

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This study aimed at developing a learning tenses application for assisting students in senior high school. This chapter discusses the background, identification, limitation, formulation, objectives, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of Study

Grammar is an essential component of language that plays a crucial role in effective communication. It serves as the structural foundation upon which all languages are built, allowing individuals to convey their thoughts, ideas, and emotions accurately. The importance of grammar cannot be overstated, as it is the framework that enables speakers and writers to create coherent and meaningful expressions. Understanding and mastering grammar is especially critical for foreign language learners, who seek to not only express themselves proficiently but also integrate into the target language's culture. This thesis explores the significance of grammar, the challenges faced by foreign learners, with a focus on Indonesia, and the specific difficulties Indonesian students encounter during the process of learning grammar.

The importance of grammar in language learning and usage cannot be denied. Grammar provides a set of rules and structures that ensure clarity, precision, and consistency in communication. A comprehensive understanding of grammar enhances one's ability to convey ideas effectively, reducing the likelihood of misinterpretation. Research conducted by Chomsky (1957) laid the foundation for the study of grammar, emphasizing the innate nature of language acquisition in humans. His theory of

Universal Grammar posited that all languages share a common underlying structure, and children are born with the inherent ability to acquire the grammar of any language they are exposed to.

For foreign learners, the acquisition of grammar is a fundamental step in achieving proficiency in the target language. In their research, Lightbown and Spada (2006) noted that language learners who grasp the grammatical intricacies of a language are better equipped to comprehend and produce complex sentences, which is a significant marker of language proficiency. Furthermore, having a solid grasp of grammar allows foreign language learners to adapt to the cultural nuances of the language, as language and culture are closely intertwined. In the case of Indonesian students learning English, for instance, understanding English grammar is crucial for comprehension, as it can vary significantly from Indonesian grammar.

Indonesia, as a country with diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, has a growing interest in learning and teaching English as a foreign language. The Indonesian government has emphasized the importance of English language proficiency in its educational policies, recognizing its role in global communication and economic development. English has become a mandatory subject in schools, and numerous language schools and courses have emerged to meet the demand. However, despite the increased focus on English language education, Indonesian students often face challenges in learning English grammar effectively.

Research by Budiyanto (2016) has highlighted some of the specific difficulties Indonesian students encounter while learning English grammar. These include the differences in grammatical structures between English and Indonesian, such as the use

of tenses, articles, and prepositions. Additionally, cultural factors and the limited exposure to authentic English language use in everyday life can further hinder the acquisition of English grammar. To address these challenges, it is crucial to explore the teaching methods, materials, and strategies that can facilitate more effective grammar instruction in the Indonesian context.

Understanding the importance of grammar, the challenges faced by foreign learners in Indonesia, and the specific difficulties Indonesian students encounter during grammar learning is vital for enhancing language education in the country. This thesis aims to contribute to the field of English language teaching by providing insights into the specific issues faced by Indonesian students in learning English grammar, and by proposing effective pedagogical approaches to address these challenges. The findings of this study will not only be beneficial to educators and policymakers in Indonesia but will also offer valuable insights for English language instructors and learners in other countries facing similar linguistic and cultural barriers.

Teaching grammar with technology is a more nuanced and meaningful approach to grammar instruction that aligns with current language teaching methodologies and takes advantage of technological advancements. Learners can engage in authentic texts meaningfully, allowing them to study or notice grammar structures within real-world activities. Bikowski (2018) provides opportunities for learners to analyze grammar in context, leading to a deeper understanding of how meaning is conveyed in real-life communication. Technology-based activities can be individualized to cater to learners' specific needs and preferences, enhancing their engagement and motivation.

The use of smartphones and educational apps in language learning was found to be very important for students and encouraged them to be active and continue learning independently. The ability of smartphones to transmit learning modules electronically and facilitate communication with instructors and peers made them a reliable tool for language learning. Simatupang (2020) found three competencies driven by the apps for learning English: analogical knowledge, cognitive strategy, and experiential knowledge. Approximately 74% of students were assisted in improving their English skills by using educational apps. The findings indicated that educational apps had a positive impact on students' English skills and their ability to learn independently.

Grammar, as an essential element of language learning, plays a pivotal role in effective communication. Android-based applications can be harnessed to enhance grammar learning experiences. Sundem and Grabe (2015) explored the use of mobile-assisted language learning (MALL) in teaching English grammar. Their research demonstrated that Android-based applications provide a medium for interactive grammar exercises and immediate feedback, contributing to the improvement of learners' grammar skills. This study aims to delve deeper into the effectiveness of Android-based applications in facilitating grammar acquisition, shedding light on their potential in language education.

The need analysis results have indicated a demand for diverse learning resources to teach and comprehend tenses, emphasizing the necessity for alternative learning media in senior high school in Kediri. This research aims to develop an Android-based application for learning tenses in English grammar. It can be the solution to the challenges of learning grammar for foreign learners, the unique context of learning grammar in Indonesia, and the specific difficulties faced by Indonesian students. This

application would be accessible and enjoyable to assist students in learning grammar in senior high school.

B. Research Problem

Drawing from the provided background, the research problem can be succinctly framed as follows: How can the *Learn Tenses App* be developed to cater to the needs of senior high school students?

C. Purpose of The Study

Based on the research problem that has been presented, the purpose of the study is as follows: To know the process of developing a *Learn Tenses App* for students in senior high school.

D. Significances of The Study

The significance of using *Learn Tenses* applications based on Android for foreign language learners is also notable and can have a positive impact on both educators and their students:

1. *Learn Tenses apps* are readily available on mobile devices, making it convenient for learners to practice grammar skills anywhere and anytime.
2. *Learn Tenses apps* offer interactive exercises, quizzes, and lessons that engage learners and make the learning process more enjoyable.
3. *Learn Tenses apps* can provide instant feedback on exercises and correct mistakes, allowing learners to learn from their errors quickly.

E. Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on developing an interactive and accessible smartphone application based on Android to assist students in senior high school with grammatical mastery. English interactive learning resources could make learning English, especially tenses, easier and more motivating for them.

F. Definition of Key Terms

To help understand the terms used in the study title, researchers have explained some terms as follows:

1. Grammar

Grammar refers to the set of structural rules and conventions governing a language, encompassing the organization of words, phrases, and sentences to convey meaning. It regulates the correct usage of linguistic elements such as syntax, morphology, and semantics, ensuring that language is coherent and comprehensible. Grammar plays an essential role in language development and communication, as it establishes the principles for constructing and understanding sentences and texts.

2. Tenses

Tenses are a fundamental component of grammar that conveys the timing and sequence of actions or events in a sentence. They indicate whether an action is happening in the past, present, or future, providing essential temporal context in language. Tenses help in understanding the relationship between different actions within a narrative or discourse, and they are vital for conveying the chronology of events and actions in written and spoken communication.

3. Android-based application

An Android-based application, often referred to simply as an "app," is a software program or application designed to run on the Android operating system, which is primarily used in smartphones and tablets. These applications are developed to perform a wide range of tasks, from productivity and entertainment to utility and communication. Android-based applications can be downloaded and installed from the Google Play Store or other app marketplaces, allowing users to enhance the functionality and features of their Android devices.