STUDENTS’ MASTERY OF COMPARISON DEGREE OF ADJECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

This research is analyzed students’ mastery of comparison degree. There are three kinds of comparison degree. They are: positive, comparative and superlative degree. The population of this research is English department students of FKIP UPI YPTK Padang. The sample of the research is second semester students of English department students of FKIP UPI YPTK Padang in 2017/2018 academic year. The instrument of the research is test of comparison degree of adjective. The result of the test shows that students have different ability in mastery comparison degree.

Key words: comparative degree, positive, comparative and superlative

INTRODUCTION

English is a subject at university. English has any important parts. They are skills and language components of English. Skills of English are speaking, reading, writing and listening. Language components of English are vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and spelling. Between skills and language components are supported each other. They also cannot be separated each other.

One of language components is grammar. In grammar, students studied many topics. One of the topics is comparison degree. In learning process, students still have problems in mastery comparison degree. Students mainly had problems in superlative and comparative degree. Their problems are in putting –er, -est or using more or most. Sometimes they also have problem in using be such as is, am, are, was, were. Based on the observation during learning process, students are still low ability in identifying which are positive, comparative or superlative degrees. Moreover, students also cannot identify and cannot correct when using comparison degrees. A student still used “my ruler is long than yours.” It is absolutely error. Based on the above phenomena, researcher was interested in analyzing students’ ability in mastery comparison degree.

COMPARISON DEGREE

Parrot (2000: 68) says that comparatives are adjectives and adverbs that end in –er and superlatives are adjectives and adverbs that end in –est. Moreover, Sidney (1975: 143) defines that comparison is that inflection of adjectives or adverbs which indicates the positive, comparative and superlative degree.

There are ways to compare things based on the differences of the things. They are positive, comparative and superlative degrees.

1. Positive degree

The basic form of adjective is positive. Positive implies that something is equal to other. For positive form, it can be used …. As….. as….. for example students can use “my bag is as heavy as Rani’s
“bag.” Hewings (2005: 146) says that we use as + adjective / adverb + so to say that something or someone is like something or someone else or that one situation is like another, and the negative forms of sentence can use either not use either not as or not so. For example:

I run as quickly as I can
2. Comparative degree
Comparative degree shows something is more than other. Comparative degree is used to compare the quality or quantity of two persons or things on condition that one exceeds another. For example:
Budi is shorter than Andra.
3. Superlative degree
Superlative degree is used to stress the highest degree of quality or quantity of group of persons or things on condition that one excluded from the group. For example:
Tio is the tallest student in the class.

METHODS

The method of this research is a descriptive research. Gay and Airasian (2000) state that descriptive research determines and reports the ways thing are. It is told about something occurs in the field. Further, Gay and Airasian also add there are two reasons why people use the descriptive method. First, a high percentage of reported research studies are descriptive in nature. Second, the descriptive method is useful for investigating a variety of educational problems. Since it was a descriptive research, the data were collected through test.

a. Place and Time of Research
This research was taken at English study program of UPI YPTK Padang. The location is on Jalan Lubuk Begalung Padang, Sumatera Barat province. The research will be taken at second semester on 2018/2019 academic year.

b. Method of the Research
This research was used descriptive method. This research described the object of the research systematically and accurately.

c. Subject of the Research
Population
Sugiyono (2010: 117) defines that population is a generalization region consisting of objects or subjects that have certain qualities and characteristics are determined by the researcher to be studied and then make conclusion. In this research, the population is total number of students of English study program of UPI YPTK Padang. The population is 26 students.

Sample
Best and Kahn (1995: 13) defines that a sample is a small proportion of population selected for observation and analysis. This statement means that sample is part of individual members which is chosen to represent of the whole population. In this research, the sample is second semester students of English language study program of UPI YPTK Padang. The sampling used is total sampling.

Technique of Data Collection
The research used test as instrument. Test is used to get the data of students’ mastery of comparison degree. There were ten questions about comparison degrees. The questions consisted of positive, comparative and superlative degree.
Instrument

Arikunto (2006: 193) argues that instrument is a tool or facility that is used by researcher to collect data in order to get better result. There are two kinds of instruments. They are test and non test instrument. This research used test as instrument. Researcher used multiple choice test. The purpose is to get the data about students’ mastery of comparison degrees (positive, comparative and superlative degree).

Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, researcher did:
Checking students’ answer sheet
Correcting students’ answer sheet
Giving score
Determining category of students’ mastery
Clarifying students’ level of mastery by using formulae:
\[ P = \frac{f}{N} \times 100\% \]

where:
P : percentage number
F : frequency
N : number of students

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

After collected the data, there are some steps done
1. Determining level of students’ mastery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Code of students</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total score</td>
<td>550</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the table above, it can be seen that there were three students get excellent; two of them got 80 and one got 90. One student got good. A student got 60. Six students got fair. They only got 50 and 30. Three students were 50 and three students more got 30.

2. Finding the percentage

The percentage was calculated by using formula above and the result as follows:
Excellent : 3
Good : 1
Fair : 6

The percentage of students’ mastery as follows:

a. The percentage of students’ mastery of comparison degree that was excellent, there were 3 persons. So the percentage is 30%
b. The percentage of students’ mastery of comparison degree that was good, there was 1 person. So the percentage is 10%
c. The percentage of students’ mastery of comparison degree that was fair, there were 6 persons. So the percentage is 60%

It also can be seen in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of mastery</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the result, it can be concluded that the students’ mastery of comparison degree at second semester of English study program in 2017/2018 academic year is fair.

**Discussion**

The test consisted of 10 questions about comparison degree. The questions are about positive, comparative and superlative degree. The data showed three students get excellent; two of them got 80 and one got 90. One student got good. A student got 60. Six students got fair. They only got 50 and 30. Three students were 50 and three students more got 30. Based on the data, students are categorized fair in mastery comparison degree. It is the same as the result of research done by Yasa at SMP Pancasila Canggu Badung where majority students had sufficient ability. This research finding has supported the previous research.

**CONCLUSION**

The result of the data can be concluded that students’ mastery of comparison degree is the percentage of students’ mastery of comparison degree that was excellent, there were 3 persons. So the percentage is 30%. There was 1 person categorized good. So the percentage is 10%. The percentage of students’ mastery of comparison degree that was fair, there were 6 persons. So the percentage is 60%.

**REFERENCES**


