

**STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING PREPOSITION OF TIME AND
PLACE (AT, IN, ON) IN SMA NEGERI 2 ENREKANG**



A THESIS

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University in Partial
Fulfillment to Obtain a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature Study Program*

BY

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ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM

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2022

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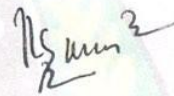
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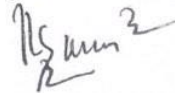
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THESIS

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BY

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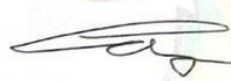
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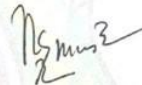
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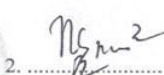
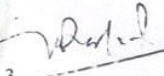

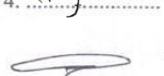
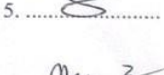
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ABSTRAK

Sitti Nur Aisyah 2022 “*Students’ Ability in Using Preposition of Time and Place (At, In, On) in SMA Negeri 2 Enrekang*” dibimbing oleh **Abidin Pammu dan Nasmilah.**

Beberapa siswa mungkin bingung preposisi mana yang dapat digunakan dengan tepat untuk kondisi tertentu. Dengan kata lain, mereka mungkin gagal membedakan penggunaan setiap preposisi secara tepat karena memiliki makna yang berbeda dalam kalimat. Oleh karena itu, tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui kemampuan mahasiswa dalam menggunakan preposisi waktu dan tempat (at, in, on) pada siswa SMA Neg.2 Enrekang di kelas IX IPA. Dengan tujuan untuk mengidentifikasi kesalahan yang terjadi dalam penggunaan preposition of time and place: at, in, on dalam sebuah kalimat bahasa Inggris.

Jenis penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah kuantitatif yang mana data diambil 50 soal pilihan ganda terkait penggunaan preposisi waktu dan tempat at, in, on diberikan kepada tiga puluh siswa tersebut.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa rata-rata skor kemampuan siswa dalam menggunakan kata depanwaktu dan tempat at, in, on adalah 22%. Kesimpulannya, kemampuan siswa dalam menggunakan kata depan waktu dan tempat at, in, on termasuk dalam kategori “sangat buruk”.

Kata kunci: Kemampuan dan Preposisi of Time and Place at, in, on.

ABSTRACT

Sitti Nur Aisyah 2022 “*Students’ Ability in Using Preposition of Time and Place (At, In, On) in SMA Negeri 2 Enrekang*” supervised by **Abidin Pammu and Nasmilah.**

A few students may be confused about which prepositions can be used appropriately for certain conditions. In other words, they may fail to distinguish the proper use of each preposition because it has different meanings in the sentence. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to determine the ability of students to use the prepositions of time and place: at, in, on at SMA Neg.2 Enrekang students in class IX science, with the aim of identifying errors that occur in the use of prepositions of time and place: at, in, on in an English sentence.

The type of research used in this study is quantitative, where the data taken from 50 multiple choice questions related to the use of the prepositions of time and place at, in, on were given to thirty students.

The results showed that the average score of students' ability to use prepositions of time and place at, in, on was 22%. In conclusion, students' ability to use prepositions of time and place at, in, on is included in the "very poor" category.

Keywords: Ability and Preposition of Time and Place at, in, on.

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The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect due to the limited knowledge and experience the writer has. Therefore, the authors expect suggestions and input and even constructive criticism from various parties. Hopefully this thesis can be useful for readers.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

English is an international language that is used as a means of communication, so it is not strange if English is one of the main and mandatory subjects to be taught to the nation's children in school education, junior high school and senior high school even up to college level.

Mastery of English is not limited to speaking in everyday communication, but more than that, mastery of English is a mastery and use of correct and appropriate vocabulary, punctuation, conjunctions, and prepositions to compose a good sentence in English.

In the world of education, elementary school and high school students have begun to be taught about part of speech, especially the use of English spelling, prepositions sound simple but sometimes there are many mistakes in their use. Things like that should be considered by students in writing sentences and in speaking, because a good sentence is a sentence that uses good and correct English spelling, including the use of prepositions which must also be used properly and correctly.

Grammar is important for language, because it makes meaning. Grammar names the types of words and word groups that make up sentences in any

language. Every language in the world has its own system of grammar. English has broad grammar; including tenses, noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun, articles, preposition and so forth. Greenbaum & Nelson (2002, p. 3) mention that there are many grammars of English, that is to say books describing English grammar.

They differ in how much of the grammar they cover and in how they set out the rules. There are also some differences in the categorization and terminology they use. This means that grammar becomes very important in language learning. Since English has broad grammar; it becomes a challenge for every learner to master the grammar of English.

Preposition is a word or group of words that is used before a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase to indicate a direction, time, place, location, spatial relationship, or to introduce an object. Some examples of prepositions are words like "at", "in", "on", "from", and "to". Prepositions in English are very idiomatic. Because of the use of prepositions, there are still many students who use it wrong, so the researcher wishes to conduct research in connection with this phenomenon.

Prepositions are words (at, in, on, near, with, without) used with nouns in phrases providing information about time (at five o'clock, in the morning), place (on the table, near the window) and other connections (with a knife, without a thought) involving actions and things (Yule, 2006). Prepositions are quite short and significant looking, but they have very important functions.

Preposition is one of the language devices that build up a sentence. In English this component is called a connective word or function word, and also part of speech. Preposition expresses a relation between two entities, one being that represented by the prepositional complement. The prepositions are normally placed before noun or pronouns, but the position itself could change depend on their functions.

In this research, the author focuses on the use of prepositions, namely (at, in, on) because many student do not understand how to use and differ from the preposition of time and place at, in, and on. The use of preposition of time and place at, in, and on in a sentence is very important, because without the preposition of time and place at, in, and on, the sentence will not be a coherent and complete sentence. Likewise, if the use of the preposition of time and place at, in, and on is wrong in a sentence, the reader will not have difficulty understanding the sentence. This phenomenon usually occurs in students who are still in school, especially in elementary and junior high schools, but it is also possible that this phenomenon can occur in high schools. Many students are still wrong in using the preposition of time and place at, in, and on.

The reason for taking this title is because the research entitled: "students' ability to use prepositions of time and place (at, in, on) at SMANegeri2 Enrekang" is very interesting to study. It is said to be interesting because the title of the research at the school has just been carried out. That is, the title of research like this has not been widely carried out in the school. In addition, the

use of preposition of time and place at, in, and on can be considered even more in its use in an English sentence. Meanwhile, the reason why the researcher took science class XI which was used as the object of research was because science class XI had an additional English class that was 4 times a week. In contrast to this, class XI majoring in social does not receive additional English specialization subjects, which is only 1 time a week. Therefore, the science majors class is the reason for collecting data in this study to find out how capable students are in using the prepositions at, in, on.

1.2 Problem Identification

Based on the background of the problems described above, the researchers identified several problems as follows:

1. The use of preposition of time and place at, in, and on is not well understood by students of science class XISMA Negeri 2 Enrekang.
2. Lack of students' understanding of the use of preposition of time and place at, in, and on correctly.
3. Misuse of preposition of time and place at, in, and on in a sentence by science class XI students of SMA Negeri 2 Enrekang.

1.3 Scope of problem

"The ability to use prepositions in a sentence by science class XI students of SMA Negeri 2 Enrekang ".

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the limitation of problems above, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. How is the students' ability in using preposition (at, in, on) in a sentence by science class XI students of SMA Negeri 2 Enrekang?
2. What type of errors do students make in using preposition (at, in, on) in a sentence?

1.5 Research Objectives

1. Finding out the profile of students' ability in using preposition (at, in, on) in a sentence by science class XI SMA Negeri 2 Enrekang.
2. Disclosing the types of errors the students make in preposition (at, in, on) in a sentence by science class XI SMA Negeri 2 Enrekang.

1.6 Significance of Research

This research is expected to provide benefits, both theoretically and practically. The theoretical benefits of this study are expected to contribute information and knowledge to learning the use of prepositions of time and place at, in, and on in English sentences.

The practical benefits of this research for teachers, it is hoped that they can provide input to teachers about the importance of using prepositions of the right time and place at, in, and on English sentences. For students, this research is expected to help students to better understand the correct use of prepositions of time and place at, in, and on. Lastly for researchers, this research can be useful for being more proficient in mastering the prepositions of time and place at, in, and on in English sentences.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Studies

There are many theses or journals that have been done previously which are certainly related to this research that discussed the use preposition of time and place at, in, and on. Based on the author's observations from libraries and online media there are several related pins, including:

1. Sulistyoadi, Sari, Trianingrum (2020) this study aims to determine the ability of Mapindo students majoring in Hospitality Accommodation in using place prepositions and identifying mistakes made, with this aim the teacher can find out certain points that need to be emphasized more when teaching place prepositions to their students.

2. Dodik Sugeng Prasetyo (2010) also studied in his research where the population in this study was the first year students' of SMP Negeri 2 Ledok Ombo, Jember. The total number of population was 118 students' who were divided into 3 classes (1A-1C). The writer applied simple random sampling and took 30 students for the sample. It meant that the writer took 10 students' from each class. The instrument of this study was test and it was conducted on November 21st 2009. The result of data analysis showed that the mean score

was 55.1, which indicated the ability of first year students' of SMP Negeri 2 Ledok Ombo, Jember in using preposition was poor.

3. Lilik Yuliawati(2019), also in her journal revealed that in lectures for one semester there is material that students must master in English courses, among which are most often considered difficult are material about prepositions, especially the Preposition of Time and Place (at, in, and on). Students find it difficult to determine when they should use prepositions at, in, and on. This can be seen through the author's observations so far in teach the material. Students often complain about their difficulty in place the prepositions at, in, and on in the sentence correctly.

4. Imanuel Kamlasi(2018) conducted, research on Evaluating the Students' Ability in Using Preposition of Place in Speaking Performance, the author focuses on the use of prepositions of place in the aspect of speaking performance. There are seven types of prepositions of place that are found in the students' speaking performances, they are; they are at, on, in, near/close, behind and in front of.

5. Herdi, Nelisa Andriana(2017) from research conducted on the first year students of English Education Department, Faculty of Education and Teachers Training, Lancang Kuning University Pekanbaru for Academic Year 2016/2017, which is to determine students' ability to use the preposition of direction. Therefore, the researcher conducted a survey design to find out whether the students had understood this material or not.

6. Yousef Sharif Tahaine (2010) in his journal which aims to find out the types of errors made by students in the use of prepositions at Arab EFL University. The data comes from an independent composition written by a stratified random sample of 162 students with the same linguistic, sociocultural, and educational background.

The six studies above are valuable as previous studies because the studies give some references about preposition to this writing. Besides, from the researches, the writer finds out the comparison of students ability in different time and place at, in, on.

In this writing, the writer discuss about “The Students’ Ability in Using Preposition of Time and Place (at, in, on) in SMA Negeri 2 Enrekang”. This research is quite different from the six researches above because it is to figure out the ability to use preposition of time and place at, in, on in a English sentence.

2.2 Theoretical Background

The material about the Preposition of Time and Place (at, in, and on) is still become one of the material that is considered difficult by students. Student yetmaster the concept of using the prepositions at, in, and on so that they experience difficulty in using these prepositions in sentences. This problem too found in previous research. Students feel confused in usingprepositions in and

on and they do not experience a significant development from one education level to another higher level (Arjan; Roslim, 2013).

The same thing happens to native Arabic speakers which results in various errors in the use of prepositions. Based on the results of the analysis, the errors made in part mostly occurs in the function and placement of prepositions which are influenced by the mother tongue and insufficient knowledge of students to the concept of prepositions in English (Khotaba; Karak, 2013).

According to Nicholls (1989), the definition of ability depends on the clear clarification between luck and skill and task difficulty point and ability is best rated as high or low with reference to the actions of member normative reference group. Therefore, the aspect of the ability to express the concept capacity. This concept is obtained by the ability test. Moreover, this concept is different from Shumow and Schmidt (2014). He claims that the concept ability (whether it is fixed or changing), is the belief that has been shown to impact on student behavior through persistence, effort, and motivation. It means that the teacher's explanation to students will affect ability.

From some of the explanations above it is clear that students' ability to use prepositions in English sentences is still low due to several factors, one of which is the mother tongue. Especially the preposition of time and place at, in, on which still has many mistakes in its use in a sentence. So this research also

wants to see how is students' of SMA Negeri 2 Enrekang ability to use prepositions of time and place at, in, on in English sentences.

2.3 Definition of Preposition

Many linguist have already stated and limited the definition of preposition. The writer would like to present some definitions in order to obtain the description of how the preposition is used in a sentence.

The definition of a preposition given by Stobe (2008) preposition is a word or group of words that is placed before a noun or pronoun to show a relationship in a sentence.

Similar to that explained in Eastwood (2002, p. 286) that preposition usually comes before anoun phrase, e.g. into the building, at two o'clock without a coat. Someprepositions can also come before an adverb, e.g. until tomorrow through there at once. Some prepositions are used before a gerund, we're thinking of movinghouse.

Preposition is the word which is placed before noun or pronoun to show its relationship to some other words in a sentence (Izzan, 2005:2).

The definition of a preposition according to the Cambridge Dictionary is a word that comes before a noun, noun phrase, or pronoun. Its function is to connect a phrase with its object, so that a perfect sentence is formed.

From the definition above, it is clear that preposition comes from the word pre which means before and position which means location, so it can be formulated that preposition or preposition is a word that is placed in front of or before a noun explaining the position or location of the object or person in a sentence.

2.2.2.1 Preposition of time

Preposition of time is a preposition used to show adverbs of time.

According to Panca (2016), there are three types of prepositions of time, namely in, on, and at.

According to Suppiah (2013), the example of Preposition of time:

At : is used to explain about a part of the day considered as a point (My father will arrive home at night).

In : is used to about longer periods of time such as seasons (I could not go to school in winter)

On : is used to explain about particular of the week, date/month or part of particular day (I will be free on Friday/We go to Malang on December) .

To be clear, the author classifies this preposition of time in several parts. They are:

2.2.1.1 The preposition in

According to Kompas.com (2022) "In" is used to express the duration of an activity. The preposition "in + time" is used to express that an event (which has occurred and has not yet occurred) takes place at a fairly precise time or not too slowly.

Lilik Yuliawati (2019, p 23) In the context of time, the preposition "in" is used to describe common times or have a greater scope, as in mentioning weeks, months, years, decades, centuries, and a long period. The preposition in is also used for some standard expressions, such as 'in the morning', 'in the afternoon', and 'in the evening'. The preposition on is used to explain a more specific time than this word, for example in mentioning the date or day.

The use of the preposition in is followed by:

- Duration (time period)
- Point of time in the future (express a period of time in the future)
- Parts of the day (declare part in one day)
- Months (declare month)
- Seasons
- Years
- Centuries
- Morning / evening / afternoon

Example:

- I visited America in May 1994.
- I will be in the japan for vocation in 2023.
- In the morning, I would like to relax.
- She was born in June 2000.
- I met my bestfriend in summer when we were having a holiday at the beach.
- We started their new business in March 2021.
- In 21st century, technology makes our life easier.
- We have workout together in the afternoon.

2.2.1.2 The preposition at

Lilik Yuliawati (2019, p 23) the preposition on is used for explain a more specific time than this word, for example in mentioning the date or day.

The preposition at is also used for some standard expressions, such as 'at noon', 'at night', 'at the weekend', 'at christmas', 'at the same time', and 'at present'.

The preposition at is used to indicate a specific or exact time :

- Time of day.
- Festive seasons.
- Points in time.
- Weekend (in British English).

Example:

- It gets cold at night.
- We'll go to Switzerland to visit our grandma at Christmas.
- What did you do at the weekend?
- There's a meeting at lunch time.

2.2.1.3 The preposition on

The use of the preposition in is followed by:

- Days
- Dates
- Weekend. The preposition on is also sometimes used in mentioning

'on the weekend' (Lilik Yuliawati 2019, p 23).

Example:

- Many shops don't open on Sundays.
- He was born on April, 15th 1992.
- What will you do on the weekend?

1.2.2 Preposition of Place

(Eastwood, 2002, pp. 291-295) explored more about the use of prepositions of place. **At** is one dimensional which is used to see something as a point in space **On** is two dimensional which is used for a surface.

According to Stroman, et al. (2008), mention the example of Preposition of place:

In : Lilik Yuliawati (2019, p 23) “in” the context of location or place, this preposition has a scope very general or large, such as cities, countries, and continents. For example, 'in Jakarta', 'in New York City', 'in Japan', 'in China', 'in Asia', 'in America'. The preposition in is also used to describe a space that is closed or has boundaries, as in 'in a box', 'in a building', 'in a cup', 'in my pocket', and 'in the gardens'.

It points to the area or something that enclosed, a room, a building (Put your hand in the bag). And preposition in for the names of towns, states, and countries (She lives **in** Malang).

On : Lilik Yuliawati (2019, p 23) the preposition on is used to name a street, as in 'on Pine Street' and 'on Cendana Street'. In addition, the preposition on is also used for mention the position on a flat surface, as in 'on the wall', 'on the floor', and 'on the first page'. the preposition at is used to mention a place very specific like addresses. For example: 'at 1089 Pine Street' and 'at Cendana Street No. 69'. In addition, the preposition at is also used to express a position that specific to a certain point, as in 'at the corner', 'at the bus stop', and 'at school'.

To designate streets (She lives **on** Ijen Street).

At : Lilik Yuliawati (2019, p 23) the preposition at is used to mention a place very specific like addresses. For example: 'at 1089 Pine Street' and 'at Cendana Street No. 69'. In addition, the preposition at is also used to express a position that specific to a certain point, as in 'at the corner', 'at the bus stop', and 'at school'.

It refers to general vicinity, were presence at a place indicated (She lives **at** 16 Tlogomas Street).

2.2.2.1 Difference of Preposition of Place : at, on, in

We will discuss about words that clarify the adverb of place or preposition of place. In Indonesian the following description of place is defined as "di". In English the explanation is more specific according to the location. Here is a brief explanation of the Preposition of place: at, on, in about the differences and examples.

Prepositions of place give you the ability to tell others where something is. In the following example, the prepositions of place have been bolded for easy identification.

a. Place Coverage

The most significant difference from Preposition of place : at, on, in is its scope. The widest place uses the word in. Locations where the place is detailed or specific use the adverb at. While the place is not too broad and not too detailed, use the description on.

In : country, province, city.

On : Street name without number.

At : Complete home address with number.

Example of sentences:

- I live **in** Makassar since 2018.
- The party will be held **in** Singapura.
- Andi and ulfa got married **in** two different continent.
- My sister live with her husband **in** South Sulawesi.
- Dont forget to pick me up **on** Tamalanrea Street.
- The meeting with the developer is **on** Pahlawan Avenue.
- Please come to the office **on** Jendral Sudirman Street for the last

interview.

- We will have the birthday party **at** perdamaian street number 12.
- Come to my new house **at** Tulip Street number 450 Blok C.
- Please deliver the order to the address **at** Maruga Gold number 123

Blok AD.

b. Flat Surface

For places that can be seen through the screen use the word "on". This includes when using surface media, watching tv or looking at a laptop screen. Only the preposition "on" is used to describe a place like this.

Example of sentences:

- Mother is watching her son **on** youtube.
- I saw my sister **on** television reality show tomorrow.
- My brother is busy working **on** his laptop.
- You need to limit your time **on** the phone, it is not a healthy habit.
- Put the book **on** the table.
- There was a "no smoking" sign **on** the wall.

c. Room

Explaining the existence of a place in English is also distinguished from the room. It can be in a closed room or a large room that uses the word "in". It can also refer to a place adjacent to the room with a specific explanation that uses the word "at".

In : in the building, in the field, in the rice field, in the airport runway, in the indoor swimming pool, in the garden.

On : on the stadium, on the radio, on the river, on the island.

At : at work, at school, at home, at the office, at the zoo, at the bank, at the post office, at the bus station, at the bakery, at the mall.

Example of sentences:

- Our parents met at the bank.
- I will wait for you at the bus stop.
- I ask my sister to pick up me at the airport today.
- My friend see the doctor at the hospital.

- She is already on the plane, i have just missed her.
- I heard my favorite song on the radio.
- We are going to watch football match on the stadium.
- My wife and i had a romantic honeymoon on an island.
- The yearbook photo will be taken in the rice field.
- There is a fire in the field next to my house.

d. Position

Preposition of place also describe the position of an object, building or person where they are. The position can be indoors or on the street with a place related to direction.

At : at the end of the road, at the intersection.

In : in front of, in the corner of.

On : on top of, on the ceiling, on the right, on the left.

Example of sentences:

- There are many cafe on the right side of the street.
- The shoes store is on the left.
- I am in front of your house now.
- My bike is parked at the end of the road.

Have explained the difference between prepositions of place: in, on and at. These three words when interpreted in Indonesian means "di". Use in sentences according to the explanation above.

Related on explanation above, the writer want to know the students's skill by explore the students ability in understanding prepositions. Especially the prepositions at, in, on. Because, many students get difficulties in learning its. The students who want to master English well should understand better the English grammar.