



**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN  
MASTERING VERB PREPOSITION COMBINATIONS**

( Case Study of the Senior Students of Semarang State University)

a final project

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of *Sarjana Pendidikan*

in English

by

Shahnaz Reza Pahlevi

2201406626

PERPUSTAKAAN  
UNNES

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS  
SEMARANG STATE UNIVERSITY**

**2010**

## ABSTRACT

Pahlevi, Shahnaz Reza. *An Analysis of Students' Difficulties in Mastering Verb Preposition Combinations ( Case Study of the Senior Students of Semarang State University)*. A Final Project. English Department Faculty of Languages and Arts Semarang State University. First Advisor : Drs. Suprpto, M.Hum. second Advisor : Sri Wahyuni, S.Pd., M.Pd.

The topic of this study is “the level of master of verb preposition combinations” by senior students of Semarang State University. The aims of the study are to find out the students’ mastery in using verb preposition combinations and to find out the difficulties faced by the students in mastering verb preposition combinations.

Related to the purpose of research, the study was conducted using descriptive method. The population of the study was senior students (eight semester students) numbering 243 students of English Department, English Education study program. To get the sample, the writer used a random sampling technique. By using this technique, the writer took 30 students (12%) out of the population to be sample.

Try out test was used to develop especially to measure the validity and reliability of the test. The data collected were then analyzed using the simple descriptive statistical analysis.

There are a number of areas related to the topic (Frank, 1972). This study focuses on area on three areas only, namely one syllable verb preposition combinations, separable verb preposition combinations, and inseparable verb preposition combinations. Based on the test result, the percentages of students’ achievement for each classification were 73.50 % for the use of one syllable combinations, 94.00 % for the use of separable verb preposition combinations, and 78.00 % for the use of inseparable verb preposition combinations.

Then, the result was interpreted by using UNNES’ criterion grading. There were 7 students getting grade A comprising 23,3%, 7 students getting grade AB comprising 23,3%, 6 students getting grade B comprising 20%, 5 students getting grade BC comprising 16,7 %, 2 students getting grade C comprising 6,7%, 1 student getting grade CD comprising 3,3 % and 2 students getting grade D comprising 6,7%. On average, the students’ achievement was classified into grade B, because the mean of the students’ achievement in using verb preposition combinations was 77,3.

From those percentages, the writer could conclude the special difficulty faced by the senior students of Semarang State University. Since the percentages

of students' achievement in the use of one syllable combinations were the lowest one, it means that the special difficulty faced by the students is one syllable combinations. This result was caused by two factors such as; there are more than 80 verb preposition combinations, not all of them were described in the grammar books, and the students often find difficulties to determine the combination of verb and adverb to form new vocabulary which has different meaning. Finally, to counter this problem, it is better if the students study more related with the characteristic of verb preposition combinations in order to make them understand.

