

A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF STATE POLYTECHNIC OF BENGKALIS IN COMPLETING SENTENCES WITH CORRECT GERUND AND TO INFINITIVE VERB FORM

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Abstract : *Mastering grammar is important in learning English. In grammar, the words pattern and tenses should be considered as main focus for the discussion. Therefore, this study aimed to find out the ability of the students in completing sentences with correct gerund and to infinitive verb forms . This research was a descriptive research. This study showed that the level of the students ability was at mediocre level. It was at 53. The error commonly occurred slightly the same in completing both gerund and to infinitive verb forms. The average score of gerund was 52 and 54 points for to infinitive.*

Keywords: *Student Ability, Gerund, to Infinitive.*

1. INTRODUCTION

There are four basic skills in a language. They are: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Each learner should master these skills in order to acquire a language. English as a language also requires the learners to be able to master the four skills.

Moreover, to master these four basic skills in English the learner should not avoid the rules of the language itself. Therefore, mastering grammar is really important.

However, learning grammar is not easy for some learners, especially

for the ones who are lack of ability in selecting correct verb form to complete sentences.

In State polytechnic of Bengkalis, the grammar is not taught independently, but it is explained while the lecturers explain the four basic skills such as speaking, listening, writing, and reading.

In fact, many students of state polytechnic of Bengkalis still use grammar incorrectly in language production, such as speaking and writing. These weaknesses can be found in their writing. It also indicates

that the grammar of students are also limited.

Based on the researcher's observation, the students still have difficulties in determining the verb agreement. The verb agreement includes the correctness in selecting gerund and infinitive in the sentences.

In short, based on the previous explanation, the writer was interested in conducting a study on the ability of the first year students of State polytechnic of Bengkalis in completing sentences with correct gerund and infinitive verb forms.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Verb Forms

There were two verb forms tested in this study. They were: Infinitive and gerund.

To Infinitive

According to Azhar (2003) the object of a verb is usually a noun or pronoun and the object of a verb can also be an infinitive. Furthermore, infinitive is the basic form of a verb that usually follows 'to'. This verb form can be used as subjects, objects, or objects of prepositions. There are some main verbs followed by to infinitive. They are: ask, decide, expect, etc.

Example: we expect to finish before the deadline.

Gerund

Murphy (1998: 125), gerund is a word ending with 'ing' and has the force of a noun and verb. It is also known as verbal noun. Furthermore, Summers (2005: 673). Gerund is a noun in the form of the present participle of a verb, for example 'shopping' in the sentence 'I like shopping'.

Additionally, there are some verbs followed by gerund. Such as: enjoy, finish, *admit*, *consider*, *regret*, etc.

Example: Mr. Brown regrets taking that extra money

METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

This is a descriptive research that tries to identify students' ability in completing sentences with correct gerund and infinitive verb forms. Gay (1990:10) says that descriptive research involves collecting data to test hypothesis or to answer questions concerning the status of the study.

The subject of this research is the first year students of State Polytechnic of Bengkalis. The

objective of this research is to investigate the students' ability in completing sentences with correct Gerund and infinitive Verb form.

It is using limited sample since the population in this study is really big and homogenous.. According to Gay (1987:114) if the population is more than 100, the minimum sample taken is 15 % from the population. If the population is less than 100, the sample that can be taken is 50 %. So, the writer takes 50 % from the population. The number of the sample is $76 \times 50\% = 38$. So, the writer takes 38 students as samples.

The number of the questions of the test was 100 items. It consisted of 50 questions of gerund and 50 questions of infinitive.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result of the Study

In order to find out the individual score of the students, the writer counted the number of the correct answers for each items. The description of the students' scores can be seen in table.

Table 1 The Students' Scores and Their Classification

Student	CA	Score	L A
1	78	78	Good
2	73	73	Good
3	71	71	Good
4	71	71	Good
5	68	68	Good
6	62	62	Good
7	61	61	Good
8	60	60	Mediocre
9	60	60	Mediocre
10	58	58	Mediocre
11	58	58	Mediocre
12	58	58	Mediocre
13	56	56	Mediocre
14	56	56	Mediocre
15	59	59	Mediocre
16	57	57	Mediocre
17	55	55	Mediocre
18	55	55	Mediocre
19	55	55	Mediocre
20	55	55	Mediocre
21	55	55	Mediocre
22	52	52	Mediocre
23	51	51	Mediocre
24	50	50	Mediocre
25	50	50	Mediocre
26	50	50	Mediocre
27	50	50	Mediocre
28	50	50	Mediocre
29	49	49	Mediocre
30	49	49	Mediocre
31	48	48	Mediocre
32	47	47	Mediocre
33	40	40	Mediocre
34	39	39	Poor
35	39	39	Poor
36	38	38	Poor
37	38	38	Poor
38	37	37	Poor

39	37	37	Poor
40	38	38	Poor
Average Score	53		Level= Mediocre

Note:

CA= correct Answer

L A= Level of Ability

G= Good

M = Mediocre

P = Poor

The table above shows that the average score of the first year students of State Polytechnic of Bengkalis in completing sentences with correct gerund and infinitive verb forms was at 53. From that score, it can be concluded that the students' ability is at the *mediocre* level.

The table also shows that the highest score obtained by the students is 78. Meanwhile, the lowest score is 38.

Based on the result of the test, the ability of the first year students of State Polytechnic of Bengkalis in completing sentences with correct gerund and to infinitive verb forms can be classified into some categories as presented:

Table 2
The Students' Scores Classification

N o	Sco re	Freque ncy	Per cen tag e (%)	Class ificat ion
1	81-100	0	0	Excel lent
2	61-80	7	17,5	Good
3	41-60	26	65	Mediocre
4	21-40	7	17,5	Poor
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor

Table 2 shows that from 40 students, none of the students is at the *excellent* and *very poor* level. There were 7 students (17.5%) at *poor level*, 26 students (65%) were at *mediocre level*, 7 students (17,5%) were at *good level*.

Table 3. The Students' Ability in Completing Sentences with Gerund.

Student	CA	Score	LA
1	43	86	E
2	37	74	G
3	37	74	G
4	34	68	G
5	35	70	G
6	32	64	G
7	40	80	G
8	24	48	M
9	24	48	M
10	25	50	M
11	23	46	M

12	34	68	G
13	22	44	M
14	21	42	M
15	31	62	G
16	37	74	G
17	20	40	M
18	33	66	G
19	27	54	M
20	27	54	M
21	30	60	M
22	25	50	M
23	24	48	M
24	24	48	M
25	24	48	M
26	25	50	M
27	25	50	M
28	30	60	M
29	24	48	M
30	25	50	M
31	24	48	M
32	23	46	M
33	24	48	M
34	16	32	P
35	16	32	P
36	15	30	P
37	20	40	P
38	15	30	P
39	15	30	P
40	17	34	P
N=40	26	52	LA= M
	Average Score		

Table 4. The Classification of the Students' Ability in Completing Sentences with Gerund

No	Score	Freq	Percentage (%)	Classification
1	81-100	1	2,5	Excellent

2	61-80	10	25	Good
3	41-60	22	55	Mediocre
4	21-40	7	17,5	Poor
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor

Table 4 shows that from 40 students, there was one of them at the excellent level, 10 students (25 %) were at the *good* level, 22 students (55 %) were at the *mediocre* level, 7 students (17,5 %) were at the *poor* level, and none of the students was at the *very poor* level.

Table 5. The Students' Ability in Completing Sentences with to Infinitive Form

Student	CA	Score	LA
1	35	70	G
2	36	72	G
3	34	68	G
4	37	74	G
5	33	66	G
6	30	60	M
7	21	42	M
8	36	72	G
9	36	72	G
10	33	66	G
11	35	70	G
12	24	48	M
13	34	68	G
14	35	70	G
15	28	56	M
16	20	40	P
17	35	70	G

18	22	44	M
19	28	56	M
20	28	56	M
21	25	50	M
22	27	54	M
23	27	54	M
24	26	52	M
25	26	52	M
26	25	50	M
27	25	50	M
28	20	40	P
29	25	50	M
30	24	48	M
31	24	48	M
32	24	48	M
33	16	32	P
34	23	46	M
35	23	46	M
36	23	46	M
37	18	36	P
38	22	44	M
39	22	44	M
40	21	42	M
N=40	27,15	54,3	LA= M
	Average Score		

Table 6. The Classification of the students' ability in completing sentences with "to infinitive".

N o	Sco re	Freque ncy	Percent age (%)	Classific ation
1	81-100	0	0	Excellent
2	61-80	12	30	Good
3	41-60	24	60	Mediocre

4	21-40	4	10	Poor
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor

Table 6 shows that from 40 students, none of them was at the *excellent* level, 12 students (7.9 %) was at the *good* level, 24 students (60%) were at the *mediocre* level, 4 students (10 %) were at the *poor* level, and none of the students was at the *very poor* level.

DISCUSSION

As it has been discussed previously, the writer tried to find out the answer to the question related to the ability of the first year students of State Polytechnic of Bengkalis in completing sentences with correct gerund and infinitive verb forms. After analyzing the data, the writer found out that the students' ability was at *mediocre level*. It can be seen from the average score of the students was **53**.

Moreover, Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that the students' ability in completing sentences using both gerund and to infinitive verb forms were at the mediocre level. There was only slightly different between them.

So, it can be concluded that the ability of the students' of state polytechnic of Bengkalis in

completing sentences with correct gerund and to infinitive verb forms was at mediocre level.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

1. Conclusion

Based on the result of the data analysis, the conclusions made as follows:

1. Among 40 students, none was at the *excellent* and *very poor* levels, 7 students or as many as 17,5 % were at *good level*, 26 students or as many as 65% are at *mediocre level*, 7 students or as many as 17.5% were at *poor level*.

2. The mean score of the whole students in completing the sentences with correct gerund and infinitive verb forms was 53. In conclusion, the ability of the first year students of State polytechnic of Bengkalis was at *mediocre level*

3. Since the research dealt with gerund and infinitive verb forms, the writer drew conclusions for each classification of verb forms as follow:

- a. In term of gerund form, one of them (2,5%) was at the excellent and none of them was at very poor level, 10

students or as many as 25 % were at the good level, 22 students nor as many as 55 % were at the mediocre level, 7 students or as many as 17,5 % were at the poor level.

- b. In term of to infinitive form, none of them was at excellent and very poor level, 12 students or as many as 30 % were at good level, 24 students or as many as 60 % were at the mediocre level, 4 students or as many as 10% were at the poor level

2. Suggestions

After doing the research on the ability of the first year students of State polytechnic of Bengkalis in completing sentences with correct gerund and infinitive verb form, the writer would like to give some suggestions as the following:

1. it is important to give more explanation and more exercises of the verb forms, especially gerund, to and infinitive to to improve the students' ability in completing sentences with correct verb forms.
2. There should be more practice given to the students in order to improve their understanding about the verb agreement, especially in

selecting the appropriate verb as gerund or to infinitive.

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