



The Use of Types of Tenses in The Subtitles of Muniba Mazari Speech

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to find out the types of English tenses found in “We All Are Perfectly Imperfect” speech. The descriptive qualitative method was applied in analyzing the data. For collecting the data, this study used observation and documentation method. This study applied Cowan’s theory (2008) to find out the types of English tenses. Those are three types of tenses: past, present, and future tenses in which each having four tense aspects with twelve tense aspects in total. The result of this research study shows that there are seven types of tense aspects come from those three main tenses present, past and future tenses that were found in this speech. In present tense there were simple present, present continuous, present perfect and present perfect continuous tense with total 115 data (48,0%). In past tense there were simple past, and past continuous tense with the total 111 data (46,0%). Then in future tense there was type of simple future tense with 14 data (5,8%). The finding shows that the most dominant type of the tenses found in the speech “We All Are Perfectly Imperfect” is the type of present tense because the speaker in the speech mostly talking about something in the present moment and then the lower number of the data found is the type of future tense with percentage because the speaker was rarely talking about something that is prediction to happen in the future time.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication system made up of sounds, words, and grammar, or communication systems that allow people to convey how they feel and what they desire. According to Ondondo, understanding communication and how it works is crucial to humans (Wiguna & Anggraeni, 2018). There are various parts of communication that are utilized to express the objective of communication; one way to define the purpose and intend to understand of the word to be transmitted is to master grammar.

Grammar is one of the fundamental materials studied when studying English. According to Harmer (1991), “grammar knowledge is particularly significant for learners who desire to develop communicative competence” (Dewi, 2017). Grammar is a set of rules for writing sentences, phrases, and words in a language (Rivas, 2001). There is tense and aspect in the discourse analysis of grammar; tense and aspect is a semantic study utilized daily to communicate. According to McCarthy (1991) the tenses and functions appear to be less strictly bound to time and more bound to issues such as the sender’s purpose, the focus on different elements of the message, and the projection of a shared framework within which the receiver will understand the message.

There are many media that may be utilized to learn English, one of which is speech. Because English speech is interesting to study, the researcher employs it. Many speeches contain tenses and functions usage that can be studied. According to the foregoing information, the researchers are interested in examining Muniba Mazari’s English speech since she uses tense and functions.

There are many researchers who have analysed about the use of English tenses. Herani and Rachmijati (2019) conducted a research about the use of tense and aspect in *Tangled* movie script. The aims of their study were to analyze the tense and aspects found in the *Tangled* movie script. There were 61 sentences in the movie script that researchers discovered in the usage of tense and aspect. According to the aforementioned results, the main forms of tense and aspect in the *Tangled* movie script were simple future and present perfect. The researcher did not found past perfect progressive, future progressive, future perfect, or future perfect progressive. As most of previous researchers took the data source from the movie, this research study took the data source from other media which was from the subtitles of English speech.

Isna (2018) conducted a research about the use of tense Animated Movie *Up*. The purpose of that study was to investigate the application of the English sentences used in the film *Up* and their applications for EFL learning in Indonesia. To determine the acceptability of the sentences, the 2013 curriculum was used as the standard guideline. The data analysis in this work was carried out using a qualitative research method based on content analysis. The findings categorized the precise number of sentences generated in this study into ten (10) English tenses types. Another finding revealed that those phrases might be used to teach EFL/ESL in junior high schools.

Hafsah (2010) conducted a research about the present tense usage in speaking skill taken from of students' short speech texts". This paper's findings are based on data from Triskanedi (2007). The study's aim was to analyze the simple present tense errors made by the students. Based on the study results, 80 percent of students made mistakes in the use of simple present tense, which was the most compared to the other two tenses, simple past and simple future tense. Because of these intriguing findings, the writer sought to do additional research using the research data to determine the types of errors made by students focusing on simple present tense usage in short speech texts. In accordance with the taxonomy strategy, the data analysis employs a specific type of error, namely omission, addition, missing formation, and missed ordering/improper ordering. The result shows that the percentage of omitted 'be and s/es' is 41.08 percent. While the sum of 'be and s/es' is 6,21 percent, missed formation is 51,94 percent, and erroneous ordering is only 0.77 percent. The removal and addition appear to be related to the usage of 'be' before an adjective or nominal sentence, as well as 's' in subject-verb agreement. The investigation also discovered a minor number of other errors in the use of the article 'the,' verb inflexion -ed, and auxiliary. These appear to have contributed to the students' blunders production Despite the fact that the simple present tense is deemed the easiest to formulate when compared to others, another important take away from this study is that learning English grammar appears to be crucial to avoid making the same mistakes in the future.

In contrast with this previous study, this study focuses on identifying those three main types of the English tenses that have twelve tense aspects to give more knowledge and understanding about using all the tenses. Therefore, students avoid in making mistake in using the English tense and the aspects.

The last research was conducted by Writing Center (2017) 98% of the tensed verbs used in academic writing are in one of three tenses. The present simple is the most prevalent tense, followed by past simple and present perfect. These tenses are appropriate for both passive and active voice. As a result, additional tenses are also utilized in academic writing. For example, the future simple tense is used to communicate strong predictions about the future, whereas the present progressive tense is used to describe events that change at the moment of writing. Whereas, this study discusses about more types of the tenses which are seven in the total aspect, in present tense; simple present, present continuous, present perfect, present perfect continuous tense, in past tense; simple past and past continuous tense, and simple future tense. Therefore, it can be easier to be understood by the learner.

2. METHODS

The data in this study were taken from the speech entitled "We All Are Perfectly Imperfect". The speech was delivered in the VCON 2017, Qnet annual Conference by the speaker named Muniba Mazari. The video of the speech was uploaded in English Speeches YouTube channel with the total duration 39:30 minutes. It is kind of motivation speech that purposed to motivate all the audiences in the Qnet annual Conference at that moment. Muniba Mazari is a motivational speaker, artist, model,

etc. from Pakistan. Even she is not a native speaker but her English and the pronunciation are such an English native speaker. The data were collected by using observation and documentation method. For analysing the data this study used descriptive qualitative method. This study used the theory from Cowan, (2008) to find out and classify the types of the tenses.

Tenses

Tense is one of grammar aspects that is used to express about time occurrence of the verb. According to Cowan, (2008) there are three main types of tenses in English they are present tense, past tense and future tense and each tense having four tense aspects such as simple, continuous, perfect and perfect continuous aspects. Tense in verb shows the time of the condition or the action while aspect in verb shows how the speaker view the actions such as, ongoing action, repeated action, completed action etc.

Present tense

Cowan, (2008) states that present tense is a tense that is used to talk about something such as condition or action that happen in the present moment. This tense is indicated by verb present participle. There are four types of present tense aspects as shown below.

- a. Simple present tense is formed with subject + present participle and represented by the third person singular –s inflection on verbs. It is used to express states, habitual action, general truth, etc. in the present time.
- b. Present continuous tense is formed with subject + be (is,am,are) + present participle-ing form. It is used to express about ongoing action in the time of speaking.
- c. Present perfect tense is constructed by subject + have/has + past participle. It is used to express completed action in the present time. The action started or happened in the past but still happen in the present time.
- d. Present perfect continuous tense is made with subject + has/have + been + present participle-ing form. It is used to express ongoing action started in the past but still ongoing in the present time.

Past tense

Cowan, (2008) states that past tense is used to talk about something that happened in the past. It is indicated by verb past used in a sentence. Past tense has four aspect as below.

- a. Simple past tense is form with subject + verb past that represented by the *-ed* infection on regular verbs and by other changes in the case of irregular verbs. It is used to talk about condition or action that happened in the prior of speaking.
- b. Past continuous tense is made by subject + be (was/were) + present participle-ing form. It is used to tell about ongoing action happened in the past.
- c. Past perfect tense is constructed with subject + had + past participle. It is used to express about completed action in the past when another action occurred in the middle of it.
- d. Past perfect continuous tense is indicated by the sentence pattern subject + had + been + present participle-ing form. It is used to express about action that started and continued right up to another point in the past. The other point is often the form of simple past tense.

Future tense

According to Cowan, (2008) future tense is used to express about something that predict to happen in the time after speaking or future time. Future tense is indicated by modal verb will used in a sentence. It has four aspects as shown below.

- a. Simple future tense is made by subject + modal verb (will/ be going to). It is used to express prediction action or condition that will happen in the future time.
- b. Future continuous tense is formed with subject + will + be + present participle-ing form. It is used to express about ongoing action in the future time.
- c. Future perfect tense is formed with subject + will + have + past participle. It is used to talk about completed action in the future time or in the time after speaking.
- d. Future perfect continuous tense is made by subject + will + have + been + present participle-ing form. It is used to express about action that already started and will be ongoing up to some specific time in the future.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

After collecting the data this study found 240 data in the speech “We All Are Perfectly Imperfect”. The types and the number of the data are shown as below.

Table 1

The Type of the Tenses found in the speech “We All Are Perfectly Imperfect”

No	Type of Tenses	Number	Percentage
1	Present tenses	115	48,0%
	Simple present tense	99	41,1%
	Present continuous tense	8	3,2%
	Present perfect tense	7	2,9%
	Present perfect continuous tense	1	0,4%
2	Past tenses	111	46,0%
	Simple past tense	106	44,6%
	Past continuous tense	5	2,0%
3	Future tenses	14	5,8%
	Simple future tense	14	5,8%
Total		240	100%

Based on the data shown in the table above, it can be seen that the total data found in the speech are 240. In present tense there are 115 data with percentage 48,0% that contain simple, continuous, perfect and perfect continuous aspects. In past tense there are 111 data with percentage of 46,0% including simple and continuous aspects. And then for the future tense there are 14 data with percentage of 5,8% in type of simple future tense aspect. The dominant number of the tense type found in the speech is the type of present tense. It was because the speaker in the speech mostly talking about the situation or the action that happen in the present time at that moment. Then the lower number is the type of future tense. It was because the speaker in the speech rarely talking about future action.

Discussion

The data was evaluated descriptively in a discussion session using Cowan's theory (2008). This below are some example of the explanation of the data analysis found in the speech.

Simple Present

Simple present tense is represented by the third person singular *-s* inflection on verbs. Simple present tense expresses *states*, and habitual action, general truth, etc. This

study found 115 (48,0%) data that categorized as the type of present tense; simple, continuous, perfect and perfect continuous tense aspects. The explanation of several data as examples in the type of present tense can be seen below:

Data 1

"I feel more like a storyteller" (Muniba Mazari 0:52)

The sentence in the data above was uttered by the speaker in the minute 0:52. It is the example of present tense which is simple present tense. Based on the theory from Cowan, (2008) the sentence pattern of simple present tense is subject+ present participle. The data above is belonged the type of simple present tense because it is formed with the subject *I* followed by verb present participle *feel* (subject *I* + present participle *feel*) that refers to the sentence pattern of simple present tense. This tense is used to express present states.

Data 2

"We give them medical treatment" (Muniba Mazari 33:08)

The sentence above is type of simple present tense. It can be seen from the sentence pattern or the sentence *subject + present participle* that indicates the type of simple present tense. It consists of subject *we* followed by verb present participle *give*. It is used to express present action, the action of giving medical treatment.

Data 3

"I'm sharing this with a very heavy heart" (Muniba Mazari 22:02)

The sentence above that was taken in the minute 22:02 is the type of simple present tense which is present continuous tense. This type of verb tense is indicated by subject + be + present participle-ing form. The sentence above consists of subject *I* followed by 'be' *am* that indicate present tense and followed by present participle-ing form *sharing* that indicates continuous tense aspect. This tense is used to express ongoing action happen in the present time.

Data 4

"They have killed people in churches, temples, even in schools." (Muniba Mazari 22:20)

The data above is type of present perfect tense. It can be seen from the sentence pattern which is subject+ have+ past participle. According to Cowan, (2008) it is the sentence pattern of present perfect tense. The sentence above is consists of subject *they* followed by *have* that indicate present action, 'have' and 'has' are used in the present perfect (have used for subject I, you, we, they / plural noun) while (has is used for the

subject she, he it/ the third person singular noun) and it followed by past participle *killed* that indicates perfect aspect. This tense is used to express about completed action in the present moment. The verb *killed* already happened in the past but still has current relevant to the present time.

Data 5

I have been doing a lot of shows for last three years. (Muniba Mazari 20:11) The sentence in the data above is type of present perfect continuous tense. It can be seen from the sentence pattern subject *they* + have+ been + present participle-ing form *doing* that refers to the type of present perfect continuous tense. It is used to express about ongoing action that started in the past and still ongoing in the present moment.

Past tense

Past tense is represented by the *-ed* infection on regular verbs and by other changes in the case of irregular verbs or called verb past. After analyzing the data, there were 111 (46,0%) data of past tense that found in "We Are All Perfectly Imperfect" speech; simple past and past continuous tense aspects. Some examples of past tense could be seen as follows:

Data 6

"They threw me at the back of the jeep." (Muniba Mazari 6:35)

In the utterance above, the word "threw" could be identified as simple past tense. The verb "threw" is type of irregular verb past that only can be used in the type of simple past tense. This tense is used to express about action that happened and done directly in the past period of time.

Data 7

"We were talking about gratitude" (Muniba Mazari 36:53)

The sentence in the data above is type of past continuous tense. Based on the theory from Cowan, (2008) this tense is formed with subject + be(was/were) + present participle-ing form. The data above consists of subject *we* followed by be past *were* that indicates past time and present participle-ing form *talking* that indicate continuous aspect. This tense is used to express ongoing action in the past period of time.

Future tense

In future tense there are two most common to indicate future tense they are modal verb *will* and the semimodal *be going*. Future tense is used to express an action that will occur at some time in the future. In the speech there were 14 (5,8%) data found in the “We Are All Perfectly Imperfect” speech and all are type of simple future tense. Several examples can be seen bellow:

Data 8

I will become a doctor one day. (Muniba Mazari 25:32)

The data above is the example of the type of simple future tense. It can be seen from the modal verb *will* that is used. Simple future tense is formed with subject + will/ be going to + present participle. The sentence above consists of subject *I* followed by modal *will* and present participle *become* which refer to the type of simple future tense. This tense is used to express future action that is prediction to happen in the future time. The speaker who uttered this sentence believe or hope he or her one day will become a doctor.

Data 8

Yes, I am going to adopt him. (Muniba Mazari 16:36)

The sentence in the data above is type of simple future tense that indicate by modal verb ‘be going to’ mean will. It consists of subject *I* followed by modal ‘be going to’ *am going to* and present participle *adopt*. This tense is used to tell about action that will happen after the time of speaking.

4. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this research is to examine the tenses employed in Muniba Mazari’s speech in “We Are All Perfectly Imperfect”. The researcher used Cowan’s (2008) theory to analyze the data. According to Cowan (2008), there are three types of tenses found in the “We Are All Perfectly Imperfect” speech: past, present, and future. In the “We Are All Perfectly Imperfect” speech there were 7 tenses aspect found, they were simple present, simple past, simple future, present progressive, past progressive, and present perfect and present perfect continuous tense. From the result above the dominant types on tense and function in “We Are All Perfectly Imperfect” speech was present tense with the total number of 115 data. The result shows that different types of the tenses have different sentence pattern and function. A tense is indicated by the verb forms applied in the sentence. This result study is expected to give more knowledge and understanding to the reader about English tenses.

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