

**STUDENTS' PROBLEMS IN CONSTRUCTING ENGLISH SENTENCE
PATTERNS AT SMA NEGERI 12 BANDA ACEH**

A Thesis

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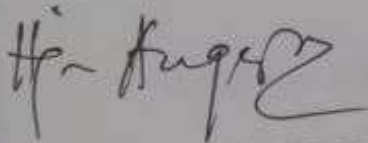
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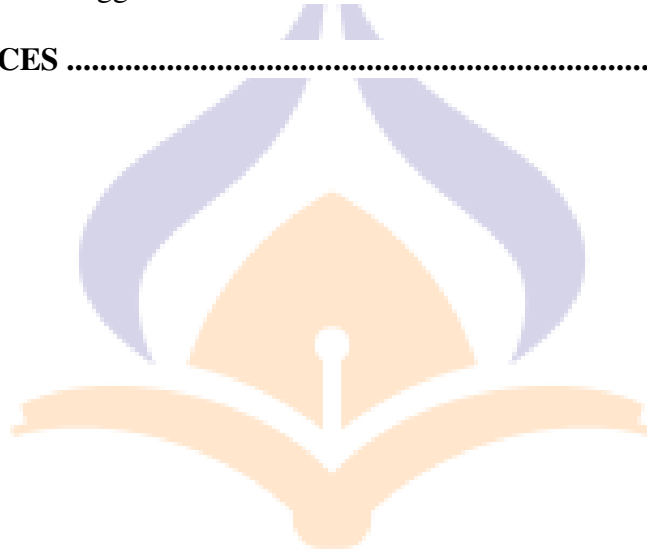


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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presented six points related to the study. There are the background of study, the research problem, the objective of study, the significant of study, the scope of study, and definition of key term.

1.1 The Background of Study

The importance of language is expressing something to others in order to establish a communication. By using language, any individual might distribute feeling, idea, opinion of things, or expression. Basically, some people understand how to communicate with others but not all of them are able to communicate well regarding the sentence patterns. The sentence patterns is a part of grammar. It consist of simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence, and compound – complex sentence. Each sentence has different pattern, and it is related to grammatical structure, connectors, and punctuation mark.

The simple sentence conveys one thought, and it contains one independent clause. Meanwhile, the compound sentence is a sentence that consist of two simple sentences connected by comma and a coordinating conjunction or by semicolon and comma with conjunctive adverb. The complex sentence that consist of one independent clause and one dependent clause. The last is compound – complex sentence that involves the complex and simple sentences with coordinating conjunction.

One of important point that must be paid attention is grammar. According to Swan (2005:19) that grammar is the rules that show how words are combined,

arranged or changed to show certain kinds of meaning. It means that grammar is an essential aspect, especially to make a sentence. In addition, grammar is the system of rules governing the conventional arrangement and relationship of words in a sentence, in relation context, a speaker should consider who the speaker is, who the audience, where the communication takes place, what communication takes place before after a sentence in question, implied versus literal meaning, styles, and register (Brown, 2001:362). Moreover, he also said that grammar competence as a major component of communication has an important position and tenses which are considered as the most difficult skill to be learnt for the Indonesian students.

Furthermore, every language has its own grammar (Goh, 2009:19). It is crucial because it is needed to help in understanding the language. Grammar makes possible the production and comprehension of a potentially unlimited number of utterance, because no language can exist without grammar and none can use a language fluently without knowledge of it. A good language depends on the grammar (Goh, 2009:21). Therefore, grammar plays very important role as a bridge between speaker and reader in people communication in both speaking or writing.

In writing a sentence pattern, EFL learners often get difficulties especially for the complexity. Due to complexity, the students often get difficulties in understanding and mastering it. The problems is the students' confusion to differ connectors (coordinating conjunction or conjunctive adverb) while making a compound sentence. Furthermore, the students' ignorance to place the punctuation

marks such as comma, semicolon, and period, and the inappropriateness to use subordinating conjunction while making a complex sentence. Moreover, the distinction to combine complex and simple sentence that joined by coordinating conjunction and the difficulties to find out ideas while writing compound – complex sentences.

Based on the researcher's observation when teaching practice in August 11, 2019, and August 14, 2019, the problem in constructing a sentence pattern which concern about grammar also occur in students at SMA Negeri 12 Banda Aceh. They are not able in constructing a sentence patterns accurately and correctly especially in using grammatical understanding. They are not able constructing a sentence pattern according to the correct grammatical rules such as the use of preposition, articles, verb, tenses, conjunction, adjectives, noun, to be, the students' also ignorance to place the punctuation marks such as comma, semicolon, and period, and the inappropriateness to use subordinating conjunction, and so on. As a result, it make them difficult and confused to make and to construct a good sentence pattern.

Many researches have conducted research related to analysis of students' sentence patterns. The first research comes from Nurmala Hendrawaty (2017) from Universitas Indraprasta PGRI with the tittle “ An Analysis on Students' Errors in Writing Sentence Patterns”. The results show the errors from the highest to the lowest percentage: misformation (57.6%), omission (27.47%), addition (8.8%), and misordering (6.13%). Dealing with sentence patterns, compound-complex sentence becomes the most difficult sentence pattern writing because the

most frequently errors made by students are 44.54%. The second is compound sentence with errors 23.2%. Then followed by complex sentence with the number of errors is 22.13%. The least frequently errors of sentence patterns made by students are simple sentence with errors 10.13%. The occurrence of mistake is from the pattern of compound-complex sentence that is the most complicated of three other sentence patterns. The conclusion is regularization in misformation is the most frequently error made by students which cause is from poor understanding of grammatical structure.

Next, a study by Semsork (2017) entitled “An Analysis of Errors in Written English Sentences: A Case Study of Thai EFL Students”. Resulted that the most frequently committed errors were punctuation, articles, subject-verb agreement, spelling, capitalization, and fragment, respectively. Interlingual interference, intralingual interference, limited knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary, and carelessness of the students were found to be the major sources of the errors. It is suggested that intensive knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary be taught to Thai EFL students. Moreover, the negative transfer of students’ first language should be taken into account in English writing classes. This finding also implies that explicit feedback on students’ writing errors is genuinely needed.

The previous study above only focuses on investigating the students’ errors in writing a sentence pattern without discussing the solution toward the students’ errors. However, there is a significant difference between the previous study and this study. In this study, the researcher analyze EFL students sentence

patterns because the researcher wants to know what are the grammar problems that the students face in constructing sentence patterns and what is the solution toward the students' English grammar understanding. Overall, this research will focus on analyzing EFL students sentence patterns: the problem and solution toward their English grammar understanding at SMA Negeri 12 Banda Aceh. Therefore, this study contributes more for the education field since it is not only discuss about the students' grammar problem but also to find out the solutions toward their English grammar understanding.

Therefore, the researcher would like to carry out a research with the title **“An Analysis of Students’ Problem in Constructing English Sentence Patterns at SMA Negeri 12 Banda Aceh”**

1.2 The Research Problem

1. What are the students' problems of SMA Negeri 12 Banda Aceh in constructing English sentence patterns?
2. What are the factors that make the students of SMA Negeri 12 Banda Aceh get problem in constructing English sentence patterns?

1.3 The Objective of Study

1. To categorize the students' problems of SMA Negeri 12 Banda Aceh in constructing English sentence patterns
2. To know the factors that make the students of SMA Negeri 12 Banda Aceh get problem in constructing English sentence patterns

1.4 The Significant of Study

There are some purpose of doing this research. It is expected that the research will be useful to the researcher, teachers, students, and other researchers. The result of this research will be beneficial for students of SMA Negeri 12 Banda Aceh to know their problems when they use grammar in writing sentence patterns. Therefore, the grammatical problem that they make can be a benchmark for learning grammar in the future.

1.5 The Scope of Study

The scope of this study summarized the research topic, identify, interpreted or describe, and analyzed the issues and result. Thus, this study focuses on describing and analyzing students' grammatical problem in constructing compound sentences. The research will be conducted at second grade of SMA Negeri 12 BandaAceh. The compound sentences are focused because it relates to the students level; senior high school level.

1.6 The Definition of Key Terms

It is important for the researcher to make an assumption clearly of the term used in this paper as the following;

1.6.1 Grammar

Coghil and Magendanz (2003:16) said the grammar of a language is a set of rules that organize parts of the structures. Grammar determines how words are arranged in units forming meaningful language. Grammar is needed for the students to arrange correct sentences in conversation both in written and orals forms. Grammar also defined as a systematic way of accounting for and

predicting an speaker's or hearer's idea knowledge of the language. This is done by a set of rules or principles that can be used to generate all well formed or grammatical utterances in the language (Purpura, 2004:6).

1.6.2 Sentence Pattern

Every sentence pattern describes a different way to combine clauses. If the students favor one particular pattern, their writing might be kind of boring if every sentences has exactly the same pattern. Furthermore, according to Langan (2010: 195-203) that sentence patterns are made up of phrases and clauses, they are traditionally describe as simple, compound, complex, or compound – complex.

