The Students’ Ability in Constructing Sentences by Using Adjective Clause at English Education Study Program of Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the research is to figure out the students’ ability in constructing sentences by using adjective clause. The research is descriptive qualitative research. The research has no population, but there is sample named as “participant”. The participants are as many as 84 persons who are the fourth-semester students at English Education Study Program of Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji in the academic year 2017/2018. The participants are opted by putting on purposive sampling technique. The researcher has the participants construct sentences by using adjective clause. For analyzing the data, the data are checked and afterward enumerated sentences which are correct on the test for each student. Hereafter, the researcher enumerates the whole score in order to obtain the total score which is used for deriving the average score of the research. Furthermore, the researcher categorizes the result of the average score of the research. After enumerating the data, it can be concluded that the research shows the result of the average score on the students’ ability in constructing sentences by using adjective clause is 47.59 which is categorized into “fair”.

INTRODUCTION

Language is the system of communication in speaking and writing used by the persons of a particular country. In this modern era, mastering a couple of languages is such a requirement that plenty of persons willingly learn a number of languages, one of them is the English language. English is the language on which the researcher focuses in this research. As an international language, it is not a secret that persons learn it. In
addition, In the statement, the researcher obtains the term of “language learners”. In an easy way of saying, the language learners are the persons learning a certain language, and in this case, i.e. English.

In English language learning, grammar is a crucial thing used for language learners to organize grammatical structures of the language. To use a language properly, language learners definitely have to know the grammatical structures of the language and their meanings (Leech & Svartvik, 1990). Hence, language learners should be capable of grammar in order that language learners will know the grammatical structures of the language and their meanings.

Grammar has an essential role in mastering English. It is the study as to how to make words becoming a correct sentence. In the other hand, grammar is a system of rules, by using the rules, moreover, a person potentially produces an extremely large number of sentences (Koroeger, 2005). In addition, the study of grammar can help language learners make an appropriate and mature use in arranging words in order to become a correct sentence.

Grammar is one of the courses which is divided into numbers of grammar course levels at English Education Study Program of Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji, such as Basic Grammar, Intermediate Grammar, and Advanced Grammar. Based on the course agreement the intermediate grammar course, which the students of English Education Study Program get, is in the third semester by means of Alexandre, L.G. (1990). Longman English Grammar Practice: Intermediate students and two more other reference books based on course agreement. There are several topics in the book, such as the sentences, modals, prepositions, articles, pronouns and etc. In the topic of the sentences,
the students learn about the simple sentence, the compound sentence, and the complex sentence. Thus, it can be inferred that the students of English Education Study Program, who learn the complex sentence, are in the third semester.

The complex sentence is a sentence which connects between an independent clause and a dependent clause. In the other opinion, in a complex sentence, there are one 'main' clause and one or more 'subordinate' clauses, persons can take the main clause out of the sentence so that it stands by itself (Alexandre, 1990). In the complex sentence, there are three types of dependent clauses which are named based on their function in the sentence, such as adverbial clause, adjective clause, noun clause (Frank, 1972). Consequently, it can be concluded that the students at English Education Study Program of Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji, who learn adjective clause, are in the third semester.

Lots of learners make mistakes in putting on relative pronoun in their sentences. It is indicated in the prior research carried out by Satria Zulkarnein at Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry, Banda Aceh. Satria states that there are several errors in putting on the relative clause of 8th-semester students of English department at UIN Ar-Raniry. Thus, that was the reason why the researcher intended to do the research relating to the adjective clause at English Education Study Program of Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji.

The researcher observed and interviewed a number of the fourth-semester students at English Education Study Program of Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji in academic year 2017/2018. When the researcher observed the students, some of them were still perplexed about grammar, such as inversion, articles, tenses, clauses, sentences,
participial adjective, adjective clause and etc. Ergo, it could be inferred that the students had not understood about a couple of grammar lessons, and also it denoted that there was a problem on the adjective clause in the fourth-semester students at English Education Study Program of Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji, and it was also the reason why the researcher wanted to know the ability of the fourth semester students in constructing sentences by using adjective clause. The researcher proposed one problem, that is: How is the students’ ability in constructing sentences by using adjective clause?

METHODOLOGY

The method of the research was qualitative research. Qualitative research is the research method based on postpositivism philosophy which is used for researching a natural object condition (Sugiyono, 2016). Qualitative research is the research whose problem is not still obvious. Qualitative research has some purposes, those are describing, and reporting the creation of key concepts, theory generation, and testing. Qualitative research whose sample is named as ‘participant’ for the subject of this research. It is stated by an expert that in the qualitative research, the sample which is not named ‘respondent’, but it is as interviews (or participants), informants, friends and teachers of this research (Sugiyono, 2016). In addition, In the qualitative research, there is no population (Sugiyono, 2016) and (Arikunto, 2013). Accordingly, it can be concluded that the problem in qualitative research is still tentative and temporary. In the statement, the researcher obtains one of the terms of the sample in qualitative research is ‘participant’.

The researcher chose the fourth-semester students at English Education Study Program of Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji in the academic year 2017/2018 becoming the participants of the research, inasmuch as the students had taken intermediate grammar
course when the students were in the third semester and the students had been taking the advanced grammar course in the fourth semester. The fourth-semester students were divided into three classes, such as A, B, and C. ‘A’ class the class had 31 students, and ‘B’ class the class had 25 students, and ‘C’ class the class had 28 students. Ergo, in this research, the researcher took 84 participants of the fourth semester students becoming the participants inasmuch as the researcher wanted to get a fixed result about all of the fourth-semester students’ ability in constructing sentences by using adjective clause.

The data analysis technique which the researcher used had a number of steps as follows:

1. Checking the correct sentences of the test for each student.
2. Calculating the correct sentences of the test for each student.
3. Calculating the individual score.
4. Calculating the average score.
5. Categorizing the result of the average score.
6. Concluding the final step, afterward the researcher gave the conclusion of the entire study.

The researcher used the certain formula to figure out the result of the test of each student. There was the formula for calculating the score of the test that could measure the students’ ability in constructing sentences by using adjective clause. One correct sentence was given one point and one incorrect sentence was given zero point. According to Jihad & Haris (2013):

\[
\text{Score: } \frac{B}{N} \times 100
\]
Note:

B = the number of correct sentences

N = the number of sentences

Afterward, the researcher calculated the data by using mean score based on Arikunto (2006) in Mustika’s skripsi (2018):

$$
X = \frac{\sum x}{N}
$$

Note:

$X$ : average

$\sum x$ : total score

N : the number of the students

Afterward, the researcher determined the category of the students’ ability in constructing sentences by using adjective clause. Arikunto (2006) in Mustika’s skripsi (2018) states that there is the category to determine the students’ ability which can be used in this research as follows:

**Table 1**

The category of the students’ ability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76-100</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-75</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-55</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-39</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The classification of the students’ result consists of four categories; those are Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor. This is the standardized category used by Arikunto (2006) in Mustika’s skripsi as follows:

1. If the students’ score is about 76-100 in constructing sentences by using adjective clause, it will be categorized as “Excellent”.
2. If the students’ score is about 56-75 in constructing sentences by using adjective clause, it will be categorized as “Good”.
3. If the students’ score is about 40-55 in constructing sentences by using adjective clause, it will be categorized as “Fair”.
4. If the students’ score is about 0-39 in constructing sentences by using adjective clause, it will be categorized as “Poor”.

In this research, the researcher used the instrument which was the essay test for the students.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

From the data that the researcher collected, the researcher displayed the result of the calculation of the students’ ability in constructing sentences by using adjective clause and afterward the researcher categorized the average score as follows:

\[
\bar{X} = \frac{\sum x}{N} = \frac{3760}{79} = 47.59
\]

Based on the result of the data above, the average score of the students’ ability in constructing sentences by using adjective clause that was categorized by using the table of Arikunto (2016) in Mustika’s skripsi was “fair”.

As mentioned in the instrument, the researcher gave the instruction for the students to construct 10 sentences by using adjective clause in the test, but there were
several students who had not afforded to construct 10 sentences. There were 57 students being able to construct 10 sentences, 4 students being able to construct 9 sentences only, 1 student being able to construct 8 sentences only, 2 students being able to construct 7 sentences only, 3 students being able to construct 6 sentences only, 8 students being able to construct 5 sentences only, 2 students being able to construct 4 sentences only, 1 student being able to construct 3 sentences only, and 1 student being able to construct 2 sentences only. Consequently, there were still several students who had not afforded to construct 10 correct sentences by using adjective clause in the test.

There were still the common mistakes which several students made. The students, who were instructed to construct 10 sentences, still constructed incorrect sentences as many as 1, 2, 3,..., 9, or 10 sentences, inasmuch as the students either did not complete an independent clause in the sentence, did not complete a dependent clause in the sentence, did not construct a dependent clause in the sentence, did not fulfill the instruction constructing 10 sentences by using adjective clause, or did not construct a sentence by using adjective clause in the sentence, but the students constructed a sentence by using noun clause or adverbial clause in the sentence. Accordingly, there were still some students who had made a number of mistakes in constructing sentences by using adjective clause in the test.

There were five participants who did not participate in the research, inasmuch as one of them was sick and four of them were absent.

CONCLUSION

In this session, the researcher conveyed the conclusion which the researcher got by conducting the test of this research. The conclusion based on the findings, the
students’ ability in constructing sentences by using adjective clause at English Education Study Program of Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji obtained the result of the average score that was 47.59. It was categorized that the students’ ability in constructing sentences by using adjective clause was “fair”.

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REFERENCES


