

**A CORRELATION BETWEEN SIMPLE PAST TENSE MASTERY AND
WRITING SPOOF TEXT ABILITY**

(At the eleventh grade of SMA Negeri 2 Padangsidimpuan)

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ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui: 1) Tingkat penguasaan siswa terhadap simple past tense di kelas XI SMA Negeri 2 Padangsidimpuan, 2) Tingkat penguasaan kemampuan siswa untuk menulis spoof teks di kelas XI SMA Negeri 2 Padangsidimpuan, 3) Apakah ada hubungan yang signifikan antara simple past tense dan kemampuan menulis spoof teks di kelas XI SMA Negeri 2 Padangsidimpuan. Populasi dari penelitian ini adalah seluruh siswa kelas XI SMA Negeri 2 Padangsidimpuan. Sampel diambil dari populasi dengan menggunakan random sampling yang terdiri dari 44 siswa. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif. Selanjutnya, instrumen yang digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data adalah dengan memberikan tes kepada siswa. Setelah data didapatkan dari penelitian, data akan dianalisis dengan analisis deskriptif dan statistik, r " Product Moment sebagai berikut: Dengan demikian dapat disimpulkan bahwa penguasaan simple past tense pada siswa mendapat kategori "cukup" yaitu 64,09 dan kemampuan penguasaan spoof teks siswa mendapat kategori "baik" yaitu 71,13. Setelah data diperoleh dari penelitian, data dianalisis, penulis mendapatkan hasil $r_{xy} = 0.957$ dan r_{tabel} adalah 0.304 pada tingkat signifikansi 5%, r_{xy} lebih besar dari r_{tabel} yang berarti bahwa hipotesis diterima.

Kata Kunci: *simple past tense* dan *spoof text*.

A. Introduction

English as an international language, it is spoken by many countries all over the world including Indonesia because Indonesia make English as one of the subject in every school, since Primary school, Junior high school, senior high school until university.

Nowadays, English is a compulsory subject to be taught in every school in Indonesia and also English subject will be found in all curriculum from Primary school up to University. There are four language skills in teaching English. They are writing, reading, listening and speaking. Writing is one of the language skills to be mastered by the students because writing has much portion in teaching English than the other language skills.

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There are many kinds of writing such as genre. The genre can be categorized, they are spoof, report, narrative, descriptive, procedure, recount and so forth. Spoof text is a kind of genre in studying English at SMA. Spoof text is a kind of genre that tells factual story in the past with funny ending. Spoof text has social function it is to entertain the reader and share the story.

The important thing of mastering spoof text for SMA students are firstly the students can understand about the generic structure of spoof text, they are orientation sets the scene, events tells the happening and the last is twist, it is provide the punch line. Secondly the students can understand about the lexicogrammatical features such as use of simple past tense, focus on individual participant and use of temporal sequence. So by mastering the generic structure and lexicogrammatical features of spoof text, the students are expected to be able to write spoof text well.

As far as many efforts were held continuously. In fact, the phenomenon has showed that there are many students have low ability in writing spoof text. It can be proved based on the writer observation which found the low average of the students in English in last semester. It can be caused the students still have less ability to differentiate one kind of genre with another genre, and then the students still have less ability to comprehend the generic structure and lexicogrammatical features of spoof text.

One factor of spoof text mastery is tenses mastery. Spoof text use tense form, the tense is simple past tense, because one of the lexicogrammatical features of spoof text is the using of simple past tense and also simple past tense dominates the tense in writing spoof text.

Simple past tense is a kind of tense that tells the event or the activities that began and ended in the past time. Simple past tense use past tense verb, and the adverb of time that suitable to the simple past tense such as yesterday, last year, last month, ago, and so forth.

Simple past tense is a necessary especially in writing spoof text because simple past tense has important role how to write spoof text well. So if the students want to write spoof text, the students must understand the simple past tense first.

B. Theoretical Description

1. The Nature of Spoof Text

Spoof text is a kind of genre that tells the factual story with funny ending or usually with unpredictable ending. So here spoof text is one a kind of genre that should be mastered by the students. According to Gerot and Wignel “Spoof text is to retell an event with humorous twist “. ² While according to Otong Setiawan Djuharie in his book says “ Spoof text is a text which tell story or fairy tale that the function is to entertain the reader“ ³. Furthermore Admin states “Spoof text is a text which tells factual story, happened in the past time with unpredictable and funny ending” ⁴. So from the above definitions the writer conclude that spoof text is a text that tells an event with humorous twist and funny ending in the past time.

The function of spoof text is to entertain the reader with the humorous twist in the text. So According to Otong Setiawan Djuhari “The function of the spoof text is to entertain the reader and add humorous story and twist” ⁵. While according to Admin “The function of the spoof text is to entertain and share the story” ⁶. And from the above explanation, the writer concludes that the function of spoof text is to entertain the reader with humorous story.

As one of the genre, spoof text has some generic structure and lexicogrammatical features. The generic structures are orientation, event and twist. While the lexicogrammatical features are focused on individual participants, the use of material process, temporal sequence, and then the use of simple past tense. According to Gerot and Wignell the generic structure of spoof text such as orientation sets the scene, it means where the story takes place, event tells the happening it means to tell what happened in the story, and the last is twist it provides the punch line. And the significant lexicogrammatical features which are correlated with: something which focused on individual participant are the players in the text, the use of material process, i.e.: the verbs that do by physical activities

² Gerot and Wignel, *Making Sense of Functional Grammar*, (Sidney : Gerd Stabler, 1994), p. 192.

³ Otong Setiawan Djuharie, *Genre*, (Bandung : Yrama Widya, 2007), p. 43.

⁴ Admin, “Kinds of Genre”, ([http : // Sharingblogweb.blogspot.com](http://Sharingblogweb.blogspot.com) accessed on 21 April 2009,p.15.)

⁵ Otong Setiawan Djuharie, *Op. Cit.*, p. 44

⁶ Admin, *Op. Cit.*, p. 16.

in the text and temporal sequence is when and where the story takes place, and then the use of simple past tense is the tense that dominates in text⁷.

For measuring the students' ability in mastering spoof text, the writer makes the indicators for this variable, the indicators are taken from the generic structure of spoof text; "Firstly identifying the orientation, secondly identifying the event, and the last is identifying the twist"⁸. So here the explanation of the above generic structure:

a. Orientation

Orientation describes the scene and introduces the participants of the story, and also orientation refers to part of the text which provides the setting or introductory. So orientation introduces setting and characters of the story in the text, such as who were involved in the story, when or where the story happened.

b. Event

Event describes what happen in the story and also event is the part of the text which shows an incident that happened in the text and according to Pardiyono in his book " Event is the chronologically about the activities and the incidents in the text"⁹.

c. Twist

Twist is the ending of the text which is unpredictable and funny. Twist is the last part of the text that delivers the meaning and the bulk of the humor. And also twist is the ending of a text which makes the reader smile, laugh, or even surprise.

2. The Nature of Simple Past Tense

A tense is change of the verb that suitable to the using of time. There are sixteen tenses in teaching English, such as simple presents tense, simple past tense, future tense, presents continuous tense, past continuous tense, future continuous tense and so forth, but here the writer only discusses one of the tenses, it is simple past tense.

⁷ Gerot and Wignel, *Loc. Cit.*

⁸ Otong Setiawan Djuharie, *Op. Cit.*, p. 20.

⁹ Pardiyono, *Metode Mengajar Writing Berbasis Genre Secara Efektif*, (Yogyakarta : Andi, 2007), p. 66

Simple past tense is the activity that began and ended in the past. Simple past tense one of the tense forms that must be known by the students, because if the students understand about the simple past tense, they can apply this tense to write a good spoof text. According to Betty Scramper Azar in her book says that “Simple Past Tense is talk about activities or situation that began and ended in the past”¹⁰ While, Wren & Martin say that, “A verb that refers to past time is said to be in the past tense”¹¹. So from the above definition the writer conclude that simple past tense is the activities or situation that began and ended refers to the past time. Furthermore Williting says that,” Simple Past Tense represents an action or state as belonging to the time wholly past”¹² While Jhon.S.Hartanto says that “Simple Past Tense is to represents the events or the activities that do it in the past time and also know when the activities do it”¹³. So from the above definitions the writer concludes that simple past tense is to represent the activities or action to the time wholly past.

There are some rules to use simple past tense in a sentence, such as the use of the verb and the adverb of time that suitable in simple past tense. According to Silvester Goridus Sukur Simple past tense have some rules, they are:” The sentences that use past tense, the sentences that use to be was, were, and Simple Past tense use adverb of time”¹⁴

Here is the explanation of the rule of Simple Past Tense in the sentence:

1. In positive sentence all subject are followed by past tense, but in the negative and interrogative sentence in simple past tense the verb must be changed in to infinitive because the negative sentence in Simple Past Tense use of auxiliary verb (did).

a. Affirmative sentence

The form in affirmative sentence is: S + past tense

Examples:

¹⁰Betty Scramper Azar, *Fundamental of English Grammar*, (Prentice Hall, 1993), p. 18.

¹¹ Wren & Martin, *High School English Grammar and Composition*, (New Delhi : Raam Nagar, 1990), p. 77.

¹² Williting, *Penggunaan Tenses*, (Pekalongan : Harapan, 1996), p.18.

¹³ Jhon .S. Hartanto at all, *Accurate, Brief and Clear English Grammar*, (Surabaya : Indah Surabaya, 2003), p.257.

¹⁴ Silvester Goridus Sukur, *Contextual Tenses for Effective English Communication*, (Jakarta : PT. Buana Ilmu Populer, 2004), p.48.

1. I *saw* a good film last night
2. I *went* to Flores last week
3. She *went* to Jakarta yesterday
4. They *telephoned* me last night
5. He *went* to Bali two days ago
6. We *went* to Bandung a few days ago

b. Negative sentence

The form in the negative sentence is: S + did not + infinitive

Examples:

1. He *did not come* here last night
2. I *did not go* to Solo yesterday
3. She *did not arrive* two days ago
4. Charles *did not come* here last week
5. We *did not see* you at the party last night
6. They *did not telephone* me yesterday

c. Interrogative sentence

The form is: Did + S + infinitive

Examples :

1. *Did you go* to Flores last December?
- Yes, *I did* or No, *I did not*
2. *Did She arrive* yesterday ?
- Yes, *I did* or No, *I did not*
3. *Did She come* to the party last night ?
- Yes, *I did* or No, *I did not*
4. *Did you work* yesterday ?
- Yes, *I did* or No, *I did not*
5. *Did He see* her yesterday ?
- Yes, *I did* or No, *I did not*
6. *Did the cat sit* on the chair a few minutes ago ?
- Yes, *I did* or No, *I did not*

2. The sentence that uses to be *was, were*

To be was, were in the simple past tense only follow noun, adjective, and adverb. The use of was and were must be suitable for the subject such as: to be was for subjects I, He, She and It, and to be were for subjects we, you, they.

Examples:

- a. I *was* sick three days ago
- b. He *was* a student five years ago
- c. It *was* very cold last night
- d. Dewi *was* late again two days ago
- e. They *were* in Bali last week
- f. We *were* here yesterday
- g. We *were* in Jakarta last week

3. The use of adverb of time

The adverbs of time that are uses in the simple past tense are:

Yesterday

- a. Yesterday (morning/ afternoon, night)
- b. Last (last night, week, month, year)
- c. Ago (two days ago, five month ago)

Simple past tense has many function, so here are the function of simple past tense, they are:

1. The Simple Past Tense is used to express the activities in the past time

Examples:

- a. She went to Italy last week
- b. I lived in England three years a
- c. Before I went to bed, I watched TV last nigh
- d. I went to the cinema last night
- e. He left the office an hour ago
- f. Tom visited Jakarta in July last year
- g. She visited me yesterday
- h. He wrote a letter last night
- i. He went to Bali last year

2. The Simple Past Tense is used to express the habitual action in the past time

Examples:

- a. I always went to the zoo when I was a child.
- b. I never went to the Cinema when I was a small child.
- c. They never drank wine.
- d. When I was in the countryside, I got up early every day.
- e. While her husband was in the Army, She wrote the letter to him twice a week.

For measuring the students' ability in mastering simple past tense, the writer make the indicators, they are:

1. Be able to use past tense, in simple past tense the verb that use in the sentences is past tense.

Examples:

- a. He went to Malang yesterday
- b. I did not come to the wedding party last week
- c. Did you work yesterday ?

Yes, I did "or" No, I did not

2. Be able to use to be *was* and *were*. To be was, were in the Simple Past Tense only followed by noun, adjective, adverb of place.

Examples:

- a. We were in Jakarta last week.
- b. He was hungry one hour ago.

3. Be able to use adverb of time, the adverb of time that are usually used in the simple past tense such as yesterday, last week, ago, etc.

From the explanation above it can be concluded that simple past tense is the activities or events that began and ended in the past time. Simple past tense has many functions; they are the simple past tense is used to express the activities in the past time, then the simple past tense is used to express the habitual action in the past time.

C. The Research Method

The writer will use descriptive method in this research, descriptive method is all of the sharing data or information will be correlated one to another.

According to Muhammad Nazir “ Descriptive method is a method to research human grouping status, an object, a condition of the test, a thinking system or the class event nowadays. The aim of this research is made the description, exact describing of close reality correlation between phenomenon which is researched.”¹⁵

So, descriptive method uses to describe the correlation of X variable and Y variable. It means that the variable of the research are simple past tense as X variable and spoof text mastery as Y variable.

Technique of Collecting Data

To get the data from students, the writer uses some technique. The asks the way bill from the college, meets the headmaster to get the permission, collect the students in the classroom, giving the material of the test to the students, the material are about simple past tense and spoof text, ask to the students that nobody can cheat to each other, and then the students collect the result of the test.

Technique of Analyzing Data

The technique of data analysis will be used the statistical system. After getting the data from the test given, they were tabulated into tables and the writer analyzed them in order to know the correlation between simple past tense and spoof text mastery.

$$\text{Score} = \frac{\text{Right score}}{\text{Total score}} \times 100$$

In addition to know criteria of score, the writer quoted from the Muhibbin Syah opinion as follows:

Table 1
The criteria of score¹⁶

¹⁵ Muhammad Nazir, *Metode Penelitian*, (Jakarta : Ghalia Indonesia, 1983), p. 63

¹⁶ Muhibbin Syah, *Psikologi Pendidikan Dengan Pendekatan Baru*, (Bandung : Remaja Rosdakarya, 2000),p. 153.

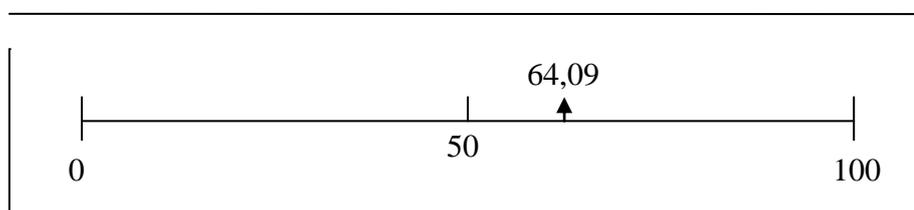
No	Class of Score	Predicate
1	80 – 100	Very Good
2	70 – 79	Good
3	60 – 69	Enough
4	50– 59	Bad
5	0 – 49	Fail

The Description of Data

The research was conducted in the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 2 Padangsidempuan in collecting the data the writer gave the test to the students to get the data about simple past tense and spoof text mastery in order to know the data of this research.

1. Simple Past Tense

The data of the research for simple past tense mastery test show that the lowest score is 50 and the highest score is 80, the median is 65 and the modus is 65 and mean score is 64,09.



Based on the previous explanation, especially in the description of the data, the position of mean for simple past tense mastery can be presented as follows:

Figure 1 : the position of mean for simple past tense mastery

From the picture, it is clear that mean of this variable is 64,09 in order to know the modus of simple past tense scores. Furthermore to know of getting the lowest and the highest of score, the writer makes the distribution of the frequency as follows:

Table 2

The frequency distributions of the simple past tense

No	Interval Class	Mid Point	Absolute Frequency	Relative Frequency
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1	50 – 54	52	4	9%
2	55 – 59	57	6	14%
3	60 – 64	62	8	18%
4	65 - 69	67	12	27%
5	70 - 74	72	7	16%
6	75 - 79	77	4	9%
7	80 - 84	82	3	7%
Total			44	100%

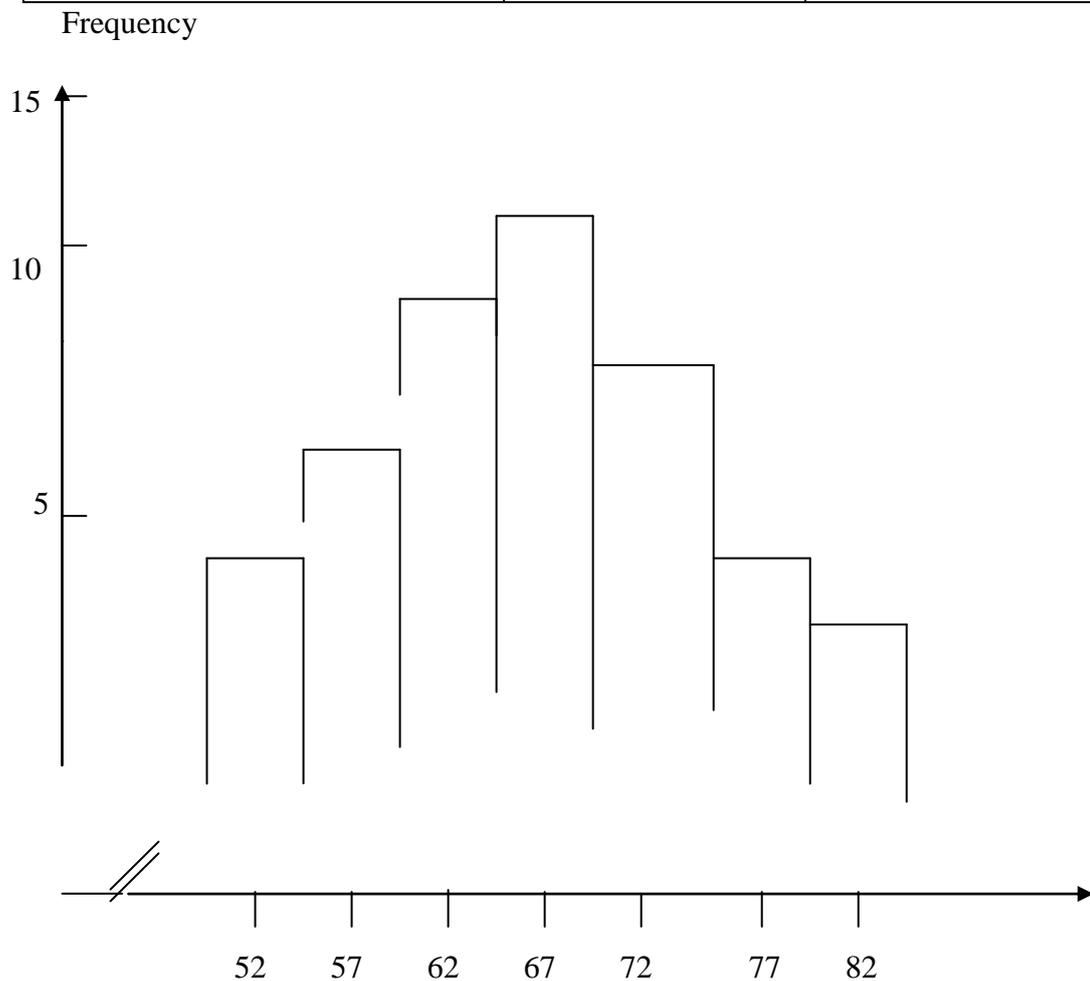


Figure 2. : the histogram of X variable (Simple past tense mastery)

2. Spoof Text Mastery

Based on the data analysis, the score of the students can be described as follows. The mean is 71,13, the median is 70, and modus is 70. Based on the previous explanation, the position of mean for spoof text can be drawn as follows:

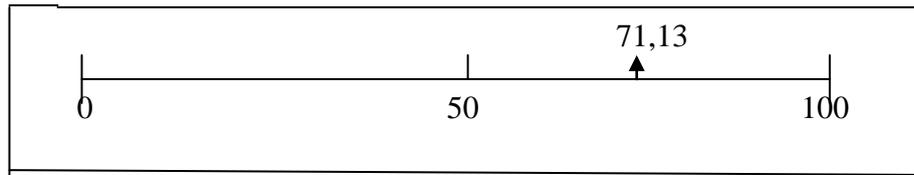


Figure 3 : the position of mean for spoof text

From the figure 3 it shows that mean of this variable is 71,13. Furthermore, to know the lowest and the highest of score, the writer makes the frequency distribution as follows:

Table 6
 The frequency distribution of spoof text mastery

No	Interval Class	Mid Point	Absolute Frequency	Relative Frequency
1	55 – 59	57	3	7%
2	60 – 64	62	5	11%
3	65 – 69	67	6	14%
4	70 – 74	72	11	25%
5	75 – 79	77	8	18%
6	80 – 84	82	6	14%
7	85 – 89	87	5	11%
Total			44	100%

Frequency

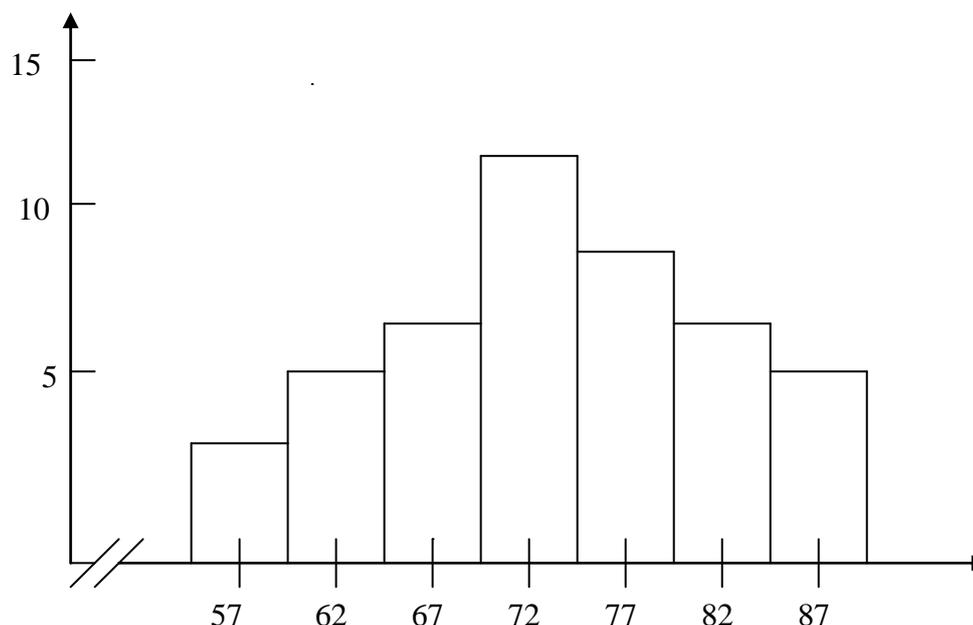


Figure 4 : The histogram of Y variable (spooft text)

Testing the Hypothesis

After collecting and calculating the data, the data are processed and analyzed by applying “ r “ product moment by Pearson because the writer wants to describe the correlation between two variable or x variable (simple past tense) and y variable (spooft text).

Here is the calculation of r_{xy}

$$N = 44$$

$$\Sigma x = 2820$$

$$\Sigma y = 3130$$

$$\Sigma x^2 = 183650$$

$$\Sigma y^2 = 225850$$

$$\Sigma xy = 203525$$

$$r_{xy} = \frac{N \Sigma xy - (\Sigma x)(\Sigma y)}{\sqrt{\{N \Sigma x^2 - (\Sigma x)^2\} \{N \Sigma y^2 - (\Sigma y)^2\}}}$$

$$r_{xy} = \frac{44.203525 - (2820)(3130)}{\sqrt{\{44.183650 - (2820)(2820)\} \{44.225850 - (3130)(3130)\}}}$$

$$r_{xy} = \frac{8955100 - 8826600}{\sqrt{(8080600 - 7952400)(9937400 - 9796900)}}$$

$$r_{xy} = \frac{128500}{\sqrt{(128200)(140500)}}$$

$$r_{xy} = \frac{128500}{\sqrt{1801210}}$$

$$r_{xy} = \frac{128500}{134209,16}$$

$$r_{xy} = 0,957$$

The result of “ r “ product moment calculation shows that the value of r_{xy} is 0,957. It is related to the value of r table. To find the value of r table should be related to the total sample (N), here the total sample of this research is 44. So $N - nr = 44 - 2 = 42$. The value of r table is 0,304 at the 5% significant level.

From the calculation and explanation above, the value of r product moment is greater than the value of r table ($0,957 > 0,304$). So the hypothesis is accepted. It can be concluded that there is a significant correlation between simple past tense mastery and writing spoof text ability.

D. Conclusion

Based on the data analysis described in the previous chapter the writer concludes as follows:

1. The result of the data description shows that the mean score of students in simple past tense is 64,09, it can be categorized “ enough “
2. The result of the data description shows that the mean score of students ability in spoof text is 71,13, it can be categorized “ good “
3. The calculation of the value r_{xy} is bigger than the value of “ r “ table, it can be known that ($0,957 > 0,304$). It means that the hypothesis is accepted. It indicates that there is a significant correlation between simple past tense mastery and writing spoof text ability.

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