

THE ABILITY TO USE COMPARISON DEGREE

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ABSTRACT

The objective of conducting the research based on the title above is to answer the following question; 1) are the second-grade students of Escola Hospitalidade e Turismo Becora - Dili in the school year 2019 able to use the degree of comparison? 2) what is their level of ability to use the degree of comparison? The method that used in this study was the qualitative Normative Survey method to describe the student's level of ability in using a comparison degree. To analyze the students' level of ability, the researcher administered the 40 tests of multiple-choice to the 20 students. Based on the data analysis of the result of conducting research showed that the second-grade students of Escola Hospitalidade e Turismo Becora- Dili in the school year 2019 got a total score of 60 divided to 20 respondents is 3. It is indicated that they were not able to use the English comparison degree. Their level of ability in using a comparison degree was 3 which classified at POOR LEVEL. Lastly, we recommend that the local English teachers and students to learn and memorize suffix *er /est* and prefix *more /most* that the teaching and learning of English comparison degree must be taught through various types of methods that make students active in learning a foreign language. The teacher must make the list of regular and irregular adjectives which facilitate the students easier to understand.

INTRODUCTION

All human beings who live in the world are free to express their thought, ideas, and feeling to each other through the language. So, the language is human attributes that are used to distinguish people from other living creatures on the earth. In other words, language can describe the background of human histories, culture, operates administration and it is an identity of the ethnic group in a country.

Nasar, (1978) mentioned that the following characteristics of a language consist of; Firstly, language operates in a regular systematic fashion. Secondly,

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language is oral symbol represents meaning as they are related to real-life situation and expression. Thirdly, language has a social function and that without any society, it would probably not exist,

This is why the language is an integral part of human nature that has been a subject that is included in the curriculum to be taught and learned in every school. Without language human beings are not able to communicate with each other in society. Therefore, the teaching and learning of English as a foreign language in Junior and Senior High school is mostly grammar and vocabulary are inseparable skills. Grammar is the whole system and structure of a language in general, which is usually taken as consisting of syntax and morphology that can be considered as a rule for controlling the language users.

English language Grammar is the rule to modify every word becomes a meaningful unit and it is also a skill that can change the form of words for new meaning and category of *words*, *phrase* and *sentence*. The Grammar of a language can make the language creative system that enables us to produce and understand new words with a different meaning.

As Thomson (2002) declares that English is the well-known language that has frequently been referring to as a world language and English is the international language of diplomacy, banking computing, medicine business science technology aviation and many others working branches in society today. English language has several skills which are *listening*, *speaking*, *reading*, and *writing* as well as sub-skills vocabulary and grammar that would be used to support language skills. If someone can use the English language effectively, he/she would have to comprehend the English grammar well to be able to speak or write with a meaningful unit.

To have competence in those skills, students should have the abilities in grammar and that is taught to furnish the basis for a set of receptive (listening and reading skills) and productive (Speaking and Writing skills). Furthermore According to Ur in Widodo's Journal states that grammar rules enable students to know and apply how the sentence patterns should be put together well and meaningful. There are many aspects which are discussed in English grammar; one of them is degrees of comparison which is a form of adjectives or adverb which describes a quality or characteristic of a noun or pronoun. The basic form of an adjective is sometimes known as the positive degree but adjective can also be inflected (changed in to form) to compare a quality between two nouns -this form is known as the comparative degree.

As in the direct participant's observation through the teaching practice during one trimester with the second-grade students of Eskola Hopitalidade Turismo Becora Dili in the school year 2019, the writer could know that in learning degrees of comparison, many students still face difficulties in using degrees of comparison, especially in comparative and superlative forms. Their difficulties were sometimes still confused to put suffix *-er/-est* or prefix *more/most* omit or misplaced the use of being (*is*, *am*, *are*, *was*, *were*) and the use of article *the* in the superlative form. Martin Parrot, (2000: 68) explains that the English grammar of comparatives adjectives that end with *er*. (Example: *bigger*, *richer*, *faster*) and superlative adjectives that end with the *- est*. (e.g. *biggest*, *richest*, and *fastest*) which are indicated to describe the quality or characteristics of adjectives.

The comparative means a comparison between two (or more) entities or groups of entities in quality, quantity, or degree and the superlative is the form of an adverb or adjective that is the greatest degree of a given descriptor. So, the Comparison can be made from the form of the adjectives which is a feature in the morphology or syntax of some languages, whereby [adjectives](#) and [adverbs](#) are [inflected](#) or modified to indicate the relative degree of the property defined by the adjective or adverb. The adjective is a word that expresses an attribute of something that qualifies nouns that points out the quality number or kind of the person, place, or things represented by the noun. IT raised two questions: Are the Second Grade students of Escola Hospitalidade Turismo Besora Dili in the school year 2019 able to use the Degree of Comparison? What is the Students' Ability Level?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Many language experts have different concepts based on each of their points of view regarding Positive, Comparison and Superlative Degrees. To get a general understanding of the degree of comparison, it is better to describe what comparison is. One of the most basic and powerful of human cognitive processes in the ability to comprehend and express the fact in terms of degree extent, or quantity.

Martin Parrot (2000: 68) explains that one of the English grammar is the comparative degree of the adjectives and adverbs that ended with *er*. (E.g. *bigger*, *richer*, and *faster*). Then, superlative of adjectives and adverbs that ended with *- est*. (e.g. *biggest*, *richest*, and *fastest*).

The degree of comparison of adjectives or adverbs describes the relational value of one thing with something in another clause of a sentence. An adjective may simple describe some quality (the positive degree): it may compare the quality with another of its kind (comparative degree). And it may compare the quality with many or all other (superlative degree). The degree of comparison is knowing as positive, comparative, and superlative.

The Types of Comparison Degree

There are three types of the following degree of comparison such as; Positive, Comparative and Superlative Degrees.

- Positive Degree

It is the most basic form of the adjectives positive because it does not relate to any superior or inferior qualities of other things. Positive refers to the quality of one person or things. Positive refers to the quality of one person or thing which is simply an adjective form.

Marcella, (1972) manifested that that positive degree has two units are compared to an equal degree.

- Comparative Degree

The comparative degree denotes a greater amount of quality relative to something else. The phrase "*Anna is taller than her father*" means that Anna's degree of tallness is greater than her father. Degree of tallness "as. Zandvoort and Van Ek (1980) in their Handbook of English grammar, 7 edition London said that the comparative is used when one object or group is compared with another and

separate object or group. The comparative degree is used to compare two people, place, and things.

- **Superlative Degree**

The superlative degree is used to stress the highest degree of quality for more than two objects compared. It is the highest or lowest degree of quality when more than two persons or things are compared. The superlative is used to compare somebody or something with the whole group that she or he belongs to.

Murphy says that the superlative uses with – *est*– *most* to form the superlative of the adjective.

The Form of Comparison Degree

If positive ends in with ‘*e*’ add ‘*r*’ and ‘*st*’ to form comparative and superlative.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
fine	finer	finest
large	larger	largest
nice	nicer	nicest

Example:

Positive form: She has a **nice** dress.

Comparative: She has **nicer** dress than her mother.

Superlative: She has the **nicest** dress in the family.

- If positive ends with ‘*y*’ add ‘*er*’ and ‘*est*’ to form Comparative and Superlative after changing ‘*y*’ to ‘*i*’.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
happy	happier	happiest
easy	easier	easiest
heavy	heavier	heaviest

Example:

Positive : She is a **happy**.

Comparative : She is **happier** than her sister.

Superlative : She is **happiest** in her family.

- For some adjectives that end mainly with ‘*D, G, T, M, N*’ to form comparative and superlative, add the last letter twice and then add ‘*ER*’ and ‘*EST*’

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
red	redder	reddest
sad	sadder	saddest
big	bigger	biggest
thin	thinner	thinnest

Example:

Positive : My car is a **red** one.

Comparative : My car is **redder** than yours.

Superlative : My car is the **reddest** than others.

- A few adjectives don’t form their comparative and superlative form S in any of the usual ways. The comparative and superlative forms of these adjectives are different words, we called irregular adjective.

Irregular Forms

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good / well	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least

Example:

Positive : She is a *good* cook.

Comparative : Ana's is *better* cook.

Superlative : John is the *best* critically in the class.

Azar (1993) defines that a comparison degree is adjectives are used to clarify the difference between two object/noun.

Joseph (2011) mention that the three comparison degree is positive(as /so high as, as so clever as, as /so so important as), Comparatives (higher than, cleverer than, more important than) and superlative (the highest of all, the cleverest of all, the most important of all).

Paniza and Strausser (2007) mentioned that there are there degrees of adjectives and adverbs: Positive, comparative, and superlative. Use the positive when you are describing a single person, action, or thing. By contrast, use the comparative degree when you are comparing two people, things, or actions. Finally, use the superlative degree when you are comparing more than people, things, or actions.

Most one-syllable and some two-syllable adjectives form the comparative and superlative degree by adding *-er* or *-est*. For example,

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
sweet	sweeter	sweetest
happy	happier	happiest

If an adjective has more than two syllables is usually form the comparative and superlative degree by preceding the positive degree with the words more and most. Notice the following:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
intelligent	more intelligent	most intelligent
extensive	more extensive	most extensive

Example:

The dog is an intelligent animal.

A chimpanzee is more intelligent than a dog.

A whole may be the most intelligent of all animals.

There are a few adjectives that are an exception to these rules.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst

For example:

My mom made us a good lunch.

My mom made us a better lunch yesterday.

My mom made us the best lunch ever.

By comparison, most adverbs form the comparatives and superlatives forms by using more and most. For instance.

Positive	Comparatives	Superlatives
easily	more easily	most easily
slowly	more slowly	most slowly

Example:

Roman easily ran the distance . (*positive degree*)

Roman ran the distance more easily than pham. (*comparative degree*)

Of the runners, Roman ran the distance most easily. (*superlative degree*)

Joven, Eusebio, and Castro (2007) say that the adjectives are a word that modifies, qualifies or describes a noun or pronoun. When it is used after linking verb, it modifies the subject of the verb and is called a predicative adjective (PA). When it occurs before a noun or noun phrase which is described, it is called attributive adjective (AA).

Regular Adjectives

Positive	Comparative	Superlatives
godly	more godly	most godly
brotherly	more brotherly	most brotherly
gracefully	more gracefully	most gracefully
easily	more easily	most easily
forcefully	more forcefully	most forcefully

Irregular Adjectives

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
well	better	best
much	more	most
less	lesser	least
badly	worse	worst
far	farther	farthest

Maclin A. (2001) defines that the comparison is often used as a general term to indicate both likeness and differences when both terms are used, comparison means likenesses and contrast means differences. The phrase “there is no comparison between ... and ” implies that the differences are very great and that there are almost no similarities at all.

Organizing ideas of comparison and contrast can be done in more than one way. You can organize according to your subject division, or you can use the likenesses and the differences as the main division. Choose the best method of organization for the material you have. One possible method of organization is.

Many language experts have a different concept; points of view regarding the degree of comparison. They believe that the sentence has a different form and part of speech to other sentences.

To get a general understanding of the degree of comparison, it is better to describe what comparison is one of the most basic and powerful of human cognitive processes in the ability to comprehend and express the fact that two things are similar or different. Often such similarity or differences is expressed in terms of degree extent, or quantity. Therefore, the comparison is the most important English construction which is used to express similarities or differences of degree or extent.

The degree of comparison of adjectives or adverbs describes the relational value of one thing with something in another clause of a sentence. An adjective may simply describe some quality (the positive degree): it may compare the quality with that of another of its kind (the comparative degree). And it may compare the quality with many or all other (superlative degree). The degree of comparison is known as positive, comparative, and superlative.

Types of the Degree of Comparison

There are three types of degrees of comparison such as a positive degree, comparative degree, and superlative degree.

Positive Degree

Marcella, (1972) says that a positive degree is two units are compared to an equal degree (e.g. my book is as interesting as yours.). Easterwood John (1994) stated that we use positive statements with *as* to say that things are unequal (e.g. *Ana is a beautiful girl*). The most basic form of the adjective positive, because it does not relate to any superior or inferior qualities of other things. Positive refers to the quality of one person or things it is simply an adjective form.

Comparative Degree

Zandvoort and Van EK, (1980) say that in their book the comparative is used when one object or group is compared with other and separate objects or groups. The comparative degree is used to compare two people, place, and things. Azar (1941) says that we use an adjective to compare two people or two things, the adjective has a special form

Superlative Degree

George (1862) says that the superlative degree is used when we assert that one or more out of a number of beings or things have most of a certain quality; as this is the longest table of them all.

Murphy (1985) says that the superlative uses with *EST* or *MOST* to form the superlative adjective. In general, we use *EST* for shorter words and *MOST* for longer words. Sargeant (2007) says that when we compare three or more people or things. The superlative degree is used to stress the highest degree of quality for more than two objects compared. It is the highest or lowest degree of quality when more than two-person or things are compared. The superlative degree is used to compare somebody or something with the whole group that she or he belongs to assert that one or more out of a number of beings or things has most of a certain quality; as this is the longest table of them all.

The Form of the Degree of Comparison

If positive ends in *e* and *st* to form comparative and superlative (Sargeant 2007).

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
fine	finer	finest
large	larger	largest
nice	nicer	nicest

Example :

Positive degree → it is a nice house.

Comparative degree → it is nicer house than her mother.
 Superlative → it is the nicest house in the family.

If positive ends in 'y' add 'er' and 'est' to form comparative and superlative.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
happy	happier	happiest
easy	easier	easiest
heavy	heavier	heaviest

Example :

Positive degree → She is a happy girl.
 Comparative degree → She is happier than her sister.
 Superlative degree → She is the happiest girl in her family.

For some adjectives that end mainly with "D, G, N, M, T " to form comparative and superlative, add the last letter twice and them add "ER and EST".

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
red	redder	reddest
fat	fatter	fattest
thin	thinner	thinnest
dim	dimmer	dimmest
big	bigger	biggest

Example :

Positive degree → My car is a red one.
 Comparative degree → My car is redder than yours.
 Superlative degree → My car is the reddest in other cars.

An adjective doesn't form their comparative and superlative form in any of the usual ways. The Comparative and Superlative forms of this adjective are different words, we called irregular adjectives.

Irregular forms

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least
much	more	most
many	more	most

Example :

A positive degree → Ana is a good cook.
 Comparative degree → Ana is better cook than her aunt.
 Superlative degree → John is the best critically in the class.

METHOD

This research is a Case Study of the “Normative Survey Method” as the Leedy (1980) Survey Method or (Normative Survey Method) as a process through which the data is collected by the research using Direct Participants Observation while the teaching and learning process that occurs at class.

This study conducted the research with the Second Grade students of Escola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora - Dili in the school year 2019.

Classes	Sexes		Total
	Male	Female	
II.A	9	11	20
II. B	5	21	26
Total	14	37	52 students

Therefore, the writers selected 20 students from class II. An of the Second Grade Students of Escola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora - Dili especially, the Department of Tourism in the school year 2019 to be the sample of this study. Instruments used by the researcher to obtain the appropriate data to fulfill the purpose of the study is the degree of Comparison; Positive, Comparative, and Superlative degrees. The test of multiple-choice is 40 numbers were administered to the students.

In this session, the writer used two sources which are the library research and field research are pointed as follows. The library research is carried out in order to find some references; books, *internet*, *journals*, *magazines*, *articles* and publish and unpublished thesis that have related to the topic of this scientific study. After library research, the writer carried out field research. This Research is carrying out at Escola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora Dili in the school year 2019. The objective of carrying out this research is to get the main or real data in the field for this scientific study. However, the writer needs to go through some procedures as follows:

- The writer addressed the research letter to the local school principle
- The writer was allowed to select and test the students.
- The writer observed and selected the students to be administered the tests.
- The writer collected the students' answer sheets and correct them to give scores.
- Tabulated and scores and analyze it.
- The writer analyzed the result of a study in order to know the level of students' ability to use Comparison degree through the following formula;

$$\frac{\text{Total scores}}{\text{total of respondents}}$$

The writer found the students' level of ability through the tests as the following Standard of Measurement that is being used by the local school refers:

- 10 or ten is excellence
- 9 or nine is very good
- 8 or eight is good
- 7 or seven is fairly good
- 6 or six is average

- 5 or five is below average
- 4 or four is poor
- 3 or three is very poor
- 2 or two is bad
- 1 or one is very bad

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer would like to analyze the data and discuss them in order to know exactly what the students are able to use the comparative degree or not. The data were taken from the result of the tests done by the 20 students of Second Grade Eskola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora Dili in The School Year 2019 who joined the tests. The tests were in the form of the 40 numbers of multiple-choice item test of Comparative Degree.

The writer analyzed the result of conducting research as shown in the table below about the student's ability to use a comparative degree.

Table 4.1.1 presents the Student's Score from 40 numbers of multiple-choice tests.

<i>NU</i>	<i>STUDENTS' CODES</i>	<i>SCORES</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	EMF	7
2	GGC	4.5
3	RMA	4
4	SSML	4
5	ZDFB	4
6	JMB	3
7	LSP	3
8	NLS	3
9	ZS	3
10	ZFP	3
11	FLM	2.5
12	FB	2.5
13	FFB	2.5
14	GGDS	2
15	ICMDN	2
16	MDSS	2
17	OFJ	2
18	ZS	2
19	DDSF	2
20	JDS	2
	TOTAL	60
	AVERAGE	3

The result of 40 numbers of the multiple-choice test by the 20 students of the Second Grade Students of Eskola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora Dili in The School Year 2019 got a total score of 60 divided to 20 respondents is 3.

Score 3 is derived from:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{\text{Total scores}}{\text{Total Respondents}} \\
 &= \frac{60}{20} = 3
 \end{aligned}$$

It is based on the standard of measurement that is being used in the Eskola

Hospitalidade Turismo Becora Dili, score 3 is classified as **VERY POOR LEVEL**.

Table 4.1.2: The Distribution of students' Level of Ability

Nu	Standard of Measurement	Frequency	Level of Ability	Percentage (%)
1	9.5 – 10	-	Excellent	
2	8.5 – 9.4	-	Very Good	-
3	7.5 – 8.4	-	Good	-
4	6.5 – 7.4	1	Fairly Good	5
5	5.5 – 6.4	-	Average	-
6	4.5 – 5.4	1	Below Average	5
7	3.5 – 4.4	3	Poor	15
8	2.5 – 3.4	8	Very poor	40
9	1.5 – 2.4	7	Bad	35
10	0 – 1.4		Very bad	
	TOTAL	20		100

Based on the table above, it is calculated and described the result of the whole test is 40 % or 8 students were at a very poor level. And based on the standard of measurement in the table of distribution level of ability, score 3 is matched with the level of **VERY POOR**.

This level of very poor is implied that the Second Grade Students of Eskola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora Dili in The School Year 2019 were not able to use Comparative Degree. Because of this case, we need to recommend that this result of the research will be one of the references for the next thesis writer in order to conduct the study deeply with some types of innovative method in order to improve the quality of English language teaching and learning process that occurs at class.

The table I presents the total scores of Second Grade Students of Eskola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora Dili in The School Year 2019 which is 60 divided to 20 respondents is 3. However, based on the standard of measurement which is being used in the local respective school, the score of 3 is classified at a **VERY POOR LEVEL**.

In other words, this level of very poor is indicated the ability of the Second Grade Students of Eskola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora Dili in The School Year 2019 was not able to use the Comparison Degree. The test item that was administered to the students was the 40 numbers in the form of Multiple Choice types. Almost all the Second Grade Students of Eskola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora Dili did not understand to choose the correct answer but they only chose the option by guessing.

Table II presents the distribution of students' Ability Level of using a comparison degree as the description; There were no students who got excellent, very good or good scores. **One** student or 5% got score 7 at the level of **FAIRLY GOOD** in using a comparison degree. **One** student or 5% got score 4.5 at the level of **BELOW AVERAGE** in using a comparison degree. **Three** students or 15% got score 4 at the **POOR LEVEL** in using a comparison degree. **Eight** students or 40% got scores 2.5 – 3 at the **VERY POOR LEVEL** in using a comparison degree. **Seven** students or 35% got score 2 at the **BAD LEVEL** in using a comparison degree. This is why, based on the standard of measurement, the 20 Second Grade Students of Eskola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora Dili in The School Year 2019 got to score 60 divided to

20 respondents becomes 3 which is classified as **VERY POOR LEVEL** in using comparative degree.

CONCLUSION

Here are some conclusions that can be noted from the result of conducted research such as: Based on the total score from 20 respondents by the Second Grade Students of Eskola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora Dili in The School Year 2019 was 60 divided to 20 respondents is 3. In the standard of measurement, score 3 is matched at the level of VERY POOR.

So, it is concluded that the Second Grade Students of Eskola Hospitalidade Turismo Becora Dili in The School Year 2019 were not able to use English Comparison Degree. The level of ability in using an English comparison degree is 3 which is classified at a **VERY POOR LEVEL**.

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