Correlation Between Grammar Mastery and Speaking Ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 15 Palu

Hubungan Antara Penguasaan Tata Bahasa dan Kemampuan Berbicara Siswa Kelas Delapan SMP Negeri 15 Palu

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Abstract
The objective of this research is to find out the correlation between Grammar Mastery and Speaking Ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri15 Palu. The population of this research was the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri15 Palu. The sample was 28 students taken by applying random cluster sampling technique. The instruments of this research were the written and oral test. The researcher used the Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Formula in analyzing the data. The result of both test showed that the r_{value} was -0.102, degree of freedom (df) 26 (28-2), and r_{table} was 0.374. In other words r_{value} was lower than r_{table}. It means that there is a negative correlation between Grammar Mastery and Speaking Ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 15 Palu.

Keywords: Correlation; Ability; Grammar; Speaking

Abstrak
Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui hubungan antara Penguasaan Grammar dan Kemampuan Berbicara siswa kelas VIII SMP Negeri15 Palu. Populasi penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas VIII SMP Negeri15 Palu. Jumlah sample 28 siswa yang diambil dengan menggunakan teknik random cluster sampling. Instrumen penelitian ini adalah tes tertulis dan lisan. Peneliti menggunakan Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Formula dalam menganalisis data. Hasil dari kedua tes menunjukkan bahwa nilai r_ adalah -0,102, derajat kebebasan (df) 26 (28-2), dan r_table adalah 0,374. Dengan kata lain r_value lebih rendah dari r_table. Artinya ada hubungan negatif antara Penguasaan Grammar dan Kemampuan Berbicara siswa kelas VIII SMP Negeri 15 Palu.

Kata kunci: Hubugan; Kemampuan; Tata Bahasa; Berbicara

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays English has become a global language in the world. It has an important role on science, technology, politics, and arts. Therefore, many schools in this world have to study it, including Indonesia. There are two kinds of abilities to communicate in English, namely oral and written ability. One of the oral communication is speaking. Speaking means how we express our ideas or feeling to others. If someone does not master English, it is difficult for him/her to communicate each other especially to foreigner.

In Indonesia, English is a foreign language and some schools have taught it from elementary to high school level, even in some big cities, it has been taught since kindergarten. Yet there are still many Indonesian students find it difficult to master English because they always use mother tongue when they speak. To overcome the difficulties, it is important for students to practice more and more. For example, the teacher always uses English during the class and ask the students to interact in the same way although they mix in bahasa Indonesia sometimes. The teachers also have to motivate them in order to build their confidence.

There are four kinds of skills that have to be mastered by students namely listening, reading, speaking and writing. Grammar is one of the components as well have to be mastered by them because without good grammar, studentsget difficult to write sentences, paragraphs and speak in a right way.

Speaking is one of the important abilities in English. One thing that should be noted when we speak is how to build self-confidence. However, how many vocabulary of the students have or how good their grammar is, if they lack of confidence to speak is nothing. In speaking there are some aspects have to be mastered by students, like: fluency, accuracy, and comprehensibility.

In grammar, the students have to master the main parts of it, such as: words, phrases, clauses, and sentences.For example in speaking we have to be careful of clause and sentences constructions in order the interlocutors understood what we actually say.

When the researcher conducted preliminary research at SMP Negeri 15 Palu, there were still many students who could not speak English properly. It can indicate that there are students who have good ability in grammar and also good in speaking. There are also students who have lack ability in grammar but good in speaking. Otherwise there are some students who got low ingrammar and some low in speaking. It can be described in the four phenomena as follows: 1) If grammar is good then speaking also good; 2) If grammar is low then speaking is good; 3) If grammar is good then speaking is low; 4) If grammar is low then speaking is also low. Related with the research, the researcher found out the correlation between grammar and speaking ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 15 Palu. The researcher presents two previous studies that are related to the recent study about the problems in speaking descriptive text in speaking skills.

The previous study about correlation has been conducted by Soraya (2012) in Pekanbaru with the title "*The Contribution of Grammar Mastery Toward Speaking Ability of the Second Year Students at MAN 2 Model Pekanbaru*", Another research was conducted by Priyanto & Amin (2013) in Sidoarjo entitled "*The Correlation Between English Grammar Competence and Speaking Fluency of the Eleventh Grade Students in SMAN 1 Sidoarjo*".

First, Soraya (2012) focused on contribution of grammar mastery toward speaking ability. The result show that there is a positive correlation between both variables. The students grammar ability is categorized into enough level and their speaking ability is categorized into less level.

The second study were conducted by Priyanto & Amin (2013) and the finding showed that there is a relationship between grammar competence and speaking fluency and it is categorized in moderate level.

This research is similar with those previous studies, namely to find out the correlation between grammar and speaking ability. While the difference was the object. The object of this research was SMP Negeri 15 Palu.

METHOD

Based on the issues and study purposes, this research used symmetrical correlation design. It is because the aim of this research is to find out whether there is a correlation between grammar mastery and speaking ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 15 Palu. Both variables stand as independent variables. A population is defined as a group of individual with at least one

common characteristic which distinguishes that group from other individuals (Best and Kahn, 2006:13). The population of this research is the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 15 Palu. They consisted of 7 classes as follows. If the total of the population is more than 100, it is better to take between 10-15% or 20-25% or more to be the sample (Arikunto, 2010). This research used 15% out of the population that is 28 students as the sample by using random cluster sampling technique.

FINDINGS
Findings of Test
The Result of Grammar Test
The written test was given to find out the students' achievement in grammar. The tests consisted of multiple choice and completion. The total number of test was 20 items, 15 items of multiple choice and 5 for the completion. The whole test are able to answered by students. The test showed on the table and the result that the grammar achievement is qualified into good, moderate, poor and very poor. It can be seen that 4 students get good qualification (14.29%), one student get moderate qualification (3.57%), then 7 students (25%) belonged to poor qualification, and 16 students (57.14) get very poor qualification. The total of students who get good and moderate qualification are 5 (17.86%). From this analysis, the researcher can interpret that students' grammar ability is low because more than half of students get very poor qualification.

The Result of Speaking Test
The researcher gave the oral test to find out their ability in speaking. She asked the students to come in front of the class to tell their own story one by one. The topic is done randomly. Each student was given 5 minutes and the result that the speaking ability of the students is qualified into good, moderate, poor and very poor. The table shows that no one get good qualification and 10 students (35.71%) get moderate qualification, then 18 students (64.29%) get poor qualification and nobody gets very poor qualification. The total of students who get moderate qualification are 10 (35.71%).

DISCUSSION
The researcher conducted this research at SMP Negeri 15 Palu. She gave the test on January 15th, 2020. The test was written and oral test. The written test contains multiple choice and completion. It contains 15 items of multiple choice and 5 items of completion. While the oral test was collected by individual. The researcher asked the students to come in front of the class and tell their own story one by one. The total of students were 28 and all of them had followed the test although some of them came late.

In conducting the written test, the researcher found some problems such as; some of the students asked the meaning of the unfamiliar words with them. They did not know the purpose of several questions. While for the oral test, some of them felt shy to speak because they thought their English is low and lack of vocabulary. However, the other students made it easier because they already the question.

The researcher used percentage of students achievement to find out the result of the written test. In this test, the researcher count and put in the table 4.2 the students who get scores of <40 are 57.14%. The total is 16 students get very poor qualification. Based on this result, the researcher concluded the students still feel difficult to differentiate the use of simple present tense and simple past tense.

From the result above the researcher concluded that most of students still lack of vocabulary, difficult to differentiate the use of present and past tense. The students are also still low in accuracy and comprehensibility when they speak. For example some of them were fluenced to pronounce a word but they did not know how to spell.

After getting the both results of the test, the researcher used the Pearson Product Moment Formula (r) to find out the correlation between the X and Y variable. The result was -0.102. It means that there is no correlation between the two variable because the alternative hypothesis (Ha) is lower than null hypothesis (Ho) and this result categorized negligible.

The researcher uses 5% (0.374) significant level in critical value of students' distribution (r) 26 degree of freedom to obtain the r_{table}. Then the value of r_{table} was 0.374 while the was -0.102. It means that is lower than r_{table}. The researcher concludes that there is no correlation between

grammar and speaking ability. It can be seen in the four phenomena as follows: 1) If grammar is good then speaking also good; 2) If speaking is low then grammar is good; 3) If speaking is good then grammar is low; 4) If grammar is low then the speaking also low. Therefore, the researcher put in the third phenomenon namely speaking is good then grammar is low.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analyzing the data from the students, the researcher concludes that there is no correlation between grammar mastery and speaking ability of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 15 Palu. It is proved by the result of r_{table} at significant level of 5% with 26 degree of freedom (df) was 0.374 while the the result of r_{value} was 0.102. It means that r_{value} is lower than r_{table}. The researcher uses Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (r) and the result is categorized negligible. It means that the students who have good speaking are not always having a good ability in grammar.

opefully, the research can contribute to the improvement of English teaching and learning The researcher wants to give some suggestion: first, to those students that still feel difficult to differentiate simple present and past tense, they have to study hard and practising in daily life. Second, the English teacher should facilitate and motivated students during the learning process. The teacher need to make the students interested to the topic by using such visual aids. Last, the researcher hope this research can be additional referrence to other researchers.

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