THE ABILITY TO USE MODAL AUXILIARY IN SENTENCE TO EXPRESS PRESENT DEGREE OF CERTAINTY OF THE SECOND SEMESTER STUDENTS OF UMM

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ABSTRACT

English plays an important role in the global communication. Grammar is one of the several components in English that should be paid attention. There are many patterns of English grammar or structure, one of them is modal auxiliary with its specific functions. Based on fact, many students got difficulties in differentiating each modal based on the function. For that, this research aimed to know the students ability to use modal auxiliary to express present degree of certainty.

This study used quantitative research to obtain information which is described into the data statistic with number. It is directed to describe the nature of a situation, as it exists. The researcher used quantitative for this research because this research aimed to know the students ability which deals with numerical calculation of student’s score in using modal auxiliary to express present degree of certainty. The population in this research was the second semester students of UMM, consisting of 230 students distributing to 10 classes. The sampling technique used here was cluster sampling which the researcher randomly selected natural groups, or cluster and all the members of the cluster must be included in the sample. In this research the researcher took class A as the sample consisting of 30 students.

The instrument was applied by using test. This instrument was tried out first. After the scores had been subjected to reliability and validity test, the researcher found that the instrument used by the researcher was reliable (0.85). Furthermore, the result of the tests showed that there was no student (0%) of the sample got score between 80 up to 100 which categorized in “excellent” ability; there were 7 students (28%) got score between 65 up to 79, these students had “good” ability; then 13 students (52%) got score 55 up to 64; it means that they were categorized in “fair” ability. In this study the researcher also found that there were 2 students (8%) of the sample got score 45-54; they had “poor” ability and there were 8 students (32%) who got score 0 up to 44. it means they were categorized into “very poor” ability. From this, It can be concluded that the second semester students of UMM were fair in using modal auxiliary to express present degree of certainty.