



## Students' Ability In Forming Passive Voice At SMAN 6 Tanjungpinang

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### ABSTRACT

This study aimed to analyze students' ability in forming passive voice at the 11<sup>th</sup> grade of SMAN 6 Tanjungpinang. The objective of this research was to investigate the students' ability at the 11<sup>th</sup> grade IPA I of SMAN 6 Tanjungpinang which consist of 20 students in forming passive voice. This research was an analytical study using the purposive sampling method, which was just one class as participants. The design of this research used descriptive quantitative method both quantitative was used to present the result in this research and descriptive to explain data systematically, factually, and accurately. Technique for analyzing in this research were collected the student's test which focused on the forming of passive voice in tenses, checking the test and giving the score percentage, and categorizing the data based on the theory of the interval score by DP. Harris. After analyzing it could be seen that students' ability in forming passive voice at the 11<sup>th</sup> grade of SMAN 6 Tanjung Pinang was considered good category, since the mean of students' score was 73, which were specifically the classification indicated that no one student or 0 % were considered very poor, nine students or 45 % were considered excellent, six students or 30 % were considered good, three students or 15 % were considered fair, and two students or 10 % were considered poor.

## Introduction

In this life, creature need a language to communicate with others. It is used to make interaction between them. Language can send what creature want to do, so language is useful in this life. Language is utterance that comes from human feelings and thoughts that are conveyed regularly and by using sound as the medium (Depdiknas RI, 2015). Next, according to Chomsky (1975), language as conceived is a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, each finite in length and constructed out of a finite set of elements. Based on the definition, language consist of several sentences whether simple and complex which are formed from sentence-forming elements.

Every language has a structure that can be accepted on that district. One of the languages is English. It is a language that is used to communicate people in this world. English has a form to set the language, we call as a grammar. One of the topics in grammar in English language is passive voice. Passive voice is a grammatical contraction where the subject as a receiver of action by object of action that can mention and or not. Passive voice is used in English text, for example essay, opinion, news item, and the other science text. Based on the definitions, passive voice is the term of sentence which the subject position is filled by the object and the object position is filled by the subject. Generally, they find in the text which contains about the general information.

The research about students' ability informing passive voice is chosen because the students always get problem in using passive form, especially in changing the verbs. Students get difficulties in changing the position of active sentences into passive sentences correctly. Besides, the students just know what passive voice without knowing the function in a sentence. Most of them are lack of knowledge the position of subjects, pronouns and objects. Then, they have difficulty in determining tenses so it is difficult to change to passive sentences. Next, English has much different from Indonesian, for example in functional skills, especially informing the passive sentence. In Indonesian language, informing passive sentence is simple, affix "me-" at the verb in active sentence will be changed affix "di-" in passive sentence. But, in English, "to be" and tenses are needed to change them. These cases can make students confuse in understanding passive voice. Based on the cases, the researcher decided to conduct a research on students' ability in forming passive voice at SMAN 6 Tanjungpinang.

### ***Student's Ability***

The students' ability to learning can be looked from the result of the learning itself. The ability of the student to master the materials isn't same, because their

capacities to get the materials are extraordinary. The ability is classified into three sections: cognitive, affective, and psychomotor (Mardianto, 2012).

### **Passive Voice**

Passive voice is the original receiver becomes the subject and the original doer of the action becomes the object of the preposition (Samelson,1980). Passive sentence emphasizes on event rather than the subject. In other hand, passive voice is used to blur out the subject.

Example:   *Active: Joni brings a dictionary everyday*  
              *Passive: A dictionary is brought by Joni everyday*  
              *Active: The polices looked for the thieves in many places*  
              *Passive: The thieves were looked for by the polices in many places*

Object on passive sentences usually occupy the subject in active sentence. It is means to focus on the object of the event not on the doer of the event. Thus, there is an exchange of subject's position to the object (Muhammad,2013).

In English grammar, tense affects the form of passive sentence. But the relationship between active and passive actually correspond. That is, if the active sentence is simple present tense than the passive sentence must be the same. If the active sentence is past tense than the passive must be the same. If the active sentence is future tense than the passive must be the same (Kardimin, 2005).

### **Method**

This research design was descriptive quantitative approach. descriptive research is conducted to determine the value of independent variables, whether one or more variables (independent) without making comparisons or relations among other variables. (Sugiyono, 2012). Quantitative method was used to present the result in this research. The quantitative method focusses on an objective measurement and statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data which is gotten through votes, questionnaires, and surveys, or by manipulating pre-existing statistical data.

In this research, the researcher used the purposive sampling technique to take samples. Purposive sampling is a technique for determining samples with certain considerations. (Sugiyono,2009) The sample of this research was the class of XI IPA I that consist of 20 students who participant in this research.

In collecting the data, the researcher used the test to answer the formulation of problem. The test is a set of questions of exercise as well as other tools that are used to measure the skill, knowledge, ability, or talent intelligence that is owned by an

individual or group. Test was an essay test which consists of 15 items. After that, the answer sheet of students is collected for the source data in this research.

In analyzing the data, the researcher makes some steps: first, the researcher collected the student's test which focused on the forming of passive voice in sentences. Second, the researcher checked the test by giving the score toward students' ability in forming passive sentence. Third, the researcher calculated and classified the data in a table based on their score and percentage using the formula below (Arikunto, 2010):

$$P = \frac{f}{N} \times 100 \%$$

Then, to calculate the data, the researcher will use the formula mean as follows:

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

Fourth, the researcher categorized the result of collecting data using an interval score, and gives comments on every data based on any theories. To measure and categorize the students' comprehension level, the researcher uses a parameter of interval score by Harris (1969).

**Table 1: The Percentages of Ability Degree**

81-100	Excellent
61-80	Good
41-60	Fair
21-40	Poor
0-20	Very poor

## Finding and Discussion

### Findings

This section focused on the interpretation of conclusions resulting from findings of research formulations. After analyzing the data, it was obtained results of assessment students' skills in forming the passive sentences. A student gets score 100 and other student got score <100 by the detail score were; three students got score 93, five students get score 87, two students get score 80, two students get score 73, a student got score 67, a student got score 60, a student got score 53, a student got

score 45, two students got score 40, and a student got score 33. See the following table:

**Table 2: Total of Students Scores in Constructing Passive Voice**

No	Score	N	$\Sigma X$
1	100	1	100
2	93	3	279
3	87	5	435
4	80	2	160
5	73	2	146
6	67	1	67
7	60	1	60
8	53	1	53
9	45	1	45
10	40	2	80
11	33	1	33
Total		20	1.458

Then, to of students' skills in sentences, the researcher counts by Mean formula.

$$M = \frac{1458}{20} = 73$$

determine the mean forming passive

As formulated by the result above, the mean scored of students' skills in using active and passive sentences is 73. It is mean that the students' skills of the XII IPA I in SMAN 6 Tanjungpinang were good, although some of them get low scores by various mistakes such as errors in changing the position of sentence elements. It can be caused by a poor knowledge toward the characteristics of passive voice.

Then, to present the specific analysis of research toward students' skills in forming passive sentences, the researcher categorizes the data using the scoring interval parameters by Harris (1969). As the result, the highest category of students' ability in forming passive voice was excellent, and the lowest category was poor. But, there was found very poor category of students' ability in forming passive voice.

**Table 3: Percentage of Students' Ability Category**

Interval Score	Frequency	Categories	Percentage
81-100	9	Excellent	45 %
61-80	6	Good	30 %

41-60	3	Fair	15 %
21-40	2	Poor	10 %
0-20	-	Very Poor	0 %
Total	20	Total	100 %

Based on the percentage of students' ability category in forming passive voice, there are nine students or 45 % were considered excellent, six students or 30 % were considered good, three students or 15 % were considered fair, and two students or 10 % were considered poor, and also no students or 0 % were considered very poor.

Afterwards, researcher presents specifically the data of students' ability in forming passive voice into three kind of tenses namely past tense, present tense, and future tense. There were five questions in every tense in worksheet. After that, the data is categorized according to the five categories of interval score namely excellent, good, fair, poor, and very poor. Here are the findings of students' ability in forming passive voice in three kinds of tenses

#### ***Passive Voice in Simple Past Tense***

In the first findings, researcher presents specifically the data scores of students' ability in forming passive voice in simple past tense. According to data, the highest percentage category of the students' ability in forming passive sentences in simple past tense is excellent category. Secondly, position is good category. Thirdly, is the very poor category. lastly, fair and poor category are in the lowest position. The result of data percentages can be seen briefly in the table below:

**Table 4: Passive Voice in Simple Past Tense**

No	Scores	Respondent	Categories	Percentage
1	81-100	11	Excellent	55 %
2	61-80	5	Good	25 %
3	41-60	1	Fair	5 %
4	21-40	1	Poor	5 %
5	0-20	2	Very Poor	10 %
Total		20	Total	100 %

The results of data percentage above were obtained the excellent category 55 %, that the highest percentage category of the students' ability in forming passive in simple past tense. Then, followed by the good category is 25 %, the fair category is 5 %, the poor category is 5 %, and the very poor category is 10 %.

### ***Passive Voice in Simple Present Tense***

In this finding, researcher presents specifically the data scored of students' ability in forming passive voice in simple present tense. According to data, the highest percentage category of the students' ability in forming passive sentences in simple present tense is excellent category. The second position is good category. Next position, fair, poor, and very poor categories were the lowest percentages in forming passive voice in simple present tense. The result of data percentages can be seen briefly below:

**Table 5: Passive Voice in Simple Present Tense**

No	Scores	Respondent	Categories	Percentage
1	81-100	8	Excellent	40 %
2	61-80	6	Good	30 %
3	41-60	2	Fair	10 %
4	21-40	2	Poor	10 %
5	0-20	2	Very Poor	10 %
Total		20	Total	100 %

The results of data percentage above were obtained the excellent category 40 %, that the highest percentage category of the students' ability in forming passive in simple present tense. It is followed by the good category is 30 %. Then, the fair, poor, very poor categories have the same percentages namely 10 %.

### ***Passive Voice in Simple Future Tense***

In this section, researcher presents specifically the data scored of students' ability in forming passive voice in simple future tense. According to data, the highest percentage category of the students' ability in forming passive sentences in simple future tense was good category. The second position was poor category. Fair category is as the third position. Then, excellent category as next position, because there are two students got score perfectly in forming passive voice in future simple tense. The result of data percentages can be seen briefly in the table below:

**Table 6: Percentages of Passive Voice in Simple Future Tense**

No	Scores	Respondent	Categories	Percentage
1	81-100	2	Excellent	10 %
2	61-80	8	Good	40 %
3	41-60	4	Fair	20 %
4	21-40	5	Poor	25 %
5	0-20	1	Very Poor	5 %

Total	20	Total	100 %
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The results of data percentage above were obtained the good category 40 % which is the highest percentage category of the students' ability in forming passive in simple future tense. It is followed by the poor category is 25%. Then, the fair category is 20%. Excellent category is 10 %, very poor categories is 5 %.

Moreover, after the data were presented specifically in every tense according to their categories, researcher presents totally the percentage and category of students' ability in forming passive voice in three tenses in the following table:

**Table 7: Total Respondent in Forming Passive Voice in Three Tenses**

Category	Tenses			Percentages
	Simple Past tense	Simple Present tense	Simple Future tense	
Excellent	11	8	2	35 %
Good	5	6	8	32 %
Fair	1	2	4	12 %
Poor	1	2	5	13 %
Very Poor	2	2	1	8 %
Total				100 %

Based on the total percentages of the students' ability in forming passive voice in three kinds of tenses above, excellent category is in the highest position. There were 35% respondent could answer the question correctly which are 11 students for simple past tense, 8 students for simple present tense, and 2 students for simple future tense. The second position is good category, which were 32% respondents were able to form passive voice accurately. The percentage consist of 5 students for simple past tense, 6 students for simple present tense, and 8 students for simple future tense. Followed by poor category as third position. There are 13% respondents in this category, which were a student for simple past tense, 2 students for simple present tense, and 5 students for simple future tense. Next position was fair category by 12% respondents. It was a student for simple past tense, 2 students for simple present tense, and 4 students for simple future tense. The last it was very poor category, which are 8% respondents were able to form passive voice accurately. The percentage consist of 2 students for simple past tense, 2 students for simple present tense, and a student for simple future tense.

### Discussion

In this section, researcher discussed about the research finding which include the result of the test in forming passive voice in three kinds of tense. Based on the



previous data, the mean scored of the students' ability in forming passive voice at the 11<sup>th</sup> grade of SMAN 6 Tanjungpinang was 73, so the category of students' ability was considered good.

Totally, the data analyzing showed that nine students or 45 % were considered excellent, six students or 30 % were considered good, three students or 15 % were considered fair, and two students or 10 % were considered poor, and also no students or 0 % were considered very poor. From the data found that most of students' mistakes in forming passive voice due to a change of verb and shift of sentence structure in passive voice.

Moreover, based on the result of data analyzed, the researcher identified below the result of the students' test according to type of tense, they were simple past tense, simple present tense, simple future tense.

### ***Students' Ability in Forming Passive Voice in Simple Past Tense***

The data analysis of students' ability in forming passive voice in simple past tense showed that a half more of students or 55% are belongs to excellent. Then, five students or 25% are considered good, a student or 5% is categorized fair, a student or 5% is categorized poor, and two students or 10 % is categorized very poor.

Although most students got high score, others still make some mistakes in forming passive voice in simple past tense. The following was presented the identification of students' mistakes, such as the answer of participant 2 on question no.5.

*Active Voice:            we did not accuse you of stealing money*

*Passive Voice:        you weren't accuse of stealing money*

The data above showed that there are two mistakes in forming passive sentence. First, student do not change the verb 'accuse' in passive sentence. The verb 'accuse' have to be changed 'accused', because in role of passive voices, the verb has to be changed into past participle. Second, there is not subject in the passive sentence. The student eliminates the subject 'we' in it. Subject is very important in a sentence. The readers do not know who the actor if there is not subject in a sentence. So, the correct answer is *you weren't accused by us of stealing money*.

On the other hand, Ruth (2023) talked that subject in passive sentence allow to be omitted for some reasons. First, a sentence focusses on the action than the actor. Second, the writer wants to obscure identity of the subject. The last, subject in a sentence unknown. So, out of those reasons, the subject still needs to be appeared in passive form to know obviously who the actor in a sentence.

Moreover, students also make a mistake in forming passive voice, especially in the test of simple past tense. They do not add 'to be' past in the passive sentence. It can be examined on the following answer of participant 3 on question no. 3.

*Active Voice:*            *someone copied these documents at the weekend*

*Passive Voice:*        *these documents copied by someone at the weekend*

The data above showed that student make another mistake in forming passive sentence. There is not to be 'were' in passive form. To change the tense of simple past in passive form, 'to be' past 'was' or 'were' must be put between object and verb in the sentence. It conforms to the role of passive voices that 'to be' have to be came up between object and verb. So, the correct answer is *these documents were copied by someone at the weekend*.

Besides, the researcher also found the different answer in question no. 3 on participant 8. There is not found subject in simple past tense in passive form, but the answer is still correct. Examine the following data:

*Active Voice:*            *someone copied these documents at the weekend*

*Passive Voice:*        *these documents were copied at the weekend*

The data above showed that student does not appear subject 'someone' in passive sentence. It is done because the student known that subject 'someone' in the data is an unknown subject. So, it is an option to appear the subject 'someone' or not in this context. This omission also does not shift or change the meaning of the sentence. So, the answer made by participant 8 was considered correct.

Based on some data of students' ability in forming passive voice in simple past tense above, students do not change verbs and do not add 'to be' in passive sentences. Then, students know when the subject must be mentioned because of some reasons, on the other hand students do not know that the subject must still be mentioned.

### ***Students' Ability in Forming Passive Voice in Simple Present Tense***

The data analysis of students' ability in forming passive voice in simple present tense showed that eight students or 40 % are considered as excellent category. Then, five students or 30 % are considered as good category, and another category is just 10 % including fair, poor, very poor category. Although most students got high score, others still make some mistakes in forming passive voice in simple present tense. The following was presented the identification of students' mistakes, such as the answer of participant 2 on question no.8 below:

*Active Voice:*            *They access the internet*

*Passive Voice:*        *The internet are access by them*

The data above showed that participant 2 made two mistakes in forming passive voice in simple present tense. First, the student made something erroneous in using 'to be' in the passive sentence. the sentence should use to be 'were' not 'are', because 'the internet' is a single noun not plural. Student still gets difficulty in making decision both kind of noun and *to be* for singular and plural in present tense. Second, student do not change the verb 'access' in passive sentence. The verb 'accessed' have to be changed 'accused', because in role of passive voices, the verb has to be changed into past participle. So, the correct answer is *the internet is accessed by them*.

Moreover, students also make another mistake in using 'to be' in forming sentence. the student did not add 'to be' present in some answers in the passive sentence. It can be examined on the following answer of participant 12 on question no. 6 and 7.

6) *Active Voice: I eat brown rice and green beans*

*Passive Voice: Brown rice and green beans eaten by me*

7) *Active Voice: He rides a fixed-gear bike*

*Passive Voice: a fixed-gear bike ridden by him*

The data above showed that student made another mistake in forming passive sentence. Even though student succeeded in changing the basic verb to verb in past participle in the sentences, there were not *to be* present in both sentences. The student has to add *to be* 'are' in the answer no.6 and *to be* 'is' in the answer no.7. The use *to be* is associated with the role of passive voices that 'to be' have to be came up between object and verb. So, the correct answers are *Brown rice and green beans are eaten by me* and *a fixed-gear bike is ridden by him*.

Besides, the researcher also found the wrong answer in question no. 7 on participant 18. The student made something erroneous in determining the past participle in the passive sentence. Examine the following data:

*Active Voice: He rides a fixed-gear bike*

*Passive Voice: a fixed-gear bike is **ridded** by him*

The data above showed that student made wrong past participle in forming passive sentence. The verb 'ridded' were bolded is not the real form in past participle. The past participle of verb 'ride' is 'ridden', because verb 'ride' is one of irregular verb not regular. This mistake also often happens to students in making tenses such as past perfect and present perfect tense. They still confuse about the both regular and irregular verb. So, the correct answer is *a fixed-gear bike is **ridden** by him*.

Based on some data of students' ability in forming passive voice in simple present above, researcher concluded that students still have difficulty in

differentiating the use of to be present for singular and plural subject. They also still have difficulty in differentiating both the regular and irregular verb. Every student is required to understand those cases, because both are essential thing in forming passive voice.

### ***Students' Ability in Forming Passive Voice in Simple Future Tense***

The data analysis of students' ability in forming passive voice in simple future tense showed that just 2 students or 10% are belongs to excellent. Then, eight students or 40% are considered good, four students or 20% is categorized fair, five students or 25% is categorized poor, and a student or 5 % is categorized very poor.

Based on the category's percentage above, the researcher was found many mistakes are done by most students in forming passive voice in simple future tense. The following was presented the identification of students' mistakes. First, the same wrong answers were made by participant 2 on question no. 13 and no.14 below:

13. *Active Voice* : *she will not buy a new laptop*

*Passive Voice* : *a new laptop won't be bought*

14. *Active Voice* : *I will not phone him*

*Passive Voice* : *he won't phoned*

Based on the data samples above, there are not subject in the passive sentences. The student eliminated the subject 'she' on question no.13 and 'I' on question no.14 in sentence. Similarly, the student also omitted subject in her previous answer of question no.5. Subject is very important in a sentence both active or passive sentence. The readers will not know who the actor if there is not a subject in a sentence. The subject in these cases do not allow to be omitted, although there are some reasons allow. It may be omitted if a sentence focusses on the action than the actor. Second, the writer wants to obscure identity of the subject. The last, subject in a sentence unknown. So, the correct answers are *a new laptop won't be bought by her* and *he won't phoned by me*.

Moreover, student also made a mistake in forming passive voice in another answer. Student deleted auxiliary verb in the passive form of simple future tense. It can be examined on the following answer of participant 4 on question no. 12 below:

*Active Voice:* *we will watch an action movie this evening*

*Passive Voice:* *an action movie be watched by us this evening*

Based on the data sample above, even though student succeeded in changing the basic verb to verb in past participle in the sentence, there were not *auxiliary verb* in the passive sentence. The student did not write auxiliary verb 'will' anymore in the

passive form. In the role of passive voices in future tense, '*auxiliary verb*' have to be came up between object and *to be* '*be*', especially in affirmative sentence. So, the correct answer is *an action movie will be watched by us this evening*.

Besides, the researcher also found the erroneous answer related to the use of auxiliary verbs, for example in question no. 11 on participant 8. Student used an auxiliary verb incorrectly in a passive form. Examine the following data:

*Active Voice* : *I will do my art project after dinner*

*Passive Voice* : *my art is done by me after dinner*

The data above showed that student used the auxiliary verb '*is*' in passive form of simple future tense. Actually, *to be* '*is*' can also functionate as an auxiliary verb, but it can be happened in the present continuous tense not simple future tenses. It was meant that student did a mistake in the passive sentence. Thus, student has to use auxiliary verb '*will*' not '*is*' in passive form of the simple future tense.

Based on the data of students' ability in forming passive voice in simple future tense above, like the previous mistakes, students tend not to mention the subject in some passive sentences. Then, student change not only the auxiliary verb, but they also did not mention it in passive form, especially in simple future tense.

## Conclusion

Based on the total percentages of the students' ability at SMAN 6 Tanjungpinang in forming passive voice, researcher concluded that the excellent category was 35% respondent, good category was 32% respondents, poor category was 13% respondents, fair category was 12% respondents, and very poor category is 8% respondents. It was concluded that the students' ability is considered good category, since the mean of students' score was 73. Other classification indicated that no one student or 0 % were considered very poor, nine students or 45 % were considered excellent, six students or 30 % were considered good, three students or 15 % were considered fair, and two students or 10 % were considered poor.

Moreover, students' ability in forming passive voice was good enough. Most of them could answer the questions correctly. They comprehended the structure of passive voice, such as change of verb and sentence pattern. On the other hand, it was also found that few students still made mistakes in forming passive sentences, such as students did not change verbs, add '*to be*' in passive sentences, and tend not to mention the subject in some passive sentences. They also got difficulty in differentiating both the regular and irregular verb, so they made a mistake in

changing the verb in passive form. The last, students did not only change but also did not mention the auxiliary verb *it* in some answers in passive form.

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