

**AN ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS' ABILITY  
AND DIFFICULTIES IN REDUCING ADJECTIVE CLAUSES INTO  
PARTICIPIAL PHRASES**

**THESIS**

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor of  
Education (B.Ed) Degree in English Language Education Program*



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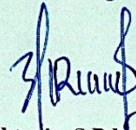
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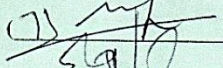
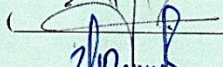
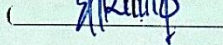
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## ABSTRACT

**Noviani. (2021). An Analysis of Students' Ability and Difficulties in Reducing Adjective Clauses into Participial Phrases. Thesis. Padang: English Language and Literature Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang**

Regarding the importance of mastering clauses and phrases construction to produce good writing and good reading, yet it is one of the problems encountered by students in writing, a study about clause reduction needs to be further examined. The objectives of this study are to find out the ability of English department students in reducing adjective clauses into participial phrases, as well as their difficulties and the causes of the difficulties. The population of this research were 162 the second year English Department Students of Universitas Negeri Padang. The sample was a group of students of K3-19 class chosen by using cluster sampling technique. Quantitative approach and descriptive method were used to analyze and describe the data which were gained from the test and questionnaire instruments. The results show that averagely, the students have such a fair level of ability of the reduction of adjective clauses with average score 63.9. In addition, it was figured out that students find it difficult in comprehending adjective clause (68.8%), using pronouns (64.6%), and verb construction (62.8%). Besides it is slightly difficult for them to use relative pronouns (46.6%) also. Moreover, the causes of students' difficulties are caused very highly by teaching methods (80%) and highly by motivation (66.3%), educational background (65.8%) and learning strategies (63.1%). Also, it is fairly affected by family environment (54.6%) as well.

**Key words:** *Ability, Difficulties, Adjective Clause Reduction, and Participial Phrase.*

## ABSTRAK

**Noviani. (2021). An Analysis of Students' Ability and Difficulties in Reducing Adjective Clauses into Participial Phrases. Thesis. Padang: English Language and Literature Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang**

Penguasaan frasa dan klausa teramat penting untuk memperoleh keterampilan membaca dan menulis yang baik, akan tetapi hal tersebut masih menjadi problema yang umum dijumpai oleh siswa, sehingga perlu dilakukan penelitian lebih lanjut. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui kemampuan dan kesulitan mahasiswa jurusan bahasa Inggris dalam mereduksi *adjective clauses* kedalam *participial phrases* termasuk mengetahui faktor penyebabnya. Populasi penelitian ini adalah 162 mahasiswa tahun kedua jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris Universitas Negeri Padang dengan sampel mahasiswa kelas K3-19 yang dipilih dengan menggunakan *cluster sampling technique*. Pendekatan kuantitatif dan metode deskriptif digunakan untuk menganalisis data yang diambil dari instrumen tes dan kuesioner. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa secara umum, kemampuan mahasiswa dalam mereduksi *adjective clause* kedalam *participial phrases* cukup baik dengan skor rata-rata 63.9. Selain itu, ditemukan bahwa mahasiswa memiliki kesulitan dalam komprehensi (68.8%), penggunaan kata ganti (64.6%), dan konstruksi kata kerja (62.8%). Di samping itu, penggunaan *relative pronouns* (46.6%) juga cukup sulit bagi mereka. Kemudian, penyebab kesulitannya paling tinggi berasal dari aspek metode pengajaran (80%), dan sangat juga disebabkan oleh motivasi (66.3%), latar belakang pendidikan (65.8%), serta strategi belajar (63.1%). Lingkungan keluarga (54.6%) juga dianggap cukup menimbulkan kesulitan siswa.

**Kata Kunci:** *Kemampuan, Kesulitan,, Reduksi Adjective Clause, dan Participial Phrase.*

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Noviani

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

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

As a part of grammar, the mastery of clause and phrase construction is something essential needed to be acquired by language learners due to its contribution to producing good reading and writing. According to Hinkel (2013) understanding the elements of clause and phrase construction enables students to construct various sentences consisting of different clauses and phrases. It enables students to not only construct sentences, but also combine and manipulate those sentences. Consequently, the ability to master clause and phrase construction affects the effectiveness and quality of the writing which makes a piece of writing successful. This mastery is indispensable particularly when taking IELTS writing test. Based on the public IELTS Writing Band Descriptor, test takers must be able to use a range of complex structures with some flexibility to get at least a band 6, which means without using complex sentence variety, they will possibly never achieve the score band beyond 5. For this reason, the mastery of phrase construction is indispensable for sustaining students' writing skills that contributes to achieving good band of IELTS scores.

Besides, the mastery of constructing clauses and phrases is equally important in reading. Dalil & Harrizi (2013:13) state that comprehending the concept of clauses phrases is very important to build the context and the meaning of what is read. While, most English textbooks, magazines, newspapers, research articles, or any other kinds of English texts, contain

and use a lot of complex sentences consisting of different clauses and phrases including adjective clauses, students have to understand the use of clauses before they get the meaning of what they read. Consequently, comprehending the concept of clauses and phrases is very important to obtain because it contributes to inference the meaning in reading. One way it contributes to reading and meaning conveyance is that the way it brings words together and it helps readers better understand what they read (Dalil & Harrizi, 2013:12-13).

However, According to Haryani & Fattimah (2020:123) reducing adjective clauses is one of the problems encountered by students in writing hortatory exposition. Concerning the importance of mastering clauses and phrases to produce good writing and good reading, yet it is one problem students commonly deal with, a number of studies have addressed the issues and mastery of adjective clauses. While Syarif (2011) studied students' errors in using adjective clauses, Wulandari (2018) researched the students' difficulties in using relative pronouns of adjective clauses and the causes. In addition, Rahmadani (2015) and Rahim et al. (2018) examined the students' ability in constructing sentences by using adjective clause. Lately, Haryani & Fattimah (2019) also studied the ability of English department students in constructing adjective clause in writing hortatory exposition essay. Nevertheless, the studies only focused on the students' errors, ability, and difficulties in using adjective clauses, and they are not focused on the reduction forms of adjective clauses construction.

Earlier, Vonanda (2012) carried out a study that was purposed to examine the English students' ability in transforming complete active and passive voices in adjective clauses into reduction forms and Kurniasari et al. (2019) investigated the students' difficulties in writing adjective phrases. Nevertheless, both studies only focused on one different point; first was on the students' ability and the second was on the students' difficulties only. Besides, the study carried out by Kurniasari et al. (2019) was qualitative research. Otherwise, Harahap (2015) carried out a study about students' ability in identifying adjective phrases in descriptive text. Also, Suhartini (2009) and Laela (2016) studied students' mastery in using both adjective clause and adjective phrases. Yet, the studies were not focused on the construction of reduced forms.

Considering that the studies of adjective clause reduction are still less in account, it is needed to be further examined. For this reason, this present study focused on the reduction forms, which examines students' ability to reduce adjective clauses into participial phrases and figure out the difficulties and what causes the difficulties in reducing adjective clauses into participial phrase by using different research methods, participants and instruments. Based on the consideration, the researcher carried out a study entitled "*An Analysis of English Department Students' Ability and Difficulties in Reducing Adjective Clauses into Participial Phrases.*"

## **B. Identification of The Problems**

Based on the background of the problem above, it can be identified that the mastery of phrase and clause construction is quite challenging yet



sustains students' writing and reading skills. Therefore, the study about clause reduction covering students' ability and difficulties needs to be further examined. In addition, figuring out the causes of students' difficulties in constructing the reduced forms of adjective clauses is equally important to be done as well as developing solutions in teaching methods and media to overcome the problems.

### **C. Limitation of the problem**

Based on the problems mentioned above, the researcher limited the problems to avoid the mislead or misunderstanding in comprehending the centre problems. The study is limited and focused only on students' ability, difficulties and its causes in reducing adjective clauses into participial phrases.

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

The formulation of this research's problem is "How are English department students' ability and difficulties in reducing adjective clause into participial phrases? and what causes the difficulties?"

### **E. Research Question**

Based on the identification and limitation of the problem above, the researcher will formulate the research questions as follows:

1. How is English department students' ability in reducing adjective clauses into participial phrases?
2. What are the difficulties encountered by English department students in reducing adjective clauses into participial phrases?

3. What are the causes of the difficulties encountered by English department students in reducing adjective clauses into participial phrases?

#### **F. The Purposes of The Research**

The purposes of this study are:

1. To know the ability of English department students in reducing adjective clauses into participial phrases.
2. To find out the difficulties encountered by of English department students in reducing adjective clauses into participial phrases.
3. To figure out the causes of the difficulties encountered by of English department students in reducing adjective clauses into participial phrases.

#### **G. Significance of The Study**

The findings of this study are expected to give contributions theoretically and practically to educators or substitutions in the field of English language learning as follow:

1. Theoretical contributions

Theoretically, the research findings showing students' ability, difficulties and the causes in reducing adjective clauses into participial phrases can be used for learning reflection or new understanding in English language teaching. In addition, this research can be used as a reference for future researchers that may be interested in conducting similar research.

2. Practical contributions

By knowing the students' strength and weaknesses with regard to grammar through this study, would also help the teachers design more effective lessons in the classroom. In addition, this research may reveal students' clausal problems and engage teachers to improve their students' mastery of clauses and phrases.

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

### 1. Adjective clause

Adjective clause is a dependent clause that functions to modify nouns. It has subordinating words used to refer to a person, and things limited only to "who, which, and that".

### 2. Participial phrase

Participial phrase is any phrase that modifies a noun or pronoun. In this study, a participial phrase means as the reduced form of an adjective clause.