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## THE STUDENTS' ABILITY OF USING PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

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### ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study to describe (a) the first grade students of Junior High School Tunu-Tuibi Maliana able to use present continuous tense, and (b) the level of ability in using present continuous tense. The method that used in this study was the qualitative method, and responders of the study were 21 students of the first grade students of junior high school Tunu-Bibi Maliana in the school years 2019. In order to analyze the level of ability in using present continuous tense, the researcher administered the test to the students with the total number of test were 40 numbers of multiply choices. The result of the test showed that 4 students got Excellent Level (19%), 6 students got Very Good Level (29%), 2 students got Good Level (10%), 5 students got Fairly Good Level (24%), 3 students got Average Level (14%), 1 student got Below Average Level (4%). And the average score of whole students was 80%. Finally it concluded that the first grade students of junior high school Tunu-Bibi Maliana in the school year 2019 were able to use the present continuous tense and their level of ability was GOOD based on the standard of measurement that has being used in this respective school.

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### INTRODUCTION

Language is a way to communication use by many people around the world. Without language people cannot communicate each other. People use language in their daily communication activities troughs many areas, commercial education. There are many language in the world differ one another in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.

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*Sapir, (1921:7)* says that in language: Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotion and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols. While **Cambridge dictionary (2019)** defines that language is the method of human communication that uses speaking and writing, or the system of communication in speaking and writing that is used by the people of a particular country?

English is an international language of the world, consider as “World language” because it is the world’s most language used in international business and communications, newspaper and book publishing, scientific publishing, mass entertainment and diplomacy. People adopted English as their international language for their international communication in negotiation and business.

English is a language that people all over the world know and many of them want to learn, although it is difficult in writing, listening and speaking. By learning English, we can transfer what we think or feel effectively to each other. English also same with other language that has four language skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. It also has some language elements such as pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar which is used to support the English language skills.

According to *Algeo (1965-1969)* that English is an international language because it is used as for the first international communication in business, politics, and negotiation, etc.

Timor-Leste has adopted English as foreign language taught in schools from junior high school and senior high school up to university levels. Based on the Constitution of “Republic Democratic de Timor-Leste”, 2002, section 159, English and Indonesian as the working language, after Tetum and Portuguese that are used as the Official language of the country as stated on the Constitution of ““Republic Democratic de Timor-Leste”, 2002, section 13.

A Grammar is a system of structural devices by which a language organizes meaning. The word grammar refers to the rules of structure which involves the combination and arrangement of the phrases, clauses or sentences. In our daily speaking and writing we cannot deny that the structure leads us to construct sentences which are grammatically correct to convey our message, ideas, and information. Therefore, grammar should be mastered by the learners in order that they can use English language in appropriate way. Grammar is critical to the mastery of language. Grammar is the language of language.

*Greenbaum (1996:25)* defines grammar as below: “in the concrete tense of the word grammar, a grammar is a book of one or more volumes. We of course also use grammar for the contents of the book. When we compare grammars for their coverage and accuracy, we are referring to the contents of the book: A grammar is a book on grammar, just as a history is a book on history.”

While the other side *Warriner (1977:1)* defines grammar as the discovery and the descriptions of languages forms structure that serves as clues to meaning in communication. To learn grammar, we start by learning grammatical points, such as sentences, tenses, gerund, relative clause and part of speech.

Present continuous tense is talking about an action which happens now at the time of speaking. It is often used in English grammar to describe a continuing action which is unfinished. As stated by *Murphy, R. (2004:6)* we use the continuous for

things happening at or around the time of speaking. While the other side *Walker Elaine and Ellsworth Steve, (2000:32)* Defines Present continuous tense for an action in progress now.

Based on the background of the study aforementioned, the writer formulates the problem to become title of proposal which is **A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF USING PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE BY THE FIRST GRADE STUDENTS TUNU-BIBI MALIANA IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2019**. The objectives of this study are (a) to identify the ability of using present continuous tense by the first grade students of junior high school **Tunu-Bibi Maliana** in the school year 2019, and (b) to know the Students level of ability in using present continues tense. This study is hoped to help both the students and teachers of at the research school in learning and teaching English especially about the use of present continues tense. The significant in detail is (a) the English Teachers at **Escola BasicoTunu-Bibi Maliana** an arranging proper method to teach the student about present continuous tense, and (b) the students will provide a deep knowledge about Present Continuous tense.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

### Definition of Present Continuous Tense.

*Murphy, R (1985:6)* He says that the present continuous tense is use to talk about something which is happening at or around the time of speaking.

While the other side, *Michael Vince, (1998: 7)* defines that present continuous tense is use to describe an action in progress at the present moment and an action happening around now, but at the moment of the speaking.

At the same time *Azar, Betty (2006: 4)* She says that present continuous tense express and activity that is in progress occurring right now and also has talked the even in progress at the time of speaking saying the sentences using.

*Ansell, Mary (200:42)* the present continuous tense is usually used to express continuing, ongoing actions which are taking place at the moment of speaking and writing. In the examples given bellow, the verbs in the present continuous are underlined.

e.g. Right now I am cooking supper.

At the moment the plane is flying over the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The Present Continuous tense is often used in conversation.

e.g. "What are you doing?"

"I am working on my English assignment."

*Brown, C and Person, Brown, (2010:p.4)* the present continuous is used to talk about present situations which we see as short-term or temporary. In these examples, the action is taking place at the time of speaking.

- It's raining.
- Who is Kate talking to phone to?

*Seaton, Anne (2007:pg.89)* Present progressive tense is used to talk about actions in the present, or things that are still going on or happening now. Examples:

1. I **am writing** a letter.
2. The phone **is ringing**.

The present continuous tense of any verb is formed from the simple present of the auxiliary **to be**, followed by what is generally referred to as the **present participle** of the verb.

The present participle of a verb is formed by adding **ing** to the bare infinitive. For instance, the present participle of the verb **to work** is **working**. Thus, the present continuous tense of the verb **to work** is conjugated as follows:

I am working  
 You are working  
 He is working  
 She is working  
 It is working  
 We are working

In using the present progressive or continuous tense can be used to express a few different situations. Here are the most common ways to use this verb form with diagrams to illustrate their meaning. Because the present progressive or continuous to use to express:

The present continuous tense is used the continuous for a temporary situations. For example:

I am studying hard  
 You are singing a song right now

In grammatical appreciation the present continuous tense (progressive) is used to show an activity that is in progressing or not complete at the time of speaking the present continuous tense is used to show an activity that is in progressing or not complete at the time of speaking and then the present continuous tense of any verbs is formed with auxiliary verb to be (Am, Is, Are) and the present participle of the main verb (Verb1 + ing). The present progressive (continuous) tense can be used to express a few different situations. Here are the most common ways to use this verbs form for the **Affirmative**, **Negative** and **Interrogative** sentences as bellow:

a. The affirmative Sentences

	Subject	To Be	VI + ing
<b>Affirmative</b>	I	Am	Studying
	He, She, It	Is	Studying
	You, We and They	Are	Studying

b. The Negative Sentences

	Subject	To Be	VI +ing
<b>Negative</b>	I	Am	Eating
	She, He, It	Is	Eating
	You, We and They	Are	Eating

c. The Interrogative Sentences

	Subject	To Be	VI + ing
<b>Interrogative</b>	I	Am?	Drinking?
	She, He, It	Is?	Drinking?
	You, We and They	Are?	Drinking?

More examples;

- Maria is **going** to market right now.
- Maria is **not** going to market right now
- **Is** Maria going to market right now?

### The usages of Present Continuous Tense

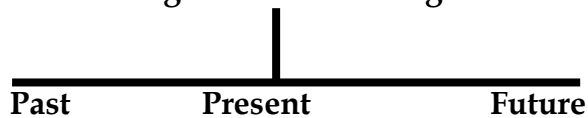
Complete action in the present



Use the present continuous with Normal Verbs to express the idea that something is happening now, at this very moment. It can also be used to show that something is not happening now. Examples;

- You are learning English now.
- You are not swimming now.
- Are you sleeping?
- I am sitting.
- They are reading books.

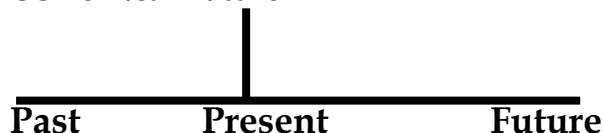
### USE 2 Longer Actions in Progress Now



In English, “now” can mean: this second, today, this month, this year, and this, century and so on. Sometimes, we use the present continuous to say that we are in the process of doing a longer action which is in progress; however, we might not be doing it at this exact second. Examples: (all of these sentences can be said while eating dinner in a restaurant.)

- I am studying to become a doctor.
- I am not studying to become a doctor.
- I am reading the book.

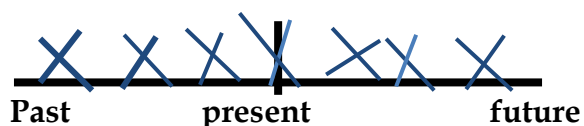
### USE 3 Near Future



Sometimes, speakers use the present continuous to indicate that something will or will not happen in the near future.

- I am meeting some friends after work.
- I am not going to the party tonight
- Is he visiting his parents next weekend?

### USE 4 Repetition and irritation with “Always”



The present continuous with words such as “always” or “constantly” expresses the idea that something irritating or socking often happens. Notice that the

meaning is like simple present but with negative emotion. Remember to put the words "always" or "constantly" between "be" and "verb1 + ing." Examples:

- She is always coming to class late.
- I don't like them because they are always complaining.

Using the Present Continuous Tense to talking about an action that are happening at the moment of speaking.

*Hewings, Martin (1999:pg2)* He said that the present continuous tense to talk about particular actions or events that have begun but have not ended at the time of speaking.

- The car is **not starting** again
- Who **are you phoning?** "I am trying to get through to Joan."
- We can use the present continuous to imply that a situation is or maybe temporary.
- Banks are lending more money (these days) to encourage businesses to expand. (implies a temporary arrangement)
- She is teaching math in a school in Bonn. (Implies that this is not, or may not be permanent).

*Walker Elaine & Steve Elsworth (2000:pg34)* present continuous tense use an activity that is taking place in the present time period and will continuous for a limited time. The activity may not be in progress at the moment of speaking.

The present continuous tense is often used in this way with these days, this week, today, this month, etc.:

- And what is Linda doing these days?  
She is doing a course in engineering.'  
(Linda may not be studying engineering at this minute.)  
The decorator's painting the children's bedrooms this week so they are sleeping in the living room.  
(The decorator's may not be painting at this moment and the children's may be sleeping.)
- A situation that is in the process of changing:  
Venice is falling into the sea.

The number of cars on the road is increasing rapidly each year.

## METHOD

This study is to know the students' ability of on using present continuous tense and the level of ability. To conduct the research, the writer applied for *Qualitative Method*. According to *Creswell (1994)* defines that the qualitative method, a qualitative study is defined as an inquiry process of understanding a social or human problem, based on building a complex, holistic picture, of informants and conducted in a natural setting.

This study will conduct at *Escola Basico Tunu-Bibi Maliana*. The subject of this study the first grade students of junior high school *Tunu-Bibi-Maliana* in the school years 2019. The Research will select 26 students from a classes A the respondents. The procedures that the present continuous tense uses to compile the data and information as technical strategy that the present continuous tense will utilize and it will collect from the information on the location of research complete

through the present continuous tense prepares only forty (40) numbers of multiple choices.

In this research, Method and Data collection that the writer will use is “Qualitative” to collect the data by using item test an instrument. In order analysis of this study the writer uses means as writer below;

1. Correcting answer by students.
2. Wrong or incorrect answer by students , and
3. Divide the result base on the two ways mention above and multiply for 100%

$$S = \frac{\text{The Total Correct Answer}}{\text{Total Item Test}} \times 100\%$$

## RESULTS

In this Chapter, the writer would like to present the result of conducting the research. With the first grade student’s junior high school students of Ensino Basico Tunu-Bibi Maliana in the school year 2019 as the following tables presentation.

### Data Analysis

Table 3 presents the student’s score of whole item test!

Student’s Code	Multiple Choice	Correct Answer	%	Incorrect Answer	%	Total
A. S	40	20	50%	20	50%	100
A. G	40	40	100%	0		100
A. S	40	35	87%	5	13%	100
A. I. G. L	40	30	75%	10	25%	100
A. V	40	25	62%	15	37%	100
C.M. P	40	40	100%	0	0	100
D. S	40	40	100%	0	0	100
D. C. M	40	27	67%	13	33%	100
D. S	40	40	100%	0	0	100
E. C	40	29	72%	11	28%	100
F. A	40	25	62%	15	37%	100
G.C	40	27	67%	13	33%	100
J. M. M	40	36	90%	4	10%	100
M.B.F	40	38	95%	2	5%	100
M.N.D	40	35	87%	5	13%	100
R. S	40	24	60%	16	40%	100
R. S. L	40	37	92%	3	8%	100
S. H. S	40	38	95%	2	5%	100
T. P. M	40	26	65%	14	35%	100
Z. T. M. S	40	27	67%	13	33%	100
A. V	40	30	75%	10	25%	100
TOTAL	840	669		171		100
Average		80%		20%		100

The table 3 presents the total scores **correct answer** and **incorrect answer** of students first grade students of junior high school in Tunu-Bibi Maliana in the school year 2019 are correct answer 669 which is divided to the total of item test is 80%

Based on the standard of measurement that is being used in the local school refers is classified **LEVEL AVERAGE**.

Nu	Standard of Measurement	Frequency	Level of Ability	Percentage (%)
1	10	4	Excellent	19%
2	9	6	Very good	29%
3	8	2	Good	10%
4	7	5	Fairly good	24%
5	6	3	Average	14%
6	5	1	Below Average	4%
7			Poor	
8			Very poor	
9			Bad	
10		21	Very bad	100

In this table describes the each of the student's level of ability using present continuous tense such as;

There were four students or 19% got 10 at **EXCELLENT** level of ability in using present continuous tense. And Six of them or 29% got score nine or very good. And two students or 10% got scores 8 at **GOOD** level of ability of using present continuous tense. The Five students or 24% got score 7 at **FAIRLY-GOOD** level of ability in using present continuous tense. The three students or 14% got scores 6 at **AVERAGE LEVEL** of ability of using present continuous tense. The one students or 4% got score 5 at **BELOW-AVERAGE** level ability of using present continuous tense.

#### DISCUSSION

Based on the result that the present on the table showed that 4 students got (19%) Excellent Level of ability on using present continuous tense, 6 students got (29%) Very Good Level, 2 students got (10%) Good Level, 5 Students got( 24%) Fairly Good Level, 3 Students got (14%) Average Level and 1 student got (4%) Below Average Level. It indicated that the first grade students of junior high school Tunu-Bibi Maliana in the school year 2019 were able to use present continuous tense Because their Average Score Was (80%).

In related to the average score of the students indicated that the level of students in using present continuous tense was in Good Level. The researcher used or put their classification based on the standard of measurement that has been used at Escola Basico Tunu-Bibi Maliana in the school year 2019.

10	Excellent
9,5	Very Good
8,5	Good
7,5	Fairly Good
5,5	Average
5	Below Average
	Poor
	Very Poor
	Bad
	Very Bad

## CONCLUSION

Based on the Data Analysis and discussion of the level of ability by the first grade student of junior high school in Tunu-Bibi Maliana in the school year 2019, The writer presented the conclusion of the study and also few suggestions that may be useful for an English Teachers and Students on the researcher school.

The writer concluded the result based on the Data Analysis and Discussion of the research that the writer conducted at first grade students of junior high school Tunu-Bibi Maliana in the school year 2019.

The result of conducting research was conducted in Escola Basico Tunu-Bibi Maliana in the school year 2019 during two months. The first grade students Escola Basico Tunu-Bibi Maliana in the school year 2019 were able to use present continuous tense and the level of ability in using present continuous tense was 80% which is classified as Good Level based on the standard of measurement that has being used in the school

In this part the writer like to give some suggestions to the Escola Basico Tunu-Bibi Maliana in the school year 2019 as following:

The students are suggested to learn and practice their English in their daily live weather with local and international people, particularly on how to use and apply the present continuous tense correctly or properly based on the English Grammar.

In the teaching and learning process the English teacher should be able to create a good atmosphere or situation, and motivate their students during the teaching and learning process in the classroom. Due these things, the students will get more attention or focus in their teaching and learning process as well as can help them to improve their English quickly.

The teachers should be give more exercises and opportunities to study and do some extra-activities, so that the students will get familiar with the subject that they are learning the homework must be assign to the students every day and also it must be checked every meeting in the class.

To teach English Present Continuous Tense must be trough some other various types of method or games that could make students happy and enjoy but not making them boring.

English teachers must not be absent in the class while He / She has subject English class.

The teacher can use any media that supports the teaching learning process in order to make it more interesting and interactive among the students in the classroom can be effective.

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