

## ABSTRACT

One of the materials taught in SMA is noun clause construction. However, basing on my experience of teaching English in SMA, I find out that the students still find it difficult to understand. That is why, I choose this topic to be analyzed in order to know in what cases they find it difficult.

To reach at a logical analysis, I then should provide some data which were taken from the test given to the second year students of SMA Mater Dei, Probolinggo and some English grammar books to have a clearer understanding concerning the existing features of noun clause construction.

These data then were analyzed to find out types of difficulties in understanding it. As a result, I find out that the students' difficulties lie on : (1) overapplication of rules; (2) their not knowing the use and the meaning of clause markers; (3) sequence of tenses; (4) agreement of verbs with noun clause subjects; (5) the Indonesian noun clause interference.

Looking at the above difficulties, I conclude that the construction of noun clauses using 'wh-words' and 'that' is very complicated. Therefore, in teaching noun clauses to the students, the teacher should prepare himself seriously. Besides, the method and the steps in presenting the subject to the students should really be taken into account.