

The Students' Ability to Distinguish the Usage of Present Participle and Gerund at Universitas Muhammadiyah Sorong

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Abstract

The objective of the research is to know the students ability to distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund. There are some problems faced by the students in learning English grammar, such as the confusion about grammar. It arises because of the mismatch between form and function as in using gerund. In order to answer the problem stated above, the researcher did a research to some students at English department at the third semester of Sorong Muhammadiyah University about their ability in distinguish the usage of English present participle and gerund. The problem statements of this research is how is the students ability to distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund?. The researcher applied a descriptive method in verifying the arguments of this thesis, the researcher used test as the instrument of the research. The data obtained from the test were firstly tabulated and then analized into mean score analysis. Finaly, the researcher interred the conclusion. Based on the test result, it discovered that the third semester at English department of Sorong Muhammadiyah University have very poor ability in distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund. The research would like to gave some suggestions related to the research. The researcher hope that this research will be useful for English lecturer. The researcher hope a lecturer more creative and innovative in using learning strategy expecially in English grammar so that students felt no bored in learning and lecturer must be able to motivate students.

Keywords: *Students' Ability, Gerund, Present Participle.*

INTRODUCTION

English language plays a very important role in the world of communication today. This position makes it most widely used in all aspects of human life. As a foreign language English is taught as compulsory subject in school and university for academic purposes and as a means of communication with foreigners. Wael et al. (2019) found that the ability to communicate orally had a significant effect in increasing students' self-confidence and helping students to communicate well in foreign languages. Language learners have their own way to learn a language (Wael et al. 2023. Grammar can help students to improve the use of formal English. Thus, it helps them to feel confidents when they speak and write. On the other hand, the mastery of English Grammar especially gerund and present participle, is most influenced by the teacher or lecturer. students should be able to carry out and dig their deep understanding about how they can use English orally as well as they can (Wael, Asnur & Ibrahim, 2018).

According to Sulastry (2003: 196) “*English Grammar A B C*” show that participle is a verb that functions as a adjective. The participle having a function to explain a noun. Participle can be shaped continuous tense or perfec tense and in both forms the participle still function as a verbs. According to Surayin (2009) “*Perfect English Grammar*” show that participle is derivative form of verbs in English that

can be used as an adjective or to make tenses. There are differences between Indonesia and English context. Because in Indonesia, context do not recognize a form in making a noun from a verb, but in English, it must add-ing on that certain word that form namely gerund. This will make students unable to achieve the expected learning objectives (Tahang et al., 2018)

Junaida in his book "Complete English Grammar (2011)" states that gerund is the-ing form of a verb that functioned as a noun by adding-ing behind of this verb. Gerund shape is the same as the present continuous tense form and both of them is part of the verb. The difference are, gerund is a kind of noun but present continuous is an adjective. According to Firdaus (2013) gerund is the -ing form of a verb used like a noun (for instance as the subject of sentence, or after the preposition). Based on his quotation above it can be conclude that gerund is the ing form of verb, used as a noun, as it can function as subject or an object sentence, and also as an object preposition.

According to Hartanto at al. (2003) in his book "Accurate, Brief, and Clear English Grammar states" that gerund or verbal noun is a verb shaped-ing which is used as a noun. It is also stated by Thompson and Martinet (1986: 228) stated that the gerund and present participle have the same form, ending-ing form. In other words, it can be concluded that gerund is the-ing form of a verb used as a noun, it can function as subject and object sentence and also as an object preposition.

Moreover, gerund can be formed as some functions which use to formulate as 1) gerund as subject, 2) gerund as object, 3) gerund as indirect object, 4) gerund as retained object, 5) gerund as cognate object, 6) gerund as reflective object, 7) gerund as complement subject and many more. However, this research would take focus on differentiate between gerund and present participle. Fisher (2009) mention that critical thinking of the ability as first, ability to identify is the stage of consist on collecting and completing the information needed, and able to determine thoughts of a text or script, and can explain the causal relationship of a statement. Second, the ability to evaluate and to distinguish information relevant and irrelevant, detecting irregularities, and able to evaluate statement. Third, the ability to conclude to show statements that are true and false, able to distinguish between between facts and values from an opinion or statement, and able to design a simple solution based on script. Fourth, the ability to express the opinion and provide logical reason, able to show supporting facts his opinion, and is able to provide good ideas. Therefore, based on the some kinds of the chritical thinking ability, in the research, the researcher focus on the students chritical ability to identify.

METHOD

This implied qualitative method. According to Hancock (2002) qualitative research is concerned with developing explanation of social phenomena. However, it aims to help us to understand the world in which we live and why things are the way there are. The researchers wanted to attain for find out how is the students ability to distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund. The researchers need a method described and explained the problem. The researches wanted to explore the truth without giving the manipulated of the research on the answer sheet appears made by the students. Research design used in this research was descriptive qualitative. Research design is a plan or program made by the researcher, as the target that will be done. (Arikunto. 2002: 45). The design in this research was qualitative. Roberth (2008) stated that, qualitative is an attempts to document what is actually occurring in which the research maybe either qualitative (description in words) or quantitative (descriptions in numbers). Gay (1987: 189) stated that descriptive method involves collecting data in order to answer question concerning the current reseach of subject of the

research. This research was conducted at English Language Education Department. There were 30 students involved in this research.

RESULT

The data were presented by analyzing them descriptively to find out students' ability in distinguish the usage of participle and gerund. The total number of the objective test was 20 items of multiple chooice. The data were devide into three questions of participle shapes continuous tense, three questions of participle as adjective, three questions of present participle behind of have/had + object, one questions of present participle conjuctive pronoun + verb, and two questions of gerund as subject, three questions of gerund as object, one questions of gerund as indirect object, one questions of gerund can be used after phrase, two questionoos of gerund after preposition, and one questions of gerund can be used after No.

After finding and analyzing the data of the students' ability in using present participle. The data can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. Students' Ability in Using Present Participle

Ability	Raw score				MeanScore
Participle	Shapes continuous tense	As adjective	Behind heve/had + object	As conjuctive pronoun + verb	3,1
	4,5	3,8	3,7	0,3	

Based on the table above, it was concluded that the means score of the students at the third semester of Universitas Muhammadiyah Sorong in using participle shapes continuous tense was 4,5 it was catogotized as very poor, present participle as adjective was 3,8, it was categorized as very poor, present participle behind have had + object it was 3,7 in categorized as very poor, and the present participle as a conjuctive pronoun + verb was 0,3 in very poor categorized. Total mean score of the students ability in using present participle was 3.1 it was categorized as very poor classification.

Moreover, the researchers also presented the data of the students' ability in using gerund. The data can be seen in the following table:

Table 4. Students' Ability in Using Present Participle

Ablity	Raw score						Mean score
Gerund	As subject	As object	As direct object	After phrase	After preposition	Behind of No	3,9
	7,5	5,4	2,0	2,7	2,5	3,3	

Based on the table above, it was concluded that the ability of the students at the third semester of Universitas Muhammadiyah Sorong in using gerund as subject was 7,5 it was categorized as fairly good, gerund as object was 5,4, it was categorized as very poor, gerund as direct object was 2,0 it also categorized as very poor, gerund after phrase was 2,7, it was categorized as very poor, gerund after preposition it was 2,5, it was categorized as very poor and gerund behind of No, was 3,3 it also categorizen as very poor. So the total mean score of the students in using gerund was 3,9, it was categorized as very poor.

Therefore, the total mean score of the students ability in distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund was 3.5 it was categorize as very poor, it means that the students of Universitas Muhammadiyah Sorong at the third semester cannot distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund or not sucessfull in learning English stucture expecially in English Gerund and Present Participle.

DISCUSSION

Based on the finding of the students ability in distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund, the research showed that the mean score of the students ability in using present participle at the third semester of Muhammadiyah University of Sorong was 3,1 it was categorized as very poor. And the result was inline to some previous studies by Diyah (2012). Diyah (2012) she got the result that the mean score of the students ability in using present and past participle as adjective was 63.46 it means that students had average level of ability in using present and past participle. In addition, the students ability in using gerund at the third semester of Muhammadiyah University of Sorong were same with the students ability in using present participle as very poor categorized where the mean score was 3,9.

Moreover, this case were same with the some previous study by Arham (2016). in his research, he got the result that the ability of the second year students of senior high school Tumalea Makassar in using gerund was very poor categorized because the mean score was 4,5. It means that students are not sucessful in learning Englisg stucture expecially English gerund. Therefore, in the research, the researchers showed the result of the students ability in distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund was very poor categorized where the mean score was 3,5. It means that student can not distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund.

CONCLUSION

Based on finding and discusion in the previous chapter in this research, the researcher concluded that the students' ability in distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund at the third semester the students' ability to distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund at English Language Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Sorong as very poor catgrorized where the mean score is 3,5, its clear in the table 4.15 and 4.16. Therefore, it means that the students' ability to distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund at English Language Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Sorong at the third semester can not distinguish the usage of present participle and gerund or are not successful in learning English stucture expecially in English gerund and participle.

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