



**A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING ARTICLES AT
GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN**

A THESIS

*Submitted to the English Education Study Program of State College for Islamic
Studies (STAIN) Padangsidempuan in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Islamic Education Scholar (S.Pd.I) in English Program*

By:

MARIATI HARAHAP

Reg. No. 07 340 0097

ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM

**DEPARTMENT OF TARBIYAH
STATE COLLEGE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES (STAIN)
PADANGSIDIMPUAN**

2012



**A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING ARTICLES AT
GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN**

A THESIS

*Submitted to the English Education Study Program of State College for Islamic
Studies (STAIN) Padangsidempuan in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Islamic Education Scholar (S.Pd.I) in English Program*

By:

MARIATI HARAHAP
Reg. No. 07 340 0097



ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM

**DEPARTMENT OF TARBIYAH
STATE COLLEGE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES (STAIN)
PADANGSIDIMPUAN**

2012



**A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING ARTICLES AT
GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN**

A THESIS

*Submitted to the English Education Study Program of State College for Islamic
Studies (STAIN) Padangsidempuan in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Islamic Education Scholar (S.Pd.I) in English Program*

**By:
MARIATI HARAHAHAP
Reg. No. 07 340 0097**

Advisor I

Dr. MAHMUDDIN SIREGAR, M.A
NIP. 19530104 198203 1 003

Advisor II

ZAINUDDIN, S.S., M.Hum
NIP. 19760610 200801 1 016

ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM

**DEPARTMENT OF TARBIYAH
STATE COLLEGE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES (STAIN)
PADANGSIDIMPUAN**

2012



KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
SEKOLAH TINGGI AGAMA ISLAM NEGERI
PADANGSIDIMPUAN

Email: stainpasid@yahoo.co.id

Jl. Imam Bonjol Km. 4,5 Sihitang, Telp. 0634-24022, Padangsidimpuan

Hal : Sidang Skripsi
a. n. Mariati Harahap
Lamp : 5 (Lima) Exampilar

Padangsidimpuan, 18 April 2012
Kepada Yth.
Bapak Ketua STAIN Padangsidimpuan
di-
Padangsidimpuan

Assalamu 'alaikum wr.wb.

Setelah membaca, meneliti dan memberikan saran-saran untuk perbaikan seperlunya terhadap skripsi a.n. Mariati Harahap, yang berjudul "A study on the Students' Ability in Using Articles at Grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan", maka kami berpendapat bahwa skripsi ini sudah dapat diterima untuk melengkapi tugas-tugas dan memenuhi syarat-syarat untuk mencapai gelar Sarjana Pendidikan Islam dalam Ilmu Tarbiyah pada Jurusan Tarbiyah STAIN Padangsidimpuan.

Untuk itu dalam waktu tidak beberapa lama, kami harapkan saudara tersebut dapat dipanggil untuk mempertanggungjawabkan skripsinya dalam sidang munaqasyah.

Demikian dan atas perhatian Bapak, kami ucapkan terima kasih.

Wassalamu 'alaikum wr.wb.

PEMBIMBING I

Dr. MAHMUDDIN SIREGAR, M.A

NIP. 19530104 198203 1 003

PEMBIMBING II

ZAINUDDIN, S.S., M.Hum

NIP. 19760610 200801 1 016



**KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
SEKOLAH TINGGI AGAMA ISLAM NEGERI
PADANGSIDIMPUAN**


Email: stainpasid@yahoo.co.id

Jl. Imam Bonjol Km. 4,5 Sihitang, Telp. 0634-24022, Padangsidimpuan


**DEWAN PENGUJI
UJIAN MUNAQOSAH SARJANA**

Ditulis : MARIATI HARAHAP
Nim : 07 340 0097
Judul : A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING
ARTICLES AT GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN


Ketua : H. Ali Anas Nasution, M.A


(_____)

Sekretaris : Rayendriani Fahmei Lubis, M.Ag


(_____)

Anggota : 1.H. Ali Anas Nasution, M.A


(_____)

2. Rayendriani Fahmei Lubis, M.Ag


(_____)

3. Dr. Mahmuddin Siregar, M.A


(_____)

4. Ikhwanuddin Harahap, M.Ag


(_____)

Diuji di STAIN Padangsidimpuan pada tanggal 10 Mei 2012
Pukul 09.00 s/d 12.30
Hasil/ Nilai: 68,12 (C)
Indeks Prestasi Kumulatif (IPK): 3,20
Predikat; Amat baik



**KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
SEKOLAH TINGGI AGAMA ISLAM NEGERI
PADANGSIDIMPUAN**

Email: stainpasid@yahoo.co.id

Jl. Imam Bonjol Km. 4,5 Sihitang, Telp. 0634-24022, Padangsidimpuan

PENGESAHAN

Skripsi Berjudul : **A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING
ARTICLES AT GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL
SOSOPAN**

Ditulis Oleh : **MARIATI HARAHAHAP**
NIM : **07 340 0097**

Telah dapat diterima sebagai salah satu syarat
memperoleh gelar Sarjana Pendidikan Islam
(S.Pd.I).

Padangsidimpuan, 10 Mei 2012
Ketua



DR. H. IBRAHIM SIREGAR, MCL
NIP. 19680704 200003 1 003

DECLARATION LETTER OF WRITING OWN THESIS

Name : MARIATI HARAHAP
Registration number : 07340 0097
Department / study program : Tarbiyah / TBI – 3
The title of thesis : A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN
USING ARTICLES AT GRADE VIII MTs
PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN

Declaring to arrange own thesis without asking for illegal helping from the other side except the guiding of advisors team and without doing plagiarism along with the students' ethic code in article 14 subsections 2.

I made this declaration truthfully, if there is a deviation and incorrect of my declaration later on, I resign to get the punishment as what has involved in student' ethic code in article 19 subsections 4 that is about dispassion of academic degree disrespectfully and the other punishment accord with the norms and accepting legal requirement.

Padangsidempuan, 12 April 2012

Declaration Maker



MARIATI HARAHAP
Reg. No 07 340 0097

SURAT PERNYATAAN MENYUSUN SKRIPSI SENDIRI

Saya yang bertanda tangan dibawah ini:

Nama : **MARIATI HARAHAAP**
NIM : 07 340 0097
Jurusan/ Program studi : Tarbiyah/ TBI-3
Judul Skripsi : **A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING
ARTICLES AT GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL
SOSOPAN**

Menyatakan menyusun skripsi sendiri tanpa meminta bantuan tidak sah dari pihak lain, kecuali arahan dari pembimbing dan tidak melakukan plagiasi sesuai dengan kode etik mahasiswa pasal 14 ayat 2.

Pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sesungguhnya dan apabila dikemudian hari terdapat penyimpangan dan ketidakbenaran pernyataan ini, maka saya bersedia menerima sanksi sebagaimana tercantum dalam pasal 19 ayat 2 tentang kode Etik Mahasiswa yaitu pencabutan gelar akademik dengan tidak hormat dan sanksi lainnya sesuai dengan norma dan ketentuan hukum yang berlaku.

Padangsidempuan, 12 April 2012

Saya yang menyatakan



MARIATI HARAHAAP
Nim. 07 340 0097

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Firstly, researcher would like to thank Allah SWT who has given researcher the chances to finish this thesis. Secondly, blessing and peace be upon to Prophet Muhammad SAW, who has brought human being from the dark era to the bright era.

In finishing this thesis, the researcher faced a lot of difficulties and troubles. Exactly without any help from the following people, it was impossible for researcher to complete and finish this thesis. Therefore researcher would like to thank:

1. Dr. Mahmuddin Siregar, M.A., and Zainuddin, S.S, M. Hum., as researcher's advisors who had given researcher suggestion, ideas, criticism and guidance in writing this thesis.
2. DR. H. Ibrahim Siregar, MCL., as a chief of State for Islamic Studies Padangsidempuan.
3. Hj. Zulhimma, S.Ag, M.Pd., as a chief of Department of Tarbiyah STAIN Padangsidempuan.
4. All lecturers who have given me their valuable through in teaching English for researcher during the process of academic years in TBI STAIN Padangsidempuan.
5. My beloved parent, Tongku Malim and Nurhawani Pohan who have given researcher support in moral and material during and after finishing academic year in STAIN Padangsidempuan.

6. My beloved brothers and sisters, Son Haji, Panyabungan, Darisa Hannum , Rosmida, Asnawati and Masdalena who have motivated me and support me finish my thesis and for all families who cared me and support me in finishing this thesis.
7. All my friends, Nurlia Sari, Sarifah, Lainatussifa, Lenni Wahyuni, Henni Hanifah, Fitri Fuadi, Azrul, Mardiyah, Midah, Pita, and all friends I cannot mention them here who have supported and motivated me to finish this thesis.
Last but not least, researcher just wants to say thank you very much for their helping, Allah bless them and STAIN Padangsidimpuan.

Padangsidimpuan, 18 April 2012

Researcher



Mariati Harahap

Reg. No. 07 340 0097



**A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING ARTICLES AT
GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN**

A THESIS

*Submitted to the English Education Study Program of State College for Islamic
Studies (STAIN) Padangsidempuan in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Islamic Education Scholar (S.Pd.I) in English Program*

By:
MARIATI HARAHAH
Reg. No. 07 340 0097

ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF TARBIYAH
STATE COLLEGE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES (STAIN)
PADANGSIDIMPUAN
2012



**A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING ARTICLES AT
GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN**

A THESIS

*Submitted to the English Education Study Program of State College for Islamic
Studies (STAIN) Padangsidempuan in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Islamic Education Scholar (S.Pd.I) in English Program*

**By:
MARIATI HARAHAH
Reg. No. 07 340 0097**

Advisor I

Advisor II

Dr. MAHMUDDIN SIREGAR, M.A
NIP. 19530104 198203 1 003

ZAINUDDIN, S.S., M.Hum
NIP. 19760610 200801 1 016

ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF TARBIYAH

STATE COLLEGE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES (STAIN)

PADANGSIDIMPUAN

2012



**KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
SEKOLAH TINGGI AGAMA ISLAM NEGERI
PADANGSIDIMPUAN**

Email: stainpasid@yahoo.co.id

Jl. Imam Bonjol Km. 4,5 Sihitang, Telp. 0634-24022, Padangsidimpuan

Hal : Sidang Skripsi
a. n. Mariati Harahap
Lamp : 5 (Lima) Exemplar

Padangsidimpuan, 18 April 2012
Kepada Yth.
Bapak Ketua STAIN Padangsidimpuan
di-
Padangsidimpuan

Assalamu 'alaikum wr.wb.

Setelah membaca, meneliti dan memberikan saran-saran untuk perbaikan seperlunya terhadap skripsi a.n. Mariati Harahap, yang berjudul "A **study on the Students' Ability in Using Articles at Grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan**", maka kami berpendapat bahwa skripsi ini sudah dapat diterima untuk melengkapi tugas-tugas dan memenuhi syarat-syarat untuk mencapai gelar Sarjana Pendidikan Islam dalam Ilmu Tarbiyah pada Jurusan Tarbiyah STAIN Padangsidimpuan.

Untuk itu dalam waktu tidak beberapa lama, kami harapkan saudara tersebut dapat dipanggil untuk mempertanggungjawabkan skripsinya dalam sidang munaqasyah.

Demikian dan atas perhatian Bapak, kami ucapkan terima kasih.

Wassalamu 'alaikum wr.wb.

PEMBIMBING I

PEMBIMBING II

Dr. MAHMUDDIN SIREGAR, M.A
NIP. 19530104 198203 1 003

ZAINUDDIN, S.S., M.Hum
NIP. 19760610 200801 1 016



**KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
SEKOLAH TINGGI AGAMA ISLAM NEGERI
PADANGSIDIMPUAN**

Email: stainpasid@yahoo.co.id

Jl. Imam Bonjol Km. 4,5 Sihitang, Telp. 0634-24022, Padangsidimpuan

**DEWAN PENGUJI
UJIAN MUNAQOSAH SARJANA**

Ditulis : MARIATI HARAHAHAP
Nim : 07 340 0097
Judul : A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING ARTICLES
AT GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN

Ketua : H. Ali Anas Nasution, M.A (_____)

Sekretaris : Rayendriani Fahmei Lubis, M.Ag (_____)

Anggota : 1.H. Ali Anas Nasution, M.A (_____)

2. Rayendriani Fahmei Lubis, M.Ag (_____)

3. Dr. Mahmuddin Siregar, M.A (_____)

4. Ikhwanuddin Harahap, M.Ag (_____)

Diuji di STAIN Padangsidimpuan pada tanggal 10 Mei 2012

Pukul 09.00 s/d 12.30

Hasil/ Nilai: 68,12 (C)

Indeks Prestasi Kumulatif (IPK): 3,20

Predikat; Amat baik



**KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
SEKOLAH TINGGI AGAMA ISLAM NEGERI
PADANGSIDIMPUAN**

Email: stainpasid@yahoo.co.id

Jl. Imam Bonjol Km. 4,5 Sihitang, Telp. 0634-24022, Padangsidimpuan

PENGESAHAN

Skripsi Berjudul : A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING
ARTICLES AT GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN

Ditulis Oleh : MARIATI HARAHAP
NIM : 07 340 0097

Telah dapat di terima sebagai salah satu syarat
Memperoleh gelar Sarjana Pendidikan Islam
(S.Pd.I)

Padangsidimpuan, 10 Mei 2012
Ketua

DR. H. IBRAHIM SIREGAR. MCL
NIP: 19680704 200003 1 003

DECLARATION LETTER OF WRITING OWN THESIS

Name : MARIATI HARAHAAP
Registration number : 07340 0097
Department / study program : Tarbiyah / TBI – 3
The title of thesis : A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN
USING ARTICLES AT GRADE VIII MTs
PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN

Declaring to arrange own thesis without asking for illegal helping from the other side except the guiding of advisors team and without doing plagiarism along with the students' ethic code in article 14 subsections 2.

I made this declaration truthfully, if there is a deviation and incorrect of my declaration later on, I resign to get the punishment as what has involved in student' ethic code in article 19 subsections 4 that is about dispassion of academic degree disrespectfully and the other punishment accord with the norms and accepting legal requirement.

Padangsidempuan, 12 April 2012
Declaration Maker

MARIATI HARAHAAP
Reg. No 07 340 0097

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Firstly, researcher would like to thank Allah SWT who has given researcher the chances to finish this thesis. Secondly, blessing and peace be upon to Prophet Muhammad SAW, who has brought human being from the dark era to the bright era.

In finishing this thesis, the researcher faced a lot of difficulties and troubles. Exactly without any help from the following people, it was impossible for researcher to complete and finish this thesis. Therefore researcher would like to thank:

1. Dr. Mahmuddin Siregar, M.A., and Zainuddin, S.S, M. Hum., as researcher's advisors who had given researcher suggestion, ideas, criticism and guidance in writing this thesis.
2. Dr. H. Ibrahim Siregar, MCL., as a chief of State College for Islamic Studies Padangsidempuan.
3. Hj. Zulhimma, S.Ag, M.Pd., as a chief of Department of Tarbiyah STAIN Padangsidempuan.
4. All lecturers who have given me their valuable through in teaching English for researcher during the process of academic years in TBI STAIN Padangsidempuan.
5. My beloved parent, Tongku Malim and Nurhawani Pohan who have given researcher support in moral and material during and after finishing academic year in STAIN Padangsidempuan.
6. My beloved brothers and sisters, Son Haji Harahap, Panyabungan Harahap, Darisa Hannum Harahap, Rosmida Harahap, Asnawati Harahap and Masdalena Harahap who have motivated me and support me finish my thesis and for all families who cared me and support me in finishing this thesis.

7. All my friends, Nurlia Sari, Sarifah, Lainatussifa, Lenni Wahyuni, Henni Hanifah, Fitri Fuadi, Azrul, Mardiyah, Midah, Pita, and all friends I cannot mention them here who have supported and motivated me to finish this thesis.

Last but not least, researcher just wants to say thank you very much for their helping, Allah bless them and STAIN Padangsidimpuan.

Padangsidimpuan, 18 April 2012

Researcher

Mariati Harahap
Reg. No. 07 340 0097

CONTENT LIST

	Page
PAGE OF TITLE.....	i
AGREEMENT ADVISOR SHEET.....	ii
DECLARATION LETTER OF WRITING OWN THESIS.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT.....	iv
CONTENT LIST.....	vi
LIST OF TABLES.....	viii
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	ix
ABSTRACT.....	x

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Problems.....	1
B. Focus of the Research.....	4
C. Definition of Key Terms.....	4
D. Formulation of Problems.....	5
E. Aim of Research.....	6
F. Significances of the Problems.....	6
G. Thesis Outline.....	7

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL DESCRIPTIONS

A. Theoretical Description	10
1. The articles	10
a. Definition of Article.....	10
b. The Kinds of Articles.....	11
c. The Selection of 'a' or 'an'.....	14
d. The Use of Definite Articles.....	15
e. The Use of Indefinite Articles.....	21
f. mission of the Article.....	24
2. Learning Difficulties.....	24
B. Review Related Findings.....	27

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Place and Time of the Research.....	29
B. Method of the Research.....	29

C. Source of Data.....	31
D. Instrument of Collecting Data.....	32
E. Technique of data trustworthiness.....	35
F. Technique of Data Analysis.....	35

CHAPTER IV THE RESULT OF THE RESEARCH

A. Findings.....	38
1. General Findings.....	38
2. Specific Findings.....	41
3. Threats of the Research.....	52
4. Discussion.....	53

CHAPTER V THE CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusions.....	56
B. Suggestions.....	57

REFERENCE

CURRICULUM VITAE

APPENDICES

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	: The total of grade VIII students of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan.....	32
Table 2	: Student' specification of ability in using articles test.	33
Table 3	: The classification quality of students' score.....	36
Table 4	: Infrastructures of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan.....	39
Table 5	: Students' number of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan	40
Table 6	: The English teacher of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan.....	40
Table 7	: Students' ability in using indefinite articles with <i>a</i>	41
Table 8	: Students' ability in using indefinite articles with <i>an</i>	43
Table 9	: Students' ability in using definite articles.....	44
Table 10	: Result of articles test based on articles test in MTs Purbaganal Sosopan.....	46
Table 11	: The criteria score interpretation.....	47

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix I : Observation guidance

Appendix II : Interview guidance

Appendix III : The questions list of articles

Appendix IV : The key of questions

Appendix V: The students' score in using articles at grade VIII MTs Purbaganal
Sosopan

Appendix VI: The list of students' names at grade VIII 1 MTs Purbaganal Sosopan

CONTENT LIST

	Page
PAGE OF TITLE.....	i
AGREEMENT ADVISOR SHEET.....	ii
DECLARATION LETTER OF WRITING OWN THESIS.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT.....	iv
CONTENT LIST.....	vi
LIST OF TABLES.....	viii
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	ix
ABSTRACT.....	x

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Problems.....	1
B. Focus of the Research.....	4
C. Definition of Key Terms.....	4
D. Formulation of Problems.....	5
E. Aim of Research.....	6
F. Significances of the Problems.....	6
G. Thesis Outline.....	7

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL DESCRIPTIONS

A. Theoretical Description	10
1. The articles	10
a. Definition of Article.....	10
b. The Kinds of Articles.....	11
c. The Selection of 'a' or 'an'.....	14
d. The Use of Definite Articles.....	15
e. The Use of Indefinite Articles.....	21
f. Omission of the Article.....	24
2. Learning Difficulties.....	24
B. Review Related Findings.....	27

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Place and Time of the Research.....	29
B. Method of the Research.....	29
C. Source of Data.....	31
D. Instrument of Collecting Data.....	32

E. Technique of data trustworthiness.....	35
F. Technique of Data Analysis.....	35

CHAPTER IV THE RESULT OF THE RESEARCH

A. Findings.....	38
1. General Findings.....	38
2. Specific Findings.....	41
3. Threats of the Research.....	52
4. Discussion.....	53

CHAPTER V THE CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusions.....	56
B. Suggestions.....	57

REFERENCE

CURRICULUM VITAE

APPENDICES

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 : The total of grade VIII students of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan.....	32
Table 2 : Student' specification of ability in using articles test.	33
Table 3 : The classification quality of students' score.....	36
Table 4 : Infrastructures of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan.....	39
Table 5 : Students' number of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan	40
Table 6 : The English teacher of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan.....	40
Table 7 : Students' ability in using indefinite articles with <i>a</i>	41
Table 8 : Students' ability in using indefinite articles with <i>an</i>	43
Table 9 : Students' ability in using definite articles.....	44
Table 10 : Result of articles test based on articles test in MTs Purbaganal Sosopan.....	46
Table 11 : The criteria score interpretation.....	47

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix I : Observation guidance

Appendix II : Interview guidance

Appendix III : The questions list of articles

Appendix IV : The key of questions

Appendix V: The students' score in using articles at grade VIII MTs Purbaganal
Sosopan

Appendix VI: The list of students' names at grade VIII 1 MTs Purbaganal Sosopan

Name : MARIATI HARAHAP
Reg. no : 07 340 0097
Department /Program : Tarbiyah/ TBI-3
Year : 2011-2012
Title : A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING
ARTICLES AT GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL
SOSOPAN

ABSTRACT

The aims of the research were to know the students' ability in using articles at grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan, to find out the difficulties of grade VIII students of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan and to know the English teacher' efforts in overcoming students' difficulties in using articles.

The research was conducted with descriptive analysis and qualitative approach. There were 36 students as sample from 103 students of grade VIII students of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan. There were 3 instruments in collecting data: test, interview, and observation. Data was processed and analyzed with qualitative process.

Based on the result of research, researcher found that the students' ability in using articles at grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan was enough (55, 13%) and those were the students' difficulties of grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in using articles: student felt difficult in using indefinite articles, students felt difficult in selection *a* or *an* and students felt difficult in vocabulary. The efforts done by English teacher to overcome the students' difficulties were, to overcoming students' difficulties in using indefinite articles, the English teachers repeat the lesson and give students more examples which are familiar with students' lives. To overcoming the students' difficulties in selection *a* or *an*, the English teachers effort to explained about vowel and consonant sound of the words. Then, the English teacher ordered the students to practice of pronunciations the words. The students difficulties about vocabularies, the English teacher used efforts to make students were easy to memorize the word.

Name : MARIATI HARAHAAP
Reg. no : 07 340 0097
Department /Program : Tarbiyah/ TBI-3
Year : 2011-2012
Title : A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING
ARTICLES AT GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL
SOSOPAN

ABSTRACT

The aims of the research were to know the students' ability in using articles at grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan, to find out the difficulties of grade VIII students of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan and to know the English teacher' efforts in overcoming students' difficulties in using articles.

The research was conducted with descriptive analysis and qualitative approach. There were 36 students as sample from 103 students of grade VIII students of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan. There were 3 instruments in collecting data: test, interview, and observation. Data was processed and analyzed with qualitative process.

Based on the result of research, researcher found that the students' ability in using articles at grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan was enough (55, 13%) and those were the students' difficulties of grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in using articles: student felt difficult in using indefinite articles, students felt difficult in selection *a* or *an* and students felt difficult in vocabulary. The efforts done by English teacher to overcome the students' difficulties were, to overcoming students' difficulties in using indefinite articles, the English teachers repeat the lesson and give students more examples which are familiar with students' lives. To overcoming the students' difficulties in selection *a* or *an*, the English teachers effort to explained about vowel and consonant sound of the words. Then, the English teacher ordered the students to practice of pronunciations the words. The students difficulties about vocabularies, the English teacher used efforts to make students were easy to memorize the word.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Language is the system of communication in speech and writing which is used by people to express ideas, and feeling using movement, symbols and sounds. English as one of the many languages in the world. English is very important in our life, because English is an international language. So, we must communicate English well in this era. Moreover English has been studied in schools, from elementary school, junior high school, senior high school until university level. We must be able to communicate international communities in globalization era by through English.

Studying English as a foreign language is not easy, students are expected to achieve four basic skills of language namely reading, listening, speaking and writing. Language skill is often categorized as receptive skill or productive skill. Speaking and writing are the productive skills. Listening along with reading is a receptive skill. In the English curriculum 2006 that is competency based curriculum, it is clearly stated that the objective of teaching English is to improve their ability in four basic skills of the language. The English curriculum also enables students to grow and develop in smartness. In Indonesia, curriculum of the English subject is a standard of every level that will be reached. So the students must study hard.

Every language has the structure and grammar to be mastered. Grammar is the root in learning English. Then grammar is the systematical study of language which provides us information and necessary guidance to learn a language. The science of the grammar teaches us how a language is spoken and written correctly and effectively. In learning English, grammar is one of significant components to mediate the system of sound or system of written symbol that cannot be avoided. So, it can be said unless we have mastered grammar, cannot speak or write English correctly. It explains us the difficulties and problems involved in learning a language and it guides us how language is effectively used in our day life.

Grammarians distinguish prescriptive grammar and descriptive grammar. A prescriptive grammar lays down the law, saying what is right and what is wrong. A descriptive grammar on the other hand, sets out to describe the way that people actually use language.¹ The common problems of English grammar have to be overcome by all students, and the difficulties they find are similar in all parts of the world. In National Curriculum, the government makes the list of the syllabus at grade VIII and one of them is articles. It can be found or seen in the national curriculum of junior high school which the topic “Grammar Pit Stop: Articles”.²

An article is one of the aspects of grammar subject. Studying articles seems easy for students, but many students were often got confused in applying it especially in writing and speaking. Moreover, the role of articles in building up

¹David Nunan, *Practical English Language Teaching* (America: The Mc Grow Hill Companion, 2003), p.154.

²Mukarto. dkk, *English on Sky* (Jakarta: Erlangga, 2007), p. 5.

sentences is considered very important. So, the students cannot avoid using articles in every sentence they made. In this subject, student must comprehend its the use and function. In the fact students' comprehension of articles was still poor, because there are many students find difficulties and mistakes in using articles. The students didn't know how to use articles correctly. Furthermore, in using this term student should master and familiar with the singular – plural noun and countable – uncountable noun use. In fact, students found it difficult and often make mistakes when they are using it.

Madrasah Tsanawiyah (MTs) Purbaganal Sosopan was one of the schools in Padang Bolak that researcher found the problem that students still confused to use articles correctly. Based on the Buku Kumpulan Nilai(Leger) of grade VIII students of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan, the students values in English can categorized into high category, but in learning about articles the student felt difficult.

The researcher's reasons for choosing this study stated as follow:

1. The researcher wants to find out the students difficulties in using articles.
2. The researcher would like to get ideas and insight how to overcoming the problem in teaching articles.

Considering the condition above, the researcher then feels interested to conducting the research about **“A Study on the Students' Ability in Using Articles at Grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan”**. This study is expected to

be able to identify the difficulties or mistakes in using articles and to know the cause of the errors made by most of the students.

B. Focus of the Research

Based on the above background of the problem, improving the study effectively in English grammar, especially articles. There are many factors to increase the ability about it, they are: teacher, learning strategies, teaching of the material and the technique or method which is used and presented into the topic. So, the researcher limits the problem to make it specific. The researcher only studies about articles. The participant of this research is grade VIII at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan. This research also limits the level of class in grade VIII at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan. So that the researcher is interested in knowing how the students' ability in using articles.

C. Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding about some terminologies in this research, so the researcher makes the definition below:

1. Ability

Ability is the mental or physical capacity, power or skills required to do something. It's also definite as special nature power to do something well or

talent.³ So, the ability means the power of students MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in using articles.

2. Article

Article is the part of grammar, either of the words “a / an” (the indefinite) or “the” (the definite article).⁴

3. Student

Student is a person usually over the age of 16, who is studying at a university or college. Person who observes or has a particular interest of something.⁵

Based on the above definition, the researcher concludes that the student is the person who learns on the elementary, junior and senior high school whether it is for formal education or informal education.

Based on the explanations above the meaning of research title “A Study on the Students’ Ability in Using Articles at Grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan” is a study about the power of grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in using articles.

D. Formulation of the Problems

Based on the above background and focus of the problem, the researcher formulates the problems of the research as follow:

³ As. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), P. 2.

⁴ *Ibid*, P. 57.

⁵ *Ibid*, P. 1187.

1. How was the grade VIII students at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan students' ability in using articles?
2. What were difficulties faced by grade VIII students at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in using articles?
3. What were English teachers' efforts in overcoming students' difficulties in using articles?

E. Aims of the Research

Based on the above formulation of the problems, the researcher states the problems as follow:

1. To know the grade VIII students' ability at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in using articles.
2. To find out the difficulties faced by grade VIII students at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in using articles.
3. To know the English teachers' effort in overcoming grade VIII students' difficulties in using articles.

F. Significances of the Research

The finding of this research can contribute:

1. Researcher, expected to be able to improve researcher knowledge in learning articles, and to fulfill a requirement to reach the degree of Islamic education

scholar in English education study program in Tarbiyah department of state college for Islamic studies Padangsidempuan.

2. English teachers, to know the students' ability in using articles and predict the students' difficulties in using articles, and to improve their quality of teaching articles.
3. The students, theoretically, it can be a source of information to use articles.
4. The readers, to do further study in other fields of research.

G. Thesis Outline

The systematic of this research is divided into five chapters. Each chapter consists of many sub chapters with detail as follow:

Chapter one was discussed about introduction, they are: First, background of the problem; this research was hold at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan and researcher wants to know how was their ability in using articles. Second, focus on the research; this research will focus on the students' ability of grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan. Third, definition of key terms include definitions about the title of research. Fourth, formulation of the problem included how was the students' ability of grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in using articles? And what were difficulties faced by grade VIII students at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in using articles? Then, what were English teachers' efforts in overcoming students' difficulties in using articles? Fifth, aims of the research, they are: to know the grade VIII students' ability at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in

using articles, and to find out the difficulties faced by grade VIII students at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in using articles. Then, to know the English teachers' effort in overcoming grade VIII students' difficulties in using articles. Sixth, Signification of research for all element of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan include headmaster, English teacher, students and also for the further researcher who want to conduct this research.

Chapter two is the theoretical description, which explain about articles and learning difficulties and review related finding.

Chapter three discuss about the methodology of the research consist of; First, place and time of research was held in MTs Purbaganal Sosopan. Second method of the research. This research would be conducted with descriptive analysis with qualitative method. Third, source of data was taken from sample of research from grade students of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan. Fourth, instrument of collecting data involved three instruments included; test, interview and observation. Fifth, technique of the data trustworthiness to make this research more valid. Sixth, technique analysis data. This data was analyzed with qualitative process.

Chapter four included four parts. First, research objective condition of research involved finding condition of research location. Second, Result of research which talking about the final result of this research. Third, the threats of research, which talking about the threats that researcher found in the process of

research. Fourth, discussion which compared result of research with theoretical review,

Chapter five was involved: conclusion about the research and suggestion for all.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL DESCRIPTIONS

A. THEORETICAL DESCRIPTIONS

1. Descriptions of Article

a. Definition of Article

According to Ridwansyah “artikel atau kata sandang adalah kata tugas yang membatasi makna jumlah orang atau benda.¹ (article is the word limited the amount of people or thing). Next Jayanthi Daksina, “article is *a*, *an*, *the*, are known as articles. They are in fact, demonstrative adjective.”² Next, it is stated on Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary that “article is part of grammar either word *a*, *an* and *the*.”³ Then, Robert Krohn said that the words *a*, *an* and *the* are called articles.⁴ Slamet Riyanto that “*a*, *an* and *the* are the articles, they precede nouns. Sometimes an adjective is placed between the article and the nouns.”⁵

Further, Thomson and Martinet stated that “articles can be divided into the indefinite article contains of *a*, *an* and the definite article contains of

¹Ridwansyah, *Mastering English Grammar*(Jakarta: Puspa Swara,2006),p. 5.

² Jayanthi Dakshina Murthy, *Contemporary English Grammar* (Delhi: Shivam Printers, 1998), p.51

³ AS. Hornby, *Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary* (New York : Oxford University Press, 2003), p.19

⁴ Robert Krohn, *English Sentence Structure* (The University of Michigan Press: Binarupa Aksara, 1990), p.54.

⁵ Slamet Riyanto. *A Complete Course to the TOEIC TEST* (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2008). p. 101.

the.”⁶ An article is a word that combines with a noun to indicate the type of reference being made by noun. Articles specify the grammatical definiteness of the noun in some languages extending to volume or numerical scope. The article in English language are *the*, and *a*, *an*. Among the classical parts of speech, articles are considered a special category of adjectives. Some modern linguists prefer to classify them within a separate parts of speech, determiner.

From the quotations above, researcher states that the article is parts of grammar either words *a*, *an*, and *the* combines a noun to indicate the type with reference made by a noun.

b. The Kinds of Articles

In general there are two kinds of article. Articles are usually characterized as both definite and indefinite.

1) Definite article

According to Jayanthi Dakhsina, “definite article is an article which is used to refer to a particular person or thing is known as the definite article.”⁷ A definite article indicates that its noun is a particular one identifiable to the listener. It may be something that the speaker has already mentioned, or it may be something uniquely specified. The

⁶ A. J. Thomson, *A Practical English Grammar* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986) p. 2.

⁷ Jayanthi Dakshina Murthy, *Op. Cit*, p. 51.

definite article in English for both singular and plural noun is *the*. Marcella Frank that “*the* is traditionally called the definite articles, it is pronounced {ði} before words that begin with vowel sounds. *The* signals a particular person or thing that has been singled out from others.”⁸

Further, Thomson and Martinet that “the definite article contains of *the*. The definite article is use in the same for singular and plural and for all gender.”⁹ In additions Betty Schramper Azar stated that “definite article is a noun definite when both the speaker and the listener are talking about the same specific things.”¹⁰

For examples:

- a) Thank you for the orange
- b) Thank you for the oranges
- c) Thank you for the fruits

In the above example (a), the speaker use *the* because the listener knows which specific orange the speaker is talking about, that particular orange which listener gave to speaker. Notice that *the* is used both singular and plural, count nouns and with non- count nouns.

⁸Marcella Frank, *Modern English: A Practical Reference Guide* (New York: Prentice Hall, 1972). p. 125-128.

⁹A. J. Thomson, *Op. Cit*, p. 19

¹⁰Betty Schramper Azar, *Understanding and Using English Grammar* (Washington: Prentice Hall, 1989), p. A20

Based on the quotations above, the researcher concluded definite articles was *the*, and the definite articles is used before singular-plural, countable and uncountable noun and for all gender.

2) Indefinite article

According to Jayanthi Dakhsina, “indefinite article is an article which does not refer to any particular person or things; it is known as the indefinite articles.”¹¹ An indefinite article indicates that its noun is not a particular one identifiable to the listener. It may be something that the speaker is mentioning for the first time, or its precise identity may be irrelevant or hypothetical, or the speaker may be making a general statement about any such thing. English uses *a, an*. The form *an* is used before words that begin with a vowel sound (even if spelled with an initial consonant, as in an hour) and *a* before words that begin with a consonant sound (even if spelled with a vowel, as in a European).

Further, Collins Cobuild that “*a* and *an* are the commonest general determiner; they are sometimes called the indefinite article.”¹² *A* and *an* are used with singular count nouns, and indicate that you are talking about just one of something. Next, Betty Schramper Azar that “indefinite article is used by speaker uses generic noun to make generalizations. A

¹¹ Jayanthi Dakshina Murthy, *Op. Cit*, p. 51.

¹² Collins Cobuild, *English Grammar* (London: The University of Birmingham, 1990), p. 54.

generic noun represents whole class of things; it is not specific, real, concrete, thing but rather a symbol of a whole class.”¹³

Based on the above quotations the researcher concluded indefinite articles were *a* and *an*, its used with singular countable noun.

c. The Selection of ‘a’ or ‘an’

The selection between ‘a’ and ‘an’ is determined by sound. There the hints are:

- 1) *A* is used before a word beginning with a consonant sound.

For examples:

No.	Article	Meaning	Sentence
1.	A	Seorang	Brown is <i>a</i> lawyer.
2.	A	Seekor	Andy bought <i>a</i> cat.
3.	A	Sebuah	Rommy needs <i>a</i> spoon and <i>a</i> fork.

- 2) *A* is used before a word beginning with ‘h’ and also with ‘y’ and ‘u’.

For examples:

No.	Article	Meaning	Sentence
1.	A	Seekor	John keeps <i>a</i> horse.
2.	A	Satu	There are twelve months <i>a</i> year.
3.	A	Seorang	I meet <i>a</i> young man in the bus.
4.	A	Sebuah	He studies in <i>a</i> university.

¹³ Betty Schramper Azar, *Loc. Cit.*

- 3) *A* is used before a word beginning with a 'w' sound.

For examples:

No.	Article	Meaning	Sentence
1.	A	Satu	She has <i>a</i> one dollar.
2.	A	Sebuah	I have <i>a</i> one way ticket.

- 4) *An* is used before a word beginning with vowel sound.

For examples:

No.	Article	Meaning	Sentence
1.	An	Sebuah	Jenny buys <i>an</i> apple.
2.	An	Seekor	There is <i>an</i> elephant in the zoo.
3.	An	Seorang	Joice is <i>an</i> actress.
4.	An	Satu	I was waited you <i>an</i> hour.
5.	An	Sebutir	Sipah needs <i>an</i> egg.

d. The Use of Definite Articles

According to Jayanthi Dakshina Murthy, that the using definite articles were:¹⁴

- 1) *The* is used when the object or group of object is unique or considered to be unique.

For examples:

¹⁴ Jayanthi Dakshina Murthy, *Op.Cit*, p.53-56.

No	Sentence	Meaning
1.	<i>The sun rises in the east.</i>	Matahari terbit dari timur.
2.	<i>The sea is very large.</i>	Laut itu sangat luas.

- 2) *The* is used to talk about particular or things.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	<i>The man you met yesterday is my uncle</i>	Pria yang kamu temui kemarin adalah pamanku.
2.	<i>The lady you saw at the theatre is my sister</i>	Wanita yang kamu lihat di teater itu adalah kakakku.

- 3) *The* is used to talk about persons or things mentioned for the second time.

For examples:

No	Sentence	Meaning
1.	I met a girl. <i>The girl</i> is slim.	Saya bertemu dengan seorang gadis. Gadis itu langsing.
2.	I eat an apple. <i>The apple</i> is red.	Saya makan sebuah apel. Apel itu merah.

- 4) *The* is used with the persons or things understood from the context.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	I talked to <i>the</i> manager.	Saya bercerita dengan menejer.
2.	I sat in <i>the</i> bedroom.	Saya duduk di tempat tidur.

- 5) *The* is used with singular nouns representing the whole class.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	<i>The</i> teacher should know the psychology of the students.	Setiap guru harus mengetahui psikologi murid.
2.	<i>The</i> students must be study hard.	Setiap siswa harus belajar keras.

- 6) *The* is used with the names of rivers, gulfs, seas, groups of island, chains of mountain.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	<i>The</i> Kapuas is the longest river in Indonesia.	Kapuas adalah sungai paling panjang di Indonesia.
2.	<i>The</i> Himalaya is the higher mount in world.	Himalaya adalah gunung tertinggi dunia.

- 7) *The* is used with the names of well known books.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	<i>The</i> Qur'an is revealed to prophet Muhammad.	Qur'an diturunkan kepada nabi Muhammad.
2.	<i>The</i> Bible is revealed to prophet Isa.	Injil diturunkan kepada nabi Isa.

- 8) *The* is used before a proper noun used as a common noun.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	Jakarta is <i>the</i> capital city of Indonesia.	Jakarta adalah ibukota Indonesia.
2.	<i>The</i> hospital has just built.	Rumah sakit itu baru di bangun.

9) *The* is used before superlative adjectives.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	She bought <i>the</i> most expensive furniture.	Dia membeli perhiasan paling mahal.
2.	He is <i>the</i> tallest in class.	Dia paling tinggi di kelas.

10) *The* is used before adjectives used as nouns.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	<i>The</i> rich are not always happy.	Orang kaya tidak selalu bahagia.
2.	<i>The</i> old disagree with <i>the</i> young.	Kaum tua tidak setuju dengan kaum muda.

11) *The* is used with double comparative.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	<i>The</i> more I read, <i>the</i> more I like.	Semakin saya baca, semakin saya suka.
2.	<i>The</i> more I eat, <i>the</i> less I like.	Semakin saya makan, semakin sedikit saya suka.

12) *The* is used with directions.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	Andre lives in <i>the</i> north Sumatera.	Andre tinggal di Sumatera Utara.
2.	The sun rises in <i>the</i> east.	Matahari terbit dari timur.

13) *The* is used with historical buildings.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	<i>The</i> statue of liberty is in the United States.	Patung liberty berada di Amerika Serikat.
2.	<i>The</i> Borobudur is the largest temple in Indonesia.	Borobudur adalah candi paling besar di Indonesia.

14) *The* is used with names of newspapers and magazines.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	We buy <i>the</i> Waspada news	Kami membeli Waspada
2.	Yudha reads <i>the</i> Aneka Yes	Yudha membaca Aneka Yes.

15) *The* is used with the names of certain countries and provinces.

For examples:

No	Sentence	Meaning
1.	Medan is capital of <i>the</i> north Sumatera.	Medan adalah ibukota Sumatera Utara.
2.	<i>The</i> Indonesia had many island.	Indonesia mempunyai banyak Pulau.

16) *The* is used with historical events.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	<i>The</i> Independent Day of Indonesia is on August 17 th 1945.	Hari kemerdekaan Indonesia pada tanggal 17 Agustus 1945.
2.	<i>The</i> Educational Day of Indonesia is on May 2 nd .	Hari Pendidikan Nasional adalah tanggal 2 Mei.

17) *The* is used with the names of nationalities, sects and communities.

For examples:

No	Sentence	Meaning
1.	Andrew is <i>the</i> Holland.	Andrew berkebangsaan Belanda.
2.	<i>The</i> French defeated <i>the</i> Germans.	Francis mengalahkan German.

18) *The* is used with the names of trains, ships, and aeroplanes.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	My sister goes to Medan by <i>the</i> Garuda.	Kakak saya pergi ke Jakarta naik Garuda.
2.	I go to Batam by <i>the</i> Ferry.	Saya pergi ke Batam naik Ferry.

19) *The* is used with ordinals.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	Iyah was <i>the</i> first one stay in the class.	Iyah adalah orang pertama di kelas itu.
2.	A student in <i>the</i> last row was asleep.	Seorang siswa yang di baris terakhir tidur.

20) *The* is used with musical instruments.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	<i>The</i> violin is very expensive.	Biola itu sangat mahal.
2.	She plays <i>the</i> guitar in a studio.	Dia bermain gitar di studio.

21) *The* is used in comparative in selective sense.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	She is <i>the</i> darker of the two girls.	Dia lebih hitam dari kedua gadis itu.
2.	Yanti is <i>the</i> wiser of the two sisters.	Yanti lebih bijaksana dari kedua kakaknya.

e. The Use of Indefinite Articles

The indefinite article is used:¹⁵

1) The indefinite is used in the sense of 'one of a'.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	I met <i>a</i> friend.	Saya bertemu seorang teman.
2.	I read <i>a</i> novel.	Saya membaca sebuah novel.

2) It is used to represent a whole class or in the sense of all or any.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	<i>A</i> doctor must love his patients.	Semua dokter harus menyayangi pasiennya.
2.	<i>A</i> student should study.	Semua siswa harus belajar.

3) In certain expressions of quantity.

For examples:

¹⁵ A. J. Thomson, *A Practical English Grammar* (New York : Oxford University Press, 1986) p.15-16.

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	I need <i>a</i> little milk.	Saya butuh sedikit susu.
2.	Richard bought <i>a</i> dozen books.	Richard membeli satu lusin buku.

- 4) It is used in the sense of 'one'.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	Midah brings <i>a</i> book.	Midah membawa sebuah buku.
2.	Azrul has <i>a</i> pen.	Azrul mempunyai sebuah pulpen.

- 5) In expressions of price, speed, ratio.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	Jenny eats three times <i>a</i> day.	Jenny makan tiga kali sehari.
2.	Rudy sells the apple twenty thousand <i>a</i> kilo.	Rudy menjual apel itu 20.000 per kilo.

- 6) It is used in exclamatory sentences.

For examples:

No.	Sentence	Meaning
1.	What <i>a</i> clever boy!	Alangkah pintarnya laki - laki itu!
2.	What <i>a</i> pretty girl!	Alangkah cantiknya gadis itu!

And then, George E. Wishon also gives addition about the uses of indefinite articles they were:

- 1) With the name of a profession, trade, or group.

For example:

He is an engineer.

His father is a lawyer.

f. Omission of the Article

The articles are omitted:

- 1) Before a common noun used in its widest sense.
Ex: man, flower, book, house, etc.
- 2) Before names of material nouns but an articles is required when they are particularized.
Ex: gold, cotton, glass, silver, etc.
- 3) Usually before proper noun.
Ex: Japan, French, etc.
- 4) Before abstract nouns used in a general sense.
Ex: beauty, wisdom, honesty, pleasure, etc.
- 5) Before languages.
Ex: English, Arabic, etc.
- 6) Before school, college, church, bed, table, hospital, market, prison, when these places are visited or used for their primary purpose.
- 7) Before names of relations, like father, mother, aunt, uncle, etc.
- 8) Before predicative nouns denoting a unique position, a position that's normally held at one time by one person only. Like, chairman, etc.
- 9) In certain phrase consisting of a transitive verb followed by object.
Ex: to send word, to set foot, to leave home, etc.
- 10) In certain phrase consisting of preposition followed by object.
Ex: at home, by train, on foot, by name, at noon, etc.¹⁷

2. Learning difficulties

Learning difficulties is a shortage that is not outwardly visible. Inability to learn can not be recognized in a different physical form with people who do not have problems learning difficulties. Learning difficulties are not always caused by a low intelligence factor, but can also be caused due to other factors

¹⁷ Wren & Martin, *High School English Grammar & Composition* (NDV: Prasada Rao, 1990). P. 38-39.

outside intelligence.¹⁸ The high-IQ does not necessarily guarantee the success of learning. Thus it can be said that learning difficulties and learning process is a condition characterized certain obstacles in achieving learning outcomes.

a. The Causes of Learning Difficulties

Problems of this learning difficulty, it is caused by various factors. To provide an aid to children who have learning difficulties, the teacher must know in advancing what factors are the cause of the problem of learning difficulties.

Factors that cause learning difficulties can be classified into two categories,¹⁹ namely:

1) Internal factors (factors from within the child itself) that includes:

a) Physiology factors

Physiological factors are the physical factors of the students themselves. A child who is sick, of course, will experience physical weakness, so the process of receiving lessons, understand the lessons to be imperfect.

b) Psychological factors

Psychological factors are the various things pertaining to the various behaviors that are needed in the study. Psychological factors that IQ can be the cause of the problem of learning difficulties is a

¹⁸ Muhibbin Syah, *Psikologi Belajar* (Jakarta: Raja Grafindo Persada, 2008), p. 182

¹⁹ *Ibid*, p. 182-184.

talent, interest, motivation, mental health conditions of children, and also the type of children in learning.

- 2). External factor (factors outside the child) include;
- a) Social factor

Social factors have affect to learners. Children who do not receive adequate attention would have been different with children swho are getting enough attention, or children who are given too much attention. It has relationship with the child's parents, whether harmonious or meet rarely or even separated. So it influences to the child's study habits.

- b) Factors of non-social

Factors of non-social can be the cause of the problem of learning difficulties is the factor of teachers in schools, then the tools of learning, where learning conditions, as well as the curriculum.

- b. Overcoming Learning Difficulties

There are some efforts to overcome learning difficulties.

Tutoring is one effort of teachers to help students who have difficulty in learning. The procedure tutoring can be reached through the following steps, such as the teacher give the information about how to learn effectively not only in the school but also in the house, the teacher helps placement namely the teacher place the students in learning group or discuss group, the teacher show the learning concretely to students namely

the teachers use various learning methods to help the students to understand the learning, and the teachers give specific attention to students that have slow learning and the teachers effort to motivate the students in learning.²⁰

Beside, to overcome learning difficulties, it can be done by the teacher through remedial. It is an activity that given to students who have not understand the learning that have been learned. The aim of this activity to increase the students' mastery of the learning. The other, the teachers can do enrichment. It is given to the students so that they have richer the knowledge and skills.²¹

B. Review Related Findings

This research is not the first research but there were some related findings to this research. The first, Omar Sangkot had done the research about "A Study on the Grade VIII Students Ability of SMPN 6 Sipirok to Use Articles in Sentence".²² Based on the research, he found that the students' ability in using articles in sentence of grade VIII SMPN 6 Sipirok in 2009 / 2010 academic year can be stated into poor ability.

²⁰ Mulyasa, *Menjadi Guru Profesional* (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 2008) p. 121-126

²¹ Yatim Riyanto, *Paradigma Baru Pembelajaran* (Jakarta: Pranada Media Group, 2009) p. 140

²² Omar sangkot, *A Study on the Grade VIII Students Ability of SMPN 6 Sipirok to Use Articles in Sentence* (Padangsidempuan: UMTS, 2010).

The second, Nurlaily Khomsatun had done the research about “The Students’ Ability and Errors in Using Articles for First Year Students at SMP Negeri 1 Sampang”.²³ She found that, based on the research she concluded that the ability of first students at SMP Negeri 1 Sampang in 2007/2008 academic year was poor.

Next, Dedy Iskandar had done the research about “A Research on the Students’ Mastery in Using the Articles to the Grade VII Students of SMP Negeri 2 Batang Angkola in 2008/2009 Academic Year”.²⁴ Based on the research, he found that the students’ mastery in using articles can be stated into sufficient.

So that, from the above description, the researcher concluded that the research can increase the students’ ability in using articles. So the researcher interest will be done the research about, “A Study on the Students’ Ability in Using Articles at Grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan”.

²³ Nurlaily Khomsatun, *The Students’ Ability and Errors in Using Articles for First Year Students at SMP Negeri 1 Sampang* (Malang: University of Malang, 2008).

²⁴ Dedy Iskandar, *A Research on the Students’ Mastery in Using the Articles to the Grade VII Students of SMP Negeri 2 Batang Angkola in 2008/2009 Academic Year* (Padangsidimpuan: UMTS, 2009).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Place and time of the research

1. Place

This research had been done at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan. It is located at Jln. Irigasi Batang Ilung Desa Sosopan, Kecamatan Padang Bolak, Kabupaten Padang Lawas Utara. The subject of research is grade VIII students of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in 2011/ 2012 Academic year. The researcher's reason to choose the location because MTS Purbaganal Sosopan near to researcher's house, so the researcher was easier to do the research.

2. Time

This research had been done from September 2011 to April 2012 and the data had been taken after the research letter came up from the academic office of STAIN Padangsidimpuan.

B. Method of the Research

The research uses qualitative research with descriptive method. According to Moleong said that qualitative research was research procedures that produce descriptive data as a written or spoken language from the research objects. Combinations and process of qualitative research were going on

simultaneity; research was done with collecting, analyzing and interpreting data and fact and then concluded with inductive method.¹

The method of the research is descriptive. This method is used to describe the students' ability in using articles at grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan. This research deals with one variable. According to L.R Gay, descriptive research is a descriptive study determines and describes the way things are. It may also compare how subgroups such as male and females or experienced and inexperienced teacher view issues and topic.² Generally, the research which method is descriptive method, it is usually has not a hypothesis, so the step of this research will not use a hypothesis. Next, Winarno Surakhman that,

“Metode descriptive adalah penyelidikan yang menentukan dan mengalokasikan penyelidikan dengan teknis interview, angket, observasi, atau teknis tes, studi kasus waktu dan gerak analisis komperatif atau operasional.”³

(Descriptive Method is a survey that determines and allocates it with technical interview, observation or technical test, studying time of problem and indication of comparative analysis or operation).

So the aim of the research is to describe the real conditions of the students' ability in using articles at grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan in 2011-2012

¹Lexy J. Moleong, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*, (Bandung: Remaja Rosda Karya, 1999), p. 5.

² L. R. Gay & Peter Airasian, *Educational Research (Competencies for Analysis and Application)*, (New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2000) p.275.

³ Winarno Surakman, *Pengantar Penelitian Ilmiah Dasar Metode dan Teknis* (Bandung: Kasito, 1982). p.2.

academic year. Where as, the description of the students' ability is shown from the capability of them in answer some questions which are related of uses the articles.

C. Sources of Data

The sources of data in this research are:

1. The primary sources of data is the grade VIII of students at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan, they are 103 students. They are divided into three classes. Suharsimi Arikunto stated, "Apabila subjeknya kurang dari 100, lebih baik diambil semua sehingga penelitiannya merupakan penelitian populasi. Selanjutnya, jika subjeknya besar dapat diambil antara 10-15 atau 20-25 atau lebih."⁴ (If less than 100, it is better to take all of them as the sample, but if the total of population is more than 100 students the sample can be taken about 10-15% Or 20-25%) or more.

The research took 36 students as sample from 103 students. The researcher used random sampling. The researcher took them because their mark in study about articles was still low in grade VIII at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan. So that we can see the table as follow:

⁴ Suharsimi Arikunto. *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktek* (Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 1993),p. 109.

Table 1
The total of Grade VIII students of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan
In 2011-2012 Academic Year

No.	Class	Total
1.	VIII 1	36
2.	VIII 2	33
3.	VIII 3	34
Total of students		103

2. The secondary sources of data, is got from:
- 1) The headmaster of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan, Mrs. Ramlah Harahap, S.Pd.i
 - 2) The English teacher of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan, 3 teachers. The researcher took one of them, she was Miss. Lenni Hasibuan.

D. Instrument of Collecting Data

“A research must have an instrument in this research because a good instrument can go guarantee for taking the valid data. Suharsimi Arikunto said”.⁵ Instrument of the research is a tool of facility is used by the researcher in collecting data. So that, the process is easier and better with the more careful, complete and systematic.

In this research, the researcher used instruments of collecting data are gained from:

⁵ Suharsimi Arikunto, *Manajemen Penelitian* (Jakarta : Rineka Cipta, 2002), p.134.

1) Test

Test is some of questions or views and other tools which were used to measure skill, knowledge, and intelligence ability. This research, the researcher giving essay test about articles in order to get the information about the students' ability in using articles. The researcher gave 40 items test to them. The students are asked to answer the entire question.

Table 2

Students' specification of ability in using articles test

No.	Indicators	Items	Number of test	Score
1.	Students are able to use indefinite articles: a	13	1,2,12,15,16,17,22,27, 29,32,33,35,37	32,5
2.	Students are able to use indefinite articles: an	13	3,7,10,11,18,19,20,21, 28,36,38,39,40	32,5
3.	Students are able to use definite articles: the	14	4,5,6,8,9,13,14,23,24, 25,26,30,31,34	35
Total		40	40	100

Based on the above table, it can be known that there are 40 questions as instrument of the research, the score of a question is 2,5 thus $40 \times 2,5$ is 100, it means that the score of all the questions, further, if a student can answer all of the questions she/ he will get 100 as the highest score.

2) Interview

Interview is a purposeful interaction usually between two people, focused on one person to get information from the other person.⁶ The questions were appropriated with the list of interview. Interview was done for getting data about the students' difficulties in using articles at grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan. Interview was given for students and teacher.

3) Observation

To complete the data of research, researcher took an observation. According to Margono "Observation was monitoring and record-keeping as indication of research object systematically."⁷ Next Abdurrahman Fathoni that, "observasi adalah teknik pengumpulan data yang dilakukan melalui suatu pengamatan dengan disertai pencatatan – pencatatan terhadap keadaan atau perilaku objek sasaran."⁸(Observation is a technique of collecting data which is done through an observation and take a note about the condition or the aim of the object behavior). Observation were about all aspects in MTs Purbaganal Sosopan which had a relationship to the process of increasing students' ability in using articles include places, facilities, subject of research, event, time, and experience.

⁶ L. R. Gay & Peter Airasion. *Op,Cit*, p.219.

⁷Margono, *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan* (Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2005), p. 158.

⁸ Abdurrahman Fathoni, *Metodologi Penelitian dan Teknik Penyusunan Skripsi* (Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2006), p. 104.

E. Technique of the Data Trustworthiness

Lexy J. Meleong said that the data trustworthiness could be done to upgrade the credibility (degree of confidence). Technique of investigation was triangulation stated by doing observation and sufficiency of reference. We also should consider about the quality of interview to informants to get a top-grade and best quality data.⁹ To get data trustworthiness, researcher had made a test to students out of sample who had chosen before; this was an anticipation of ambiguity of the test which would be given to the informants of research.

F. Technique of Data Analysis

After the collecting data, the researcher will analyze the data, the technique of data analysis will be in presented descriptive form. Depend on Lexy J. Moleong, technique analysis data in qualitative research can be done with these process below:

1. Starting from research about all data which consist of some source data.
2. Holding reduction of data with making abstraction.
3. Arranging in one unit
4. Categorization to the next steps.
5. Holding investigation about data trustworthiness.
6. Making interpretation of data.¹⁰

So the researcher makes the technique analysis data for this research. The data will be analyzed by the following procedure:

⁹Lexy J. Moleong, *Op. Cit*, p. 178.

¹⁰*Ibid*, p. 190.

- a. Checking data whether the data are true or false.
- b. Counting sum of the true from the students' answer and then classified them based on their score.
- c. Calculating their result (mark) by using Mean Score.

In this research used the formula mean score. The formula is:

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

Where:

M: Mean score (average)

N: Sum of respondents

$\sum x$: Total of the result ¹¹

- d. After calculating and scoring students' answer sheets then, their score are consulted into the classification quality on the table below:

Table 3

The Classification Quality of the Students' Score

No.	Interval	Predicate
1	0% - 20%	Very weak
2	21% -40%	Weak
3	41% - 60%	Enough
4	61% - 80%	Good
5	81%-100%	Very good ¹²

¹¹Anas Sudijono. *Pengantar Statistik Pendidikan*, (Jakarta: PT. Raja Grafindo Persada, 1987), p. 81

After the researcher found the mean scores of all students, it is consulted to the criteria as follows:

- 1) If the value of mean score is 81-100, it can be categorized into very good category.
 - 2) If the value of mean score is 61-80, it can be categorized into good category.
 - 3) If the value of mean score 41-60, it can be categorized enough category.
 - 4) If the value of mean score 21-40, it can be categorized weak category.
 - 5) If the value of mean score 0-20, it can be categorized very weak category.
- e. Finally, the researcher concludes the analysis.

¹² Riduwan, *Belajar Mudah Penelitian untuk Guru- Karyawan dan Penelitian Pemula*, (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2005) p.89.

CHAPTER V

THE CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

After treating the collecting data, the next steps are the researcher was taking the conclusions about this research. It is important because it can describe about the final research itself. And it can be used as an input to the readers and other researchers referring to the topic of this research.

In this case, the researcher would like to write the conclusions of this research as follow:

1. There the students' ability in using articles at grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan 2011/ 2012 academic year is (55,13) can be categorized into enough category.
2. The students' difficulties in using articles were:
 - a) Difficulties in using indefinite articles
 - b) Difficulties in selection *a* or *an*
 - c) Difficulties in vocabulary
3. English teachers' efforts in overcoming students' difficulties in using articles at MTs Purbaganal Sosopan are:
 - a. To overcoming students' difficulties in using indefinite articles, the English teachers repeat the lesson and give students more examples which are

familiar with students' lives and sometimes the teacher made the example in Indonesian language.

- b. To overcoming the students' difficulties in selection *a* or *an*, the English teachers effort to explained about vowel and consonant sound or pronunciations of the words. Then, the English teachers ordered the students to practice of pronunciations the words.
- c. The students difficulties about vocabularies, The English teacher used efforts to make students were easy to memorize the word.

B. Suggestions

After the conclusions, the researcher wants to give the suggestion as bellow:

1. Headmaster, to motivate his English teachers to increase their ability in English study.
2. English teachers, to pray together in the class before studying, and to apply the suitable strategies, methods, and ways to improve or help them understand in learning English. Especially using articles in sentences.
3. Students, to master singular and plural nouns, and countable and uncountable nouns before studying articles.
4. Other researchers, to make the deepest research with the same or different topic of the research.

REFERENCES

- Arikunto, Suharsimi, *Manajemen Penelitian*, Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2002.
- , *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktik*, Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 1995.
- Azar, Betty Schramper, *Understanding and Using English Grammar*, Jakarta: Binarupa Aksara, 1993.
- Cobuild, Collins, *English Grammar*, The University of Birmingham, 1990.
- Fathoni, Abdurrahman, *Methodology Penelitian dan Teknik Penyusunan Skripsi*, Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2006.
- Frank, Marcella, *Modern English: A Practical Reference Guide*, USA Prentice Hall, 1972.
- Gay, L. R & Peter Airasian, *Educational Research, Competencies for Analysis and Application*, New Jersey: prentice hall, 2000.
- Hadi, Amirul and Haryono, *Metodologi Penelitian Pendidikan*, Bandung: Pustaka Setia 1998.
- Hewings, Martin, *Advanced Grammar in Use*, Jakarta: Erlangga, 2001.
- Hornby, A.S, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Iskandar, Dedy, A Research on the Students' Mastery in Using the Articles to the Grade VII Students of SMP Negeri 2 Batang Angkola in 2008/2009 Academic Year, Padangsidempuan: UMTS, 2009.
- Khomsatun, Nurlaily, The Students' Ability and Errors in Using Articles for First Year Students at SMP Negeri 1 Sampang, Malang: University of Malang, 2008.
- Krohn, Robert, *English Sentence Structure*, The University of Michigan Press: Binarupa Aksara, 1990.
- Margono, *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan*, Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2005.
- Moleong, Lexy J, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*, Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 1999

- Mukarto, *English on Sky*, Jakarta: Erlangga, 2007.
- Mulyasa, *Menjadi Guru Profesional*, Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 2008
- Murpy, Raymond, *Essensial Grammar in Use*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
- Murty, Jayanthi Dakshina, *Contemporary English Grammar*, Shivam Printers, 1998.
- Nunan, David, *Practical English Language Teaching*, America: The Mc Grow Hill Companion, 2003.
- Riduwan, *Belajar Mudah Penelitian untuk Guru- Karyawan dan Penelitian Pemula*, Bandung: Alfabeta, 2005.
- Ridwansyah, *Mastering English Grammar*, Jakarta: puspa swara, 2006.
- Riyanto, Slamet, *A Complete Course to the TOEIC TEST*, Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2008.
- Riyanto, Yatim, *Paradigma Baru Pembelajaran*, Jakarta: Pradana Media Group, 2009.
- Sangkot, Omar, *A Study on the Grade VIII Students Ability of SMPN 6 Sipirok to Use Articles in Sentence*, Padangsidempuan: UMTS, 2010.
- Sudijono, Anas, *Pengantar Statistik Pendidikan*, (Jakarta: PT. Raja Grafindo Persada, 1987
- Suono, Khadiza, *Up To Date English Grammar*, Jakarta: Setia Kawan, 2003.
- Surakman, Winarno, *Pengantar Penelitian Ilmiah Dasar Metode dan Teknis*, Bandung: Kasito, 1982.
- Thomson, A. J, *A Practical English Grammar*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.
- Wishon, George E. And Julia M. Burks, *Lets Write English*, New York: Litton Educational Publishing, 1980.
- Wren and Martin, *High School English Grammar and Composition*, N.D.V. Prasad Rao, 1994.

CURRICULUM VITAE

A. Identity

Name : Mariati Harahap
Nim : 07 340 0097
Place and birthday : Sosopan, 23th December 1988
Sex : Female
Religion : Islam
Address : Sosopan, Gunung Tua Kab. Padang Lawas Utara

B. Parent

1. Father's name : Tongku Malim Harahap
2. Mother's name : Nur Hawani Pohan

C. Educational Background

1. Graduated from elementary school in SD Negeri 144469 Gunung Tua from 1994-2000
2. Graduated from junior high school in SMP Negeri 1 Padang Bolak from 2000- 2004
3. Graduated from senior high school in SMA Negeri 1 Padang Bolak from 2004- 2007
4. Be university student in State Collage for Islamic Studies (STAIN Padangsidimpuan

Appendix V

A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING ARTICLES AT GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN

No	RESPONDEN ANSWER OF EACH ITEM NUMBER																																								Sum					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40						
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	40		
2	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	50		
3	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	50		
4	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	80		
5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	60	
6	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	0	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	40	
7	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	55		
8	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	55	
9	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,5	0	0	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	40	
10	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	70	
11	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	70		
12	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	65	
13	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	70		
14	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	65	
15	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	65	
16	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	50		
17	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	60		
18	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	65	
19	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	0	0	50	
20	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	50	
21	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	0	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	65	
22	0	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	50	
23	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	50	
24	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	
25	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	75	
26	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	75
27	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,5	50		
28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	45	
29	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	60	
30	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	0	0	0	0	40		
31	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	40	
32	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	55			
33	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	50		
34	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	55		
35	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	2,5	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	0	2,5	0	40			
36	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	2,5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,5	0	0	0	2,5	0	0	40		
TOTAL																																									1985					

The researcher calculated the score by using the following formula</

Appendix 1

PEDOMAN OBSERVASI (OBSERVATION GUIDANCE)

1. The location MTs Purbaganal Sosopan.
2. The process of English teaching in MTs Purbaganal Sosopan.
3. Media or tools that used to make teaching activity effective.
4. The used method in teaching articles.
5. The teachers' strategy in teaching articles.
6. Student' ability in receiving the subject from their teacher.

Appendix II

PEDOMAN WAWANCARA (INTERVIEW GUIDANCE)

A. Interview to the English Teacher

1. What book is used by the teacher in teaching articles?
2. What is the students result in learning articles?
3. What are students' difficulties in learning articles?
4. What are teachers' solutions towards the problem?
5. What are the used media for teaching articles?
6. What are used indicators to determine the students' ability in articles mastery?

B. Interview to the Headmaster

1. What is the background of MTs Purbaganal Sosopan?
2. When did the school establish?)
3. How many teachers are in MTs Purbaganal Sosopan?
4. How many students are in MTs Purbaganal Sosopan?

C. Interview to the Students

1. Apakah adik menyenangi bahasa Inggris?
2. Bagaimana cara mengajarkan articles di sekolah adik? Apakah cara itu cukup bagus menurut adik?
3. Apakah adik mengalami kesulitan dalam belajar articles.
4. Kesulitan - kesulitan apa saja yang adik alami ketika belajar articles.

Appendix III

Fill in the blank space with suitable articles

1. Is Mary _____ European? No, she is not.
2. USU is _____ university in the North Sumatera.
3. would you like _____ Apple?
4. I met a girl in the hospital. _____ girl is very beautiful.
5. _____ sky is blue and the sun is shining.
6. There was a man and a woman in the room. _____ man was American.
7. English has become _____ international language.
8. A: Excuse me, can you tell me how to get to the city centre?
B: Yes, go straight on and then take _____ next turning left.
9. A: Did you have good time at _____ party last night?
B: Yes, of course
10. Would you like to be _____ actor?
11. There are sixty minutes _____ hour.
12. A: Can I ask _____ question?
B. Of course. What do you want to ask?
13. We went to _____ most expensive restaurant in town.
14. Mary plays _____ guitar very well.
15. My neighbor is _____ photographer. He is very busy everyday
16. I wear _____ uniform to school everyday.

17. He took only _____ little rice from the rice cooker.
18. She bought _____ orange in the market yesterday.
19. There is a horse in the zoo. The horse is _____ animal.
20. She cooks _____ egg in the kitchen this morning.
21. We live in _____ old house in the middle of the village.
22. My brother is _____ soldier.
23. The Statue of Liberty is in _____ United States.
24. He has a car. _____ car is made in Japan.
25. Tonight _____ sky is very clear. We can see the moon.
26. Asia is _____ largest continent in the world.
27. I drink _____ cup of coffee everyday.
28. _____ engineer must be able to apply his knowledge of mathematics and physics.
29. _____ good teacher prepares his lesson thoroughly before he comes to class.
30. She is _____ laziest students in the class.
31. Jakarta is _____ capital of Indonesia.
32. When I was _____ child I used to be very shy.
33. Have you got _____ headache.
34. _____ declaration of independence was proclaimed in 1945.
35. There is _____ beautiful garden behind the house.
36. I saw _____ accident this morning.
37. Please give me _____ glass of tea.
38. He is _____ Englishman.
39. _____ automobile is a necessity today.
40. _____ eagle is a bird of prey.

Appendix IV

The key of answer

1. Is Mary a European? No, she is not.
2. USU is a university in the North Sumatera.
3. Would you like an Apple?
4. I met a girl in the hospital. The girl is very beautiful.
5. The sky is blue and the sun is shining.
6. There was a man and a woman in the room. The man was American.
7. English has become an international language.
8. A: Excuse me, can you tell me how to get to the city centre?
B: Yes, go straight on and then take the next turning left.
9. A: Did you have good time at the party last night?
B: Yes, of course
10. Would you like to be an actor?
11. There are sixty minutes an hour.
12. A: Can I ask a question?
B. Of course. What do you want to ask?
13. We went to the most expensive restaurant in town.
14. Mary plays the guitar very well.
15. My neighbor is a photographer. He is very busy everyday
16. I wear a uniform to school everyday.

17. He took only a little rice from the rice cooker.
18. She bought an orange in the market yesterday.
19. There is a horse in the zoo. The horse is an animal.
20. She cooks an egg in the kitchen this morning.
21. We live in an old house in the middle of the village.
22. My brother is a soldier.
23. The Statue of Liberty in the United States.
24. He has a car. the car is made in Japan.
25. Tonight the sky is very clear. We can see the moon.
26. Asia is the largest continent in the world.
27. I drink a cup of coffee everyday.
28. An engineer must be able to apply his knowledge of mathematics and physics.
29. A good teacher prepares his lesson thoroughly before he comes to class.
30. She is the laziest students in the class.
31. Jakarta is the capital of Indonesia.
32. When I was a child I used to be very shy.
33. Have you got a headache.
34. The declaration of independence was proclaimed in 1945.
35. There is a beautiful garden behind the house.
36. I saw an accident this morning.
37. Please give me a glass of tea.
38. He is an Englishman.
39. An automobile is a necessity today.
40. An eagle is a bird of prey.

Appendix VI

The list of Students' Names Grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan

1. Alan Harahap
2. Bima Supriadi
3. Endy Saputra
4. Khoiruddin
5. Edi Anto
6. Rajab
7. Risky Muda Halomoan
8. Sarip Siregar
9. Tantawi Rusli
10. Daud Sihombing
11. Muda Sakti
12. Rezky Akbar
13. Sri Novi Anti
14. Rika Rahma Yanti
15. Ramadani Hasanah
16. Nur Sawiyah
17. Maya Sari
18. Eno Leria Sasmita
19. Elni Sartika
20. Henti Mala Sari
21. Wilda Yati
22. Siti Jubaida
23. Risma Amelia
24. Adek Sariani
25. Arnanda Fauzi
26. Ahmad Fauzi Harahap
27. Dedek Alamsyah Putra
28. Doharni Simamora
29. Elpina Sari Dalimunthe
30. Karlina Harahap
31. Khairani Dalimunthe
32. Kholi Siregar
33. Lanna Sophia Harahap
34. Masriana Siregar
35. Masika Sari Harahap
36. Mahmud Adia Pandri Hrp



KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
SEKOLAH TINGGI AGAMA ISLAM NEGERI
PADANGSIDIMPUAN

Sekretariat: Jl. Imam Bonjol Km. 4,5 Sihitang Telp. 0634-22080 Padangsidimpuan 22733

Nomor : Sti. 14/UBS/ /2011

Padangsidimpuan, 2012

Lampir : - - - - -

Kepada Yth

Hal : Pembimbing Skripsi

1. Dr. Mahmuddin Siregar, M.A

2. Zainuddin, S. S, M. Hum

Di -

Padangsidimpuan

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

Dengan hormat, disampaikan kepada Bapak/Ibu bahwa berdasarkan hasil sidang Tim Pengkajian Kelayakan Judul Skripsi, telah ditetapkan judul skripsi mahasiswa tersebut di bawah ini sebagai berikut.

Nama : MARIATI HARAHAP
Nim : 07. 340. 0097
Jurusan/ Prog. Studi : TARBIYAH/ TBI-3
Judul Skripsi : A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN USING ARTICLES AT GRADE VIII MTs PURBAGANAL SOSOPAN

Seiring dengan hal tersebut, kami mengharapkan kesediaan Bapak/ Ibu menjadi Pembimbing I dan Pembimbing II penelitian penulisan skripsi mahasiswa dimaksud.

Demikian kami sampaikan, atas kesediaan dan kerjasama yang baik dari Bapak/Ibu, kami ucapkan terima kasih.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr.Wb.

KETUA PRODI BAHASA INGGRIS

Rayendriani Fahmei Lubis, M.Ag
Nip.19710510 200003 2 001

KEPALA UNIT BINA SKRIPSI

Drs. Agus Salim Lubis, M.Ag
NIP. 19630821 199303 1 003

An. PEMBANTU KETUA I,
KETUA JURUSAN TARBIYAH

Hj. Zulhima, S.Ag, M.Pd
NIP. 19720720 199703 2 003

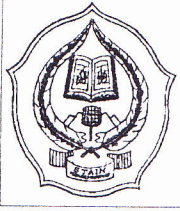
PERNYATAAN KESEDIAAN SEBAGAI PEMBIMBING

~~BERSEDIA/TIDAK BERSEDIA~~
PEMBIMBING I

Dr. Mahmuddin Siregar, M.A

~~BERSEDIA/TIDAK BERSEDIA~~
PEMBIMBING II

Zainuddin, S.S, M.Hum



**KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
SEKOLAH TINGGI AGAMA ISLAM NEGERI
PADANGSIDIMPUAN**

Alamat : Jl.Imam Bonjol Km 4,5 Sihitang Telp (0634) 22080 Padangsidimpuan 22733
website: <http://stainpsp.ac.id>

Padangsidimpuan, 14 Februari 2012

Nomor :Sti.14/I.B4/PP.00.9/203 /2012

Lamp. : -

Hal : ***Mohon Bantuan Informasi
Penyelesaian Skripsi.***

Kepada Yth,
Kepala Mts Purbaganal
di-

Sosopan

Assalamu'alaikum Wr.Wb.

Dengan hormat, Ketua Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri (STAIN) Padangsidimpuan menerangkan bahwa :

Nama	: Mariati Harahap
Nomor Induk Mahasiswa	: 07. 340 0097
Jurusan/Prog.Studi	: Tarbiyah/TBI
Alamat	: Padang Matinggi

adalah benar Mahasiswa STAIN Padangsidimpuan yang sedang menyelesaikan Skripsi dengan Judul **“A Study On The Students’ Ability In Using Articles At Grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan”**.

Sehubungan dengan itu, dimohon bantuan Bapak untuk memberikan data dan informasi sesuai dengan maksud judul diatas.

Demikian disampaikan, atas kerja sama yang baik diucapkan terima kasih.

a.n. Ketua
Pembantu Ketua I



Drs. H. Irwan Saleh Dalimunthe, MA
NIP 19610615 199103 1 004



KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
MADRASAH TSANAWIYAH SWASTA PURBAGANALSOSOPAN
KEC. PADANG BOLAK KAB. PADANG LAWAS UTARA
Alamat : Jln Irigasi Batang Ijung Desa Sosopan Kode Post : 22753

No : 065/ MTs036/ 201/I/ 2012

Lamp : 1 Berkas

Sosopan, 20 Februari 2012

Hal : Pengesahan menyelesaikan Penelitian

Kepada Yth

Ketua I

STAIN Padangsidimpuan

Di_

Tempat

Sehubungan dengan surat Bapak/Ibu tertanggal 16 Desember 2011 dengan no :
Sti./14/I.B4/PP.00.9/ /2012 tentang Bantuan Informasi Menyelesaikan Skripsi. Di ponpes
Purbaganal sosopan. Berikut kami terangkan bahwa bahwa :

Nama : Mariati Harahap

NIM : 07.3400097

Jurusan/Prog STudi : Tarbiyah/TBI-3

Alamat : Padang Matinggi

Adalah benar telah melakukan penelitian di sekolah kami dengan judul : " A Study On
The Students' Ability In Using Articles At Grade VIII MTs Purbaganal Sosopan

Demikian surat keterangan ini kami sampaikan, untuk dapat dipergunakan
seperlunya.

Mengetahui,

Ketua Yayasan,

TAUFIK HARUN HARAHAP

Pimpinan Pondok

H. MUKTI ALI SIREGAR

