

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Learning passive voice is important. In active voice, the sentence has a subject performs the action.¹ However in passive voice, the subject is acted upon. In passive voice, the subject is the receiver of the action. For example, “The concert was attended by many young people”.² It can be seen that the subject is acted upon. The structure of the active voice and the passive voice is different. Passive voice must contains the verb be and past participle.³ Learning the passive voice is important in order to know the structure of the formation. It is important for students to make proper sentence whose subject receives an action.

According to Pullum there are seven kinds of passive voice. The kinds of passive voice are passives with *be*, prepositional passive, bare passive clauses, embedded passive, adjectival passive, get passive, and concealed passive.⁴ Knowing the kinds of passive voice is important to make the correct passive voice. Therefore knowing the kinds of passive voice is important.

There are different purposes of using passive voice. There are certain purposes so that the passive voice can be used correctly. The passive voice can be used when the receiver is important, the agent is unknown, the agent is irrelevant,

¹ Peter Herring. 2016. *Complete English Grammar Rules*. Pennsylvania: Farlex International, p. 770.

² *Ibid*, p. 774.

³ Mark Lester and Larry Beason. 2019. *English Grammar and Usage (3rd edition)*. New York: McGraw-Hill, p. 103.

⁴ Geoffrey K. Pullum, “Fear and Loathing of the English Passive”, *Language and Communication*, 37, 2014, p. 2-4.

the agent is implied, and when expressing an objective tone.⁵ In making passive voice, it depends on the purposes. For example passive voice can be used when the agent is unknown, “My car was stolen”. So the purpose of using passive voice is because the identity of the agent is unknown.⁶ Therefore, knowing the purposes of passive voice is important for using the passive voice.

The different kinds of passive voice are found in the writing narrative text of the university students. These are the passive voices which are found: “The house was abandoned by the owner” and “The train door was closed”. It can be seen from the first example it is identified as the passive with *be*. The second example is identified as adjectival passive. It can be concluded there are the different kinds of passive voice in the narrative text of the university students.

There is a passive voice which the purpose is the actor is unknown in university students' writing narrative text. This is the passive voice which is found: "Kessy was terrorized". It can be seen that the use of passive voice in that sentence is because the actor is unknown. It is not known who perform the action. The university student used passive voice because the actor is not known in his writing narrative text.

This research found the passive voice which the purpose is the receiver is important in university students' writing narrative text. This is the passive voice which is found: "The house was abandoned by the owner". In the example, the university student used passive voice because the object that is acted upon is more important to be notified to the reader. That is the use of passive voice in which the

⁵ Peter Herring. 2016. *Complete English Grammar Rules*. Pennsylvania: Farlex International, p. 775-776

⁶ John Eastwood. 2002. *Oxford Guide to English Grammar*. Oxford University Press, p. 133.

recipient of the action is more important by university students' writing narrative texts.

This research found different kinds and purposes of passive voice in students' writing narrative texts. The result of this research will show what kinds and purposes of passive voice which will appear. This research helps to find it all. Therefore this research is to help others. As the word of Allah swt in Quran Al-Ma'idah verse 2:⁷

وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

“And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty”.

Other Quran's verse about helping in Quran Al-Qasas verse 35 as seen below:⁸

قَالَ سَنَشُدُّ عَضُدَكَ بِأَخِيكَ وَنَجْعُلُ لَكُمَا سُلْطَانًا فَلَا يَصِلُونَ إِلَيْكُمَا بِأَيِّتِنَا إِنَّكُمَا وَثَّيْقَتَا ۖ وَمَنْ أَتَّبَعَكُمَا
الْغَالِبُونَ

“He said: We will strengthen your arm with your brother, and We will give you both an authority, so that they shall not reach you; (go) with Our signs; you two and those who follow you shall be uppermost.”

There is also a hadith about helping as seen below:

أَنَّ عَبْدَ اللَّهِ بْنَ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّ سُولَ رَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ الْمُسْلِمُ
أَخُو الْمُسْلِمِ لَا يَظْلِمُهُ وَلَا يُسْلِمُهُ وَمَنْ كَانَ فِي حَاجَةِ أَخِيهِ كَانَ اللَّهُ فِي حَاجَتِهِ وَمَنْ فَرَّجَ عَنْ

⁷ QS. Al-Ma'idah: 2

⁸ QS. Al-Qasas: 35

مُسْلِمٍ فَكَرْبَةٍ جَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ كُرْبَةٌ مِنْ كُرْبَاتِ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَمَنْ سَتَرَ حَامِئًا سَتَرَهُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

روا البخاري

From Abdullah bin Umar r.a. reported that the Messenger of Allah said: "One Muslim is another Muslim's brother; therefore he must not persecute and silence him. Whoever pays attention to the interests of his brother, Allah will pay attention to his interests. Whoever helps a Muslim in difficulty, Allah will help him from some of his difficulties on the Day of Resurrection. And whoever covers (disgrace) a Muslim, then Allah will cover (disgrace) him on the Day of Resurrection ". (HR. Bukhari).⁹

This research is conducted to find out how the passive voice is used in university students' writing narrative texts. Passive voice appears more often in scientific writings, reports, and newspapers than in fiction such as novels and short stories. In narrative text, active voice should be used more often than passive voice.¹⁰ Active voice is used more often than passive voice in the introduction and discussion section of research articles on natural science. While passive voice is more often used in the method section.¹¹ Therefore, it is important to know how university students use passive voice in narrative text, which is dominant in active voice. This research wants to find out the kinds and purposes of passive voice in university students' writing narrative texts.

B. Limitation of Problems

⁹ HR. Bukhari

¹⁰ Parivash Moaddab, "Why and When Passive Voice", *Journal of Novel Applied Sciences*, 3(12), 2014, p. 1415.

¹¹ Jameel Ahmad. "Stylistic Features of Scientific English: A Study of Scientific Research Articles", *Journal of English Language and Literature Studies*, 2(1), 2012, p. 50.

To make this research more focused and not expand from the discussion, this research limits the scope of research to the use of passive voice in university students' writing narrative text.

C. Research Questions

Based on the explanation on the background above, it can be concluded that the research questions are as follows:

1. What are the kinds of passive voice that is used by university students in writing narrative texts?
2. What are the purposes of passive voice that is used by university students in writing narrative texts?

D. Research Objectives

From the background and research questions above, I can inform the research objectives as follows:

1. To identify the kinds of passive voice that is used by university students in writing narrative texts.
2. To identify the purposes of passive voice that is used by university students in writing narrative texts.

E. Research Significances

The results of this research are expected to be useful for:

1. For the head of English department

The findings of this research can be used as a basis for English departments to make new policies about passive voice learning.

2. For the lecturers

The findings of this research can be used to find out what should be improved in teaching passive voice to university students.

3. For the university students

Students can use this research to increase knowledge about the use of passive voice such as variations in the kinds of passive voice, the right purposes in using passive voice and avoid mistakes in using passive voice

