

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

In this era, English has become an international language on the world; we can see the usage of English everywhere. According to Maxom state in these days English is a language than gives you access to the world.¹ So, that's why all people need to learn English to can access anything in the world. Some countries use the English as a first language and a second language.

In Islam, learning language is very important to can build communication and relationships between fellow human beings. It can be proven by the presence of the following verses.

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah the Almighty says in QS. Ibrahim verse 4:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا بِلِسَانِ قَوْمِهِ ۗ لِيُبَيِّنَ لَهُمْ فَيُضِلُّ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

Meaning: *We have not sent a messenger except in the language of his people to clarify 'the message' for them. Then Allah leaves whoever He wills to stray and guides whoever He wills. And He is the Almighty, All-Wise.*

¹Maxom, *Teaching English as a Foreign Language for Dummies*, British Library Cataloguing, 2009, p.9

There are two types of purpose of learning language: academic language and social language. Of the two, the academic language is considered to be more difficult and require a process to master it.² While in Indonesia, English used as foreign language and which taught as a compulsory subject in junior high and high school students.³

English as a language has its own structure or called grammar. Grammar is a foundation in learning English language.⁴ These are the basic things that must be learned to master English. In English, there is sentence structure patterns called tenses that relate to how to arrange sentences based on time. Understanding tenses is very important to learners, because every sentence is constructed to tenses and from the sentence can build a language. While in English, understanding tenses are very influential in learning English skills like speaking, writing, reading and listening, some people are not able to use tenses when using English either speaking or writing.⁵

Tenses have many patterns with different uses, broadly tenses divided in to two parts: present and past tense, but in general can be divided in to three parts such as present tense, past tense, and future tense.⁶ E.g., “I write”, “I am writing”, “I have written”, “I have been writing”, “refer to past, future and present time; “I wrote”, “I was writing”, “I had written”, “I had been writing” to past time; “I shall write”, “I shall be writing”, “I shall have written”, “I shall have been writing” to future tense. In addition, tenses also require many items, such as verb changes that are not needed in Indonesian. This rule does not exist in Indonesia. Meanwhile, every

² Ras (2013), Outstanding Students’ Learning Strategies in Learning English at Riau University, Indonesia, *Canadian Center of Science and Education*. Vol. 9, No. 12, p.22

³ Hawanty, Thesis, “Teacher Knowledge and Beliefs about the Teaching and Learning of English in Primary School in Indonesia”, *University of South Australia*: 2012, p.5

⁴ Nelvi Handayani, Mari Isyam, Fitrawati (2013), Teaching-Learning Processes: Simple Past Tense and Simple Future Tense and Their Perception, *Journal of English Language Teachin*, Vol.1 No.2, p.291

⁵ Risma Mualifatun (2013), Students’ Strategies in Learning English Tenses, *STAIN Tulungagung*. Vol.5 No. 2, p.169

⁶ Mar’atus Sholeha, Edi Ardian and Samsul Amri, Some Difficulties Faced by the Students in Learning Present Tense, *J-Shelves of Indragiri*, Vol 1, No 2, p.66

Indonesian student may have difficulties to understand the tenses such as how to distinguish the time of used in the sentence and how to put the verb form of the tenses.

Simple present tense and simple past tense are basically part of tense. The simple present tense is the simple expresses daily habits or usual activities.⁷ E.g., Arga takes a shower every day or Fizi usually read the article in the morning. In addition, the simple present tense is used for situation or events that exist usually, habitually, or always in the present, past, and future. The simple past tense is used to talk about situations or activities that ended and began in the past. E.g., Ria watched television yesterday or Ria ate the mango last night. In addition, the simple past tense is used for situation or events that exist last night, yesterday, three days ago, or in 2003.

Covid-19 has affected all of sector in Indonesia including education. World Health Organization (WHO) has designated covid-19 as a pandemic that occurs throughout the world. This virus spreads outside of Wuhan city at the end of 2019 and finally spread all parts of the worlds, included Indonesia.⁸ The implementation of education become changed, most of school change the system of learning from offline becomes online learning.

All Cambodian schools were ordered to close after the early outbreak of COVID-19, and classes were shifted to the internet.⁹ Schools have been temporarily shuttered in most nations throughout the world, including Indonesia, as a result of the pandemic. Almost every industry has been affected by Covid-19. Education is the only sector in many nations around the world that has completely moved to an online learning.

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah the Almighty says in QS. Al-Baqarah verse 155:

⁷ Azar S. Betty, *Understanding and Using English Grammar*, The Library of Congress, 2002. 3rd Ed, p.4

⁸ Karen Goldschmidt, *The Covid-19 Pandemic: Technology Use to Support the Wellbeing of Children*, (Elsevier, 2020), p.54.

⁹ Sereyrath Em, (2021), Challenges of Online Learning during the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Survey of Cambodian High School Students, *Cambidan Education Forum*, p. 2

لَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ
وَالثَّمَرَاتِ وَبَشِيرٍ الصَّابِرِينَ

Meaning: *And We will most certainly try you with somewhat of fear and hunger and loss of property and lives and fruits; and give good news to the patient.*

In the verse, we can understand that calamity is something that will be inflicted by God on mankind. Baidhowi in *Anwaru al-Tanzil wa Asrar al-Ta'wil*, explains *lanabluwannakum*, Allah will surely test us by inflicting calamities. Why does Allah SWT have to give calamity to humans? There is nothing else so that we can understand the lesson, is patient and be resigned to the disaster.¹⁰

Rasulullah SAW said in his Haidts:

عن أسامة بن زيد رسول الله ﷺ الطاعون أية الرجز ابتلى الله عز وجل به ناسا من عباده فإذا سمعتم به فلا تدخلوا عليه وإذا وقع بأرض وأنتم بها فلا تفرؤا منه (رواه البخارى ومسلم)

Meaning: *from Utsamah bin Zaid Rasulullah (SAW) said: 'Tha'un (a contagious disease) is a warning from Allah SWT to test His servants from among humans. So when you hear that a disease is spreading in a land, do not enter that land. And when the plague strikes in the land where you are, do not flee from it either.'* (HR. Bukhari and Muslim).¹¹

As the verse and hadits above, online learning becomes a challenge for Indonesian students to face it in Covid-19 pandemic situation, because everything about their education will change from the traditional classroom system to online learning. This challenging situation is faced to

¹⁰A.S. Ansori, *Tafsir Surat al-Baqarah Ayat 155: Pandemi ini Musibah atau Siksa Allah SWT?*, 2020. Online: <https://islami.co/tafsir-surat-al-baqarah-ayat-155-pandemi-ini-musibah-atau-siksa-allah-swt/>

¹¹ Parenting Islami, *9 Haid dan Ayat Al-Quran Tentang Wabah Penyakit*, 2022. Online: <https://www.orami.co.id/magazine/hadis-dan-ayat-alquran-tentang-wabah-penyakit/>

over the world especially in Indonesia by 270 million Indonesians consisting of 34 provinces. The online and tradition learning context are very different such as academic performance, quality of learning and teacher-student interaction.¹² No exception in English learning caused of this pandemic, the process of English lesson as a second language (L2) education has impact and should be change from traditional face-to-face classroom to online space. The effective manner for a teacher to convey knowledge to students in a face-to-face classroom to online learning is causing some difficulties.¹³

Based on information from the headmaster of MTs. Al-Jumhuriyah Batang Kuis, this school also affected from the covid-19 situation and must changed the system of teaching-learning from traditional face-to-face classroom to online learning, there are several difficulties experienced by the school when carrying out learning activities through online learning, including learning media that must be changed from traditional classroom to *WhatsApp* as their media to continue the teaching learning process.

Although there have been many studies that have learned students' difficulties in learning tenses, there are still few that discuss students' difficulties in studying tenses during online learning, especially the simple present tense and simple past tense.

From the background described above, the researcher is interested in analysis the students' difficulties on understanding tenses during online learning process of ninth grade students at MTs. Al-Jumhuriyah Batang Kuis. Furthermore, the researcher formulated the title of this study as, **“An Analysis of Students’ Difficulties in Understanding Tenses during Online Learning”**.

¹² Rahayu, dkk. (2021), Development and validation of Online Classroom Learning Environment Inventory (OCLEI): The case of Indonesian during the Covid-19 pandemic, *Learning Environments Research*, p.2

¹³ Utpala Das, 2022. Online Learning: Challenges and Solutions for Learners and Teachers. *Management and Labour Studies* – SAGE, p. 3

B. The Problem of Study

Based on the background of the study explained above, the researcher states the problems as following:

1. How the process of understanding tenses during online learning system in ninth grade students at MTs. Al-Jumhuriyah Batang Kuis?
2. What are the students' difficulties in understanding tenses during online learning in covid-19 pandemic situation in ninth grade students at MTs. Al-Jumhuriyah Batang Kuis?

C. The Objective of Study

Based on the problem of study, the objective of this study are:

1. To know the process of understanding tenses during online learning system I ninth grade students at MTs. Al-Jumhuriyah Batang Kuis.
2. To find the students' difficulties in understanding tenses during online learning process in ninth grade students at MTs. Al-Jumhuriyah, Batang Kuis.

D. The scope of Study

The scope of the study is focus to the analysis of the students' difficulties during online learning of ninth grade students at MTs. Al-Jumhuriyah, BatangKuis. This research focus to the difficulties faced by the students in understanding tenses through online learning process on this covid-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the tenses are focus to simple present tense and simple past tense. Based on information from the headmaster of the school, the online learning process using *Whatsapp* as their media. The teacher gives the picture of the text book the *Whatsapp* and explain it the lesson after that, if there is a exercise also given by the *Whatsapp*.

E. The Significance of Study

The result of this research are expected to contribute on English learning both theoretical and practical, those are:

1. Theoretical Significances

This research is expected to give references and knowledge about students' difficulties in understanding tenses and how to solve those difficulties. So, the learning can be better and more effectively.

2. Practical Significances

a. For the teachers

Hopefully this research can give attention to a teacher especially English teacher about the strategies in teaching English tenses during online learning and the difficulties faced by the students in understanding tenses after knowing it the teachers will think what they should to do in the online learning to make their students more understood about tenses without difficulties.

b. For the students

For the students, particularly the students of MTs. Al-Jumhuriyah, BatangKuis, this research expected to add information about the way to solve their difficulties in learning tenses that have become a scourge in learning English during online learning.

c. For the readers

The result finding of this research is expected to contribute in improving knowledge around the problem or difficulties in students' difficulties in understanding tenses during online learning in covid-19 pandemic, especially the students of UIN Sumatera Utara.

d. For the researcher

Hopefully the result of this research can be more aware and as a prospective teacher know what to do in the future, understand the students' difficulties like this situation and know how to deal with it.

