

# **Variations of Sentence Structure in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students' Essays in Padang: Perspective of Basic Sentence Patterns**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research is a qualitative descriptive that aims to describe the variation of sentence structure of 5th grade students in Padang (SD Negeri Percobaan, SD IT Adzkie 2, MIN 3, and SD Agnes) based on basic sentence patterns in Indonesian. The data is a sentence that contained in student essays. Before writing essays, students are given a stimulus by a model of teacher and next students write descriptive essays based on the picture that available in material learning. The result showed 1) variation sentences S-P, P-S, based on basic sentence pattern S-P; 2) variation sentences S-P-O, S-O-P, P-O based on basic sentence pattern S-P-O; 3) variation sentences S-P-Pel, P-Pel, P-S-Pel basic sentence pattern S-P-Pel; 4) variation sentences S-P-K, K-S-P, K-S-P-K, S-K-P, S-K-P-K, K-P-S, P-S-K, P-K basic sentence pattern S-P-K; 5) variation sentences S-P-O-Pel, P-O-Pel basic sentence pattern S-P-O-Pel; 6) variation sentences S-P-O-K, K-S-P-O, K-P-O, P-O-K, K-S-P-O-K based on basic sentence pattern S-P-O-K.

**Keywords:** *Variation of sentence, basic sentence*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The sentence structure is one important aspect of a sentence to make messages conveyed through writing can be understood by readers without going through a face to face between writer and reader. Sentence structure has a strong influence in the delivery of ideas in nonverbal perfection. Essentially, the idea with good delivery is associated with the structure of the sentence (Ruspitayanti, et al. : 2015).

Nonverbal communication can be done through writing activities in the form of essays, poems, rhymes, and so forth. This study focused on student essays to identify variations in the structure of sentences based on subject (S), predicate (P), Object (O), complement (Pel), supplement (K). Markhamah (2010), Soedjito and Saryono (2014) asserts that S, P, O, Pel, K is an internal element of sentence development. In addition, an essay is an end product of writing activities involving linguistic factors such as spelling, cohesion, sentence structure and others for the realization of the perfection of the message from the reader to the author (Putrayasa, 2018, Naki, et al 2018).

Variations in the structure of sentence can be viewed from the sentence used in an essay. Putrayasa (2018) in his research explained the need for variation in a bouquet of sentence structure to avoid monotony that served more interesting essay. The results of these studies focus on the variation of sentence structure in the essays of 6 graders in

an elementary school in Bali province, that is North Bali, South Bali, East Bali and West Bali. There are 18 variations of a simple sentence structure and 37 variations of complex sentence structure. Each region is represented by three primary schools with each utilizing 10 essay. Thus, the total essay used as the sample was 120. It was found that there were 18 variations of simple sentence structure and 37 variations of complex sentence structure.

Krishna (2017) in his research stated the importance of paying attention to the use of sentence structure in writing. The ability of structuring the correct structure has impacts on one's success in the process of delivering a message to readers or listeners. The mastery of sentence structure is important in writing an essay. Her research was aimed at finding the essay of 3rd grade students. One of the results showed 12 variations of a simple sentence structure, namely SP, SPK, KSP, KSPK, SKPK, GDSS, SPO, SP-Pel, SPOK, KSPO, SKPO, and KSP-pel. The study recommends the next study to reveal a variety of sentence structures from another point of view in order to improve students' skills in writing.

Munirah&Hardian (2016) in their research emphasized that the ability of mastering vocabulary and sentence structure is essential in supporting the four language skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In addition, students's success at school in understanding all subjects determined by the richness of vocabulary and the variety of sentence structure. In the study, the variety of

sentence structure was perceived from students' ability of X class SMA Negeri 2 Bantaeng, Makasar in writing descriptive paragraph. Vocabulary repertory and sentence structure are two components which simultaneously have impacts to support writing a essay that consists of a descriptive paragraph.

Given the importance of understanding the structure of the sentence in writing a essay, this study aims to describe variations in the essay of sentence structure 5th grade elementary school students based on Bahasa's basic sentence patterns. Variations in sentence structure is essentially grounded from standardized pattern called the basic sentence patterns (Liusti, 2016). Basic sentence patterns are an extension of the main subject of a sentence and the main predicate of a sentence (Putrayasa, 2009). Basic sentence patterns in this study are based on the concept of 6 sentence patterns proposed by Alwi, et al (2001), namely: (1) The subject-predicate; (2) The subject-predicate-object; (3) The subject-predicate-Complement; (4) The subject-predicate-supplement; (5) The subject-predicate-object-Complement; and (6) The subject-predicate-object-supplement. Basic sentence patterns are an arrangement of continuous internal structure as sentence development. Their various internal arrangement of the sentence called variation of sentence structure is derived from the basic sentence patterns. Alwi et al (2003) characterizes that a basic sentence structure has a common element arrangement and contains one clause and is identical to the affirmative declarative sentences that did not contain a denial and questions.

## 2. METHOD

This research is a qualitative descriptive which aims to describe the variety of sentence structure of 5 th grade students in the city of Padang, namely: (1) *SD Negeri Percobaan*; (2) *SD IT Adzka 2*; (3) *MIN 3*; and (4) *SD Agnes Teresia*. These four elementary schools represent public school, integrated Islamic elementary school, Madrasa, and private elementary school in the city of Padang. The data are in the form of declarative sentences contained in the students' essay. The essay must contain at least 3 paragraphs. 15 students were assigned from each school based on random sampling. The total number of essay made by the students was 60. In the data collection process, the students were given a stimulus first by a model teacher for 10-15 minutes. It aimed to stimulate students to be ready to write a essay and be able to develop existing ideas on their mind in the form of written language. Furthermore, students were given time for about 2 hours to write the essay based on a drawing with the theme "I and my environment." The theme is in accordance with the theme of teaching 5 th grade. The last stage is the analysis of the sentence by identifying and describing variations of the sentence structure based on the six basic sentence patterns.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on data analysis, it was found a number of variety of sentence structure in the students' essay which are shown the following table.

Table 1. Sentence Structure Variation in the 5 th grade students' essay in Padang Based on Indonesian Basic Sentence Patterns.

Number	sentence structure	Basic Sentence Patterns
1	S-P, P-S	SP
2	S-P-O, S-O-P, P-O	SPO
3	SP-Pel, P-Pel, P-S-pel	SP-Pel
4	S-P-K, K-S-P, K-S-P-K, S-K-P, S-K-P-K, K-P-S, P-S-K, P-K	SPK
5	S-P-O-Pel, P-O-pel	SPO-Pel
6	S-P-O-K, K-S-P-O, K-P-O, P-O-K, K-S-P-O-K	SPOK
	S-P-pel-K, K-S-P-Pel, K-P-Pel, S-P-pel-K, S-O-P-pel-K, K-S-P-O-Pel, S-K-P-O-Pel, Pel-K S-P-O-Pel-K.	

According to the table above, the S-P-K basic sentence patterns tend to have a lot of variety of sentence structure. Element of supplement (K) is positioned on the beginning of a sentence, or the center, and also at the end of the sentence. 5 th grade students tend to be able to express ideas in writing form b moving the position of the supplement element. Even the supplement element can appear in two positions, namely at the middle and end of the sentence. The advent of supplement element which is more than once in a sentence indicates that the students were able to explain the object carefully. In addition, it was found that there was subject deletion in the sentence, that is the variations of P-Pel, P-K, P-O-Pel, K-P-O, P-O-K. The discovery of the element of subject deletion indicates the incompleteness of syntactical structure of a sentence.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

There were some structure variations in the 5 th grade students' essays based on the Indonesian basic sentence patterns. Variations of sentence structure is one effective way to convey ideas because an idea can be delivered in a variety of sentences. The essays written tend not to be monotonous and produce an interesting writing to read. In addition, there were a variety of sentence structures that has the potential to emerge other sentence patterns. Variations in the structure of sentences S-P-pel-K, K-S-P-Pel, K-P-pel potentially form a new sentence pattern, that is S-P-pel-K. Variations in the structure of sentences S-P-pel-K, S-O-P-pel-K, K-S-P-O-Pel, S-K-P-O-pel potentially emerge S-P-O-Pel-K basic sentence patterns.

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