The Effect of Individual Electronic Grammar Exercises in CALL Laboratory on Students' Grammar Achievement in English Department State University of Padang

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ABSTRAK

Hilma Pami Putri: 2008. The Effect of Individual e- grammar Exercises in CALL Laboratory on Students' Grammar Achievement in English Department State University of Padang.

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Mata kuliah tata bahasa adalah salah satu mata kuliah wajib yang disediakan untuk seluruh mahasiswa jurusan bahasa Inggris. Dengan adanya mata kuliah ini, diharapkan siswa mampu untuk dapat menggunakan *pattern* dengan lancar, benar, dan akurat serta bermakna. Kebanyakan mahasiwa yang mengambil mata kuliah ini mendapatkan nilai rendah dan menganggap mata kuliah ini adalah mata kuliah yang membosankan. Sehubungan dengan itu, jurusan bahasa Inggris juga memfasilitasi labor CALL untuk meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa inggris mahasiswanya. Tidak banyak mahasiswa yang tahu dengan fasilitas ini. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk melihat sejauh mana pengaruh pemberian latihan tambahan dengan menggunakan komputer dalam pembelajaran tata bahasa terhadap peningkatan tata bahasa mahasiswa dalam mempelajari tata bahasa di Jurusan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Negeri Padang. Metode penelitian ini berbentuk eksperimen semu (*quosi experimental).* Hal ini dilakukan karena ada dua kelas yang berbeda dalam penelitian ini, yang satu diberikan pelatihan sedangkan yang lain tidak. Populasi penelitian ini adalah mahasiswa regular tahun II jurusan Bahasa Inggris yang terdaftar pada semester Juli-Desember 2007/2008. Sampel penelitian berjumlah 51 orang. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan memberikan tes tata bahasa. Penyebaran tes dilakukan pada kelas eksperimen dan kelas pembanding sesudah kelas eksperimen mendapatkan latihan tata bahasa elektronik. Analisis data dilakukan dengan t-test untuk membuktikan hipotesis. Jika nilai t hitung yang diperoleh lebih besar dari pada nilai t tabel, dapat disimpulkan bahwa latihan tata bahasa elektronik memberikan dampak positif terhadap peningkatan tata bahasa siswa. Dari tes yang telah disebar, didapat hasil uji t sebesar 2, 212. Analisis ini membuktikan hasil yang signifikan, dimana 2, 212 (t-hitung) > 2, 021 (t-tabel) pada taraf signifikan 0.05 dan df=49 Berdasarkan nilai yang diperoleh, maka hipotesis penelitian ini diterima, yaitu latihan tata bahasa elektronik memberikan hasil yang lebih baik terhadap peningkan tata bahasa siswa. Hasil penemuan menunjukkan bahwa kemampuan tata bahasa mahasiswa meningkat setelah diberikan latihan tata bahasa elektronik di labor CALL jurusan bahasa Inggris. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian diatas, penulis mengharapkan latihan tata bahasa elektronik dapat selalu dimanfaatkan mahasiswa. Selanjutnya, jurusan bahasa Inggris juga selalu dapat meningkatkan kualitas labor CALL agar lebih menarik dan menantang bagi mahasiswa jurusan bahasa Inggris.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

According to Smedley (1983) human being is programmed to learn grammar in handling the grammatical resources of mother tongue. People will judge one comprehension of one language based on the grammar they used. When grammar breaks down, the sense breaks down (Burton: 1986). Automatically, if one wishes to speak or write, she or he certainly must use grammar. It is also supported by Krelemann (2005) grammar is a person's knowledge and use of language. It is an individual knowledge of the language.

Many experts have their own definition about grammar. According to Stroh Meyer (2005), grammar is a description of rules of the structure of the language: the way words combine, the way they change according to their relationship to other words, and how they build up into units like sentence. Grammar consists of principles or rules that allow learner to create an infinite number of possible sentences out of finite number of words (Veit 1986).

The experience teacher ever assumes that learning grammar of English is hard and boring for the learners. From the researcher observations during her learning experience in English department of State university of Padang, many students

showed lack of interest in learning grammar. The students are also worried about being embarrassed if they are called on by the lecturer, and they do not know the answer. A large number of students get C or less than C dominated in grammar class. Because of that, the grammar lecturers need to find various ways to make grammar as an interesting subject and the students able to understand the grammar of that language easily. It is supported by Veit (1986) that teacher should make grammar teaching fun. It should be attractive for the students.

English department in State University of Padang had started to give such attractive media to learn grammar in its laboratory. The laboratory is called CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning). This laboratory provides computers, software, headsets and others components to support learning process appear there. According to Beatty (2003) CALL is any process in which learners uses a computer to improve their language ability. It asks students to be able to study alone, without any help from the teacher and at last they become independent learners.

Dealing with the grammar program in CALL laboratory, the lecturer uses Focus on Grammar program. It is such kind of grammar software that the students can do in electronic version. This program provides some exercises for the students in various level; basic, intermediate, and advanced. However, not all of the students use this software to improve his grammar mastery.

Beside, a research has proven that students in online learning process, or study independently in front of computer, have more confident in their abilities. They do not feel pressured with the rest of the class if they make mistakes. Related to the students as the users, computer is able to analyze the specific mistakes from the students and can react in a different way from the usual teacher. It also offers feedback, indicating whether their answer is right or wrong. Beatty (2003) says that this is able to leads the student not only to self-correction, but also to understand the principles behind the correct solution.

Related to the availability of that software, and this research related to students' ability in English, the researcher assumes giving individual electronic grammar exercise in CALL laboratory is able to improve student's grammar achievement.

B. Identification of the Problem

English department has provided CALL and grammar class as the compulsory subject for all of the students. Grammar becomes one of the language elements that is difficult for students to be mastered and it causes many problems. This problem occurs in speaking or writing. In grammar class, the lecturers often use traditional ways in teaching grammar without exploit attractive media in English department. It seems monotonous and boring because sometimes the students only listen to the lecturer explanation and do some exercises in grammar exercises book given.

In other side, CALL is one of English subject that provides attractive media for students in increasing their language mastery. There are many software provided inn CALL laboratory, but it do not access by the students. For example: grammar program, English correspondence, and writing.

Because of that, the researcher assumes that the connection between these two subjects is important to be researched. These problems lead the researcher to investigate how the application of electronic grammar exercise in CALL laboratory in English department is able to increase students' grammar achievement.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the problem is limited to the effect of individual electronic grammar exercises in CALL laboratory on students' grammar achievement in English department State University of Padang.

D. Formulation of the problem

The formulation of the problem in this research can be formulated as: "Does electronic grammar exercise in CALL give better effect on students' grammar achievement improvement in English Department State University of Padang".

E. Hypothesis

The researcher hypothesizes:

1. H_a = The electronic grammar exercise in CALL laboratory gives better influence on students grammar achievement than the students who do not

2. H_o = There is no better influence of electronic grammar exercise in CALL laboratory on students' grammar achievement, or null hypothesis.

F. Purpose of Research

This research is aimed to prove the improvement of electronic grammar exercise in CALL laboratory on students' grammar achievement.

G. Significance of the Problem

This research is expected to give contribution to the reader about the advantages of using computer as media in giving supplemental grammar exercise. Moreover, the researcher did hope that the result of this study would be useful for English department lecturers in improving their strategies in teaching and giving supplemental electronic grammar exercise to improve student's grammar achievement. Next, by doing this research, the researcher can enlarge her knowledge in English subject and has experience in doing the research.

H. Definition of the Key Term

1. Electronic grammar exercise: grammar exercise in electronic version.

2. Grammar: the study of the forms and the uses of words in a language (Clark :1981)

3. Grammar achievement: the grammar score gained by the students.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Based on the finding of the research in chapter IV, it could be concluded that there is a significant difference between control and experimental group on students' grammar achievement improvement. It means, the hypothesis "giving individual grammar exercise in CALL laboratory gives better result on students' grammar achievement" is **accepted**. It is supported by Scrimshaw (1993) theory, that the computer offers a way of making the aspiration of program education and will produce clear learning result. In addition to that, the students' achievement is not only because of learning, but rather as teaching and learning. So, the lecturer and the students had good collaboration in it.

B. Suggestion

From the result of this research, the researcher would like to suggest the followings: firstly in the effort of increasing student's grammar achievement, it is advisable for English Department to always provide interesting activity with the newest technologies and innovative software equipment in CALL laboratory. There should be sounds, animations, and attractive pictures in that exercises to make students more fun in learning grammar. Secondly, grammar lecturers should give enough attention to their students to use electronic grammar exercise in CALL laboratory to increase their grammar mastery while taking grammar class.

It is to make the collaborative between students and lecturer more tasted. Thirdly, English Department must provide many new computers in CALL laboratory to make all of the activities work well, complete with the speakers or the microphones connected to the computers. It also would be better to connect those computers to the internet lines. The amount of those new computers make the time provided will be more effective and efficient. The students do not need to come to the laboratory in different term anymore. Fourthly, for the students themselves, they should realize that the electronic grammar exercise CALL is provided for them to increase their ability in English. They need to use it independently, and they need to realize that CALL laboratory facility is provided to support their learning process and increase their language ability.