

## **SIMPLE PAST TENSE IN RECOUNT TEXT**

**By**

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### **ABSTRAK**

Menulis merupakan salah satu proses pembelajaran dan media untuk menyampaikan sesuatu, baik karya ilmiah atau lainnya dalam bentuk tertulis. Bahasa Inggris memiliki empat kemampuan dasar, yaitu listening, speaking, writing dan reading. Keempat kemampuan dasar ini harus dikuasai dan dipahami. Pada tulisan ini akan menjelaskan mengenai writing, khususnya mengenai Recount Text dan Simple Past Tense. Penjelasan dimulai pengertian Recount Text dan Simple Past Tense.

**Kata Kunci :** Recount Text and Simple Past Tense

#### **A. Recount Text**

##### **1. Definition of Recount Text**

Recounts are the simplest text type in genre. Formally, recounts are sequential texts that do little more than sequence a series of events.<sup>2</sup> David Butt said that recount is the text that tell what happened, to document a sequence of events and evaluate their significance in some way. Then, according to A S Hornby recount is to tell somebody about something that you have experienced.<sup>3</sup> So, the writer concluded that recount text is a text that tells the event or the experience of the writer by using sequences of time.

In addition, Linda Gerot and Peter Wignell said that Recount text is to retell events for the purpose of informing or entertaining.<sup>4</sup> In the text of recount, nothing goes wrong as it does in narrative; all events occur normally as they do in natural settings. Whereas the narrator's opinion has been charged

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<sup>2</sup> Peter Knapp. *Genre, Text, Grammar Technologies for Teaching and Assessing Writing*, Australia: University of New South Wales, 2005) p. 221.

<sup>3</sup> A S Hornby. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1974) p. 1106.

<sup>4</sup>Linda Gerot and Peter Wignell, *Making Sense of Functional Grammar* (Australia: Gerd Stabler, 1994), p. 194.

through the stages of Evaluation and the choice of climax (complication) in narrative, a recount is absent from the tellers judgment. Then, recount text is to tell what happened or to document a sequence of events and evaluate their significance in some way.<sup>5</sup>

Next, Pardiyono defines recount text as a kind of text that is aimed to inform about an event in the past.<sup>6</sup> It means that recount text an event or activities are happened in the past time.

**2. The Purpose of Recount Text**

The purpose of a recount is to allow the writer or speaker to retell events from the past. This include personal events, factual incidents or imaginary incidents. The intention of it to reconstruct and interpret experience and past events to inform or entertain the audience or reader. The common structure of recount text as follows;

Table 11

Orientation	Information about “Who”
Record of events	In the order in which they occurred
Reorientation	Rounding of the sequence of events.

<sup>5</sup>David Butt, *Using Functional Grammar (An explorer’s guide)* (National centre for English Teaching and Research: Macquarie University, 2000), p. 9.

<sup>6</sup>Pardiyono, *Pasti Bisa! Teaching Genre-Based Writing Metode Mengajar Berbasis Genre Secara Efektif* (Yogyakarta: Andi, 2007), p. 63.

a. Orientation

Orientation as opening or introduction in recount text. Setting the scene and giving the necessary background information such as, “*who*”, “*when*”, “*where*”, “*what*”, “*why*”. Then, Otong Setiawan Djuharie said:

*Orientation* mengacu pada bagian teks yang memberi setting atau pendahuluan. Bagian teks yang merupakan *orientation* akan menggiring pembaca membuat terkaan akan bentuk bacaan juga konten apa yang akan dibaca. Misalnya, ungkapan Dear sir/madam memberi clue pada pembaca bahwa dia akan membaca teks berbentuk surat; ungkapan once, once upon the time, in olden time (alkisah, konon, jaman dahulu kala) memberi clue bahwa dia akan membaca sebuah dongeng. Orientation juga dapat difahami sebagai bagian teks yang memberi latar cerita, atau awal mula kejadian.

Above explanations tell us that orientation is opening or introduction the participant, time and place. For examples: Rini, Jessica, Smith (Participant), Yesterday, once upon the time, two years ago (Time), in a village, in a school, in jungle (Place).

The part will guide the reader to make guessing of the content or form of the text which is read. It means that after the reader read an orientation of the text, the reader can guest the content of the text. Furthermore, in short definition, Gerot and Wignell said: “Orientation provides the setting and introduces the participants”.<sup>7</sup>

b. Event

An event is a part of recount text that contains sequences of phenomenon or tells what happened in the story. And Gerot and Wignell said, “Event tell what happened, in what sequence”.<sup>8</sup> In another word,

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<sup>7</sup>Linda Gerot and Peter Wignell, *Loc. Cit.*

<sup>8</sup>Gerot and Wignell, *Loc. Cit.*

Otong Setiawan Djuharie said that event is sequence of event.<sup>9</sup> In addition, according to Pardiyono said “event contains of recording of activities or events in the past that is told based on it chronological events”.<sup>10</sup> The conclusion is events refer to show phenomenon that happen. Such as: I bought many books last week. In the sentence, the event can be found on verb is “bought”. Here the word “bought” shows the subject phenomenon or activity.

c. Reorientation

Reorientation is a part of structure of recount text contains optional closure of the event in the text. Otong Setiawan Djuharie said that, “Reorientation refers to the part of text that gives indication that the events in the text have finished”.<sup>11</sup> Briefly, Pardiyono said that reorientation contains the brief conclusion of the record events.<sup>12</sup> By comprehending the quotations, the researcher concludes both experts determine re-orientation as the conclusion of the text. It also can be determined as the ending of the events in the text or story.

**3. Language Feature of Recount Text**

- a. Using nouns and pronoun as participant: Smith, I, my family, we, she, he and they.
- b. Using temporal connectives: Firstly, lastly, then, next, afterwards, after and finally.
- c. Using past tense: Learnt, saw, took, spoke, hit, cut and ate.

**4. Example of Recount Text**

The example of recount text is as below:

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<sup>9</sup>Otong Setiawan Djuharie, *Loc. Cit.*

<sup>10</sup>Pardiyono, *Loc. Cit.*

<sup>11</sup>Otong Setiawan Djuharie, *Loc. Cit.*

<sup>12</sup>Pardiyono, *Loc. Cit.*



**My Holiday in Bali**

Orientation

When I was 2<sup>nd</sup> grade of senior high school, my friends and I went to Bali. We were there for three days. I had many impressive experiences during the vacation.

Event

First day, we visited Sanur Beach in the morning. We saw the beautiful sunrise together. It was a great scenery. Then, we checked in to the hotel. After prepared our selves, we went to Tanah Lot. We met so many other tourists there. They were not only domestic but also foreign tourists.

Event

Second day, we enjoyed the day on Tanjung Bena beach. We played so many water sports such as banana boat, jetsky, speedboat etc. We also went to Penyu island to see many unique animals. They were turtles, snakes, and sea birds. We were very happy. In the afternoon, we went to Kuta Beach to see the amazing sunset and enjoyed the beautiful wave.

Re orientation

The last day, we spent our time in Sangeh. We could enjoy the green and shady forest. There were so many monkeys. They were so tame but sometimes they could be naughty. We could make a close interaction with them. After that, we went to Sukowati market for shopping. That was my lovely time. I bought some Bali T-Shirt and souvenirs.

In the evening, we had to check out from the hotel. We went back home bringing so many amazing memories of Bali.

## **B. SIMPLE PAST TENSE**

### **1. Definitions of Simple Past Tense**

Generally, past tense is a tense expressing events of situation occurred in the past. Hornby stated that past tenses are things that happened in an earlier time, past event, or memories of the past.<sup>13</sup> Simple past tenses include into past events. Simple past tense is a grammatical tense that places an action or situation in the past. It is a verb tense (the second principal part of a verb) indicating action that occurred in the past and which does not extend into the present. It often occurs with adverbs or adverb phrases of past time.<sup>14</sup>

Simple past tense is used for a completed action that happens at one specific time in the past.<sup>15</sup> Then, Betty Schramper Azar stated that simple past tense is used to talk about activities or situation that began and ended in the past.<sup>16</sup> Those are the definitions of simple past tense according to many experts. So, the researcher concluded that simple past tense is the action that happened in the past in simple form with certain adverbs. There are the kinds of simple past tense as follows;

#### **a. Active**

Active form is used to make a statement. It is also called denoting the voice or form of a verb whose subject is the performer or agent of action of a verb or showing action rather than state of being (said like throw and walk).<sup>17</sup> So, the researcher concluded that the active form in simple past tense is used as a statement in a sentence.

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<sup>13</sup>A S Hornby. *Loc.Cit.*, p. 847.

<sup>14</sup>Wren & Martin. *High School English Grammar and Composition* (New Delhi: Rajendra Ravindra, 1996), p. 70.

<sup>15</sup>Michael A. Pyle. *Toefl Preparation Guide*, (New Delhi: Nice Printing Press, 2005), p. 59.

<sup>16</sup>Betty Schramper Azar. *Fundamentals of English Grammar* (America:Prentice Hall, 1992), p. 18.

<sup>17</sup> Victoria Neufeldt. *Webster's New World College Dictionary* (USA: Mac Milan, 1994), p.14.

The formulations are:

1) Positive/Affirmative

The formula: Subject + Verb 2 + Object/Complement

Examples:

Table 1

No	Sentence		
	S	Verb 2	Object
1	I	<i>received</i>	his letter yesterday
2	She	<i>went</i>	to Delhi in 1990
3	He	<i>met</i>	Jhon last week
4	Mery	<i>did</i>	her homework last night
5	Kevin	<i>drove</i>	a new car yesterday

2) Negative

The formula: Subject + did + not + V1 + Object/Complement

Examples:

Table 2

No	Sentence				
	S	Did	Not	V1	O/C
1	I	did	not	Receive	his letter yesterday
2	She	did	not	Go	to Delhi in 1990
3	He	did	not	Meet	Jhon last week
4	Mery	did	not	do	her home work last night
5	Kevin	did	not	Drive	a new car yesterday

3) Interrogative Short Answer

The formula: Subject + Verb 2 + Object/Complement

Examples:

Table 3

No	Sentence			
	Did	S	V1	O/C
1	Did	you	receive	his letter yesterday?
2	Did	she	go	to Delhi in 1990?
3	Did	he	meet	Jhon last week?
4	Did	Mary	do	her homework last night?
5	Did	Keven	drive	a new car yesterday?

4) Interrogative Long Answer (?)

The formula: Question Word + did + Subject + V1 + Object/Complement

Examples:

Table 4

No	Sentence				
	QW	Did	S	V1	O/C
1	What	did	You	buy	last week?
2	Why	did	She	call	you last night?
3	Where	did	You	put	my book?
4	How	did	he	come	yesterday?
5	Who	did	He	wait	there last morning?

b. Passive

The passive is used to correct form of “be” Was/Were.<sup>18</sup> It is also denoting the voice or form of a verb whose subject is the recipient (object) of the action of the verb.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Raymond Murphy. *Grammar in Use* (New York: Cabridge University Press, 1989), p. 80.



1) Positive

The formula: Subject + to be (was/were) V3 + Object/Complement

Examples:

Table 5

No	Sentence			
	S	To be (was/were)	V3	Object/Complement
1	I	was	Visited	by my family
2	They	were	Invited	by us
3	She	was	Called	by her boy friend
4	You	Were	Asked	by Mr. Roy
5	We	Were	received	by the receptionist

2) Negative

The formula: Subject + to be (was/were) + not + V3 + Object/Complement

Example:

Table 6

No	Sentence				
	S	To be (was/were)	Not	V3	O/C
1	I	Was	Not	visited	by my family
2	They	Were	Not	invited	by us
3	She	Was	Not	called	by her boy friend
4	You	Were	Not	asked	by Mr. Roy
5	We	Were	Not	received	by the receptionist

<sup>19</sup> Victoria Neufeldt. *Op. Cit.*, p. 98.

3) Interrogative

The formula: To be (was/were) + Subject + V3 + Object/Complement

Example:

Table 7

No	Sentence			
	To be (was/were)	S	V3	Object/Complement
1	Was	He	visited	by his family?
2	Were	They	invited	by us?
3	Was	She	called	by her boy friend?
4	Were	You	asked	by Mr. Roy?
5	Were	They	received	by the receptionist?

c. Nominal

The nominal is a sentence that is the predicate consist of adjective, noun, numeral and adverbs, it is not a verb. It is also a noun or other word or word group, including an adjective that occurs in grammatical function typical or nouns substantive.

1) Positive

The formula: Subject + To be (was/were) + Noun

Example:

Table 8

No	Sentence		
	Subject	To be (was/were)	Noun
1	She	Was	Student
2	They	Were	Teachers
3	We	Were	Lecturers
4	He	Was	Doctor
5	Elisabeth	Was	Princes

2) Negative

The formula: Subject + To be (was/were) + not + Noun

Example:

Table 9

No	Sentence			
	Subject	To be (was/were)	not	Noun
1	She	Was	not	Student
2	They	Were	not	Teachers
3	We	Were	not	Lecturers
4	He	Was	not	Doctor
5	Elisabeth	Was	not	Princes

3) Interrogative

The formula: To be (was/were) + Subject + Noun.<sup>20</sup>

Example:

Table 10

No	Sentence		
	To be (was/were)	Subject	Noun
1	Was	She	student?
2	Were	They	teachers?
3	Were	We	lecturers?
4	Was	He	doctor?
5	Was	Elisabeth	princes?

<sup>20</sup> Akhamad Kardimin, *Fundamental English Grammar* (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2004), hal. 311.

### **C. Conclusion**

Recount text is a text that tells the event or the experience of the writer by using sequence of time. The purpose of recount text is to allow the writer to retell events from the past. It is include personal events, factual incidents orimaginary accidents. The common structure of recount text are orientation, record of events and reorientation. Language feature for recount text are nouns, pronouns, temporal conectives and past tense.



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