



# The Relationship Between Student's Understanding of Simple Past Tense and Ability To Write Narrative Text at Ninth Grade of SMP Mashita

**Vina Andelusiana**

English Education, Riau Kepulauan University, Indonesia, [vinaandelusiana87@gmail.com](mailto:vinaandelusiana87@gmail.com)

**Untsa Husna Nadhiroh**

English Education, Riau Kepulauan University, Indonesia, [untsahusna28@gmail.com](mailto:untsahusna28@gmail.com)

## ABSTRACT

This study purposed to examine the correlation between student's simple past tense understanding and ability in writing narrative text. Student's mastery in understanding the simple past tense is the one of the language features of narrative text which can affect their ability to write narrative texts. However, in reality, some students misunderstand the important points of narrative text, specifically the simple past tense, so they also are unable to written the text properly and correctly. This research is quantitative research with correlation techniques. The data were collected from giving test to students in the form of simple past tense tests and writing narrative text. The subject for this study was 18 ninth grade student at Mashita Junior High School for the 2024/2025 academic year. The analysis of data statistic was done using the statistic technique Pearson's product-moment correlation with the program SPSS 27.0 for windows. The average results of the student' simple past tense test score was 88.22 and the average results of the student' test score in writing narrative test score was 88.28. The result of the hypothesis showed that there was a relationship between students' mastery of the simple past tense and their ability to write narrative texts. The correlation value was 0,000 and it shows the relationship between variable is very low.

**Keywords:** the correlation; simple past tense; narrative text ability; understanding

## Introduction

English is a very important medium of communication in Indonesia. English serves as an international language that is used in every country. People must communicate in

English when they are in another country or meet foreigners. In addition, many of the world's best books, films, music, and books are published in English, so we need to understand it. (Edi, 2024) English is very important and can be used for various purposes, such as achieving academic goals, advancing your career, or traveling abroad.

English is a compulsory subject from junior high school to university in Indonesia. When it comes to English, there are four skills that must be mastered in learning English. These four skills required for English proficiency are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. (Wirawan, 2022)

The simple past tense is one of the basic tenses in English grammar, especially when writing narrative texts. (Jose Romero et al., 2016) Narrative writing depends on the sequence of past events, which requires the correct use of past tense. However, many students have difficulty using the correct verb forms, making it difficult to compose coherent narrative texts. (Tiara Widya, Anggraini, Dwi Putri Febriyanti & Sakinah, Aisyah Safitri, 2020) Therefore, understanding the relationship between grammatical knowledge and students' writing abilities is very important for improving their writing skills. Despite the importance of using the simple past tense, many students are still unable to apply it accurately.

The use of the simple past tense is included in the learning of ninth grade junior high school students at Mashita Sagulung Junior High School in the English subject. This subject is part of the English language learning curriculum for junior high school. This subject is scheduled twice a week, with each meeting lasting 90 minutes. The simple past tense is not included in Indonesian language instruction, so students often make mistakes when learning the past tense. Therefore, is students' understanding of the simple past tense related to how they apply it in writing narrative texts? By understanding this, teachers can develop more effective teaching strategies to improve students' writing skills.

## Methods

This study uses a qualitative research type using the correlation method to quantify the relationship between two variables (understanding of simple past tense as the independent variable and the ability to write narrative text as the dependent variable). The population in this study were 9th grade students of SMPS Mashita in the even semester of 2024-2025. Because the population is less than 30 students, this study uses a non-probability sampling technique with a saturated sampling technique.

This study uses a data collection technique by giving students a test in the form of a simple past tense test and writing narrative text. To determine the validity of the instrument, the researcher used a content validity test by comparing the contents of the instrument with the material being taught. The validity test criteria are comparing the r-count value (Pearson Correlation) with the r-table value. If the r-count value > r-table, then the research instrument is declared valid. If the r-count value < r-table, then the research instrument is declared invalid.

To find out the correlation between students' digital literacy and reading comprehension of the research, the researcher used the Product Moment Correlation in SPSS version 23.0 for windows and to read the interpretation of the output results, the researcher used the guidebook from (Muhid, 2019). The researcher interpreted the

▪correlation using the interpretation of the product moment correlation from Sugiyono (2006, P. 214) as in Table 1.

Tabel 1. Interpretation of Correlation Coefficients

| Coefficient Interval | Level of Relationship |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 0.00 – 0,199         | Very Low              |
| 0,20 – 0,399         | Low                   |
| 0.40 – 0.599         | Moderate              |
| 0.60 – 0.799         | Strong                |
| 0.80 – 1.00          | Very Strong           |

The hypothesis in this study is that there is a statistically significant correlation between the variables of understanding simple past tense and the ability to write narrative texts of grade 9 students of SMPS Mashita in the even semester of 2024-2025. ( $H_a: r_{\text{count}} > r_{\text{table}}$  = if  $r_{\text{count}}$  is greater than  $r_{\text{table}}$ ).

## Findings and Discussion

The results of the hypothesis test show that the average test scores of students are greater than 70, both in understanding the simple past tense and in writing narrative texts. With a significance value much smaller than 0.025, the null hypothesis is rejected. This means that there is a significant difference between student scores and the reference value of 70, indicating an improvement in mastery of the material.

### Simple Past Tense Hypothesis Test

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics Table

#### One-Sample Statistics

|       | N  | Mean  | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
|-------|----|-------|----------------|-----------------|
| Value | 18 | 88.22 | 9.711          | 2.289           |

Table 3. Hypothesis Testing Table

#### One-Sample Test

|       | Test Value = 70 |    |                 |                 |                                           |       |
|-------|-----------------|----|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|
|       | t               | df | Sig. (2-tailed) | Mean Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference |       |
|       |                 |    |                 |                 | Lower                                     | Upper |
| Value | 7.961           | 17 | .000            | 18.222          | 13.39                                     | 23.05 |

- $H_0 : \mu = 70$  (The average test score of students is equal to 70).

$H_0 : \mu \neq 70$  (The average test score of students is not equal to 70).

Based on the SPSS output above, the probability value (sig. 2-tailed) = 0.000 < 0.025, so  $H_0$  is rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that the average test score of students is not equal to 70.

### Narrative Text Hypothesis Test

Table 4. One-Sample Statistics

|       | N  | Mean  | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
|-------|----|-------|----------------|-----------------|
| Value | 18 | 88.28 | 11.736         | 2.766           |

Table 5. One-Sample Test

|       | Test Value = 70 |    |                 |                 |                                           |       |
|-------|-----------------|----|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|
|       | t               | df | Sig. (2-tailed) | Mean Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference |       |
|       |                 |    |                 |                 | Lower                                     | Upper |
| Value | 6.607           | 17 | .000            | 18.278          | 12.44                                     | 24.11 |

$H_0 : \mu = 70$  (The average test score of students is equal to 70).

$H_0 : \mu \neq 70$  (The average test score of students is not equal to 70).

Decision Making using probability values (Sig).

Because the hypothesis indicates a two-tailed t-test, the probability value (sig).

If the probability value (sig)  $\geq 0.05/2$ , then  $H_0$  is accepted.

If the probability value (sig)  $\geq 0.05/2$ , then  $H_0$  is rejected.

Based on the SPSS output above, the probability value (sig. 2-tailed) = 0.000 < 0.025, so  $H_0$  is rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that the average test score of students is not equal to 70.

### Normality Test

Based on the normality test that has been conducted, the data shows a normal distribution for both variables, both understanding of the simple past tense and narrative

writing ability. This is evidenced by a significance value greater than 0.05 in both normality tests.

### Simple Past Tense Normality Test

Table 6. Tests of Normality

|       | Kolmogorov-Smirnov <sup>a</sup> |    |       | Shapiro-Wilk |    |      |
|-------|---------------------------------|----|-------|--------------|----|------|
|       | Statistic                       | df | Sig.  | Statistic    | df | Sig. |
| Value | .146                            | 18 | .200* | .924         | 18 | .154 |

\*. This is a lower bound of the true significance.

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Based on the SPSS output above, the sig value = 0.200 > 0.05, so Ho is accepted (the data is normally distributed).

### Narrative Text Normality Test

Table 7. Tests of Normality

|       | Kolmogorov-Smirnov <sup>a</sup> |    |      | Shapiro-Wilk |    |      |
|-------|---------------------------------|----|------|--------------|----|------|
|       | Statistic                       | df | Sig. | Statistic    | df | Sig. |
| Value | .174                            | 18 | .154 | .885         | 18 | .031 |

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Based on the SPSS output above, the sig value = 0.154 > 0.05, so Ho is accepted (the data is normally distributed).

### Correlation Test

Table 8. Correlations

|                   |                     | SIMPLEPASTTENSE | NARATIVETESKS |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Simple past tense | Pearson Correlation | 1               | .971**        |
|                   | Sig. (2-tailed)     |                 | .000          |
|                   | N                   | 18              | 18            |
| Narrative text    | Pearson Correlation | .971**          | 1             |
|                   | Sig. (2-tailed)     | .000            |               |
|                   | N                   | 18              | 18            |

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

- A correlation result of 0.000 indicates that there is a relationship between the two variables. Based on the above information, it can be concluded that there is a strong, negative, and significant relationship between the variables of understanding the simple past tense and the ability to write narrative texts.

## Conclusion

The study's findings demonstrated a strong correlation between students' proficiency with the simple past tense and their capacity to compose narrative texts. The mean score for students' comprehension of the simple past tense was 88.22, while the mean score for their ability to compose narrative texts was 88.28, according to statistical analysis using Pearson's product-moment correlation. The two variables have a very low link, as indicated by the correlation value of 0.00.

Therefore, it may be said that students' capacity to write narrative texts improves with their comprehension of the simple past tense. This finding suggests that teaching grammar, especially the simple past tense, is crucial for enhancing pupils' writing abilities. Therefore, in order to help students write better narratives, teachers are encouraged to create more efficient teaching methods that will help students better grasp the simple past tense.

## References

Edi, W. (2024). *Lectura : Jurnal Pendidikan*. 15, 315–326.

JOSE ROMERO PEREZ Director General JOSE GREGORIO ROIS ZUÑIGA Secretaria

General OMAR OBANDO DAEZ Subdirector de Calidad Ambiental JAIME PINTO

BERMUDEZ Subdirector de Gestión Desarrollo LUIS MANUEL MEDINA TORO Jefe

oficina Asesora de Planeación, A., ARCINIEGAS MOLINA Asesor Territorial del Sur

MAILENE LAUDITH ROBLES PINTO Jefe oficina Asesora Jurídica JORGE MIGUEL

GUEVARA FRAGOZO Asesor de Desarrollo Institucional PROYECTADO POR, A.,

DORANCÉ MANRIQUE OSORIO Geólogo GRUPO SIG CORPOGUAJIRA, J., NJCLD,

& 杜彬陶沙 卢静 李媛媛 马磊磊 王翠翠. (2016). No 主観的健康感を中心とした在宅

高齢者における 健康関連指標に関する共分散構造分析Title. *Applied Microbiology*

- *and Biotechnology*, 85(1), 6.

Tiara Widya, Anggraini, Dwi Putri Febriyanti, A. P., & Sakinah, Aisyah Safitri, S. A. (2020).

Pengaruh Metode Game Based Learning Terhadap Pemahaman Belajar Peserta Didik Pada Mata Pelajaran Ipa Di Mi Al Awwal Palembang. *Πανελλήνιο Συνέδριο Επιστημών Εκπαίδευσης*, 9, 110.

Wirawan, I. G. N. (2022). Pentingnya Penguasaan Tenses Bahasa Inggris Dalam Berbicara.

*Jurnal Warta Desa (JWD)*, 4(1), 21–26. <https://doi.org/10.29303/jwd.v4i1.174>