

A CASE STUDY OF STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN LEARNING  
CONDITIONAL SENTENCE AT THE ELEVENTH GRADE  
STUDENTS' OF SMA N 4 PURWOREJO IN THE  
ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2016/2017

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**Abstract**

*Conditional sentence becomes one of materials in grammar that is complex and difficult to be used by the students especially in senior high school. Identifying the difficulties of conditional sentence is essential to know how well the students master the materials. The objectives of this research are to describe the most difficult types of conditional sentence used by the students and to identify why the students get difficulties in learning conditional sentence. This research uses descriptive qualitative research. The subject of this research is the eleventh grade students (Class XI Bahasa) of SMA N 4 Purworejo. From the findings that the researcher has done, conditional sentence type 3 became the most difficult one. Based on the test, for each type of conditional sentence, type 3 is the highest with the total number of wrong answer are 116 (47.5%), then type 2 with the total number of wrong answer are 84 (34.4%), while type 1 is the lowest with the total number of wrong answer are 44 (18.1%). Added by the result of questionnaire as supporting instruments, the most difficult type of conditional sentence is conditional sentence type 3. The result shows that three students strongly agree and twenty students agree that conditional sentence type 3 is difficult. Then, one student strongly agrees and fourteen students agree that conditional sentence type 2 is difficult. While, just nine students agree that conditional type 1 is difficult. Moreover, from the result of the interview and questionnaire, the researcher identifies the students' difficulties in learning conditional sentence, they are the highest graduation is students are lack of vocabulary (66.67%), the second is having to eagerness to master the material (62.34%), the third is having negative attitude toward teaching and learning process (56.79%), the fourth is environment impact to learn English (55.55%), the fifth is not paying attention to the material (50.93%), the sixth is having negative attitude towards English and grammar (54.32%), and the last is the condition of the facilities is not good (22.22%).*

**Keywords :** *Students Difficulties, Conditional Sentence, result*

**A. Introduction**

People all over the world uses English as an international language. It can not be ignored by anyone because English as a link to connect the whole world together. Moreover, English is one of International Languages which should be developed for all people in the world. There are four basic skills in

English, such as: reading skill, writing skill, speaking skill and listening skill. The students have to master all of them so that they can comprehend English subject easily. The students also have to master language component, such as: grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation which were taught to support developing the four language skills. One of the language elements that is taught to support the four skills is grammar. Grammar is an important element to be learned because language without grammar can cause confusion in comprehending the ideas, opinions, feelings of the person who expresses oral or written. Knap & Watkins (2005:32) state that grammar is one key literacy technologies. Without a knowledge of grammar, the process of becoming literate becomes hazardous.

Grammar is the most unique aspect of language. One of important rules in grammar pattern that should be learnt is conditional sentence. In order to learn grammar, conditional sentence cannot be neglected. Conditional sentence are often used to describe unreal situations that are opposites of the fact. According to Alice and Masoud (2007: 149), conditional sentence is a sentence that expresses a real or unreal situation in the if clause, and the (real or unreal) expected result in the main clause. There are three basic pattern in conditional sentence. Riyanto (2013: 199), states that there are three types of Conditional sentence; they are (1) future conditional (2) present conditional (3) past conditional.

Conditional sentence is important to learn by the students because conditional sentence is often used in a daily activities. So, it is important for students to master conditional sentence well. The problems in learning conditional sentence come when the students face the difficulty in learning conditional sentence which is caused by difference grammar between Indonesia and English. So, identifying the difficulties of conditional sentence is essential to know how well the students master the materials.

In this case, the teacher is suggested to help the students solve their problem in learning conditional sentence by conducting analysis. After knowing the students' difficulties, the teacher can decide and conduct appropriate actions to help their students. In response to difficulties such as these, the researcher then analyzes the students' difficulties in learning conditional sentence. Moreover, the objectives of this research are to describe the most difficult type of conditional sentence used by the students and to identify why students get difficulties in learning conditional sentence.

## **B. Method**

The method used in this research is qualitative method. According to Creswell (2012:45), "qualitative methods can be used to obtain the intricate details about phenomena such as feelings, thought processes, and emotions that are difficult to extract or learn about through more conventional methods. Besides, it is also to interpret, classify, analyze and enumerate the data to provide the appropriate description and to solve the problem of the study. Descriptive qualitative method is a research method that simply looks with intense accuracy at the phenomena of the moment and describes precisely what has been observed. It is selected as the most suitable one for describing the phenomenon under investigation. The subject in this research is the eleventh grade students of SMA N 4 Purworejo that is class XI Bahasa because it was suggested by the teacher who teaches English. Besides, conditional sentence is taught in this grade, so it is very suitable to conduct the research. The instrument used are multiple choice test, interview and questionnaire. To get data in the field, the researcher entered the class two times on May, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2017. First, it took 90 minutes for doing the test and questionnaire, then the second took 45 minutes for doing an interview. The total number of participants for the test and the questionnaire are 27 students while the interview result are ten students.

In this research, the researcher using mix method to analyze the data. After collecting the data, the researcher used descriptive qualitative technique to analyze the data. The contents of the analysis are as follows:

Technique analysis of the test:

$$NP = \frac{R}{SM} \times 100\%$$

NP : Percentage

R : Raw Score that students get

SM : Maximum Score ( Ngalim Purwanto, 2009: 102)

The result of the test depends on manual assesement. To calculate mean in each cycle, the researcher used the formula as follows :

$$M = \frac{\Sigma X}{N}$$

M = Mean

$\Sigma X$  = averages of score

N = total number of students (Sugiyono, 2012 : 49)

### C. Findings and Discussion

The data was obtained from the result of test, interview, and questionnaire. This research was conducted on April, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The aim of test is to describe the most difficult types of conditional sentence learned by students. Besides using test in this research, the researcher also uses interview to identify why students get difficulties in learning conditional sentence and questionnaire to support the main instruments in identify the students difficulties in learning conditionl sentence.

From the result of the test shown that among the three types of conditional sentence, the most difficult type is conditional sentence type 3. Conditional sentence type 3 is the highest with the total number of wrong answer 116 (47.5%), then conditional type 2 with the total number of wrong answer 84 (34.4%), while conditional sentence type is the lowest with the

total number of wrong answer 44 (18.1%). Later, based on the result of questionnaire as supporting instruments, the most difficult type of conditional sentence is conditional sentence type 3. The result of the questionnaire shown that three students are strongly agree and twenty students are agree that conditional sentence type 3 is difficult. Then, one student is strongly agree and fourteen students are agree that conditional sentence type 2 is difficult. While, just nine students agree that conditional type 1 is difficult.

Generally several of the students faced difficulties in learning conditional sentence. It is shown from the interview result that several of the students know the definition of conditional sentence, know the type of conditional sentence, but they do not remember the formula that used in conditional sentence type 1, type 2 and type 3. The students also cannot give the example of conditional sentence.

Furthermore, the researcher wants to identify the causes of students difficulties based on the result of interview. There are several factors which caused the students difficulties. The researcher concludes that, the main cause is because they lack of vocabulary. All of students said that they are lack of vocabulary. To support the data on the interview result, the researcher gives the questionnaire. Based on questionnaire result there are several factors which caused the students difficulties. Students are lack of vocabulary become first rank with 66.67% of the students are agree that they faced difficulties because do not know the meaning.

Concerning to their motivation in mastering conditional sentence, the researcher concludes that they have less eagerness in mastering this material. It is seen from the interview and the questionnaire result. This factors become the second rank with 62.34% students agree that they have less eagerness in mastering the material. Data on questionnaire used to support the result of the interview. It shows when the researcher asks the

students to explain the formula of conditional sentence type 1, 2 and 3 and give the example of conditional sentence, almost of the students can not do it.

The other cause is having negative attitude toward teaching and learning process. It shows from the students answers in interview section that the teacher had explained the material about conditional sentence well, but several of the students did not pay attention when the teacher taught them. From the result of questionnaire this factors become the third rank with 56.79%. From the facilities in SMA N 4 Purworejo, the researcher concludes that the facilities of the school is good enough for supporting the learning process. The problem is this facilities not used well. From the result of questionnaire it becomes the last rank with 22.22%. It means that the facilities is not affecting the student ability in learning conditional sentence.

#### **D. Conclusion and Suggestion**

It can be concluded based on the result of this research.

1. Looking at the result of students get, the researcher tries to describe the most difficult of conditional sentence used by the students through test and questionnaire. From the finding that the researcher has done, conditional sentence type 3 became the most difficult. Conditional sentence type 3 is the highest with the total number of wrong answer 116 (47.5%), then conditional type 2 with the total number of wrong answer 84 (34.4%), while conditional sentence type 1 is the lowest with the total number of wrong answer 44 (18.1%). Based on the result of questionnaire as supporting instruments, the most difficult type of conditional sentence is conditional sentence type 3. The result shows that three students strongly agree and twenty students agree that conditional sentence type 3 is difficult. Then, one student strongly agrees and

fourteen students agree that conditional sentence type 2 is difficult. While, just nine student agree that conditional type 1 is difficult. It means that conditional sentence type 3 becomes the most difficult type of conditional sentence.

2. By analyzing the result of the interview and questionnaire, the researcher identified the students' difficulties in learning conditional sentence, they are the highest graduation is students are lack of vocabulary (66.67%), the second is having to eagerness to master the material (62.34%), the third is having negative attitude toward teaching and learning process (56.79%), the fourth is environment impact to learn English (55.55%), the fifth is not paying attention to the material (50.93%), the sixth is having negative attitude towards English and grammar (54.32%), and the last is the condition of the facilities is not good (22.22%).

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