

**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENT'S SIMPLE PRESENT AND SIMPLE PAST  
TENSE MASTERY AT THE FIRST GRADE OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN  
SMKN 1 PADANG PANJANG**

**THESIS**

*Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain Strata One (S1)  
Degree*



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## ABSTRAK

**Mardhatilla, Annisa. 2014. *An Analysis of Students' Simple Present and Simple Past Mastery at The First Grade Students in SMKN 1 Padang Panjang*. Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

Pembimbing : 1. **Dr.Zul Amri, M.Ed.**  
2. **Yuli Tiarina, M.Pd.**

Penelitian ini adalah penelitian analisis yang bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan dan pemahaman siswa kelas satu KU 1 (keuangan 1) SMKN 1 Padang Panjang terhadap simple present tense dan simple past tense. Penelitian ini dilaksanakan di SMKN 1 Padang Panjang pada semester ganjil tahun pelajaran 2014/2015. Metode penelitian adalah analisis dan desain penelitian berupa sebuah test karena penelitian ini hanya melihat bagaimana kemampuan dan pemahaman siswa terhadap simple present tense dan simple past tense. Populasi penelitian ini adalah seluruh siswa kelas X sedangkan sampel penelitian adalah kelas X KU 1 yang berjumlah 27 orang siswa. Setelah menyelesaikan test tersebut maka hasilnya dijadikan sebagai data yang akan digunakan untuk melihat kemampuan siswa tersebut.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kemampuan siswa pada simple present tense lebih tinggi dibandingkan dengan kemampuan siswa pada simple past tense yaitu dengan perbandingan 30:70 %. Jadi dapat disimpulkan bahwa siswa lebih membutuhkan pendalaman materi pada tiapa-tiap tenses terutama simple past tense.

Kata kunci : the simple present tense, the simple past tense, pemahaman.

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*(Q:S Alam Nasyrak: 6-8)*

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## **CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION**

### **A. The Background of Problem**

English consists of four basic skills which function to develop communication ability in written and oral forms. The skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Besides, there are two important components in mastering English. They are vocabulary and grammar. In order to be able to communicate in English, students need to understand and master all of the skills especially understanding tenses.

Tense is an important component which takes a big role in mastering English. All materials in English curriculum for SMK need good comprehending ability such as grammatical text and functional text. To have good understanding in tenses is needed the right grammatical of sentences. Moreover, tenses have a big role in teaching and learning English in SMK, because it included the vocational school curriculum.

Based on the curriculum of SMK, there are two tenses are taught on the second semester in the first grade in vocational school; they are simple present tense and simple past tense. For the students in the first grade of vocational school, simple present tense and simple past tense are difficult to understand. Understanding tenses in vocational school is important for students, because it included the vocational school curriculum.

However, almost all of the students do not like to learn about tenses. There are possible causes which make students ability in understanding tenses low. First,

learning tenses is difficult. In junior high school the teacher introduced many tenses to the students, so when the teacher reviews them in the vocational school, the student has difficulties to differentiate for each tenses. Each sentence uses different verb, so it will make students confuse to use them.

Second, the students think that learning tenses is bored. The ways the teacher teaches in the class influences the comprehending of the students. So far, the teachers have tried to present their best contribution in increasing student's comprehending ability in tenses by using some techniques. However, in the teaching process, this effort has not been used optimally. In the process of teaching tenses, teachers often teach tenses in boring ways. The teachers usually start by introducing tenses followed by some examples from the books. It makes students not interested to learn it and still make students confused with the examples. Because it is not interesting so students get difficulty to understand it.

Based on informal observation done by the researcher, it is found that the language learners have difficulties in understanding tenses especially simple present tense and simple past tense. However tenses for vocational high school students is very important because it is one of the curriculum for final test in vocational high school. Therefore, this research is about the analysis of the second grade students in understanding simple present tense and simple past tense at vocational high school 1 Padang Panjang in academic year 2013/2014.

## **B. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of problem above, there are some problems faced by students in learning tenses. First, they are not motivated in the learning

process. Second, they also get difficulty to use appropriate verb for each tense, so that they can not make the new sentences using tenses that have been taught. Third, they think that tense is difficult and not important, therefore they become lazy to learn it, especially simple present and simple past tense.

As state previously, Vocational High School students in Indonesia are expected to be able to understand the tenses and be able to identify the tenses especially simple present tense nad simple past tense.

### **C. The Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, the problem discussed in this research is limited on the analysis of the student's simple present and simple past mastery at the first grade students in SMKN 1 Padang Panjang.

### **D. The Formulation of the Problem**

In this research the formulation of the problem: “ How is the student's simple present and simple past mastery at the first grade vocational school in SMKN 1 Padang Panjang?”.

### **E. Research Questions**

The problem of this research is elaborated in the following questions:

1. How is the student's simple present and simple past mastery?
2. Which part is the most difficult in learning simple present and simple past for students?
3. What factors cause the problem?

## **F. Purpose of the Research**

The purpose of this research is:

1. To find out the student's simple present and simple past mastery.
2. To find out the part which is the most difficult in learning simple present and simple past for students.
3. To find out the factors that cause the problems.

## **G. Significance of the Research**

This research is aimed to give contribution to teachers and fellow researchers practically and theoretically. Practically, this study is expected to be an insight for teachers prior to teach tenses, especially simple present tense and simple past tense. The results of this study hopefully can give teachers consideration to teach simple present tense and simple past tense to students so that they have the better understanding in tenses.

On the other hand, from theoretical point of view, hopefully this research can give contributions for other researchers who would like to do further study about simple present tense and simple past tense. The result of this study is also hoped to encourage fellow researchers who would like to find new methods or techniques to teach simple present and simple past tense.

## **H. Definition of Key Terms**

- a. Tense: One of the English components stated in curriculum, which have a big role in make sentence or paragraph. It is include Simple present tense, Simple past tense and simple future tense.

- b. Simple Present Tense: One of tenses which expresses events or situations that exist always, usually, habitually. They exist now, have existed in the past and probably will exist in the future.
- c. Simple Past Tense: One of tenses which expresses an action in the past taking place once, never, several times. It can also be used for actions taking place one after another or in the middle of another action.