

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Rationale

Education is an International agreement for producing highly competent people. Everyone agrees that highly competent people are educated. Education will give students, people who are educated, important basic competence needed in their lives. It also helps them to improve their humanistic potencies based on the competencies and potencies, it is intended students are able to live their high quality of lives, because many companies and also institutes need educated people to work in their places.

The Indonesian government has already stated certain criteria of educated people as follows:

Pendidikan nasional berfungsi mengembangkan kemampuan dan membentuk watak serta peradaban bangsa yang bermartabat dalam rangka mencerdaskan kehidupan bangsa, bertujuan untuk berkembangnya potensi peserta didik agar menjadi manusia yang beriman dan bertakwa kepada Tuhan yang Maha Esa, berakhlak mulia, sehat, berilmu, cakap, kreatif, mandiri dan menjadi warga negara yang demokratis serta bertanggungjawab.¹

Therefore, the function of nationwide education is to expand the competence and to form nation character and also nation culture which has prestige for developing nation life. The purpose is for developing students' skills in order to be a faithful and pious human to God, have noble character, healthy,

¹ Undang- Undang Republik Indonesia No. 20 Tahun 2003, *Sistem Pendidikan Nasional*. (Bandung: Citra Umbara, 2003), p.7.

scholarly, skillful, creative, stand alone and be a democratic and responsible citizen.

The variety of language would not let human be exclusive, it can help them to understand while communicate each others, because they need to communicate with one another, it is in harmony with Allah's command in the verse below:



The verse says that people must know one another. The variation of languages forces people to learn these languages because learning the language is one way to know each other. Nowadays, to be able communicate with people from other countries is crucial. Thus, learning a foreign language is not only a kind of necessary, but also a necessity.

Language teaching in Indonesia does not only include Indonesian, but also foreign language. It is significant in the communication and globalized era. Students learn English to broaden the scope of communication.

English has various roles in Indonesia. English is the first foreign language in Indonesia, which is important to absorb and to develop science and technology, art and culture, and to build relationships with other nations. Also, English is a compulsory subject in some types and level of schools and courses in Indonesia.

English as a subject at schools and courses requires students to be able to communicate in oral and written form using appropriate language fluently and accurately.² Therefore, students are taught to be able in four skills, they are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students' competency in the four skills above can be gained based on their ability in certain subjects such as vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and spelling. These matters help students decode and encode English fluently and accurately as the intended goal.

Grammar is important subject matter should be mastered in English. An understanding of grammar speeds up students' language learning. Knowledge of grammar helps students to understand why some ways of using language are more efficient than others and it helps students to choose and use the forms of language best suited to each particular situation³ and also helps students to construct a grammatically correct utterance and writing. Grammatical sentences are easily understood by interlocutors rather than ungrammatical ones. Moreover, in written language, writing has to be constructed in grammatically accepted form for understanding.

One grammatical pattern of English that is of significant importance is gerund. By knowing about gerunds, students should be able to write sentences correctly. Grammar of foreign language is not an easy matter to learn for learners since it is different from their native language in many ways. Therefore, LBBP-LIA affiliate Banjarmasin that provides English as subject of learning gives

² Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, *Pengembangan Silabus dan Sistem Penilaian Mata Pelajaran Bahasa Inggris*. (Jakarta: tp, 2004),p.5.

³ Burton, *Mastering English Language*. (Hong Kong: The Macmillan Press, 1982), p.129.

graded English classes, especially starting from TOEFL Preparation 1 to TOEFL Preparation 4 level. In these classes, many aspects of grammar must be taught, which is why learners of this level should be able to use them.

Based on the writer's first observation, the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA affiliate Banjarmasin is a course that provides 3 months course, while the students should be able to understand all aspects such as grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and etc with the limited time to success in the final test and the final test result of English as a foreign language (TOEFL) determines student's competence in English and determines in a great measure whether they will be admitted to the school of their choice. That is why the writer very interest to know about the students' ability in a part of grammar, especially gerund. For the students of TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA affiliate Banjarmasin, to whom the research is carried out, who are supposed to be able in using the gerunds. For this reason, the writer will conduct research on this aspect by the title:

THE STUDENTS' ABILITY TO USE GERUNDS IN THE TOEFL PREPARATION LEVEL AT LBPP-LIA AFFILIATE BANJARMASIN.

To avoid any misinterpretation regarding the title adopted in this research, the writer considers it necessary to explain some terms as follows:

1. The students mean the students in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin academic year 2009/2010.

2. Ability is the mental or physical capacity, power or skill required to do something.⁴ Here it means power or capability of the students to use the gerunds.
3. Use means to employ something for a purpose, to do something with.⁵ Use here, the writer means way to use gerunds in completing and writing sentences.
4. Gerunds are participle forms used in noun function.⁶ For examples are: **smoking** too much is not good for our health, you must stop **sending** the letter to her.
5. TOEFL is the Test of English As a Foreign Language which is given to students who plan to enter schools especially in United States or the other English speaking countries and whose native language is not English.⁷
6. Preparation means action of getting ready for something or making something ready.⁸
7. LBPP-LIA is a course institution that provides English as subject of learning in Banjarmasin.

⁴A.S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995),p.2.

⁵ Ibid, p.1315.

⁶ Marcella Frank, *Modern English*. (New York: Prentice- Hall),p.97.

⁷Tim Multi Media Metropolitan, *What You Should Know About the Test of English As a Foreign Language*.(Jakarta: Multi Media Metropolitan, 2004), P.6.

⁸-----Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 338.

B. Problem Limitation

Dependent on rationale above, the problems of this research can be formulated as follow:

1. How is the degree of students' ability in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin in using gerunds?
2. What factors possibly support the students' ability in using gerunds in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin?

C. Reasons for Choosing the Title

There are certain reasons for choosing this title, including:

1. English is an International and Universal language spoken and learned by almost people in the world.
2. Gerunds are important to master in order to make grammatically correct sentences.

D. The Purposes of the Research

In the line of the problems, the purpose of this research are:

1. To find out the degree of the students' ability in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP- LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin in using gerunds properly.
2. To better understand the factors those possibly support the students' ability in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP- LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin in using gerunds properly.

E. The Significance of the Research

The results of this research should:

1. Contribute further information for English teachers especially at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin to improve the quality of the students in the TOEFL Preparation level.
2. Enrich the writers' knowledge and experience in learning more about gerunds.
3. Contribute to future researchers who want to conduct research in the same field and to broaden the circulation of literature at Tarbiyah Faculty Library and at IAIN.

F. Organization of the Writing

This research consists of five chapters systematically arranged as follows.

The first chapter contains the introduction, which consist of rationale, problem limitation, reasons for choosing the title, research purposes, research significance and organization of writing.

The second chapter contains the theoretical review of related literature, which discusses about the definitions of gerund, functions of gerund, forms of gerund, comparison between gerund and verbal noun and some factors that support the ability of gerunds.

The third chapter contains the research method, which consist of subject and object of research, data and sources of data, techniques of the data collecting, design measurement, techniques of data processing and analysis and also research procedure.

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

The fifth chapter contains of closure, which is consist of conclusion and suggestions.

CHAPTER III
RESEARCH METHOD

A. Subject and Object of the Research

1. Subject of the Research

In this research, the subjects are all of TOEFL Preparation level students at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin and there are 30 person, it consist of four classes. The following table will describe about the total numbers of TOEFL Preparation level students at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin.

Table 3. 1.The total number of TOEFL Preparation level students at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin

Year	Level	Classes	Students
2009/2010	TOEFL Preparation	First	8
		Second	7
		Third	8
		Four	7
Total			30

2. Object of the Research

The object of this research is the ability of TOEFL Preparation level students in using gerunds at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin academic year 2009/2010.

B. Data and Source of Data

1. Data

Data collected in this research are primary data and secondary data:

a. The Primary Data

To answer the problems in this thesis, the writer will collect the following data:

- 1) The data are composed of the students' ability in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin in using gerunds which covers:
 - a) The ability to identify the right gerunds
 - b) The ability to determine if the gerund in the sentences are true or false.
 - c) The ability to use gerunds in writing sentences.
- 2) The data regarding the factors that supporting the ability of TOEFL Preparation level students to use gerunds at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin that covers:
 - a) Students' factor
 - Students' interest and motivation
 - Students' learning activities
 - Students' knowledge about gerunds
 - b) Teachers' factor
 - Teachers' educational background
 - Teachers' experience in teaching
 - Teachers' attendance in teaching
 - Teachers' skill in the English instructional process
 - c) Facilities factor
 - Students' English textbooks
 - Students' English dictionary

- Students' English books other than text books

d) Language factor

- The differences between students' native language and English that students learn

e) Time allocation

b. Secondary data are collected to support the primary data, such as:

1. Description about the brief history of LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin.
2. Description about the English teachers, administrative staff, and classes.
3. Description about course's facilities of LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin.

2. Source of Data

Data which is collected source from:

- a. Respondents: All students in the TOEFL Preparation level at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin who have taken as the subject or currently learning there.
- b. Informants: The head of the institute, the teachers at the TOEFL Preparation level and administrative staff at LBPP- LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin.
- c. Documents: All written reports and important documents belonging to the institute.

C. Techniques and Data Collecting

1. Written test

This technique is used to collect the data which relates to the ability in the TOEFL Preparation level students to use gerunds at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin.

2. Questionnaire

This technique is one of the most important aspects of data collection which relates to the factors that support on the ability in the TOEFL Preparation level students to use gerunds at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin.

3. Interview

This technique is used to obtain supporting data. So, head of LBPP-LIA and English teachers will be interviewees.

4. Documentary

This technique is used to obtain data by looking and collecting all documents and written report, such as teachers, administration staff and course's facilities

5. Observation

This technique is used to collect the data by observing directly in the class to see the process of English teaching and learning especially gerunds.

To clearly show the data, their sources and techniques of the data collecting, the following matrix will be helpful:

Table 3. 2. Data, Sources of the Data and Techniques of Data Collecting

No	Data	Sources	Techniques of data collecting
1.	<p>The Primary Data</p> <p>1) Students' ability</p> <p>a. The ability to identify the right gerunds.</p> <p>b. The ability to determine if the gerund in the sentences are true or false.</p> <p>c. The ability to use gerunds in writing sentences.</p> <p>2) The factors that support the students' ability in using gerunds:</p> <p>a. The students factors such as interest, motivation, learning activities and knowledge about gerunds.</p> <p>b. The teachers factors such as the teachers' educational background, experience, their attendance in teaching and their skill in English instructional process.</p> <p>c. The facility factors such as text books, English dictionaries and other English books.</p>	<p>Students</p> <p>Students</p> <p>Students</p> <p>Students</p> <p>Teachers</p> <p>Students</p>	<p>Written test</p> <p>Written test</p> <p>Written test</p> <p>Questionnaire</p> <p>Interview Documentary</p> <p>Questionnaire</p>
2.	<p>d. Language factor such as the differences between students' native language and English that students learn</p> <p>e. Time allocation</p> <p>The Secondary Data The data which relate to general description of LBPP- LIA:</p> <p>a. Brief history of LBPP- LIA Banjarmasin.</p> <p>b. Condition of the teachers, students, administrative staff and classes.</p> <p>c. Course's facilities.</p>	<p>Students</p> <p>Students</p> <p>Students</p> <p>Head of affiliate Administrative staff Administrative staff</p>	<p>Questionnaire</p> <p>Questionnaire</p> <p>Questionnaire</p> <p>Interview and Documentary Documentary Documentary Observation</p>

D. Design of Measurement

To get better data, the writer gives design of measurement as follows:

1. To measure the ability in the TOEFL Preparation level students to use gerunds at LBPP- LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin, this ability is measured by:
 - a. 20 questions of multiple choice that require students to identify the correct gerunds. Every answer will be marked 2 and incorrect answers will be marked 0.
 - b. 10 questions that require students to determine if the gerund in the sentences are true or false. Every answer will be marked 3 and incorrect answers will be marked 0.
 - c. 6 questions that require students to use gerunds in writing new sentences. Every answer will be marked 5 and incorrect answers will be marked 0.

Thus, the highest score is 100 and the lowest is 0 with the following categories:

0 - < 50 : Very poor

50 - < 60 : Poor

60 - < 70 : Average

70 - < 80 : Good

80 - 100: Very good

Means score is obtained by the pattern below:

$$M = \frac{\sum fX}{N}$$

Notes:

M : mean scores

fX: total score

N : number of respondents

2. To measure the data about the factors that support the ability in the TOEFL Preparation level students to use gerunds at LBPP-LIA Affiliate Banjarmasin, the writer uses the following indicators:

- a. Student factors

To better understand the data about the students' interest toward English subject is measured by the following indicators:

- 1) Students' interest

- a) Students' attention to English lessons in the class.

(1) Always = High category

(2) Sometimes = Middle category

(3) Seldom = Low category

(4) Never = Very low category

- b) Students' class attendance.

(1) Always = High category

(2) Sometimes = Middle category

(3) Seldom = Low category

(4) Never = Very low category

- 2) Students' learning activity

- a) The frequency of the studying English at home.

(1) Always = High category

(2) Sometimes = Middle category

(3) Seldom = Low category

(4) Never = Very low category

b) The frequency of doing task (either at school or home) related to the English lesson.

(1) Always = High category

(2) Sometimes = Middle category

(3) Seldom = Low category

(4) Never = Very low category

3) Students' knowledge about gerunds

a) The frequency of students know and do not know about gerunds

(1) Yes = High category

(2) Little = Middle category

(3) No = Low category

b) The frequency of students know and do not know the functions of gerunds

(1) Yes = High category

(2) Little = Middle category

(3) No = Low category

c) The frequency of students whether they ever or never get difficulties to understand about the gerunds

(1) Never = High category

(2) Little = Middle category

(3) Ever = Low category

b. Teacher's factor

1) Teacher's educational background

- a) S1 (English Department) = High category
- b) D2, D3 (English Department) = Middle category
- c) S1 (Non English Department) = Low category
- d) D2, D3 (Non English Department) = Very low category

2) Teacher's experience in teaching

- a) More than four years = High category
- b) 2 – 4 years = Middle category
- c) 1 – less than 2 years = Low category
- d) Less than 1 year = Very low category

3) Teacher's attendance in teaching

- a) Always = High category
- b) Sometimes = Middle category
- c) Seldom = Low category
- d) Never = Very low category

4) Teacher's skills in English instructional process

- a) The frequency of using English language when teaching in the class
 - (1) Always = High category
 - (2) Sometimes = Middle category
 - (3) Seldom = Low category
 - (4) Never = Very low category

b) The teacher's style in presenting the lesson

(1) Very interesting = High category

(2) Quite Interesting = Middle category

(3) Less interesting = Low category

(4) Uninteresting = Very low category

c) Teacher's clarity in explaining English lesson

(1) Very clear = High category

(2) Quite clear = Middle category

(3) Less clear = Low category

(4) Unclear = Very low category

c. Facility factors

The facility owned by students is indicated as below:

1) The students' ownership of an English textbook

a) Have = High category

b) Have but borrowing = Middle category

c) Do not have = Low category

2) The students' ownership of the English dictionary

a) Have = High category

b) Have but borrowing = Middle category

c) Do not have = Low category

3) The students' ownership of English book other than textbooks

a) Have = High category

b) Have but borrowing = Middle category

c) Do not have = Low category

d. Language factor

1) The differences between students' native language and English that students learn

a) Yes = High category

b) Little = Middle category

c) No = Low category

e. Time allocation

1) Time that is allocated to students in learning gerunds

a) Enough = High category

b) Not enough = Low category

E. Technique of Data Processing and Analysis

1. Technique of data processing

In this research, there are certain techniques of data processing, such as:

a. Editing

This technique is use for the purpose of re-examining all the collected data to make certain wither they have already completed or not.

b. Coding

The writer makes certain codes on all collected data to classify them into each category.

c. Scoring

The writer scores the students' answers.

d. Frequency computation

After each data are coded and classified properly, then each answer given by the respondents is computed and presented in the tables of frequency.

e. Tabulating

The writer tabulates all the collected data based on the frequency computation by using the following formula:

$$P = f / N \times 100\%$$

P = Percentage score

f = The frequency of answers from respondents for each item

N = Total number of respondents

f. Interpreting

The writer interprets all collected data based on the frequency computation by using the following categories:

- a. 0 % - < 20 % : poor category
- b. 20 % - < 40 % : lower category
- c. 40 % - < 60 % : fair category
- d. 60 % - < 80 % : good category
- e. 80 % - 100 % : excellent category

2. Data Analysis

All the collected and processed data are then analyzed descriptively and qualitatively. The conclusion is taken in an inductive way, that is, to synthesize the facts into a general conclusion.

G. Research Procedure

1. Preliminary steps:
 - a. To conduct prior observation in the research location.
 - b. To create proposal design.
 - c. To submit the proposal of research to Biro Skripsi Tarbiyah Faculty.
2. Preparatory step:
 - a. To hold a seminar after the proposal be approved.
 - b. To correct proposal depend on result of seminar.
 - c. To consult with the writer's advisor
 - d. To ask the dean of Tarbiyah Faculty for a written mandate to conduct the research.
 - e. To create instruments for data collection
3. Research steps:
 - a. To collect all data.
 - b. To serve up data.
 - c. To analyze data.
4. Final steps:

Having complete all the data needed, the writer soon organizes them in the form of research thesis based on continual guide and consultation with the writer's counselor. Finally, this research is approved and ready to examine in the open forum.

