

**AN ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS' ABILITY IN  
COMPREHENDING AND USING ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS**

**THESIS**

*Submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements to obtain strata one (S1) degree*



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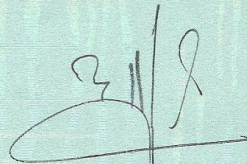
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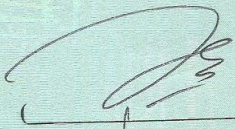
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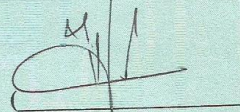
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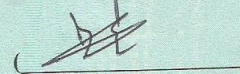
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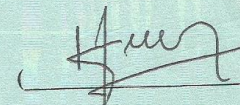
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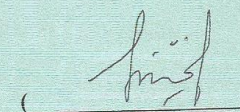
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## ABSTRAK

**Ananda, Meisyitah. Dwi. 2016.** "An Analysis of English Department Students' Ability in Comprehending and Using English Phrasal Verbs". *Skripsi. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.*

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan mahasiswa Bahasa Inggris dalam memahami dan menggunakan *English Phrasal Verbs* serta masalah-masalah mereka hadapi dalam menggunakannya. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif dengan populasi mahasiswa tahun 4 dengan tahun masuk 2012, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris, Universitas Negeri Padang. Sampel diambil dengan teknik *proportional random sampling*, yakni diacak 5 orang dari setiap kelas dari 6 kelas. Instrumen penelitian adalah *Phrasal Verbs Test* dan *Questionnaire* yang sesuai dengan indikator yang diberikan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kemampuan mahasiswa dalam memahami dan menggunakan *English Phrasal Verbs* adalah rendah. Masalah-masalah yang dihadapi mahasiswa dalam memahami dan menggunakan *English Phrasal Verbs* yaitu jarangnyanya kesulitan memahami *phrasal verbs* dikarenakan *idiomatic phrasal verbs* sulit untuk dipahami dan digunakan. Faktor tidak adanya *phrasal verbs* dalam L1 mahasiswa juga menjadi permasalahan yang dihadapi oleh mahasiswa,. Masalah-masalah lainnya adalah beberapa *phrasal verbs* memiliki lebih dari 1 makna, tipe-tipe *phrasal verbs* yang membingungkan mahasiswa, jarangnyanya latihan *phrasal verbs* yang dilakukan mahasiswa, ketidakcukupan materi pembelajaran terkait *phrasal verbs*, serta ketidakmampuan siswa dalam membuat urutan(*word order*) dengan benar.

**Keywords:** *English Phrasal Verbs, Comprehending, English Students, Ability, Using.*

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In the name of Allah, the most gracious and the most merciful

By saying '*Alhamdulillah* *Alamin*', the researcher sends the biggest thanks to Allah SWT for His marvelous guidance which has led the researcher to accomplish this thesis entitled "An Analysis of English Department Students' Ability in Comprehending and Using English Phrasal Verbs . Shalawat and Salam are always addressed to Prophet Muhammad SAW, who had change the world from the darkness into the bright and better world.

In this chance, the researcher would like to express deep gratitude towards the advisors; Prof. Dr. Hermawati Syarif, M.Hum. and Delvi Wahyuni S.S., M.A who have patiently given their ideas, suggestions, corrections, beneficial opinions, great willingness and also their time to support this thesis. It is a pleasure to pay an appraisal to the reviewers in this thesis proposal as well as the examiner for thesis comprehension test, Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M.Hum, Dr. Hamzah, M.A., M.M., Fitrawati, S.S., M.Pd, and Leni Marlina, S.S., M.A for their beneficial time, contribution of thoughtful ideas for the better development and improvement for this thesis. In addition, the writer would like to send gratitude to the Chair Person and Secretary of English Department of UNP Dr. Refnaldi, S.Pd., M. Litt. and Fitrawati, S.S., M.Pd.

The researcher realizes that this work is still far from perfection. The researcher welcomes criticism and suggestions to improve this thesis.

Padang, February 2016

The Researcher

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Problem

Grammar is an essential part in learning English. Without understanding grammar, communication both spoken and written is not likely to be done well. One of the features in grammar is Phrasal Verbs (PVs). Davies as cited in Rahman & Abid (2014) states that phrasal verbs are intriguing linguistic phenomena as they are on the interface between the domains of syntax and semantics. Due to the connection of PVs with semantic and pragmatic studies, PVs have both literal and figurative meaning. The combination between the verb and the particle can be literal or easy to be understood and figurative or the meaning is difficult to be understood by students.

English Phrasal Verbs (PVs) began to gain attention from the researchers and practitioners in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since then, it has been known that PVs is a tremendous difficulty for EFL and ESL learners as they have no PVs in their mother tongue. Gardner and Davies (2007) pointed out that there has been a lot of confusion throughout the years surrounding the description and classification of phrasal verbs. Several sources, grammarians and linguists, have debated how to define and classify phrasal verbs (Gardner & Davies, 2007 p.34). Gaston as cited in Herra (2013) admits that perhaps, due to this confusion, nonnative speakers find them difficult to acquire and thus avoid using them.

For EFL cases, since they learned English as a foreign language, they faced difficulty in comprehending PVs since they did not have background knowledge about PVs and also the teaching of PVs had not yet acquired great attention from the teachers. It was also due to the unfamiliarity towards PVs and the great amount of PVs that exists in English, and not to mention the lack of material about PVs in the textbook.

In English Department of Universitas Negeri Padang, PVs were discussed in the subject of Structure 3 (Grammar 3) of the second year and also in Semantics course. The objectives are those students that are expected to understand PVs and also capable of getting the meaning they bear. However, based on the preliminary observation done by the researcher, it was shown that students still did not understand about PVs. This preliminary observation was done on March 2015 by asking the students random question about one example of PVs. The result was when the students were given one example "*I cannot **live up to** my parents' expectation*", most student took their time to describe the meaning instead of saying *aku **gagal** memenuhi harapan orang tua* by the time they heard the PVs. This phenomenon showed that the students' confusion in using PVs is drawn from the lack of knowledge about PVs in which resulted into the inability of students in inferring the meaning correctly.

Beside the lack of comprehension of PVs, students also avoided using PVs in speaking and writing. The students preferred to speak or write by using literal words rather than using phrasal verbs. Although they knew that their writing and speaking would be better if they use phrasal verbs, they still chose to use literal

words. They avoided using phrasal verbs because they were afraid of making mistakes and due to lack of knowledge on phrasal verbs.

The reason why the researcher wanted to analyze PVs is in order to see English Department Students of Universitas Negeri Padang ability in comprehending and using PVs, and also to find out the problem or the difficulty they face in using PVs. The researcher felt that it was important for students to have an understanding in using PVs because it would improve their mastery level on English. Being able to comprehend English PVs and being able to use them correctly both spoken and written are very important for English students. This is essential if the English students want to develop a natural a complete command. As English students, who have learned PVs, they are expected to speak English fluently and also naturally than any students from different programs. So, knowing the fact of being able to comprehend PVs and using them correctly, the researcher is interested in conducting the research to find out what is the English Department students' comprehension in using PVs.

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

Based on the background of the problem above, there were two possible problems that can be identified. First, students had lack understanding about PVs. Although the students had learned about PVs during college, they still did not understand about PVs and as a result, when they were asked to infer the meaning of one example of PVs, they could not do it correctly. Second, students did not often use PVs both in their writing and speaking. They preferred to use single

words or literal words in writing and speaking. All of the problems above need to be analyzed in order to find out the students' ability in comprehending and using English PVs at English Department of Universitas Negeri Padang.

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

Based on the identification of the problem above, the researcher limited this research on the students' ability in comprehending and using PVs and the difficulty they faced in using PVs. The research focused on English Department of Universitas Negeri Padang by the academic year 2012. The reason why they were chosen because they had taken courses related to PVs; Semantic and Structure 3.

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

The formulation of the problem in this research was: "How is the overall ability of English Department students' of Universitas Negeri Padang related to English Phrasal Verbs?"

### **E. Research Questions**

Based on the formulation above, there were some research questions as follow:

1. What are the problems faced by English Department students in comprehending and using English PVs?
2. How is English Department students' ability level in comprehending and using PVs?

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

This research was intended:

1. to explain the problems faced by English Department students in using English PVs.
2. to find out the level of English Department Students' ability in comprehending and using English PVs.

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

It is hoped that the overall findings of this research would be useful to everyone involved in teaching and learning and English phrasal verbs in Indonesia and also for the teachers and lecturers would be much more aware of the learning of English phrasal verbs. It is also hoped that the findings of this research could be used by another researcher whom interested in analyzing about phrasal verbs as reference.

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

Grammar : the set of rules that explains how words are used in a language.

Phrasal verbs : Phrasal verbs are verbs that consist of a verb and a particle (a preposition or adverb) or a verb and two particles) an adverb and a preposition). They are a group of words in which meaning as a whole is different from the meaning of each word.

There are four types of Phrasal Verbs. Phrasal Verbs have literal meaning, aspectual meaning and idiomatic meaning.

Ability : students' skill on mastering or using on particular subject.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

#### **A. Conclusion**

As stated in the chapter one, the purposes of this research are to explain the problems in comprehending and using English phrasal verbs and to find out how the English Department students' ability in comprehending and using English phrasal verbs and Based on the finding of this research, the problems faced by the students are PVs are difficult because of idiomatic PVs which are difficult to comprehend and use due to their meaning cannot be seen from the verbs and the particles used. Then, students also state that PVs are difficult because there are no PVs in students' L1, and some of the PVs have multiple meaning and they are having difficulty in deciding which meaning is proper for one particular situation. Other problem is the students state that they are rarely exercised about PVs which lead to low comprehension level.

Moreover, PVs material that they have learned are not enough to improve their comprehension level, not to mention they often avoided using PVs because of their inability to make the correct word order. However, students state that types of PVs did not difficult for them. Eventually, it is important for the students to increase their knowledge and comprehension on English PVs and they also need to exercise more on PVs in order to strengthen their comprehension and in order to be able to use PVs correctly both in speaking and writing. As for the data analysis from test result. it is shown that the fourth year students of English

Department of Universitas Negeri Padang have poor ability in comprehending and using English PVs.

It can concluded that the problems stated in this research are faced by English Department students of Universitas Negeri Padang and their poor ability in comprehending and using English PVs are connected with the problems they faced. Overcoming the problems is the necessary step for the students to improve their ability in comprehending and using English PVs.

### **B. Suggestion**

The researcher suggests the lecturer to add more materials or examples on PVs during learning because one of the problems faced by the students in comprehending and using English PVs because the materials about PVs are not enough to support their knowledge and their comprehension level. The researcher also suggests the lecturer to urge the students to use PVs in their academic writing more often to increase their ability.

Suggestion for the next researcher who may be interested on the research about English PVs can do the research by using the newest interval level than this research. This research was limited in side of aspect the use of old interval level from Panduan Akademik UNP which was released in 2011.

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