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Students' Errors In Writing Narrative Text

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Abstract

This article concerns about students' ability in creating narrative text. Narrative is one of texts that should be mastered by english students in writing class. The objectives of this research are to know students' errors in writing narrative text. The errors are in using simple past 2) the use of passive voice, simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence, and comparison degree. The population of the research was students of enlgish eduaction of UPI YPTK Padang. Sample was students of second semester in 2024/2025 academic year. They were ten students. The research used test as instrument. The data were taken by asking students to write a narrative text. The result of the study showed that students had different ability in wrting narrative text.

Keywords: Students, Writing, Narrative

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I INTRODUCTION

Language is the primary tool of communication, allowing people to express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas. In learning English, there are four skills should be mastered by students. They are speaking, writing, reading ang listening. Writing is one of subjects that should be mastered by English educational major. There are three subjects of writing for the students. The first is Writing I, Writing II and Writing III. In writing I, one of the topics is writing narrative.

Narrative a kind of story that tell an event. Narrative used chronological order of event (Andriani, 2019). Narrative usually tells a story that is a legend.

There are several researchers did research that analyzed about narrative. One of them is (Gee, 2024) did research about analyzed students' errors in writing narrative text. He did research in SMP 4 Fanamaya. He found that students had errors in making narrative text are

in omission, errors in addition, mis formation, misordering. Then, (Andriani, 2025) did research about students' errors in writing personal experience. She found that students' errors are in making sentence especially sentence by using past tense. Then, students' error in making comparison degree.

The differences between this research and previous research are this research focused on students' errors in making narrative. The errors are in making past sentences. In writing narrative, it uses past tense (Mustafa, 2021). Then, errors in writing types of sentences. There are three kinds of sentences. They are simple, compound and complex sentence. A simple sentence enables learners to construct clear, concise, and meaningful expressions. Therefore, understanding simple sentences is a crucial step for students to improve their grammar skills and develop fluency in both spoken and written English.

Then a simple sentence is a sentence that consists of one independent clause. An independent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate (verb) and expresses a complete thought. Because it has only one independent clause, a simple sentence cannot contain another independent or dependent clause within it. In other words, a simple sentence is the most basic form of sentence structure in English. Despite the term "simple," it does not mean the sentence is always short or plain. A simple sentence can be short (e.g., She runs.) or long (e.g., My brother and I went to the market yesterday and bought some fresh vegetables for dinner.), as long as it contains only one independent clause. According to grammar experts, the simple sentence serves as the foundation of English communication. Mastery of simple sentences helps learners develop the ability to construct more complex sentence structures later, such as compound, complex, or compound-complex sentences (Ningsih, 2018).

In addition, the use of compound sentence in writing narrative is also analyzed.

Compound sentence consists of two or more independent clauses joined by comma and conjunctions. The conjunctions are FANBOYS. FANBOYS are For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet and So. Example is 'he is tired so he goes to rest.' (Kadek et al., 2023)

Moreover, a complex sentence is defined as a sentence that contains one independent clause and at least one dependent clause. An independent clause, also known as a main clause, is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete thought. It can stand alone as a complete sentence. In contrast, a dependent clause, also called a subordinate clause, contains a subject and a verb but does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone as a sentence. The dependent clause depends on the independent clause to complete its meaning.

The relationship between the independent and dependent clauses in a complex sentence is hierarchical rather than equal. The independent clause carries the main idea or primary information, while the dependent clause provides additional information that modifies, explains, or adds context to the main clause. This hierarchical structure distinguishes complex sentences from compound sentences, which contain two or more independent clauses joined by coordinating conjunctions and maintain an equal relationship between clauses.

The key characteristic that identifies a dependent clause is the presence of a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun at its beginning. These grammatical markers signal that the clause cannot stand alone and must be attached to an independent clause. For example, in the sentence "Although it was raining, we decided to go hiking," the word "although" is a subordinating conjunction that introduces the dependent clause "Although it was raining," making it subordinate to the independent clause "we decided to go hiking." (Rahma & Maharani, 2025)

II RESEARCH METHODS

The research is descriptive research. Descriptive research is describing the way as they are (Zellatifanny & Mudjiyanto, 2018). Population is a group people that is correspondence to the research (Willie, 2024). The population of the research was students of Universitas Putra Indonesia YPTK Padang. Sampling technique of this research was purposive sampling. The sample chose a class as the sample. The class was students of management seven class. They were fortyfive

students. The data took through a test. Test is one of the tools to measure the research (Andriani & Anggraini, 2020). The test was writing test. The students are asked to write an essay about their own experience. Then, the students writing were analysed one by one. Then researcher analysed criteria of students' errors. The indicators or criteria of errors were 1) the use of simple past, 2) the use of passive voice, 3) simple sentence 4) compound sentence, 5) complex sentence, 5) comparison degree.

III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Students' had some errors in writing narrative. Each students had different errors. The narrative wrote about legend from west sumatera. It was about Malin Kundang. The errors can be seen inn the following table:

Table 1. Kinds of mistake

Kinds of mistake	Percentage
Using simpe past (verb 2)	43%
Using to be	30%
Using conjunction	10%
Using simple sentence	15%
Using compound sentence	20%
Using complex sentence	10%

One of the sample wrote a narrative as follows

Malin kundang is a man from the poor family. He has only a mother who takes care of him. He decides to sail to the sea. His mother refused at first, but he insist to go to the sea for a better life. This was the last time for his mother to see Malin Kundang. A few years later, waiting in the near seashore and hoping Mlin Kundang will be back. He is back, but he is different now. Fancy and arrogant can find on his face. He forgets his mother who supports him. And there is a melancholy in Malin Kundang's mother. Her son forgotten her, anger and sad are mixing up. She curses Malin Kundang to become a stone and regret himself for all of the rest of his life.

From the text written by the first sample (S1), it can be seen form the first sentence S1 wrote wrong in using tense. The text must use past. There, first sample used simple present tense. The correct sentence is *Malin kundang was a man from the poor family*. To be used 'was'. Then, the second sentence *He has only a mother who takes care of him*. This is wrong in narrative. The correct is *He had only a mother who took care of him*. The next, forth sentence had wrong in missing the subject '*A few years later, waiting in the near seashore and hoping Mlin Kundang will be back*'. The subject should be *A few years later, his mother waited in the near seashore and hoped Mlin Kundang will be back*. In addition the next sentence is *He is back, but he is different now*. The students had mistake in using to be. The sentence should be *He was back, but he was different now*.

Moreover, the next sentence is *Fancy and arrogant can find on his face*. The correct sentence is *Fancy and arrogant could find on his face*. The student had mistake in using past form of modal. *He forgets his mother who supports him*, this is wrong in using tense. The correct one is *He forgot his mother who supported him*. Then, the last sentence *She curses Malin Kundang to become a stone and regret himself for all of the rest of his life*. It should be *She cursed Malin Kundang to become a stone and regretted himself for all of the rest of his life*.

In addition, student also wrote simple, compound and complex sentence. The student is correct in writing simple, compound and complex sentence. compound sentence, student

wrote ‘ *His mother refused at first, but he insist to go to the sea for a better life.* The conjunction used to connect two independent clauses here is but.

IV CONCLUSION

Narrative wrote students had different types of errors. Mostly students had error in using past tense. Therefore they need to practice to use past tense. Past tense exactly was studied by the students. But, sometime they forget to use past tense. They forget to use second verb. They usually use the first verb. Actually students

should try and practice again to make simple past tense sentence. Moreover, they also had mistake in using to be. For past tense, there are two types of to be. They are was and were. But, students still use is, am and are. They do not use was and were.

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