

ABSTRACT

Heris Munawar Fauji: The Difficulties of Using Simple Present Tense and The Simple Past Tense in Understanding Narrative Text (A study at The Madrasah Tsanawiyah Negeri Banjarangsana-Ciamis).

One of the many important elements in English is grammar. To master English, students must have the grammar acquisition first, because the formal language must be grammatically written well. One aspect of grammar is tense. As part of the grammar, tenses are very important for students in learning English and must be studied first before the other part of grammar. Making and understanding of narrative text is one of the writing skills. It is suggested that students must be able to master tenses in order to understand narrative text.

This study aims portray the difficulties of using simple present tense and simple past tense in understanding narrative text, which is especially faced by students of The MTsN Banjarangsana-Ciamis. This study uses a descriptive method. It investigates the kind of difficulties of using simple present tense and simple past tense in understanding narrative text, the factors influencing the difficulties of using simple present tense and simple past tense in understanding narrative text, and the last how the students' difficulties in using simple present tense and simple past tense influences students' understanding of narrative text.

The data were collected using questionnaire and test (written test). The data were then analyzed, described, and interpreted analytically. Operationally, the samples consist of 27 students which is chosen by using the cluster sampling technique. This study is case study, to see the difficulties of using simple present tense and simple past tense in understanding narrative text.

This study finds that the second year students of The MTsN Banjarangsana-Ciamis have difficulties in use simple present tense and simple past tense. This can be seen by their average score of students' difficulties in using simple present tense and simple past tense that is 47.82%. This score is categorized as 'fail' because it is stands on the line between 0-49. The students' understanding of narrative text is also categorized as low because their average score is 54.08% and it stand on line between 50-59. To solve this problem, students should master English tenses and grammar. It is also considered to be useful for students to understand some essential problems in understanding narrative text such as content, form, grammar and many others.

Finally, the yield of this study is the implication of how students' difficulties in using the simple present tense and the simple past tense in understanding narrative text.