

## ABSTRACT

With the English teaching orientation proposed by the 1984 curriculum, it is expected that the graduates of SMA will be able to read English texts or journals which may contain lots of useful information they need in their life. However, one of the problems faced by the English learners in general in reading the English texts comprehensively is the fact that they are not able to understand the English sentences, especially the long and complex ones.

Looking at their patterns, the writer assumes that participle clauses can be one of the sources of the problems faced by the English learners in reading comprehensively. The absence of subject and voice indicator may prevent them from comprehending the English complex sentences containing participle clauses.

The writer carries out a research in order to know whether the English learners in Indonesia find some problems in comprehending the English complex sentences containing participle clauses. The data of the research are collected by giving comprehensive test to the first semester students of 1989/1990 of the English Department of IKIP Sanata Dharma.

After analysing the data, the writer finds that the English learners in Indonesia find it difficult to comprehend the English complex sentences as the result of the absence of subject and voice indicator from the participle clauses they contain, and the difficulties are attributed to some factors: confused understanding, overgeneralization, and "wrong Indonesian concept" interference.

Basing on the findings, the writer proposes some possible solutions to the problems: more emphasis should be given to the teaching of the meaning aspect of the English participle clauses; the teaching of certain finite clauses which the participle clauses correspond in meaning to should be done before that of the participle clauses; and the teaching of the Indonesian "pelesapan" should be done before or at the same time as that of the participle clauses.