

**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING COMPOUND-
COMPLEX SENTENCES IN WRITING A SHORT ESSAY: SECOND
YEAR STUDENTS IN ENGLISH DEPARTMENT UNIVERSITAS
NEGERI PADANG**

THESIS

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain Bachelor of
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ABSTRACT

Rahma, A Afri. 2021. An Analysis of Students' Ability in Using Compound-Complex Sentences in Writing a Short Essay: Second Year Students in English Department, Universitas Negeri Padang: Thesis. English Education Graduate Program. The Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.

The purpose of the research is to figure out the students' ability in constructing compound-complex sentence in essays writing. The design used in this research is descriptive research with second year students of English language educational program of UNP as the research population. There were 30 students taken as the sample selected by using cluster sampling technique in K5-2018 class. The data were collected through documents of students' essay writing. The essays were analyzed by the researcher, and it was revised by a valuator and two raters as the validity and reliability of this research. They are the lecturers of English department at Universitas Negeri Padang. The finding shows that the ability of students in writing compound-complex sentence is in the level of good with the average percentage 79,18 %. Most students generally can make compound-complex sentences in their essays writing, but they have problems in: 1) incorrect use of punctuation, especially comma, 2) lacks a subject or a verb in the compound-complex sentence. Therefore, an intensive attention should be given by the lecturer to facilitate the students to practice both writing and grammar by using peer correction.

Keywords: compound-complex sentence, essay writing, students' ability

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

In writing, students learn how to write words, phrases, clauses and sentences. When students make a sentence they have to consider many aspects such as capitalization, spelling, punctuation, grammar and sentence structure. In writing, grammar is one of the important language components that should be concerned to create a good writing. The students are expected to use correct and appropriate grammar.

As university students who take English language as a major, they should understand that writing and grammar cannot be separated. They both are related subjects that must be concerned by students to produce good quality writing. Both skills will be useful for students to make their final assignment as a requirement for graduation and also to teach students at school when they already graduated. Therefore, students in English department are required to be able to master the writing skills along with the other skills. Fareed et.al (2016) state that for language development, writing is an essential skill; however, it is deemed a difficult ability, particularly in the context of English as a second language (ESL) in which students face many writing difficulties.

There are a lot of difficulties faced by students in writing English as a foreign language such as lack vocabulary and not master in English grammar. Debata (2013) states that grammar is a study of words and the ways in which words work together as an invisible force that leads us to place words together

into sentences. In writing, grammar is one of the important language components that should be concerned to create a good writing. The students are expected to use a correct grammar and appropriate grammar. According to Thornbury (1999), grammar is partly the study of what forms (or structures) are possible in a language. This reveals that grammar maintains a language's shape and structure to be easily understood.

The role of grammar is significant to be applied in writing activity. As Calkins suggests in Lin (2008), using students' writing as the basis for teaching grammatical concepts is the most effective way to improve student grammar command in writing. A grammar consists of principles or rules that allow creating an infinite number of possible sentences out of a finite number of words (Velt: 1986). The structure exists whether it can be described by anyone or not. Applying correct structure of sentence is the uppermost point in English writing.

Students in English Department of Universitas Negeri Padang learn writing from the basic to advanced levels. It is started from paragraph writing, essay writing, academic writing, and paper or thesis writing. At the first year, the students learn how to make a good writing paragraph that consists of more than two sentences, and at the second year, they learn about how to make a good writing in their essay writing. Zemach and Rumisek (2003) state that an essay is a group of paragraphs written about a single topic and central main idea. It must have at least three paragraphs, but a five-paragraph essay is a common length for academic writing. The structures of an essay are the introduction, the main body,

and the conclusion. The students must pass the essay writing subject before come into academic writing or paper as a final writing course.

In essay writing subject, the application of grammar in sentence structure used by students is seen. It can be used to know the ability of students in constructing a type of sentences. According to Sarah Andersen of San Jose University Writing Center (2014) there are four categories of sentences in English. The four types are: simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences and compound-complex sentences. They are the kinds of sentence that is often used by the students, but here, the researcher will analyze a compound-complex sentence as one of the sentences types that are used by students in their essay writing. The researcher wants to know about the ability of students in using compound-complex sentences in their essay writing because this kind of sentence is the most complicated sentence that need to be master by students in English Department of Universitas Negeri Padang. The reason why the sentence is really complicated because it is the combination of three types sentences such as simple, compound and complex sentence. So this type of sentence is the high level in making a sentence.

A compound-complex sentence is a combination of compound and complex sentences. A compound sentence consists of two independent clauses that connected by coordinating conjunction such as for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so (FANBOYS). A complex sentence is a sentence that consists of one independent clause and one or more dependent clause. It is connected by subordinating conjunction such as adjective clause, noun clause and adverb clause. In a

compound-complex sentence, it has at least two independent clauses and at least one or more dependent clause. In simple terms, an independent clause can be a sentence on its own while a dependent clause cannot be a complete sentence.

In the process of learning English as the second language for students, it is common to find learners who have problems in constructing the correct compound-complex sentences. It is caused because many students don't understand in depth the kinds of sentences. When they write something, they just write things without knowing the type of sentences that they used. Basically, students are conscious how to make a good sentence and sometimes not exactly in the placement of punctuation and conjunction in their writing, however they must deeply consider whether their sentence is appropriate or inappropriate. So, they will need to know sentence errors to develop their writing effectively.

Actually this research is not the first one to be conducted; there are some researchers who have conducted research on students' ability in using compound-complex sentence in writing analysis. Some of them were conducted by Sofirotul Ainul Sari (2017) at Universitas Sunan Ampel Surabaya. This research entitled "Error analysis in constructing compound complex sentences on students writing". The second research was conducted by Fairisha Embriany (2018) at Universitas Negeri Padang. This research entitled "An analysis of the second year students' ability in constructing compound sentences at English Department of Universitas Negeri Padang. The third research was conducted by Ika Dirga Sari (2019) at Universitas Negeri Padang. This research entitled "An analysis of compound and complex sentences in argumentative essay written by English

Department students at Universitas Negeri Padang”. The fourth research was conducted by Datulina Gintin (2019) at Universitas Asahan. This research entitled “Improving the students’ writing skill in compound-complex sentence through mind mapping at grade X of SMA Methodist-2 Kisaran in school year 2014/2015”

Referring to previous studies, the researcher intends to conduct a research entitled “An Analysis on Students’ Ability in Using Compound-Complex Sentences in Writing a Short Essay: second year students in English department, Universitas Negeri Padang”. The researcher wants to know whether the second year students of English department have applied the appropriate grammar form in using compound-complex sentences in their essay writing. The problem is raised to make the students realize what the mistakes or the errors of sentences in Essay Writing is going to be faced and to know the level of students’ ability when using compound-complex sentences in their essay writing.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of problem stated above, it is clearly stated that the researcher is interested in analysis about the students’ ability in writing a short essay especially focus on the elements of sentences in compound-complex sentences. The use of compound-complex sentences in students writing is considerably important. It is due to the fact that students’ ability in organizing ideas through sentence need to be concerned, and they need to be in habits in order to go through the higher level of writing.

Based on this fact, analyzing of the compound-complex sentence used by students in writing essay is necessary in order to find out the students' ability in delivering ideas. Besides, it is also necessary for knowing students' difficulty in using compound-complex sentences. Because of the reason, the researcher is interested in conducting the research about analyzing the students' ability in using compound-complex sentence in writing a short essay.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problems above, the problem of this research is limited to the analysis of second year students' ability in constructing compound-complex sentence and also the common mistakes or the errors appears in compound-complex sentence construction in their essay writing.

D. Formulation of Problem

Based on the focus of the research, the formulation of the problem is "How is the ability of second year students of English Department, Universitas Negeri Padang in using compound-complex sentence in writing a short essay?"

E. Research Questions

In this research, the problem is formulated as “How is the ability of second year students of English Department, Universitas Negeri Padang in constructing compound-complex sentence in writing a short essay?”

F. Purpose of the Research

The purposes of this research is to find out the ability of second year students of English Department, Universitas Negeri Padang in constructing compound-complex sentence in writing a short essay.

G. Significance of the Research

The result of this research is expected to give some important contributions to the related study both theoretically and practically. . Theoretically, it provides an explanation of compound-complex sentence in writing short essays made by second year students of Universitas Negeri Padang. Practically, the result of the study will be useful for the students and lecturers to find out the students’ ability and common mistakes in constructing compound-complex sentences. This research is also intended to be beneficial as useful information for the next researchers who are going to conduct a research about similar topic.

H. Definition of Key Term

Grammar : The structure and system of a language. It is the rules used in arranging words of the language.

Compound-complex sentence : A combination of a compound and a complex sentence.

Short essay writing : A group of paragraphs written about a single topic and central main idea that has at least three paragraphs.

Students' ability : A level of skill or intelligence on the students in constructing a compound-complex sentence in students' essay writing.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

This research concludes that the students' ability in constructing compound-complex sentence in their essay writing is generally good with an average score of 79.18%. The students already know how to construct compound-complex sentence, but they still make some mistakes when trying to construct such sentences in their essay writing.

In the essay writing task, it shows that the students have problems in writing compound-complex sentences. They make some errors in constructing compound-complex sentences in their essay writing. The students' errors in writing compound-complex sentence are fragments and run-on sentences. The students also appear to often be weak in using punctuation, and they tend to use incorrect connectors. Another mistake that found in students' compound-complex sentence was fragment sentence. There are still students who forget to write a subject or a verb in the compound-complex sentence.

In scoring the data, the researcher uses a rubric in table 2 as a measurement for this research. There are some aspects that need to be used by the researcher to count the data such as capitalization, spelling, punctuation, grammar and sentence structure.

B. Suggestions

After doing analysis in students' essay writing in order to understand the ability of students in constructing compound-complex sentences, the researcher would like to give suggestions with regard to minimizing the students' mistakes while writing compound-complex sentences in their essay writing. The first suggestion is the lecturer in English grammar can give treatment to the students by applying effective method in teaching. The method is in the development of writing quality, especially in writing compound-complex sentences. The lecturer also needs to consider the problems faced by students when using compound-complex sentences in their essay writing so that the students as the writers can know their weaknesses and improve it. A focussed and designed-in scaffolding approach (Hammond & Gibbons, 2005) is highly recommended for this.

The second suggestion is for students in writing compound-complex sentences. The students have to pay attention to the lecturer when the lecturer explains the material about how to construct the compound-complex sentence in essay writing. The students have to do more exercise in using compound-complex sentence in their essay writing to get a better score in their essay writing class.

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