective, degrees of comparison in adverb.*

## ABSTRAK

**Novzalia, N.A (2022). *An Analysis of Students' Ability in Using Degrees of Comparison in Adjective and Adverb at English Language Education Program of UNP*. Skripsi. Padang: Departemen Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis kemampuan mahasiswa semester lima di Program Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris UNP dalam penggunaan degrees of comparison dalam bentuk adjective dan adverb. Partisipan dalam penelitian ini adalah 35 mahasiswa semester lima di Program Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris UNP. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kuantitatif. Tes dan wawancara merupakan instrumen yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Berdasarkan temuan penelitian, 55,42% siswa mampu menguasai butir-butir positive degree dalam adjective, diikuti butir-butir comparative degree dalam adjective, dengan 61,14% siswa mampu menguasai butir-butir tersebut. Dari seluruh siswa, 77,14% menunjukkan kemampuan dalam menguasai butir-butir superlative degree dalam adjective. Dari segi adverb, 72,57% siswa mampu menguasai item positive degree pada adverb, 66,85% siswa mampu menguasai item comparative degree pada adverb dan 38,28% siswa mampu menguasai item superlative degree pada adverb. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa lebih dari 50% siswa telah menguasai degrees of comparison. Responden mendukung temuan ini, menyatakan bahwa mahasiswa semester lima dalam program pendidikan bahasa Inggris memiliki masalah dalam memahami degrees of comparison karena alasan berikut: Mereka salah menempatkan artikel "the" dalam bentuk superlatif dan lupa menambahkan "than" setelah kata sifat dalam bentuk komparatif. Mereka juga tidak tahu bagaimana mengubah kata yang berakhiran -y menjadi -i dan menambahkan -er/-est. Terlebih lagi, mereka tidak memahami tujuan penggunaan bentuk tidak beraturan.

**Kata Kunci:** *analisa, kemampuan, grammar, degrees of comparison kata sifat, degrees of comparison kata keterangan.*

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Padang, 27 October 2022

The writer

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of Study

English has four skills; they are speaking, reading, listening and writing. Sadiku (2015) states that students will become good listeners, speakers, readers, and writers as a result of the coherence of listening and speaking with reading and writing in order to create effective communication. To have competence in those skills, students definitely require a good ability in grammar.

Grammar is a skill that studies a group of words and how they work together; an invisible skill that can make us put words together into sentence Debata (2013). Students' understanding of grammar can help them aware if there are mistakes in their sentences. Harmer (2004) states that grammar describes how words may take on different forms and can be combined to make sentences. There are some rules that explain how language is constructed and used in communication according to experts, and many components of grammar are taught. One of them is degree of comparison.

Munoz (1991) says that comparison shows the degree of deference, with the adjective and adverb possibly being equal or unequal. This indicates that different levels of two or more things, person, or place are indicated by using degrees of comparison to compare them. According to Parrott (2004), a comparative is an adjective or adverb that ends in *-er*, such as bigger, richer, or

faster, while a superlative is an adjective or adverb that ends in *-est* (e.g. biggest, richest, fastest). There are three types of levels in degrees of comparison; positive degree, comparative degree and superlative degree. The positive degree shows no comparison. The comparative degree is used to compare two things, one of which is "more" than the other. The superlative degree is used to describe the thing that has the "most" trait among others.

According to Parrott (2004), Adjectives are frequently referred to as "describing words" because they give details about the characteristics of something that is being described by a noun, noun phrase, or noun clause. In English, adjectives can be compared. For instance, one can say that a house is big, that it is bigger than another, or that it is the biggest house of all. Not all adjectives lend themselves to comparison, such as perfect, right, natural, wrong, etc. Those words cannot be compared because the positive forms express the only degree possible. An adjective can be used in one of three places: before a noun, after a noun, or in the predicate. Meanwhile, Parrott (2004) says that the word "adverb" refers to a variety of words with quite different functions. It is neither accurate nor very helpful to define adverbs as words that "modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb". In English, adverbs can also be compared. For instance, it is possible to say that she runs so fast, faster than the others, or fastest of all.

In English Language Education Program at UNP, degrees of comparison are one kind of grammar that should be learned in grammar course by the students. Degrees of Comparison is a sentence structure that commonly implies the existence of a level comparison between two or more things on a daily basis,

thus learning it is important. Additionally, it is important for students to express and comprehend how two things or people are similar or different.

There are some previous studies that discuss the students' difficulty in mastering degrees of comparison. The first study was conducted by Shusantie (2011), this study found that students' mastery of degrees of comparison is fewer than 50%. The second study was conducted by Kurniawan (2017), this study found that only a few students absolutely understand the degrees of comparison. The third study was conducted by Bungsu et al. (2021), this study found that the students still made many errors in doing degrees of comparison. However, most of previous studies are only focus on the degrees of comparison in adjective, there is limited study that discuss degrees of comparison in adverb. The researcher is interested in adding degrees of comparison in adverb in this study, because according to the researcher, adjective and adverb are equally important. Besides, based on students' ability, the researcher wants to know what makes their scores are high or low. Therefore, the researcher conducted a study entitled "An Analysis of Students' Ability in Using Degrees of Comparison in Adjective and Adverb at English Language Education Program of University of Padang".

## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the research background above, the researcher identified the problem as follows:

1. Degrees of comparison is one aspect of grammar that is important to learn.
2. Degrees of comparison is taught in English Language and Literature

Department of UNP and researcher wants to know their ability.

3. Not many previous studies have discussed degrees of comparison in adjectives and adverbs.

### **1.3. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification, the focus of this study is students' ability in using degrees of comparison in adjective and adverb at English language education program of University of Padang.

### **1.4. Research Question**

Then, this research specifically aims to answers the following questions:

1. How is the students' ability in using degrees of comparison of adjective?
2. How is the students' ability in using degrees of comparison of adverb?
3. What are the causes of students being able to get high or low scores in degrees of comparison in adjective and adverb?

### **1.5. Research Purpose**

From those questions that have been mentioned above, the researcher had constructed her own aims for the research, there are:

1. To analyze the ability of students in using degrees of comparison of adjective.
2. To analyze the ability of students in using degrees of comparison of adverb.
3. To find out the causes why students get high or low scores in degrees of comparison in adjective and adverb.



## **1.6. Significance of the Study**

The result of this research is expected to provide information on students' ability in using degrees of comparison in adjective and adverb at English Language Education Program of Universitas Negeri Padang. The researcher is conducting this research in the hopes that the results will be useful to both readers and other researchers.

## **1.7. Definition of the Key Term**

### **1.7.1. Analysis**

Anything difficult that has been thoroughly examined in attempt to comprehend it or identify its key components.

### **1.7.2. Ability**

The power or skill that someone needs to do something or the fact that someone is able to do something.

### **1.7.3. Grammar**

Grammar is described as a methodical approach of estimating an ideal speaker's or hearer's level of language proficiency.

### **1.7.4. Degrees of Comparison of Adjective**

Adjective comparison is the alteration of an adjective to indicate a different level of quality, quantity, or relation.

### **1.7.5. Degrees of Comparison of Adverb**

Adverbs can frequently be graded, like adjectives, and can be changed by intensifiers and used as comparisons.