# STUDENTS' COMPETENCE IN USING DETERMINERS (THIS, THAT, THESE, THOSE) AT SMP NEGERI 2 KOTA TERNATE

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this study was to determine students' competence in using determiner (This, that, these, those) in class VII students of SMPN 2 Kota Ternate in the 2025-2026 academic year. The population in this study were class VII students in the odd semester of SMPN 2 Kota Ternate in the 2025-2026 academic year. While the number of samples in this study was 30 respondents collected using purposive sampling. This study used a quantitative descriptive method. Data were collected using 30 multiple choice questions, matching and essays. The researcher found that no students were in the very poor category, four students (13.33 %) were in the poor category. Then there were seven students (23.33%) who were in the fair category, ten students (30.33%) were in the fairly good category, seven students (23.33%) were in the good category, one student (3.33%) was in the quite very good category, and one student (3.33%) was in the excellent category. In summary, the average score for students in using determiner (this, that, these, those) sentences was 69.4. This indicates that students' competence in using determiner (this, that, these, those) sentences in the even semester of seventh grade students is still fairly good.

*Keywords: students' competence, determiners, SMP Negeri 2 Kota Ternate*

## INTRODUCTION

English is known as one of the international language in the world. It is a tool or an aid to communicate with other people. In community life, language is very important, because language is means of communication for mutual making relationship or sharing experience. English as a foreign language has important role in Indonesian compared to language of other countries. English has reached almost all aspect of modern life, such as, education, business, trade, science, technology, and many others. There for, English has opened up the hurdle of people from different states and different language to associate, to communicate, and to develop cooperation with each other.

In learning English people should paid attention to grammar. It is important, to understand the grammar is a basic Knowledge of language to understand English perfectly. In fact, students have difficulties in learning grammar. Many people think the grammar as a rather boring school subject which has little use in real life. Grammar is central to the teaching and learning of language that also becomes one of the most difficult aspects of language to teach as well as to learn well. According Gerot and Wignell (1994) grammar is a theory of language that talks about how language is organized and how a text works. This is similar to Harmer's opinion (1987: 4) which emphasizes how one's understanding can avoid misleadingness because there are no defects in grammar.

Grammar plays a role in forming sentence structures and systems so that they can become an understandable proposition. In the view of Gerot and Wignell (1994) grammar is a theory of language that talks about how language is 2 organized and how a text works. This

is similar to Harmer's opinion (1987: 4) which emphasizes how one's understanding can avoid misleadingness because there are no defects in grammar. That means, grammar rules are very important for someone to learn for language mastery. Mastery of grammar can allow a person to compose propositions appropriately so that they can avoid misreasoning. According to Kridalaksana (2001: 66), grammar is a subsystem in language organization where language units combine to form larger units. Meanwhile, Nurgiyantoro (2009: 200) defines grammar as the same as the term language structure where mastery of language structure and vocabulary is a prerequisite for performing language actions.

Based on some of these expert views, researcher can conclude that grammatical competence shows a skill in mastering syntactic rules and language-forming or morphological elements. That means, grammar rules are very important for someone to learn for language mastery. Mastery of grammar can allow a person to compose propositions appropriately so that they can avoid misreasoning.

## METHODOLOGY

The research method is a strategy chosen by the researcher to integrate research components in a logical and systematic way to discuss and analyze what is the focus of the research. This research is descriptive quantitative research that only has one variable. In this study, the variable is Students' Competence in Using Determiner (This, That, These, Those). According to Gay (2012), descriptive research is the collection and analysis of numerical data to describe, explains, predict, or control phenomena of interest. In this case, this research wants to describe the students' competence of grade VII students at SMPN 2 Kota Ternate in using determiner (this, that, these, those). Creswell (2012), quantitative research identifies research problems based on trends in the field or the need to explain why something happens. It can be concluded that descriptive quantitative research is research that uses statistical numbers to analyze data. This research focuses on collecting numerical data and generalizing it to entire groups of people or to explain certain phenomena. The researcher applies analyses the test to find the significant ability of students in English Education. In data analysis. The researcher conducts the following procedures that be used:

1. Analysis the data of research based on the test, the following formula:

The assessment rubric procedure is as follows:

$$N = \frac{Obtain\ score}{Maximum\ score} = 100$$

2. To classify the student's score, the following table of classification is used below:

**Table 1. The Students score classification**

| Classification | Score |
|---|---|
| Excellent | 96-100 |
| Very good | 89-95 |
| Good | 76-85 |
| Fairly good | 66-75 |
| Fair | 56-65 |
| Poor | 36-55 |
| Very poor | 0-35 |

*(Saefuddin, dkk;2009)*

3. To find out the mean score of the students test the researcher will use the following formula:

Notes :  X= Mean score

$\sum$= Total score

N = The number of student's score (100)

(Gay,1981:361)

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
### Findings
The researcher gave an instrument sheet containing 30 test questions to each student. Each student must answer the test questions provided by the researcher, following the explanation from the researcher.

**Table 1. students' score in using determiner (this, that, these, those)**

| No | Respondent | Score | Category |
|----|-----------|-------|----------|
| 1. | K.S | 96 | Excellent |
| 2. | A.H | 90 | Verry good |
| 3. | T.P | 83 | Good |
| 4. | G.E | 83 | Good |
| 5. | A.T | 83 | Good |
| 6. | F.C | 83 | Good |
| 7. | A.B | 83 | Good |
| 8. | R.I | 83 | Good |
| 9. | A.M | 76 | Good |
| 10. | S.I | 73 | Fairly good |
| 11. | A.R | 73 | Fairly good |
| 12. | S.A | 73 | Fairly good |
| 13. | S.D | 73 | Fairly good |
| 14. | A.M | 70 | Fairly good |
| 15. | A.B | 70 | Fairly good |
| 16. | M.A | 70 | Fairly good |
| 17. | F.H | 66 | Fairly good |
| 18. | M.A | 66 | Fairly good |
| 19. | F.F | 66 | Fairly good |
| 20. | R | 63 | Fair |
| 21. | F.A | 63 | Fair |
| 22. | A.P | 63 | Fair |
| 23. | K.N | 56 | Fair |
| 24. | M.G | 56 | Fair |

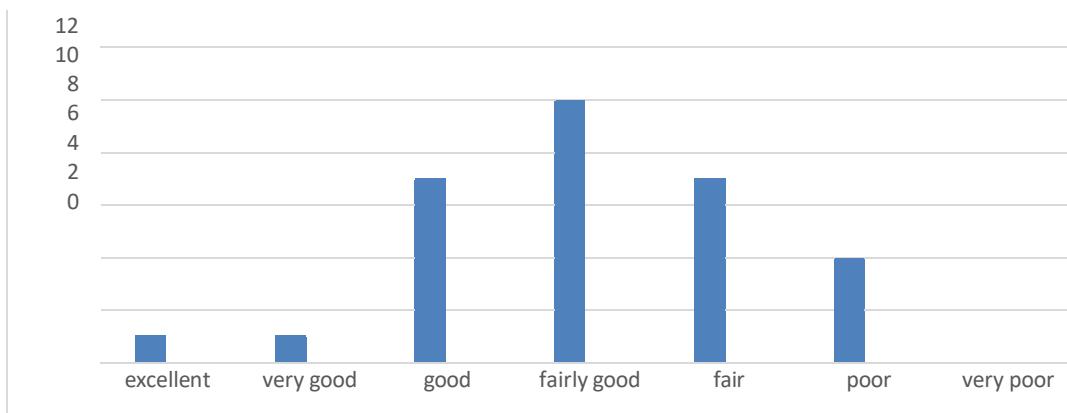| 25. | M.A | 56 | Fair |
| 26. | A.J | 56 | Fair |
| 27. | N.P | 46 | Poor |
| 28. | M.J | 46 | Poor |
| 29. | A.M | 43 | Poor |
| 30. | V.P | 43 | Poor |
| | Total Score: | 2.082 | |

Based on the table above, it can be seen that out of 30 students in class VII-7 at SMP Negeri 2 Kota Ternate. Students with serial number 1 get the highest score. The highest score 96. The lowest score is 30 with total of the correct score is 43. From the classification above, the researcher then describes the percentage and frequency of the test as follows:

**Table 2. students' class**

| No | Score | Category | Frequency | % |
|----|-------|----------|-----------|---|
| 1. | 96-100 | Excellent | 1 | 3.33 % |
| 2. | 86-95 | Very good | 1 | 3.33% |
| 3. | 76-85 | Good | 7 | 23.33% |
| 4. | 66-75 | Fairly good | 10 | 30.33% |
| 5. | 56-65 | Fair | 7 | 23.33% |
| 6. | 36-55 | Poor | 4 | 13.33% |
| 7. | 0-35 | Very poor | 0 | 0.00% |

The data on students' competence in using determiner (this, that, these, those) score were classified as follows: one students were classified as excellent category Data regarding students' competence in using determiners (this, that, these, those) are classified as follows: the highest score in the determiners (this, that, these, those) usage test score range (96), which belongs to the excellent category; one (1) students obtained the score range (96) , which belongs to the verry good category; one (1) students obtained the score range (90), which belongs to the good category; seven (7) students obtained the score range (83, 83, 83, 83, 83, 83, and 76). which is classified in the fairly good category; ten (10) students obtained the range (73,73,73,73,70,70,70,66,66, and 66), which is classified in the Fair category; seven (7) students obtained the range (63,63,63,56,56,56, and 56). which is classified in the poor category; four (4) students obtained the range (46,46,43, and 43).

The results of the percentage of student' competence in using determiners (this, that, these, those), then the researcher displays in the form of a graph that is easy to understand and easy to interpret the percentage of student achievement scores in using determiners (this, that, these, those).

**Picture 1. diagram scoring determiners (this, that, these, those)**

**Discussion**

Based on the observation of students' competence in using determiners (this, that, these, those), it was found that most students at SMP Negeri 2 Ternate had a fairly good understanding of the material, with an average score of 69.4 which is in the "fairly good" category and the percentage of students showed at (30.33%) which means in the fairly good category, this reflects that the majority of students reached a high level of fairly good in understanding and applying the material of using determiners (this, that, these, those). These results can be compared with several previous studies that also examined students' errors or abilities in using determiners in English.

However, Research by Hasriyanti, et al. (2023) shows that the most dominant type of determiner usage error is in the use of articles (a, an, the). This research was conducted on final-year university students, who have a higher level of learning compared to junior high school students. Even so, these findings indicate that problems in the use of determiners, especially articles, are still an obstacle even at the university level. This indicates that learning determiners requires special attention from an early age so that errors are not carried over to higher levels of education.

In addition, research by Sari (2019) at the junior high school level also provides a similar picture to this study. In her research on seventh grade students at SMP Negeri 1 Pangean, it was found that the average ability of students in using determiners was 70.21, which was also in the good category. This score isquite comparable to the average score of students in this study, which is 69.4 which is in the fairly good category. This similarity indicates that junior high school students' ability to use determiners is still at an intermediate level and needs to be improved, especially in the context of using demonstratives such as "this, that, these, those".

**CONCLUSION**

The study reveals that 30 students in class VII-7 of SMPN 2 Ternate have fairly good abilities in using determiners (this, that, these, those). Based on the results of the data analysis that has been carried out in the findings section, it can be seen that the total scores of students in using determiners (this, that, these, those) in multiple-choice questions, Matching, and essay terms of both percentage and average scores is 69.4.

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