



**ACQUISITION OF TENSES HELPS ONE TO EXPRESS  
ONE'S THOUGHT OR FEELING MORE CLEARLY**

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In the name of the compassionate and merciful God.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Problem.

Some of English Department's students do not comprehend well about tense. They learn about grammar but they do not understand the tense that is the basic of grammar. The difference between English and Bahasa is probably one of the causes of the problem.

Bahasa has no difference in verb form for the past, present and future. It only has adverb of time to differ the three of them. On the contrary, English has different forms and kinds of tenses.

By changing the learners' thought about tense, the writer will help them to learn the tense easily.

### 1.2 The Reason for Choosing the Title.

The reasons why the writer chose the title are first, the writer has been wondering why there are many students of English Department do not get much after having graduated from their Universities.

Second, many English students who have been on the last semester still can not differ the function of them.

Third, the writer is interested in Grammar that makes the writer think a lot about the usage of tenses.

Fourth, the writer wants to know the way to be good at English, how English students are successful.

### 1.3 The Aim of the Writing.

The aims of the writing are first; to let the English students know that tenses are not that difficult.

Second, to let the students of English Department know how important tenses in daily conversation.

Third, to make the English students change their thoughts about tenses.

### 1.4 Scope of Idea.

Here, the writer is also going to limit the topic on what Tenses are and how they are used in English sentences. Kinds and forms of tenses will also be given.

The writer wants to spell out the difference between English and Bahasa. Grammar is different from other subjects of English. It needs one's persistence. It makes you need a lot of spirit. You should not give up easily. While you are successful in Grammar, all of your efforts are worth it.

### 1.5 Method of Collecting Data.

In collecting data, the writer has employed some techniques, among others:

- ❖ Library research
- ❖ Interview

### 1.6 Organization of The Writing

## CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Background of the Problem.
- 1.2 The Reason for Choosing the Title.
- 1.3 The Aim of the Writing.
- 1.4 Scope of Idea.
- 1.5 Method of Collecting Data.
- 1.6 Organization of the Writing.

## **CHAPTER II: ACQUISITION OF TENSES HELPS ONE TO EXPRESS ONE'S THOUGHT OR FEELING MORE CLEARLY**

- 2.1 The meaning of Tenses.
- 2.2 The Kinds and Forms of Tenses.
- 2.3 The ways to understand Tenses easily.

## **CHAPTER III: CLOSING**

- 4.1 Conclusion.
- 4.2 Suggestion.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## **AUTOBIOGRAPHY**





## CHAPTER II

# ACQUISITION OF TENSES HELPS ONE TO EXPRESS ONE'S THOUGHT OR FEELING MORE CLEARLY

### 2.1 The meaning of Tenses.

Fathuddin (2004), "Tenses are the changes of verb in accordance with the time of occurrence (past – present – future)." (P. 18). Those changes happen according to the time of verb being done by the subject.

When the verb is done on and on, it is called present tense. When it was done at the time before now, it is called past tense. When it will be done at the time after now, it is called future tense.

In Bahasa there are no tense (verb forms). In Bahasa, "*Saya mandi setiap pagi; Tadi pagi saya mandi*"; in English, "*I take a bath every morning; I took a bath this morning*". It is seen clearly that in Bahasa "*mandi*" doesn't change. Although it happens in the past, present or future "*mandi*" has no change. It is different with English, the verb "*take a bath*" becomes "*took a bath*" because of the time it occurs. Those verb forms are called tense.

### 2.2 The Kinds and Forms of Tenses.

First the learners have to know that there are only three kinds of tenses. They are past, present and future tense. The statement says that, there are sixteen forms of tenses makes the English learners are

lazy to learn about tenses. Here, this writing wants to help the learners learning tenses fervently.

### Basic of Tenses (Full Verb Form)

Forms \ Kinds	Past	Present	Future
<b>Simple</b>	I <i>ate</i> breakfast	I <i>eat</i> breakfast	I <i>will eat</i> breakfast
<b>Progressive</b>	I <i>was eating</i> breakfast	I <i>am eating</i> breakfast	I <i>will be eating</i> breakfast
<b>Perfect</b>	I <i>had eaten</i> breakfast	I <i>have eaten</i> breakfast	I <i>will have eaten</i> breakfast

### Basic of Tenses (Verb Form of “Be”)

Forms \ Kinds	Past	Present	Future
<b>Simple</b>	I <i>was</i> here	I <i>am</i> here	I <i>will be</i> here
<b>Progressive</b>	I <i>was being</i> here	I <i>am being</i> here	—
<b>Perfect</b>	I <i>had been</i> here	I <i>have been</i> here	I <i>will have been</i> here

Above are the basic forms of tenses that must be understood well. In the verb form of “Be”, there are no progressive forms for future. When the action is in progress, it usually uses the simple form. Besides those, there are also several substitutes and other combinations which are parts of tenses.

Substitutes	
<b>Simple Present as Future</b>	I <i>sleep</i> at nine
<b>Present Progressive as Future</b>	I <i>am sleeping</i> , I <i>am going to sleep</i>

Substitute is a tense (verb form) that is used to indicate another meaning. Simple present and present progressive that is used to indicate future form usually tell a plan in short time.

Combination	
<b>Past Perfect Progressive</b>	<i>I had been eating breakfast</i>
<b>Present Perfect Progressive</b>	<i>I have been eating breakfast</i>
<b>Future Perfect Progressive</b>	<i>I will have been eating breakfast</i>

Combination is the two forms of tenses combined together. In **Past Perfect Progressive**, it comes from Past Perfect and Past Progressive. In **Present Perfect Progressive**, it comes from Present Perfect and Present Progressive. In **Future Perfect Progressive**, it comes from Future Perfect and Future Progressive.

### 2.2.1 Past Tense.

When the learners talk about past tense, it means that they need to know about the conjugation of verb, those are needed for past tense.

Verbs are divided into two:

#### 1. **Weak (Regular) Verbs**

The changes of those verbs are formed by adding *-d* or *-ed*.

Examples:

Cook – cooked – cooked.

Change – changed – changed.

Kick – kicked – kicked.

Jump – jumped – jumped.

Watch – watched – watched.

#### 2. **Strong (Irregular) Verbs**

The changes of irregular verbs are so different that the learners are inevitably to memorize them, because there is not any regulation or patterns of its conjugation.

Example:

Eat – ate – eaten.

Come – came – come.

Drink – drank – drunk.

Swim – swam – swum.

Sit – sat – sat.

### ❁ Simple Past Tense.

Simple Past Tense is an event that happens at certain time before now. It does not matter whether we know the time or not, because the people or person whom we are talking with must understand that it happened.

#### Formula:

S + V<sub>II</sub> + Comp.

#### Example:

» *I **went** to school yesterday.*

Went is from the verb go, go – went – gone.

I went to school yesterday.

Now, I don't go to school.

The changes of verb (go) are seen clearly.

» *She **read** a book.*

Read is from the verb **read**, read – read – read.

There is no difference in writing but it is different in pronouncing. In other words, it is homograph but not homophone.

The first form of **read** is pronounced /ri:d/.

The second and the third form of **read** are pronounced /red/.

» *He **cut** the grass.*

Cut is from the verb cut, cut – cut – cut.

There is no difference both in writing and pronouncing. They are written cut and they are all pronounced /kʌt/. In other words, it is homograph and homophone.

Here, the students who understand well about tenses must know when it happens. Although the verb is same both in writing and pronouncing, they will know that it is past tense.

First, he is the third singular subject. If it didn't happen in the past, the verb must be *cuts* or *will cut*.

**Adverb of time used usually:**

Yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1990, the other day, last Friday.

**Usage:**

Simple Past Tense is used to indicate actions that happened; actions happened one after another; action happened in the middle of another action happening.

❁ **Past Progressive Tense.**

Past Progressive Tense is an event that was happening in the past. It usually follows or is followed by simple past or past progressive tense.

**Formula:**

S + to be + V<sub>ing</sub> + Comp.

**Example:**

*I was studying English when the telephone rang.*

Both actions occurred at the same time in the past, but one action which is also called background, began earlier and was in progress when the other occurred.

**Adverb of time used usually:**

When, while, as long as.

**Usage:**

Past Progressive Tense is used to indicate actions going on at certain time in the past, actions happening at the same time or an action in the past that is interrupted by another action.

### ❁ **Past Perfect Tense.**

Past perfect Tense is an action completed before another action took place in the past. Usually there are two tenses here.

#### **Formula:**

S + had + V<sub>III</sub> + Comp.

#### **Example:**

*My mother **had already slept** when I **arrived**.*

First action is *my mother had slept* and the second action is *I arrived*.

#### **Adverb of time used usually:**

Already, just, not yet, until that day.

#### **Usage:**

Past Perfect Tense is used to indicate an action that is happening before a certain time in the past, sometimes interchangeable with past perfect progressive, putting emphasis only on the fact (not the duration),

### ❁ **Past Perfect Progressive Tense.**

Past Perfect Progressive is an action that was in progress before an activity occurred in the past.

#### **Formula:**

S + had been + V<sub>ing</sub> + Comp.

#### **Example:**

*I **had been living here** for two years since January 2009.*

#### **Adverb of time used usually:**

For, since, the whole day, all day.

**Usage:**

Past Perfect Progressive Tense is used to indicate an action that had been happening before a certain time in the past, sometimes interchangeable with past perfect tense, putting emphasis on the duration or course of an action.

## 2.2.2 Present Tense.

### ⊗ Simple Present Tense.

Simple Present Tense is an event happens habitually, a fact. It exists now, have existed in the past and probably will exist in the future. The changes of verb happen when the subjects are the third singular person (he, she and it).

**Formula:**

S + V<sub>I</sub> + -s / -es + Comp.

**Examples:**

The verb of *have* and *watch*

The first singular person ( I ).

*I have breakfast.*

*I watch the Television*

The second singular person ( you ).

*You have breakfast.*

*You watch the television*

The third singular person ( he, she and it ).

*She has breakfast.*

*He watches the television.*

The first plural person ( We ).

*We **have** breakfast.*

*We **watch** the television.*

The second plural person ( You ).

*You **have** breakfast.*

*You **watch** the television.*

The third plural person ( They ).

*They **have** breakfast.*

*They **watch** the television.*

**Adverb of time used usually:**

Always, every, never, normally, often, seldom, sometimes, usually.

**Usage:**

Simple Present Tense is used to indicate an action in the present that happens once, never or several times; facts; actions happening one after another; action set by a timetable or schedule.

### ⊗ **Present Progressive Tense.**

Present Progressive Tense is an action that is in progress while the speaker is speaking.

**Formula:**

S + V<sub>I</sub> + ing + Comp.

**Examples:**

- *She **is talking** to my mother.*

In this sentence, an action happens at the moment of speaking.

- *I **am going to do** my homework.*



- *I am sleeping at nine.*

In this case, present progressive tense is used to indicate action that is arranged for the future time.

**Adverb of time used usually:**

At the moment, just, just now, now, right now.

**Usage:**

Present Progressive Tense is used to indicate an action happening in the moment of speaking, action happening only for a limited period of time, arranged for the future.

⊗ **Present Perfect Tense.**

Present Perfect Tense is an action which began in the past but which continues into the present or the effect of which still continues.

**Formula:**

S + have / has + V<sub>III</sub> + Comp.

**Example:**

*I have already **eaten** breakfast.*

**Adverb of time used usually:**

Already, just, not yet, so far, till now, up to now.

**Usage:**

Present Perfect Tense is used to indicate actions which are still going on; actions that stopped recently; actions that have happened once, never or several times before the moment of speaking.

⊗ **Present Perfect Progressive Tense.**

Present Perfect Progressive Tense is an action began in the past and continues to the present.

**Formula:**

S + have / has been + V<sub>ing</sub> + Comp.

**Example:**

*I have been watching TV for an hour.*

**Adverb of time used usually:**

All day, for, since, how long, the whole week.

**Usage:**

Present Perfect Progressive Tense is used to indicate an action that recently stopped or is still going on, is putting emphasis on the course or duration (not the result).

### 2.2.3 Future Tense.

⊗ **Simple Future Tense.**

Simple Future Tense is an event that happens after now. It will happen at certain time in the future. The verb used is the first form of verb. Usually, there is a modal, will, shall, be going to and so on.

There is no great deal difference among them. Their meanings are all the same, something that will happen.

**Formula:**

S + will + V<sub>1</sub> + Comp.

**Examples:**

*I will come to your house.*

*You will write a letter.*

*They will attend the meeting.*

*It will rain.*

**Adverb of time used usually:**

in a year, next, tomorrow.

**Usage:**

Simple Future Tense is used to indicate an action in the future, spontaneous decision, and assumption with regard to the future.

### ❁ **Future Progressive Tense.**

Future Progressive Tense is an action which is in progress at a time in the future.

#### **Formula:**

S + will be + V<sub>ing</sub> + Comp.

#### **Example:**

*I **will be studying** when you come at seven.*

#### **Adverb of time used usually:**

In (time), next week, tomorrow.

#### **Usage:**

Future Progressive Tense is used to indicate an action that is going on at a certain time in the future, action that is sure to happen in the near future.

### ❁ **Future Perfect Tense.**

Future Perfect Tense is an action that will be completed before another action occurs in the future.

#### **Formula:**

S + will have + V<sub>III</sub> + Comp.

#### **Example:**

*I **will have graduated** when I am 21 years old.*

#### **Adverb of time used usually:**

By Monday, in (time).

#### **Usage:**

Future Perfect Tense is used to indicate an action that will be finished at a certain time in the future.

### ⊗ **Future Perfect Progressive Tense.**

Future Perfect Progressive Tense is an action that will be in progress before another action in the future.

#### **Formula:**

S + will have been + V<sub>ing</sub> + Comp.

#### **Example:**

*I **will have been sleeping** for two hours by the time my father gets home.*

#### **Adverb of time used usually:**

for, the last couple of hours, all day long.

#### **Usage:**

Future Perfect Progressive Tense is used to indicate an action that is happening before a certain time in the future, putting emphasis on the course of an action.

## **2.3 The Ways To Understand Tenses Easily.**

Tenses are easy actually to understand. It depends on the learners' willing. In learning something one has to like what he or she will learn. This is the first thing that the learners should have. As the saying is "*Doing by love will give satisfaction.*"

The most important thing that the learners should do is having many exercises. By having exercises, those tenses will be understood well. The more one gets exercises, the more he or she comprehends.

The things that the learners should do are:

- 1) Choosing the right Department.
- 2) Having to read the understanding of tense first.

- 3) Having read and learnt about tense, the learners do some exercises that are connected to the tense.
- 4) Step by step implementing what they have learnt to other people by making a conversation with their friend.
- 5) Letting English become a culture in the learner's life.



## CHAPTER III

### CLOSING

#### 3.1 Conclusion.

Tense (verb form) is the changes of verb according to the time it happens. It is different from Bahasa. Bahasa does not have tense (verb form).

In expressing an idea, one must know how to convey what he / she wants to express. As Indonesians, we have been accustomed to speaking Bahasa in telling our ideas and using adverb of time to make the sentence clear when the action happens. As the students of English Department, however, the students must be able to express their ideas in English. Tense is needed both in speaking and writing in English. When the learners understand well about tense, they do not need so much time to construct or to interpret a sentence.

Tense has three kinds (Past, Present, and Future), three forms (Simple, Progressive, and Perfect) plus substitutes, and combinations.

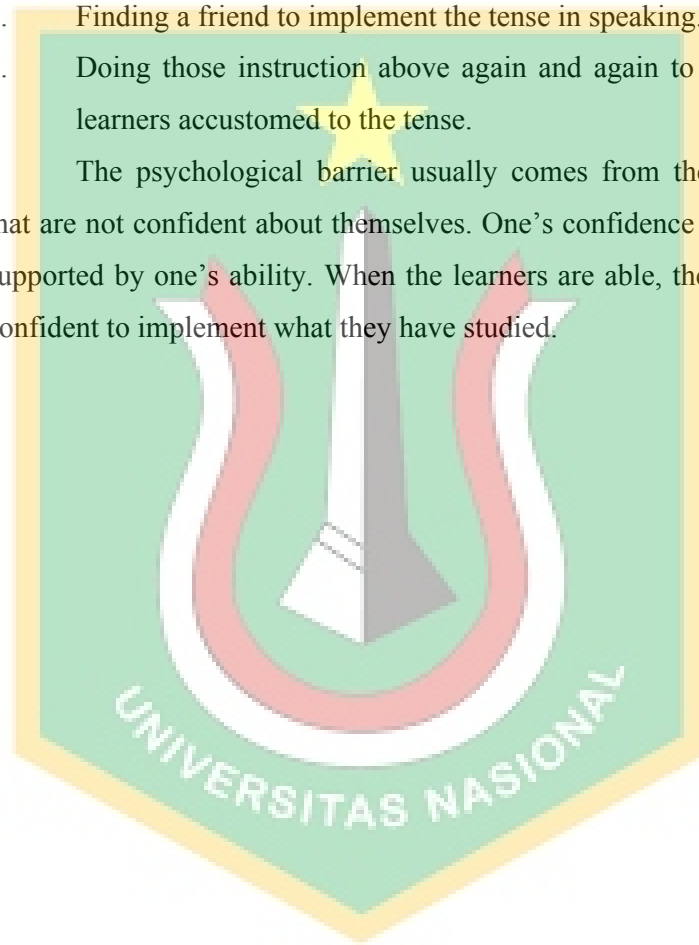
#### 3.2 Suggestions.

There are two kinds of barrier in learning foreign language those are linguistic barrier (visible) and psychological barrier (invisible). The linguistic barriers are visible, such as: grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, etc. those can be learnt through books, other people, and so on. The psychological barrier is invisible. It depends on one's personality and motivation.

In learning tense first the learners should overcome the linguistic barrier by:

1. Recognizing what the tense is.
2. Comprehending the kinds and the forms of the tense.
3. Doing a lot of exercises about tense.
4. Practicing the tense in writing by constructing a sentence first, and then two sentences, and so on.
5. Finding a friend to implement the tense in speaking.
6. Doing those instruction above again and again to make the learners accustomed to the tense.

The psychological barrier usually comes from the learners that are not confident about themselves. One's confidence usually is supported by one's ability. When the learners are able, they will be confident to implement what they have studied.



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