

Competence of ABEL Students in Constructing Sentences Using Sentence Patterns

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Abstract - This study sought to determine the competence level of the 43 junior ABEL students in constructing sentences using different sentence patterns namely the S-IV; S-TV-DO; S-TV-IO-DO; S-TV-DO-OC; S-LV-PN; and S-LV-PA. The level of competence in constructing sentences was measured by an instrument which was researcher-made. Findings showed that the ABEL students were highly competent in using the sentence patterns S-IV, S-TV-DO, S-LV-PN, and S-LV-PA. whereas, their competence level in using S-TV-IO-DO was moderate while their competence level in using S-TV-DO-OC was low. Thus, their over-all competence in constructing sentences was high. Chi-square correlation test results show that the competence level of the respondents had a moderate relation with their grades in Structure of the English Language and had a strong relation with their most preferred English reading materials. With these, students should exert more effort in studying the grammar or syntax of the English Language for them to improve their competence level.

Keywords – Competence, Sentence Patterns, Sentence

INTRODUCTION

Communication, for us humans, is very important. This is because it is the only way in which we can express ourselves. However, we should always make sure that we are able to express ourselves in the clearest way possible. And one way to achieve this is through the proper use of the language. Thus, we should take into consideration the grammar of language.

English Grammar is the science which treats of the nature of the words, their forms, and their uses and relations in the sentence. This will take in the usual divisions, “the Parts of Speech”, “Analysis”, and “Syntax” (Kleiser, 2012).

In syntax, sentence pattern which is the sentence structure that indicates the order of words or phrases in a sentence in terms of their functions, e.g., subject, verb, object, and complement (Kopratum, 2009) is thoroughly discussed. It is because sentence patterns serve as a guide for us to know how the words in a sentence function.

Knowing the different sentence patterns is very vital. It is because the meaning in an English sentence is conveyed not only by the words but also by the arrangement or pattern

of words. Specific patterns are used for specific purposes. There is a pattern used when showing simple action. There is also a pattern used when defining, describing or classifying an element in the sentence. And another pattern is also used when showing cause-and-effect relationship (Pearson Education, 2014).

Being able to recognize these sentence patterns will help you to be a better writer and better editor of your own writing. Therefore, we should be able to use these different sentence patterns because through these, we are able to express ourselves accordingly and we are able to rearrange the statement in a sense that the meaning will vary.

This research dwells on constructing sentences using different sentence patterns to determine the competence of the junior ABEL with the following formulated objectives: (1) To determine the profile of the respondents such as final grade in Structure of the English Language, preferred language for communication, and most preferred English reading materials; (2) To determine the level of competence of the junior ABEL students in constructing sentences using different sentence patterns; and (3) To determine the relationship between the level of competence of the junior

ABEL students in constructing sentences using different sentence patterns across their profile.

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive method was used in this study. It is designed to gather information about present existing conditions. This method describes the nature of a situation as it exists at the time of the study and explores the causes of particular phenomena. The respondents of this study were the 34 students who were selected through complete enumeration. This study used a questionnaire as the main data gathering instrument which was researcher-made. The data were tallied, categorized, analyzed and subjected to normative measures by the use of frequency counts, percentage distribution, mean, Spearman-rho correlation, and Pearson chi-square.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Profile of the Respondents

The respondents varied in their profile. Out of 34 respondents, 26 or 76.47% of them obtained the grades ranges from 2.25-2.5 described as good. As for the preferred language for communication and most preferred English reading materials, majority of the respondents or 22 obtained the highest frequency having the percentage of 64.71%. As regards to the respondents' most preferred English reading materials, books obtained the highest frequency of 24 (70.59%).

Overall Competence Level of the Respondents in Constructing Sentences Using Different Sentence Patterns

SENTENCE PATTERN	MEAN	DESCRIPTIVE RATING
S-IV	8.59	Very High
S-TV-DO	8.03	High
S-TV-IO-DO	5.47	Moderate
S-TV-DO-OC	3.15	Low
S-LV-PN	8.21	High
S-LV-PA	8.15	High
TOTAL	41.6	High

It shows from the table that the respondents obtained the highest mean of 8.59 in the sentence pattern S-IV with a descriptive rating of very high while the respondents' competence in using the S-TV-DO-OC is very low for it obtained the lowest mean of 3.15.

The results imply that the respondents find it easier to construct sentences using the S-IV, S-TV-DO, S-LV-PN, and S-LV-PA patterns. However, they were found to have difficulty in constructing sentences using the S-TV-IO-OC and were also found to have a slight difficulty in using the S-TV-IO-DO pattern. These are supported by the study of Kopratum (2009) which found the pattern Subject-Predicator-Complement to be mostly used pattern and the Subject-Predicator-Objective to be the pattern least used.

Relationship between the Respondents' Profile and Competence Level in Constructing Sentences Using Different Sentence Patterns

It can be seen from the table that the respondents' final grade incurred a correlation coefficient value of -0.464 with a corresponding moderate relationship. As implied, the value obtained was negative.

Profile	Spearman-rho correlation	Person Chi-Square	Interpretation
Final Grade in Structure of the English Language	-0.464		Moderate
Preferred Language for Communication		0.725	Strong
Most Preferred English Reading Materials		0.671	Strong

This is because the relationship between the respondents' grade and their competence level is inversely proportional. That is, the lower the grade mark of the students, the higher is their corresponding grade. Thus, as the grade increases, their competence level in constructing sentences using different sentence patterns also increases. And the higher their grades, the higher are their competence level.

Whereas, the relationship between the respondents' competence level in constructing sentences using different sentence patterns and their profile preferred language for communication obtained a correlation coefficient value of 0.725 while their profile most preferred English reading materials obtained 0.671 as its correlation value. Thus, both of the variables mentioned garnered strong relationship.



CONCLUSIONS

In the light of the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The junior ABEL students of Pangasinan State University, Urdueta Campus are good in the subject Structure of the English Language.
2. The junior ABEL students are highly competent in constructing sentences using different sentence patterns.
3. The competence level of the respondents in constructing sentences using different sentence patterns is moderately related to their profile final grade in Structure of the English Language while their profile variables preferred language for communication and most preferred English reading materials has a strong relationship with their competence level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With the results and findings of the study, the following recommendations were drawn:

1. Students should exert more effort in studying the grammar or syntax of the English language for them to improve their competence level.
2. English instructors should provide more writing activities such as construction of sentences using the different patterns, especially on the patterns S-TV-IO-DO and S-TV-DO-OC to enrich more the grammatical competence of the students.
3. Future researchers may also conduct similar study that could trace the improvement of the student's competence with regard to sentence patterns or conduct a similar study which focuses on the other complex sentence patterns.

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