

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Talking about Covid-19 or we known as Corona Virus has spread all over the world. During pandemic from now on we study, work, pray at home. In Indonesia, the government has given a policy to Indonesian people to work, pray, and study also at home. In affect education in Indonesia apply online learning. Students will study by their gadgets and only need internet to use it. The teacher also use their gadgets or laptop to teach their student by online.

English is one of the most important languages which is used in many countries as the mean of communication. It means that English becomes one of the subjects that must be taught in school. In Indonesia, English has been taught from elementary school level up to university level.

There are some problems faced by students if they are asked why they do not want to actively participate on teaching learning process; 1. They do not have high self confidence; 2. Most of them have a little vocabulary to express what they want to say; 3. They are afraid of making mistakes in the grammar points. Grammar has been still a monster for them that it hinders them to speak actively in class. Although, it has been repeatedly encouraged by the teachers or lecturers that in speaking they do not have to be *Mr. Grammar* but it has been still in vain. One of grammar point that student are afraid of is Tense. There are lots of different English tenses to know, but there are only 5 that students need to know well in order to sound fluent. Students are intended to master these 5 basic English tenses because when they do, they will speak English so much more naturally and comfortably. Probably 90% of exercises

and discussion questions (not related to a specific grammar function) can be answered with one of these 5 tenses. The 5 (five) basic tenses are: 1. Simple Present Tense; 2. Simple Past Tense; 3. Present Continuous Tense; 4. Present Perfect Tense; and 5. Present Future Tense or Simple Future Tense.¹

If we talk about 5 simple tenses, there are some easy way to understand it. For simple present tense, There are three important exceptions: 1. For positive sentences, we do not normally use the auxiliary, For the 3rd person singular (he, she, it), we add s to the main verb or es to the auxiliary, For the verb to be, we do not use an auxiliary, even for questions and negatives. For present continuous tense we use it to talk about for action happening now and action in the future. For the present perfect tense there is always a connection with the past and with the present. There are 3 basic usually three uses for the present perfect tense: 1. Experience, 2. Change, 3. Continuing situation. For simple past tense we use it to talk about an action or a situation, an event in the past. The event can be short or long. Last for simple future tense we use it when there is no plan or decision to do something before we speak. We make the decision spontaneously at the time of speaking.

According to Naiman's observation, 1978 it said that the ability from the students when they using 5 basic tenses when speaking, Having students actively participate in the classroom is the dream of every teacher or lecturer. However the dream has not been achieved since only a few students who are brave enough to rise their hands in responding teachers' questions, asking questions or just give their comments. Based on the observations only students who had good score on tests held

¹ Elfitriani, Rini Kustini, Sri Kusnasari *An Observation on Students' Ability in Using 5 Basic Tenses (Simple Present Tense, Simple Past Tense, Present Perfect Tense, Present Continuous Tense, and Present Furture Tense) for Speaking English*, p.106.

are eager to actively participate. In facts, this condition not only happened in one school or campus only but it happened almost in every campus and school.

The researcher chooses SMPN 10 Parepare as the object of this research because one of researchers' friend during teaching field experience program which is the friend's researcher has known student's condition when they teach and explain is good and the students there easy to teach and easy to understand. The researcher's friend tell the researcher that five simple tenses have taught in there. Also try to find students' problem when studying and understanding about five simple tenses.

Based on the experience, the researcher try to analyze the second grade students understanding when the students using 5 basic tenses in speaking or writing because we know that sometimes students making mistakes and the researcher as a teacher soon trying to correct it and explain it by easy way so can easily to understand.

Based on the reasons above, the researcher conducts a research about Analyzing Students' Understanding on Five Simple Tenses at the Second Grade of Junior High School 10 Parepare.

B. Research Question

Based on the background of the study above, The researcher formulates a research question as follow:

1. How is the students' understanding in five simple tenses?
2. What kind of difficulties the students encountered in understanding five simple tenses?

C. Objective of the Research

Based on the problem statement by the researcher made above, this research has purpose to find out:

1. The students 'understanding about five simple tenses
2. The kind of difficulties the students find in understanding on five simple tenses

D. Significance of the Research

The result of the research is expected to:

1. To know how far the students understand about five simple tenses.
2. To help the teachers what kind of difficulties the students find in studying and understanding five simple tenses.



