

# THE STUDENTS' ABILITY AND ERRORS IN USING ARTICLES FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS AT SMP NEGERI 1 SAMPANG

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## ABSTRACT

In learning English, grammar is one of significant components to mediate the system of sound or system of written symbol that cannot be avoided. Tenses preposition, to be and articles are some aspects of grammar. Studying articles seems easy for the students, but many students are often confused in applying it especially in writing and speaking. Moreover, the role of articles in building up sentences is considered very important. So, the students cannot avoid using articles in every sentence that they made. Considering the importance of using English articles, this study is intended to investigate the ability of the first year students of SMP Negeri 1 Sampang in using articles and classify the types of errors that they made in using English articles.

The research design of this study was descriptive method. The research population in this study was the first year students of SMP Negeri 1 Sampang. The total number of population was 280 students who were grouped into seven classes (1A - 1G). The writer applied random sampling and took 42 students for the sample. It means that the writer took six students from each class. The instrument of this study was test and it was conducted on May 3rd 2007.

The result of data analysis showed that the mean score was 51.8, which indicated that the ability of first year students of SMP Negeri 1 Sampang in using articles was poor. The errors that were identified in this study were categorized into three types of errors, namely: errors of omission, errors of addition and errors of substitution.