

STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING PREFIX

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan mahasiswa dalam menggunakan prefix. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif. Sumber data didapatkan dari 40 orang mahasiswa angkatan ketiga tahun ajaran 2015/ 2016 STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat dengan menggunakan random sampling teknik. Peneliti menggunakan tes vocabulary prefix berbentuk pilihan berganda. Hasil analisis data penelitian menunjukkan persentase kemampuan skor mahasiswa dengan klasifikasi kemampuan baik berjumlah 25%, kemampuan cukup baik berjumlah 41,7% dan kemampuan kurang berjumlah 16,7%. Persentase kemampuan mahasiswa yang sudah mampu menggunakan prefix berjumlah 16,7%. Jadi dapat disimpulkan bahwa kemampuan mahasiswa menggunakan prefix tergolong cukup baik.

ABSTRACT

This research was aimed at finding out students' ability in using prefix. This was a descriptive research. The source of data of this research was taken from 40 students of STKIP PGRI West Sumatra at the third year registered in 2015/2016 academic year by using random sampling technique . The researcher used prefix vocabulary test in multiple choice form. The result of this research showed that the percentage of students' score in good category 25%, fair 41.7%, poor 16.7%. The percentage of students who were able to use prefix was 16.7%. So, it can be concluded that students' ability in using prefix was fair.

Key words: *students' ability, prefix*

INTRODUCTION

Doing communication means expressing ideas through words; either spoken or written. It needs of using a few words or know a lot of words. Someone should pay attention carefully in choosing words that will be used because it can give a different interpretation in meaning. It can be said that words as basic which has to be mastered in a language. Actually it seems define that a word in a language is a group of sounds or letters that have a particular meaning. It tells the word consists of a group of sounds that represent and communicate the meaning of various essential for communication. A basic unit of language both oral and written is started from a word.

Furthermore, the process of forming new words are called by morphology. According to Larson et al. (2013: 18), morphology is the study of word structure. It includes root, bases, and affixes. Then, Kim (2013:46) adds that morphological awareness is very flexible. It has a close relationship with vocabulary knowledge. Special for affix, it is a morpheme that only occurs when attacked to some other morpheme or morphemes. Sukarno (2008:56) states that morpheme is the smallest unit of language. It means that actuallya morpheme is a meaningful word or part of a word that cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts. So, a morpheme is included a word that has its own significance meaning which can not be divided into smaller form.

Therefore, morpheme is closely associated with the word about study either its structure or process of word formation. Morpheme has several types which one of them as stated by Katamba (2008: 41), one type of morpheme is affix. An affix is a morpheme that only occurs when attached to some other morpheme or morphemes such as a root or stem or base. It explains that affixes added into one of morpheme. Furthermore, according to Katamba (2008:44), there are three types of affixes: prefixes, suffixes and infixes. A prefix is attached before the root and base such as *sun-* and *in-*. A suffix, (part of being plural and tense markers) are affixes attached after root and stem or base like *un-*, *-ly*, *er*, *-s*, *-ed* and *-ing*. Infix is inserted into the root affixes itself. It clearly tells that the prefix is placed at the beginning of words to modify or change its meaning. When the prefix is added to the root of the word, to form new words, it can be put a word in combination with the word-based and alter the function or part of the speech. In addition, the suffix means the end of the word-based and also change the part of speech. In addition, infix added to the pre and post-root or in the root. In short, most of the addition of prefixes, suffixes and infixes are affixes that can change its a part of speech, such as verbs, adjectives, nouns and adverbs and affect the interpretation of its meaning.

Furthermore, prefix is one of affixes at the beginning before morpheme. Thornbury (2002:16) states that beginning-of-word affixes, like *re-*, *un-*, *pre-*, *de-*, etc are called prefixes. It means that *re-*, *un-* at before a word or free morpheme. It is supported by Redman (2001: 18) divides prefix into three parts which are prefix with meaning 'not', verb prefixes: *un-* and *dis-*, and other verb prefixes with specific meanings. Prefixes (*un-*, *in-*, *il-*, *ir-*, and *dis-*) are *un-* is used with many different words, *in-* is used before a limited number of words, *ir-* is only used before some words beginning with *r*, *il-* is used before

some words beginning with *l*, *im-* is used before some words beginning with *m* or *p*.

Then, it is clearly stated that some affixes have commonly prefix and change the function of the word but do not always. Prefix is an affix at left of original or free morpheme and produce new meaning and different function. This statement is supported by Crystal in Altay (2006: 58). He defines prefix as a term used in morphology. It is referred to an affix which is added initially to a root or stem. Some examples for them like as *be-*, *de-*, *en-*, *ex-*, etc. Prefixes involve a change of word class but they are not usually.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research was a descriptive research which described about fact and phenomenon in details systematically and accurately data. This type was chosen because the data were existed and interpreted based on the fact. Therefore, research described about the use of prefix toward college students at the third year of STKIP PGRI West Sumatra in academic year 2015/2016. According to Gay and Airasian (2000:275), descriptive research determines and describes the way things are. It shows that descriptive research tells more explanation about a problem or issue that is investigated. The researcher looked at the use of prefixes at the college students from the formed root word and other word.

This research was conducted in STKIP PGRI West Sumatra. The students were the third year of English Department registered in 2015/ 2016 academic year. The amounts of students are 241 students. According to Gay and Airasian (2000:129), simple random sampling is process of selecting a sample in such a way that all individuals in the defined population have an equal and independent chance of being selected for the sample. The researcher selected four or five students randomly in each of session and there were 40

students as sample selected in this research. The source of data was taken from students' prefix vocabulary test in multiple choice form. The test was made based on indicators of making questions for derivational prefix (dis-, im-, un-, bi-, en-, ill-, mis- and irr-). The questions were validated for suitability of the questions.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Derivational prefix is an affix at the beginning of a word. After collecting and analyzing the data, it was found that only 16.7% students answered correctly the test. Some students were trapped in some items of the questions. It clearly stated that the students had understood about derivational prefix but it still had been not thoroughly understood by all the students. It was proved by few students as sample answered right for the test items. It showed that their ability in using derivational prefix had been understood but they had not thoroughly understood. The percentage of students' ability in using derivational prefix was formulated by Sudijono (2003: 52) by using this formula:

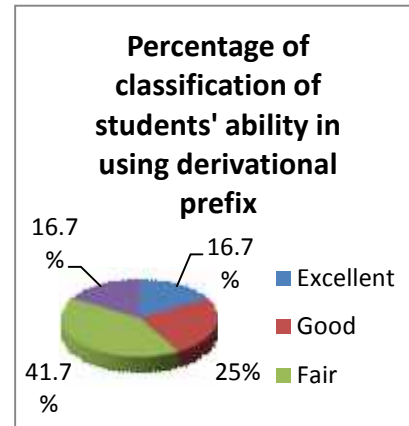
$$p = \frac{f}{n} \times 100\%$$

notes:

- p* = percentage of students' ability
- f* = frequency students' number
- n* = total students

Through this formula the percentage of students' ability in using derivational prefix by good classification was 25% and excellent classification 16.7%, fair classification were 41.7% and poor classification were 16.7%. The number of students' ability got good and excellent classification was 41.7%. So, it can be concluded that the students had been able to use affix, but it still had not been thoroughly by all the students. It can be put in this diagram below:

Chart 1. Percentage of classification of students' ability in using derivational prefix



From the analyzing of the data above, it can be concluded that the third year students of English Department of STKIP PGRI West Sumatra in 2015/ 2016 academic year could use prefix and less than a half of the number of samples were in fair category. After doing checked about percentage of students' mistake, it was found that 41.7% students got fair, 25% got good, the same portion was the same for excellent and poor category. It was 16.7%. It can be said that the students had not thoroughly understood about prefix.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this research was to describe the students' ability in using prefix. The data was collected by giving students a test in multiple choice form. The data showed the students' ability in using prefix. There are a number of derivational prefix questions. The students have to choose the best answer of the questions. The questions have blank sentence which asks the students to fill the best answer of five chosen word. Thus, the students have to consider about the correct answer about the suit word to fill the blank sentence. Thus, the third year students of English Department of STKIP PGRI West Sumatra prove that a few

students have fair ability in using prefix and the other students have good, excellent and poor ability. It showed that that they still less understand in comprehension of prefix.

SUGGESTION

Based on the conclusion of the research above, it was concluded that the students who use prefix have clear enough knowledge about the use of prefix itself. The data showed that derivational affix was used well enough by a few the students as the sample of the research. It is suggested that the students had to build the comprehension and increase their glossary about prefixes in mastering English as a foreign language. The students need to know and comprehend the use of prefix.

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