THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE SIMPLE PAST TENSE ACHIEVEMENT AND WRITING ACHIEVEMENT IN RECOUNT TEXT OF THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS OF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Teaching



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, the writer would like to thank God that because of His blessing and grace she could accomplish this thesis. The writer would also like to express her biggest and deepest gratitude to the following people who have given and spent their time to support and help her in finishing this thesis.

- 1. Dr. Hendra Tedjasuksmana, M.Hum., the writer's first advisor who has given the ideas, suggestions, and advices to the writer in writing her thesis from the beginning to the end during his busy days.
- Hady Sutris Winarlim, M.Sc., the writer's second advisor who has also given his comments, suggestions, and advices in developing the writer's idea to finish this thesis.
- All the lecturers of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya for their guidance during her study.
- Sonya Francien.K.,S.S.,M.Pd., the principal of YPPI I Senior High School Surabaya who has given the writer a chance to carry out her study.

- 5. Helga Mariana, S.Pd, the English school teacher who has given the writer a chance to carry out her study.
- 6. All beloved students of YPPI I senior high school, especially X1, X3, and X4 classes.
- 7. The writer's beloved parents, brother, and families who always support and pray for her in finishing this thesis.
- 8. All the writer's best friends, Sinta, Devi, Evelyn, Novi, Helena, Evan, Irene, Amelia, and Sisil who have given their time to help and accompany her to finish this thesis.

Finally, the writer would also like to give a big thanks to those whose names the writer is unable to mention one by one for giving the contribution, support, and prayer to the writer in finishing this thesis.

The Writer

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ABSTRACT

Tasik, Greatty G. The Correlation Between The Simple Past Tense Achievement and Writing Achievement in Recount Text. S1 Thesis.Faculty of Teacher Training and Education at Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya, 2014. Advisors: (1) Dr. HendraTedjasuksmana, M.Hum, (2) Hady SutrisWinarlim, M.Sc

Keywords: Correlation, The Simple Past Tense, and Recount Text.

Grammar plays an important role in language skills, such as speaking, reading, listening and also writing. In speaking, grammar can help students to produce grammatical utterances. A second language speaker will not have a good performance in speech and will not be able to deliver his/her idea because of the lack of grammar knowledge especially in rules and tenses. The lack of grammar knowledge makes it difficult for students to express their ideas in writing appropriately. Thus, learning grammar is necessary for students to make their writing well understood. By learning grammar, students will be able to make a grammatically correct sentence in writing.

However, in a real situation, the first-year students of senior high school who have learned the simple past tense still have difficulties in applying the tense to their writing composition that is recount text. It happens because they still do not understand and master the use of the verb form of simple past tense yet. As a result, they do not know how to change the infinitive form into the regular and irregular verb in positive, negative, and interrogative form.

On the other hand, since the simple past tense is related with recount text, the students have to master the simple past tense itself; not only the rules but also the use of the simple past tense in writing context. If they make a mistake in using the simple past tense, it means that they are not capable in writing their recount composition. As a result, the readers may get confused while they read the composition and also they may have difficulties in understanding the content of the composition. Therefore, in order to master grammar which is the simple past tense and writing which is a recount text, the students need a lot of practice in their learning.

In this study, the writer intended to see the correlation between one of writing components and the writing ability that is the students' simple past tense achievement and their recount text writing achievement. This study is classified as correlation study since it describes the relationship between the grammar and writing scores. The subject of this study is the first-year students of YPPI I Senior High School Surabaya. The tests given were grammar test which was the simple past tense and writing test which was a recount text.

The result of grammar and writing scores were computed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation formula. The statistical data analysis showed that there was a positive correlation between the simple past tense achievement and writing achievement in recount text. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis (Ha) was accepted. It happened because the total score of the grammar score was high enough and the total mean of each component in writing was also considered good.