AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING PREPOSITION WITHIN DESCRIPTIVE TEXT AT SEVENTH GRADE OF MTSN 6 AGAM

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ABSTRACT

Prepositions were part of grammar used in speaking, listening, reading and writing. In learning English, the students must be able to grasp the meaning. There were several problems that the researcher found in the process of learning English at seventh grade of MTSN 6 Agam. There first problem was the students did not know the meaning of the prepositions. The second problem was that students still found difficulties to distinguish preposition in arranging the sentence correctly. In fact, prepositions are of several types. Therefore, the purpose of this research was to find out how the students' ability in using prepositions within descriptive text and which types of prepositions are most frequently misused by students' in descriptive text. This research was a quantitative research. The population of this research was seventh grade students at MTSN 6 Agam which consists of 10 classes with total students 329, meanwhile the sample of this research 76 students. In this research, the researcher used purposive sampling. Instrument of this research was a test. The data had been of this research obtained, then analyzed, to find the percentage of ability. Regarding the result of the data analysis, the conclusion were types of prepositions are most frequently misused by students were prepositions place with 265 misused, and related to the second research question found that, students ability in using preposition within descriptive text have categories is sufficient 65%.

Keywords : *Ability, Preposition, Descriptive Text*

INTRODUCTION

Various categories of prepositions were usually found in any kinds of the text. One kind of the text is descriptive text. Then, Siregar & Dongoran (2020) said that, descriptive text is a piece of writing that is intended to convey meaning to the reader through sensory details and provides image to the reader. According Hanifa & Safitri (2024) said that, descriptive text is a text which describes thing, person, place, specifically so it easy to visualize and imagine the object clearly. Descriptive text includes many different components, such as content, organization, grammar, and vocabulary Firdaus et al (2024). There are two generic structure of descriptive text: identification and description. Identification to introduce the person, place and the object, place and the object described. Wilda et al (2022), said that the description describes parts, qualities, characteristics of the object and the description of a characteristic of the place, person or thing to describe. Grammar is one of the language aspects which were taught to every language learners. According Anggraini et al., n.d (2023), grammar this is the most difficult ones, in order to write well someone should know when tense should use, what kind of verb should put, and the proper time signal. Prepositions are part of grammar and often used in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. According to Wilson & Barlow (2020), prepositions are word used within a sentence to attach nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other terms. They work to link a sentence's persons, objects, time, and location. Prepositions are typically short words, and generally, they are placed immediately before nouns, examples: the cat is on the table, the rice is in the cabinet, she is behind the door. Based on these examples, it can be seen that the prepositions on is located before the noun cat, the second preposition in is before the noun cabinet, and the third preposition behind is the word before the pronoun is and end with the noun door.

Prepositions have several categories. According to (Herring, 2009), prepositions can be broadly divided into eight categories: time, place, direction or movement, agency, instrument or device, reason or purpose, connection, and origin. These categories of prepositions have functions in sentences and paragraphs. Meanwhile, Wilson & Barlow used the term types instead of categories. The role of prepositions is to indicate the relationship between words in sentences.

There are several types of preposition that are important to know. According to (Wilson & Barlow, 2020), prepositions have 3 types:

Prepositions of Time

Prepositions of time, such as at, on, in, before, and after, are used to specify when an event occurs. While the variety of prepositions might seem confusing, their application is quite straightforward. For example, use in to refer to years, months, seasons, centuries, and times of day, as seen in sentences like "I first met John in 1987" or "We eat breakfast in the morning." The preposition on is reserved for days, dates, and specific holidays, as in "Christmas is on December 25th." For times, festivals, or exceptions, at is used, such as "I work faster at night." Simpler prepositions like before and after describe relative occurrences, e.g., "We will not leave before 3 pm." Other time prepositions include during, until, around, and throughout, each with unique contexts.

Prepositions of Place

Prepositions of place, though sharing common words like on, in, and at with time prepositions, follow distinct rules for spatial references. Use on when referring to surfaces, as in "The cat is on the table," and in for enclosed spaces, e.g., "The girls play in the garden." Meanwhile, at is used for specific points, such as "We will meet at the airport." Beyond these, other place prepositions, like under, above, and outside, define relative positions clearly, e.g., "The cat is under the table." Unlike time prepositions, place prepositions tend to have stricter definitions, reducing ambiguity in their application.

Prepositions of Movement/Direction

Movement or direction prepositions describe the motion from one point to another. Examples include to, as in "She went to the bowling alley," and across, as in "Rebecca and Judi are swimming across the lake." The preposition through indicates passage within and out of something, like "The train passes through the tunnel." Similarly, into signifies entering, as in "James went into the room." Other directional prepositions, such as over, up, down, past, and around, indicate specific movements, e.g., "Jack went up the hill" or "The horse runs around the track all morning." These prepositions are straightforward, focusing on physical transitions or directions.

Based on the preliminary research, the researcher found problems related to students' ability with the prepositions. First, some students did not know the meaning of the preposition. Second, the researcher found that some students still found difficulties to distinguish preposition in arranging sentence correctly. When the researcher showed some pictures on a piece paper to the students, the students were not able to differentiate and use the preposition, like the students used "in" instead of "under", the students used "under" instead of "in", the students used "above" instead of "on", and the students used "in" instead of "under".

Based on the problems discussed above, it was important to know, further students' ability in using preposition, specifically in descriptive text. The researcher was to find out what types of preposition are most frequently misused in using preposition within descriptive text and how is the students' ability in using preposition within descriptive text at seventh grade of MTSN 6 Agam.

METHOD

This researcher was a quantitative research. According to Gay et al (2012), quantitative research is the collection and analysis numerical data to describe, explain, predict, or control phenomena of interest. This research used descriptive quantitative research. The population consists of every subject that the researcher used research. According to Merisa Fauziah et al (2023) population and sample are two elements that cannot be separated in quantitative research. In this research, the researcher used purposive sampling. The researcher chooses VII.1, VII.9, VII.10 students as informants of this research.

Collecting data is an essential part of conducting research. Several students used take the test, the test used be given to the students' seventh grade of MTSN 6 Agam. According to (Husnul Khaatimah, 2017), test is a technique used to collect data on students learning outcomes. The

technique of data analysis performed as follows: first, prepare the test that will be given to the students, the text were in the form of fill the blanks with a total 20 items. Students worked on the question for 30 minutes. Collect the answer sheets that students had worked on.

The data of research was analyzed based on the result of the test the score of each students was analyzed by using the following formula offered by Wayan & Sumarta (1986) :

$$m = \frac{\chi}{n} x100\%$$

Where : m= the individual score
x= the number of collect answer
n= the number of all item

To know the percentage of the classification of the students' scores, the formula used is as follows:

$$p = \frac{f}{r} x\ 100\%$$

Where : p=percentage
f=frequency
r=number of students

Determine the mean of the data, the researcher used the formula as follows:

$$Mean\ x_n^{\Sigma fx}$$

Where : f=frequency
n=number of students

The scores are classifies into five categories. The researcher use five categories according to Arikunto in Fauzia et al (2020):

Table 1. Categories According

No	Percentage	Grade	Criteria
1	80-100	A	Excellent
2	66-79	B	Good
3	56-65	C	Sufficient
4	40-55	D	Fairly Sufficient
5	<39	E	Low

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Data Description

The researcher would like to present the data that had been collected from the given test related to students' answered types of preposition are most frequently misused in using preposition within descriptive text. The types of preposition tested were preposition place, time, and direction. The result of analysis was would like as evidence to answer the research question, which were as follows:

a. Students' answered misused in using preposition of place. There were 4 types of preposition that have been tested on students namely: in, on, between, next to with 265 wrong.

1) In
   For the preposition of "in" there were 7 questions as seen in the following discussion:
   a. For the first question, there were 10 students answered misused.
   b. For the second question there were 21 students answered misused.
   c. For the fourth question, there were 34 students answered misused.
   d. For the seventh question, there were 31 students answered misused.
   e. For the tenth question, there were made 21 students answered misused.
   f. For the sixteenth question, there were made 18 students answered misused.
   g. For the seventh question, there were made 19 students answered misused.
2) On
   a. For the fifth question, there were made 23 students answered misused on using preposition.
   b. For the sixth question, there were 24 students answered misused on using preposition.
3) Between
   a. For the eighth question, there were 36 students answered misused on using preposition.
4) Next To
   a. For the eleventh question, there were 27 students answered misused on using preposition.

b. Students' answered misused in using preposition of time with 146 misused.
   1) At
      a. For the eighth question, there were 20 students answered misused on using preposition.
      b. For the ninth question, there were 12 students answered misused on using preposition.
      c. For the fourteenth question, there were 31 students answered misused on using preposition.
      d. For the fifteenth question, there were 31 students answered misused on using preposition.
      e. For the nineteenth question, there were 24 students answered misused on using preposition.
   2) In
      For the twelfth questions, there were 28 students answered misused in using preposition.
c. Students' answered misused in using preposition of direction with 108 misused.
   1) Around
      For the thirteenth question, there was 1 question and after the sheets were checked there were 43 of 76 students answered misused.
   2) To
      a. For the twentieth question, there were 30 of 76 students answered misused.
      b. For the third question, there were 35 of 76 students answered misused.

Data Analysis

Data analysis was carried out on test result data. The test result showed the answered students ability in using preposition within descriptive text. The researcher calculated the percentage of students' ability about preposition using the following formula:

$$p = \frac{f}{r} x\ 100\%$$

a. Percentage students' ability and types of preposition are most frequently misused in using preposition of place.

For the preposition of place, there were 11 questions with 265 misused the following percentage:

1) For the preposition of **in** there were 7 questions with 155 errors. for more detail, there were item 1, 66 students (86.85%) answered true, while there were 10 students (13.15%) answered misused, meaning 13,15% of students were unable in using preposition of place, item 2 were 55 students (72.36%) answered true, while there were 21 students (27.64%) answered misused, meaning that 27,63% of students were unable in using preposition of place, item 4 were 42 students (55.26%) answered true, while there were 34 students (44.74%) answered wrong, meaning that 44,73% of students were unable in using preposition of place, item 7 were 45 students (59.21%) answered true, while there were 31 students (40.79%) answered misused, meaning that 40,79% students were unable in using preposition of place, item 10 were 56 students (73.69%) answered true, while there were 20 students (26.31%) answered misused, meaning that 26,31% students were unable in using preposition of place, item 16 were 58 students (76.31%) answered true, while there were 18 students (23.63%) answered misused, meaning that 23,63% students were unable in using preposition of place, item 17 were 57 students (75%) answered true, while there were 19 students (25%) answered misused, meaning that 25% students were unable in using preposition of place.
2) For the preposition of on there were 2 questions with 47 misused, for more detail, there were item 5, 53 students (69.73%) answered true, while there were 23 meaning that 30, 27% students were answered misused, meaning that 30.27% students were unable in using preposition of place, and for item 6 were 52 students (68.42%) answered true, while there are 24 students (31.58%) answered misused, meaning that 31, 57% students were unable in using preposition of place.
3) For the preposition of next to there were 1 question with 27 students answered wrong, there were 49 students (64.48%) answered true, while there were 27 students (35.52%) answered misused, meaning that 35, 52% students were unable in using preposition of place
4) For the preposition between there were 1 question with 36 students answered misused, there were 40 students (52.64%) answered true, while there were 36 students (47.36%) answered misused, meaning that 47, 36% of students were unable in using preposition of place.

b. Percentage students' ability and types of preposition are most frequently misused by students in using preposition of time.

For the preposition of time there were 2 questions with 146 wrong with the following percentage:

1) For the preposition of at there were 5 questions with 118 misused, for more detail, there were item 8, 56 students (73.69%) answered true, while there were 20 students (26.31%) answered misused, meaning that 26, 31% of students were unable in using preposition of time, item 9 were 64 students (84.21%) answered true, while there are 12 students (15.79%) answered misused, meaning that 15, 79% of students were unable in using preposition of time, item 14 were 45 students (59.21%) answered true, while there were 31 students (40.79%) answered

misused, meaning that 40, 79% of students were unable in using preposition of time, item 15 were 45 students (59.21%) answered true, while there were 31 students (40.79%) answered misused, meaning that 40, 79% of students were unable preposition of time, and for item 19 were 52 students (68.42%) answered true, while there were 24 students (31.57%) answered misused, meaning that 31, 57% of students were unable in using preposition of time.

2) For the preposition of in there were 1 question, item 12 with 28 misused, for more detail, the percentage of students answered misused in preposition of time were 48 students (63.15%) answered true, while there were 28 students (36.85%) answered misused, meaning that 36.85% of students were unable in using preposition of time.

c. Percentage students' ability and types of preposition are most frequently in using preposition of direction "around and to".

1) For, more detail that occurred in item 13 were 33 students (43.42%) answered true, while there were 43 students (56.58%) answered misused meaning that 56, 57% of students were unable in using preposition of direction.
2) For the preposition of to, there were 2 questions, for item 3 were 41 students (53.95%) answered true, while there were 35 students (46.05%) answered misused, meaning that 46, 05% of students were unable in using preposition of direction.

Based on the data analysis above, it can be seen that there were total of misused preposition that were used the total 76 students. The percentage of students' ability in using three types of preposition: preposition of place, preposition of time, and preposition of direction.

Furthermore, the researcher presented the result of students' performance after collecting and analyzing the data in form of table a table of percentage. The students' ability in using preposition within descriptive text could be seen in the following table.

Table 2. The Percentage Of Classification Of The Students' Ability In Using Preposition Within Descriptive Text.

No	Scoring	Grade	Frequency	Criteria	Percentage
1	80-100	A	16	Excellent	21.05%
2	66-79	B	20	Good	26.31%
3	56-65	C	15	Sufficient	19.74%
4	40-55	D	23	Fairly Sufficient	30.26%
5	<39	E	2	Low	2.63%
Total			76		100%

Based on the table above, the students 'ability in using preposition within descriptive text could be explained that there were 16 students who can be categorized in to "Excellent" level, because students got score in the interval 80-100, it was about 21.05% of the total sample, 20 students or 26.31% were categorized "good" because of getting score. Moreover, 15 students who can be categorized in to "sufficient" level, because students got score in the interval 40-55, it was about 30.26% of total sample, were categorized " fairly sufficient", for students got score in range <39, the students categorized into "low", it was about 2.63% of the total sample in this research.

Table 3. Frequency Of Mean Students 'Ability In Using Preposition.

Interval	F	X	F.x
80-100	16	90	1440
66-79	20	72.5	1450
56-65	15	60.5	907,5
40-55	23	47.5	1092,5
<-39	2	19.5	39
Total	76		4929=64,85

Based on the table above, shows that 16 students get score between 100-80, 20 students get the score between 66-79, then the students who get between 56-65 were 15 students, 23 students get the score between 40-55, 2 students get the score <39. It can be seen that the data Σ^{fx}4929n=76 and x=65. So the researcher find man score of the students is 65.

Then the result of the student mean of percentage in using preposition within descriptive text is arranged into the table of rating scales the result, the researcher use rating scale to arrange the students' ability in using preposition within descriptive text. The researcher given interpretation of result by using table which describes below:

Table 4. Percentage Of Score Classification

No	Percentage	Mean	Criteria
1	80-100		Excellent
2	66-79		Good
3	56-65	65%	Sufficient
4	40-55		Fairly Sufficient
5	<39		Low

In this section, the researcher discussed the analysis of the data that already obtained to answer the research questions. The findings of this analysis were the students' ability in using preposition within descriptive text. The researcher found that students' ability in using preposition namely: first is preposition of place were, in,on,next to, between, second is preposition of time were at,in, and third is preposition direction were around, and to have categories is sufficient 65%. There were 16 students (21.05%) categorized excellent, 20 students (26.31%) categorized good, 23 students (30.62%) categorized fairly sufficient, and 2 students (2.63%) lowest categorized. This is in line with what David Matsumoto (2009), has revealed, that students ability in using prepositions. There were data analyzed based on the formulation of the research: Which types of prepositions are most frequently misused by students' in descriptive at seventh grade of MTSN 6 Agam? And how is the students' ability in using preposition within descriptive text? From analysis of the data, the types of prepositions are most frequently misused by students were prepositions place were 263 of the total prepositions place used, it can be seen from appendix 14 page 120.

The preposition of place (in 153 students' answered misused, on 47 students' answered misused, next to 27 students' answered misused, between 36 students' answered misused), preposition of time (at 254 students, answered misused, in 28 students' answered misused), and preposition of direction (to 35 students' answered misused, around 43 students' answered wrong, to 30 students' answered misused). The students 'ability in using preposition within descriptive text could be explained that there were 16 students who can be categorized in to "Excellent" level, because students got score in the interval 80-100, it was about 21.05% of the total sample, 20

students or 26.31% were categorized "good" because of getting score. Moreover, 15 students who can be categorized in to "sufficient" level, because students got score in the interval 40-55, it was about 30.26% of total sample, were categorized " fairly sufficient", for students got score in range <39, the students categorized into "low", it was about 2.63% of the total sample in this research.

This finding also in line with several previous studies namely Imanuel kamlasi (2018), Annisa Islami (2022), and Herdi (2017) . Imanuel Kamlasi (2018) found that there are seven types of prepositions of place in the aspect of speaking performance. Furthemore, Annisa Islami (2022) found that the students writing skills in descriptive text of test are fair to level. Last Herdi (2017) found that that the average scores of students' ability in using preposition of direction was 66.47%. in conclusion, the students' ability in using preposition of direction was categorized into "fair" category.

CONCLUSIONS

Regarding of result the data analysis, the conclusion were the types of prepositions are most frequently misused by students were prepositions place with 265 misused, and related to the second research question found that, students ability in using preposition within descriptive text have categories is sufficient 65%.

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