

# CHAPTER I

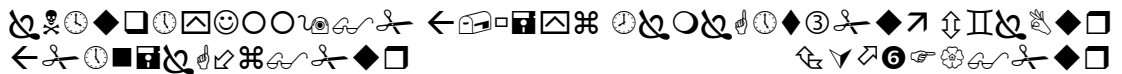
## INTRODUCTION

### A. Rationale

Language is the God’s gift for human being. They need it to communicate and interact each other in their life. Everybody needs to communicate with his or her surroundings, because human beings are social creatures that cannot live without other’s help to fulfill their daily necessities.

Language is also the effective tool to know one another, language as communication tool will make us be able to express our feeling, idea, or wishes, and to know another feeling, idea, or wishes. Language also will make people be able to close with another, as Mary Mc. Groatry stated that: “language is an intimate part of social identity”.<sup>1</sup>

. Human beings used different languages in their communication, these different languages show that Allah, the Creator and the Master of this world and all of everything for the happiness of human beings orders people to study His verses in this world, as Allah the al-Mighty said in the holly Koran in the the Ar-Ruum Verse 22, as follows:

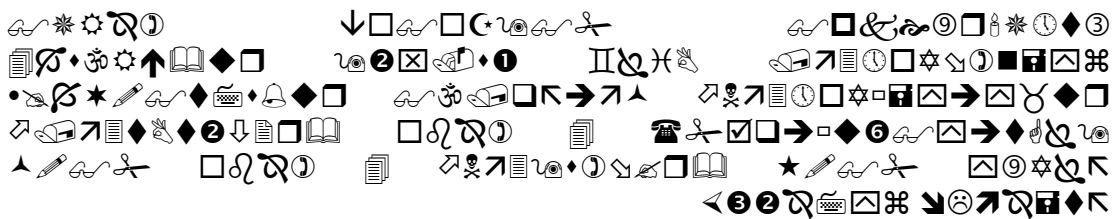


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<sup>1</sup>Sandra Lee Mc Kay and Nancy H. Hornberger, *Sociolinguistics and Language Teaching*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), p. 3.



The need of communication is felt when they want to tell some information or messages to others. There are many kinds of nations and tribes in the world and each of them need a communication tool to know each other, as stated in the holly Koran in the Al-Hujurat verse 13, as follows: 1



Language is not only used to interact with another but also used to communicate, to share the information and to develop sciences and technology. The development of communication technology is alike a building, everything must be interconnected not only does this communication network unity among countries but also facilitates International connection.

One of those languages is English, it has a very essential position in communication among people. The use of English widely considered as an urgent need. English used as international language, it has the largest number of user all over the world and both English and Arabic have legitimated and are a formal language of United Nations (Perserikatan Bangsa-bangsa) as declared by UNESCO in year 1973.

According to above statement, Tayar Yusuf and Syaiful anwar also stated that: *“Bahasa Arab dan Bahasa Inggris, dua bahasa asing dan bahasa internasional*

*yang terpenting di dalam komunikasi/perhubungan antar bangsa, baik di dalam bidang ilmu pengetahuan, agama maupun korespondensi perdagangan”.*<sup>2</sup>

It means that English and Arabic language as international language are used to connect nations one another to share sciences, economic, and religion.

The English teaching at formal educations or schools is to reach the language skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. It becomes one of compulsory object in all education level.

With the statement above, LG Alexander also asserted as follows:

The students must be trained adequately in all four basic skills, understanding, speaking reading and writing. In many classroom courses, the emphasis is wholly in the written language. The students is trained to use his eyes instead of his ears and his inability to achieve anything like correct pronunciation, stress and intonation must be attributed largely to the tyranny of the printed word.<sup>3</sup>

According to English language experts' decision and English teacher in the world which written in English Teaching Forum Magazine, United States Information Services (USIS) that to master English whether orally or written is with three things, they are understanding, memorizing, and practicing.

Speaking is to make use a language in an ordinary, not a singing voice; and be able to used (a language), make a speech; make sounds.<sup>4</sup> Mulcrove as quoted by

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<sup>2</sup>Tayar Yusuf dan Saiful Anwar, *Metode Pengajaran Agama Islam dan Bahasa Arab*, (Jakarta : Remaja Grafika Persada, nd.) p. 188.

<sup>3</sup>L.G Alexander, *Practice and Progress (An Integrated Course for Intermediate Students)*, (Singapore: Longman Singapore Publisher Pte Ltd, 1990), p. viii

<sup>4</sup>AS. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p. 322.

Tarigan defined about speaking that: "*Berbicara adalah suatu alat untuk mengkomunikasikan gagasan-gagasan yang disusun serta dikembangkan sesuai dengan kebutuhan-kebutuhan sang pendengar atau penyimak*".<sup>5</sup>

As the statements above, we have known that speaking is real life skill, and communication orally is the easiest way to tell our idea, wishes or surroundings other than in written, no cost must be paid. The most important when communicate with other people is the understanding toward the pronounced words or sentences that come out of interlocutors.

To have a good understanding, the students must know the vocabulary, grammar, translation. They must memorize the vocabularies, English sentences forms; they must read more about English and practice it wherever and whenever.

The grammar of a language is a description of the way in which that language behaves<sup>6</sup>. Grammar is the rules for forming words and making sentences<sup>7</sup>, and it is one of important subject matter which should be mastered in learning English. It helps the students construct a grammatically correct utterance, which it will be easily understood by interlocutors rather than ungrammatical one.

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<sup>5</sup>Henri Guntur Tarigan, *Berbicara Sebagai Suatu Keterampilan Berbahasa*, (Bandung: Angkasa, 1993), p. 15.

<sup>6</sup>Burton, S. H, *Mastering English Language*, (Singapore: The Macmillan Press. Ltd, 1982), p. 128.

<sup>7</sup>Oxford Learners Pocket Dictionary, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 182.

Burton also stated the importance of the grammar as follows:

Knowledge of grammar is a handy tool. An understanding of grammar speeds up our language learning. Knowledge of grammar helps us to understand why some ways of using language are more efficient than others. It widens the range of linguistic resources available to a language learner. We all have to communicate with a great variety of people and in varied circumstances. Knowledge of grammar helps us to choose and use the forms of language best suited to each particular situation.<sup>8</sup>

One aspect in grammar is tense. Tense is verb form that shows the time of the action, such as the present, past and future.<sup>9</sup>

In Indonesia, English is one of national educational material from basic level to university and those have been taught integrally in all four basic aspects and speaking is one of them. In the fact, we can find many students who graduated from junior or senior high school can not communicate in English fluently and accurately, because they just learn it and never practice it in their interactions. On other case, many students able to communicate in English fluently and accurately, it is caused of their bravery to practice the vocabularies, and apply them wherever and whenever.

Both statements above show that to master foreign language we must practice it in our daily life as we use our native language. Then, we can conclude that to master a foreign language we have to practice it as our native language (Indonesian), and use the correct grammar in order to be understood well.

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<sup>8</sup>Burton, S.H, *Mastering English Language*, *op. cit.*, p. 129

<sup>9</sup>Oxford Learners Pocket Dictionary, *op. cit.*, p. 427.

Darul Istiqamah Islamic boarding school is one of some Islamic boarding schools at South Kalimantan that applies English and Arabic in their activities and study. All of the students are obligated to use English and Arabic in their daily life as long as they study and stay there.

It was very attractive, when the writer visited this boarding school; all students with big confidence use the English when they are making conversation with their friends in their interaction. But, at the same time the writer found some awkwardnesses on some students when they are making conversation, apparently they just use the main words and put aside the grammar and word-order, whereas, the students are obligated to communicate in English and use the proper grammar and word-order.

By the cases above, the writer is very interested in making a research about their ability in using tense in their conversation and the tense is limited on simple present and present continuous tense, and pour the research into scientific writing entitled: **The Students' Ability in Using Simple Present and Present Continuous Tense in English Conversation (A Case Study of the Eight Grade on Madrasah Tsanawiyah at Darul Istiqamah Islamic Boarding School Barabai HST in Academic Year 2009/2010).**

In order to avoid misinterpretation about the title above, it will be understandable to explain some terms in the title, as follows:

1. Ability is skill or power<sup>10</sup>. The ability that discussed here is the students' skill or capability in using simple present and present continuous tense when they are making a conversation.
2. Simple present tense is a part of tenses in English grammar, to express the idea that an action is repeated or usual. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event, a scheduled event or something that often happens. It can also be something a person often forgets or usually does not do.
3. Present continuous tense is also a part of tenses in English grammar, it is used to express the idea that something is happening now, at this very moment. It can also be used to show that something is not happening now.
4. Conversation is a part of speaking but in other statement, it is just a term to informal speaking. As stated by Mark Coughlin that conversation is the use of speech for informal exchange of views or ideas or information, etc.<sup>11</sup>
5. The Second year students on Madrasah Tsanawiyah at Darul Istiqamah Islamic boarding school Barabai Hulu Sungai Tengah regency in academic year 2009/2010 means the students who are sitting in the class two on Madrasah Tsanawiyah at Darul Istiqamah Islamic boarding school in academic year 2009-2010.

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<sup>10</sup>A.S Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary*, *op. cit.*, p. 01.

<sup>11</sup>Mark Coughlin, *The meaning of conversation*, [www.answers.com](http://www.answers.com), Accessed November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Time: 01.30 PM

From the terms above, the students' ability in using simple present tense and present continuous tense in English conversation at the second year on Madrasah Tsanawiyah at Darul Istiqamah Islamic boarding school Barabai Hulu Sungai Tengah regency in academic year 2009/2010 means the students' capability or skill to use simple present tense and present continuous tense when they are making English conversation.

### **B. Problem formulation**

Based on the topic, the problem of the study can be formulated as follows:

1. How is the level of the second year students' ability in using simple present and present continuous tense in English conversation on Madrasah Tsanawiyah at Darul Istiqamah Islamic boarding school Barabai Hulu Sungai Tengah regency in academic year 2009/2010?
2. What are the factors that influence the students' ability in using simple present and present continuous tense in English conversation?

### **C. Reason for choosing the title**

1. Simple present and present continuous tense are part of English grammar that must be mastered by English learner in all four basic skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) especially for the students at Darul Istiqamah Islamic Boarding School.



2. Darul Istiqamah Islamic Boarding School is one of some boarding schools in South Kalimantan which obligated the students to use English in their activities.
3. English is the international language that must be mastered in globalization era.

#### **D. The purpose of the research**

Based on the problem limitation above, the purpose of this research is to know the level of ability of the second year students on Madrasah Tsanawiyah at Darul Istiqamah Islamic boarding school in using simple present tense and present continuous tense when they have English conversation and to know what factors that influence their ability in using them.

#### **E. Significances of the research**

This research has significance as follows:

1. Enrich the writer's knowledge and experience in the scientific research.
2. Give information, consideration and input for educators generally and English teachers on Madrasah Tsanawiyah at Darul Istiqamah Islamic boarding school Barabai Hulu Sungai Tengah regency.
3. As information to the students Madrasah Tsanawiyah at Darul Istiqamah Islamic boarding school Barabai Hulu Sungai Tengah regency in academic year 2009/2010.

4. Deliver information and comparison for the next researchers.
5. Enrich Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin library's literature.

## **F. Writing organization**

This research consists of five chapters. They are systematically arranged as follows:

The first chapter contains introduction that covers of rationale, problem formulation, reason for choosing the title, the purpose of the research, the significance of the research, and writing organization.

The second chapter contains theoretical review on related subject, consisting of definition of ability in learning process, simple present and its usage, present continuous tense and its usage, aspects in English conversation.

The third chapter contains method of research consisting subject and object of the research, data, source of data, technique of data collecting, design of measurement, techniques of data processing and analysis, and research procedures.

The fourth chapter contains report of research result, which consists of description of the research location, data presentation and data analysis.

The fifth chapter contains closure, which contains conclusion and suggestion.