

IMPROVING STUDENTS' MASTERY OF SIMPLE PAST TENSE USING GRAMMARLY

*(A Classroom Action Research of the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Taruna
Bumi Khatulistiwa in the Academic Year of 2024/2025)*

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LANGUAGE AND ART EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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UNIVERSITAS TANJUNGPURA PONTIANAK

2025

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A THESIS

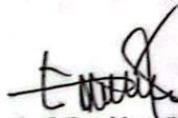
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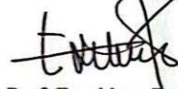
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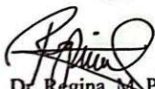
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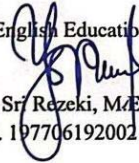
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State that the thesis entitled ***“Improving Students’ Mastery of Simple Past Tense Using Grammarly (A Classroom Action Research of the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa in the Academic Year of 2024/2025)*** is pure and has never been proposed at Tanjungpura University or other University.

The statement was made in truth. If on the next day there are a lot of mistakes, the researcher is ready to take responsibility for the regulation.

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ABSTRACT

This classroom action research aims to improve students' mastery of the simple past tense in Grade X at SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa through the use of Grammarly in the learning process. The research was conducted in two cycles, each consisting of planning, action, observation, and reflection stages, involving 27 Grade X-C students. Data were collected through observation sheets, field notes, student assignments, and portfolios. The results of the research showed a gradual improvement in pupils' command of simple past tense sentences, particularly in the use of verb 2 in positive sentences, verb 1 in negative and interrogative sentences, and the addition of appropriate time adverbs. Grammarly provided immediate feedback that assisted the learners in identifying and correcting the grammatical errors independently. The research results indicate that Grammarly is an interesting tool for improving mastery of the simple past tense.

Keywords: Mastery of Simple Past Tense, Grammarly, Classroom Action Research

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

English language learning includes four main skills, one of which is writing. Writing is a complex productive skill as it involves grammar, vocabulary, and proper text structure. Gardener (2016) stated that writing is the most difficult skill for second or foreign language learners to master. In the context of English language learning in schools, writing skills are often a significant challenge, especially in terms of using correct grammar.

SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa had already implemented the Merdeka curriculum system. In the Merdeka curriculum for the X Grade high school level, it had entered phase E. In this phase, there are learning outcomes in writing and presenting. It is stated that at the end of phase E, students produce more varied written and visual texts, using language features, vocabulary, and verbs correctly. The Merdeka curriculum places great emphasis on students' skills to write and express ideas through text. According to Zidan and Omariah (2023), the Merdeka curriculum encourages the use of technology and digital media to strengthen students' writing skills. Teachers must master the ability to utilize technology to support teaching and learning activities in the classroom. Students can utilize digital media platforms to explore various types of texts and enhance their interaction with learning materials.

The researcher previously observed and taught students in class XC at SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa during an internship program from September to December 2024. The results of teaching in class XC showed that students had difficulty writing and mastering sentences in the simple past tense. Students in class XC of SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa have difficulty understanding how to write simple past-tense sentences. Students' difficulty in mastering the simple past tense is that many students cannot place the verb tense correctly. Simple past is a sentence that uses verb form 2, but students in class XC still use a lot of verb 1 or verb 3. In addition, the negative form of simple past sentences is to use verb 1, but students still use verb 2 and verb 3. In addition to the incorrect placement of verbs, students have not mastered the structure of writing simple past-tense sentences. From this, the researcher aims to address the students' problems by utilizing Grammarly as a tool to help them master the simple past tense.

The problem experienced by students of class XC SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa is in mastering grammar. Grammar is the basic rule of language. Grammar is the basis of teaching writing skills. Systems and patterns in grammar are essential for composing understandable sentences. There are many grammar rules, but the one discussed is tenses, because the problem faced by students in class XC at SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa is in writing tenses, especially the simple past tense. Tenses are verb forms that relate to time. Tenses are divided into various types, but one of these is the simple past. According to Bradley

(2015) simple past tense is a tense used to express an action that has started and ended in the past.

Grammar is an important foundation in writing skills because the systems and patterns in grammar determine the clarity and comprehensibility of sentences. Therefore, mastery of the simple past tense is an essential skill that needs to be strengthened. To resolve this problem, the researcher took the initiative to use the Grammarly application as a medium to assist students in learning. Grammarly is an online grammar checking platform that can help students recognize grammar mistakes and provide suggestions for improvement. Hadiat, Tarwan, and Irianti (2022) stated that Grammarly is useful in helping students find and understand grammatical errors in their writing.

Classroom action research is essentially a series of research-action-further actions carried out cyclically, in solving problems, until the problem is solved. By using the classroom action research (CAR) method, the researcher can conduct research directly in the classroom and collaborate with the teacher in developing successful strategies. This research can also observe changes in students' writing skills over time and identify factors that influence the success of using Grammarly to improve students' mastery of the simple past tense. This research aims to enhance students' mastery of the simple past tense by utilizing Grammarly in class XC at SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa, employing a classroom action research (CAR) method.

Previous research, such as that conducted by Fitria (2021) and Fahmi and Rachmijati (2021), showed that Grammarly has a positive impact on improving students' writing skills, both in terms of reducing grammatical errors and strengthening students' learning independence. The use of Grammarly also assisted students in writing by highlighting the number of errors and the reasons the word is misused. Additionally, Grammarly provides recommendations and suggestions for correcting it, as well as a description of its usage. However, there isn't any specific research focusing on using Grammarly to improve students' mastery of the simple past tense specifically.

Based on this background, the research aims to conduct classroom action research to overcome the problem of mastering the simple past tense in class XC SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa. This research was to be carried out through classroom action research (CAR), which allows collaboration between teachers and the researcher in designing, implementing, observing, and reflecting on actions systematically and sustainably. With the CAR approach, it is expected to improve the mastery of grammar, especially the simple past tense, by using the Grammarly web application.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the problem of students' difficulty in mastering the simple past, the researcher used Grammarly to assist students in mastering the simple past. Therefore, the issue in this research is "Can the use of Grammarly improve students' use of verbs to improve the mastery of the simple past tense?"

1.3. Research Purpose

The purpose of this research is to improve students' class X-C of SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa mastery of simple past tense using Grammarly.

1.4. Research Significance

It was hoped that the researcher would be able to provide knowledge for teachers, students, and future researchers.

1.4.1. For Teachers

Grammarly is a website that teachers can use to assist students in improving their writing and mastering grammar. Teachers can help students by providing applications to help students master grammar.

1.4.2. For Students

This research can be an innovative method to improve mastery in writing. It assists students in recognizing their grammatical errors independently through Grammarly's automated feedback.

1.4.3. For Researchers

This research can be a reference for other research, especially those related to strategies to improve writing skills using digital tools. It can be used as a model for similar research at different levels or educational contexts.

1.5. Scope and Limitations

The scope of this research focused on improving the mastery of the simple past tense by using the Grammarly web application for students of the XC class at SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa, located in Kubu Raya Regency. The selection of class XC as a sample was based on the results of preliminary observations and the researcher's teaching experience during internship activities at the school. From the learning activities carried out, it was found that many students in this class experienced significant difficulties in composing English sentences with correct grammatical structures, especially in the use of the simple past tense.

Class XC was chosen because the problems related to grammatical accuracy were more prominent and measurable compared to other classes. In addition, the teacher of class XC was also willing to cooperate with the researcher, which is an important aspect in classroom action research (CAR) that emphasizes collaboration between teachers and researchers. By focusing the researcher on this class, the researcher was able to provide more targeted interventions and monitor students' development in more depth in a controlled classroom.

Limiting the scope of this class aims to make the process of observation, data collection, and analysis more focused and maximized. The researcher's results from the class are expected to be an initial reference that can later be applied to or further developed in other classes or schools with similar problems.

1.6. Terminology

1.6.1. Improving

The students can master and change verb form 2 in positive sentences and verb form 1 in negative sentences.

1.6.2. Mastery

The students can identify and revise the mistakes in the use of verbs in simple past tense sentences.

1.6.3. Simple past tense

The Sentences that describe activities that have already happened use the 2 forms of the verb in positive sentences, but in negative and interrogative sentences, the 1 form of the verb is used. This makes it difficult for students to master the simple past tense, so a solution is needed to help them master it.

1.6.4. Grammarly

Grammarly is a web application that can be used to assist students in improving their mastery of the simple past tense.

1.6.5. SMA Taruna Bumi Khatulistiwa

The school used as the research site is located on Jl. Arteri Supadio, Sungai Raya, Kec. Sungai Raya, Kubu Raya Regency, West Kalimantan.