

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer present some points. Those are the background of the research, statement of the problem, objective of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research, and operational definition.

1.1 Background of the Research

The current period of globalization has made English the language spoken all over the world the most, particularly in the field of educational concerns. Panggabean (2016) states that English is not a first or second language in Indonesia, but is the first foreign language most Indonesians learn when they start school. There are a lot of formal schools in Indonesia where English is taught from kindergarten to university level; this is shown by English being one of a few emphasized subjects (Panggabean, 2015). One of the biggest challenges of learning English is learning grammar rules. If he is proper in vocabulary, he is right at reading; indeed, he needs to enhance his grammar (Perdana et al., 2021). In addition, English grammar looks relatively simple compared to other languages, but a slight mistake can easily change the meaning of what we mean.

According to (Mahmudah et al., 2019), there are three main verb tenses classifications in English grammar, namely: present, past, and future. For elementary to high school students, the simple past tense is considered one of the most complicated topics to master among these three systems of English grammar. In general, simple past tense is one of the English tenses used to describe an action or event that occurred and ended in the past at a certain time. To understand the simple past tense in English, students must be able to switch present-tense verbs to past-tense verbs, differentiate between regular and irregular verbs, and use the correct sentence structure in affirmative (positive), negative, and interrogative sentences.

The majority of the students, especially those in vocational high schools, do not know how to use the simple past tense correctly. According to the teacher in

SMK Wisudha Karya Kudus, “The eleventh-grade of Mechanical Engineering students at SMK Wisudha Karya Kudus were experiencing similar difficulties in learning how to form verbs in the simple past tense, understand the rules of simple past tense, and make sentences in the simple past tense. Despite the fact that English is not their first language (L1) or second language (L2), the teacher needs to teach them the simple past tense effectively”. Following the identification of the issues, the writer used *Speedy English Grammar* as an Android Game-Based Learning application for teaching simple past tense.

Speedy English Grammar is an Android Education application created by Wobble Monkey English. It is a practice application for teaching and learning English grammar that can be downloaded on the Google Play Store. This learning games application is the most effective method of educating ESL Children and teenagers who do not speak English well. It will be working with link sentences for the learners to play games with lessons that will help them expand and enhance their vocabulary and improve their listening and speaking abilities. This application contains exercises for teaching and learning English grammar material. It is an excellent way for students to improve their English grammar, vocabulary, sentence structures, listening, speaking, and phonics skill by playing this educational game. Thus, since there are many positive reviews about this application on Google Play, *Speedy English Grammar* application has received a rating of 4.9% from 36,517 users of the application. Game-based applications or games are trendy among youth, especially for children and adolescents in this modern era (Yunanto et al., 2020). The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) states that children ages 8 to 18 spend approximately 50 minutes per day playing video games (Brandt, 2006, p. 6). Livingstone & Haddon (in Yunanto et al., 2020, p. 738) report that playing games are the second activity children do after finishing homework.

The previous studies on the use of *Speedy Grammar* application were conducted by a previous scholar, and the result revealed that students who used the game application performed noticeably better than students who did not participate through the application (Niswah, 2022), indicating that the application can be used to overcome difficulties in learning English grammar.

There are some strengths and weaknesses of teaching grammar using the Speedy English Grammar application. According to the developer's program details, this application includes more than 100 basic lessons, grammatical tests, and practice activities suitable for students at the primary and intermediate levels. It includes simple past tense materials, a simple colour-coded grammar guide, listening exercises, and challenging games to test their English skills. This learning method must be fast, fun, and effective, especially for vocational high school students. However, unfortunately, the users need to pay for another level. The teacher may use *Speedy English Grammar* application as a learning medium and find new methods to teach English grammar. The writer believes that the application can make the class exciting, and the student will not get bored. Whereas, teaching grammar without using the application, the student will easy to get bored and find it hard to understand the grammatical. From this explanation, the writer concluded that *Speedy English Grammar* is an Android Game-Based Learning application to teach and learn English grammar, especially simple past tense for learners. Therefore, the writer is motivated to conduct this research to teach students the simple past tense more effectively by utilizing Speedy English Grammar.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the writer formulates the statement of the problem as: Is there any significant difference between the Simple Past Tense mastery of the eleventh grade of Mechanical Engineering students of SMK Wisudha Karya Kudus in academic year 2022/2023 before and after being taught by using *Speedy English Grammar*?

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the statement of the research problem above, the objective of the research can be aim: to find out whether or not there is any significance different between the Simple Past Tense mastery of the eleventh grade of Mechanical Engineering students of SMK Wisudha Karya Kudus in academic year 2022/2023 before and after being taught by using *Speedy English Grammar*.

1.4 Significance of the Research

Based on this research, the writer hopes that the result of this study gives some positive contribution to the English learning context and may be beneficial as follow:

1. For the students

This study can make learning activities more enjoyable. Therefore, the students will understand it deeply and not easily get bored.

2. For the English teachers

The result of this study may increase teachers` knowledge by creating a new atmosphere to teach simple past tense in the classroom. It may also change the way teachers share the study materials with the students.

3. For the researchers

This study is expected to deliver new experiences and knowledge of potential teachers and also for researchers in the future domain field of education.

1.5 Scope of the Research

In this research, the writer focused on one class as the sample of this research by using cluster random sampling. The writer taught simple past tense by using and without using the application to the students in the second grade of Mechanical Engineering students of SMK Wisudha Karya Kudus.

1.6 Operational Definition

Definitions of particular terms explanation of the phrases used by the writer as follows:

1. Simple Past Tense

Simple past tense expresses an action or event that happened at a specific time in the past. In simple past tense, people use it when they want to talk about something that happened in the past.

2. Speedy English Grammar

Speedy English Grammar is an English Grammar Practice application that provided to practice English Grammar easily and fun.

3. Effectiveness

In terms of effectiveness, it may be defined as the degree to which Speedy English Grammar successfully produces the desired result.

4. The eleventh grade of Mechanical Engineering students in SMK Wisudha Karya Kudus

Students of vocational high school who participate in this study as a participants are the eleventh grade of Mechanical Engineering at SMK Wisudha Karya Kudus.

5. Mastery

The term “mastery” is used to master wide knowledge or comprehension of a subject.

