

Usage *Simple Present Tenses* in Health Services in Belu Regency

Sefrina Masia Seuk Asa

Program Studi Keperawatan, Universitas Timor

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Abstract

New opportunities and challenges in the health sector, especially nursing, in Belu Regency are the ability to speak English. This is influenced by the geographic location of Belu Regency which shares a land border with the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste and the planned construction of an international hospital in Belu Regency. These challenges and opportunities demand the ability to speak English for nursing, including the simple present tense. The simple present tense is the most commonly used tense in the English language. In healthcare, especially nursing, this tense is used for several purposes in line with the functions of the present tense, namely: 1) To describe events that are regular, routine, or habits that continue to occur daily. 2) To state general facts or absolute truths. 3) To express commands or instructions that must be followed. 4) To state fixed schedules or predetermined plans. 5) States a condition that may occur in the present or future.

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Corresponding Author:

Sefrina Masia Seuk Asa

Program Studi Keperawatan, Universitas Timor

Email: sefrina@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nursing Study Program of Timor University is located on the main route between the Republic of Indonesia and Timor Leste. In addition to being located on the main route connecting the two countries, the distance to the Mota'ain State Border Crossing Post (PLBN) is only 15 KM and can be reached in 20 to 30 minutes by motorbike or car. This allows Unimor nursing study program students to access work abroad. In addition to Timor Leste, other destination countries are Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Japan. In addition, the government of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia is ready to build an international hospital in Atambua as the capital of Belu Regency. The international hospital opens up new space and challenges Unimor nursing students to prepare themselves in English communication skills to facilitate services.

The presence of an international hospital in Atambua is a new opportunity but also a challenge. The opportunity in question is that the presence of an international hospital can provide quality health services with better facilities. The presence of the hospital will certainly be a new attraction as well as a workplace that accommodates many health workers. The challenge is that the resources in this case are the medical personnel who will work in it and are required to have greater ability in serving, especially in foreign language skills. Health workers are certainly required to have English language skills according to international hospital standards.

Facing the challenges and opportunities above, the University of Timor's nursing study program prepares its graduates to be more competent in English communication skills. The ability to master English is an added value for the quality of international hospital services. English materials for nursing include: *greeting, tenses, medical equipment, Noun, part of*

body, giving direction, admission in hospital, WH-Questions, meals in hospital, medication, cardinal and ordinal number, telling time and others.

Tenses in English consist of 16 tenses. Simple present tense is the first and most widely used tense among other tenses. Simple present tense is also one of the tenses that is often used in nursing services. In accessing health services, this tense is an important tool in communication between patients and health workers.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is qualitative research. The research method in this paper is a qualitative research method. The qualitative approach is based on the philosophy of post-positivism used by researchers to study the state of primary natural objects (not experiments). Research tools include targeted data sampling from data sources. The survey method uses triangulation (combination). Data analysis is inductive or qualitative, and qualitative findings mean not generalization, Sugiyono (2009:15). According to Saryono, qualitative studies are designed to investigate, find, and explain the quality or characteristics of social impacts that cannot be explained, measured, or explained by quantitative approaches.

The methods used are literature study and interviews. The author collects literature related to simple present tense in nursing services in hospitals. The author also collects various literature related to the usefulness and function of simple present tense, especially its application in health services. In the interview method, the author interviewed 25 nurses at Gabriel Manek Atambua General Hospital and Unimor nursing students. The author also conducted observations in the field related to nursing communication.

The data acquisition techniques in this paper are interviews, observations and library sources. The interview technique in this paper is to conduct interviews with 25 nurses at the Atambua Regional General Hospital and Unimor nursing students. In addition to interviews, the author conducted observations in the field to test the accuracy of the information. The author also used library literature to enrich the author's information related to the use of simple present tenses in nursing services in Belu Regency.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Researchers conducted a study on the use of simple present tense in health services in Belu Regency. Data were collected through observation interviews and literature. Simple present tense is a tense that is widely used in nursing communication.

Simple present tense is one of the tenses in English. Tenses are one form of verb changes based on time information and the nature of activities or events. Tenses are divided into four types, namely simple present tense, simple past tense, simple future tense and simple past future tense. Tenses are a category of grammar that emphasizes the use of verbs that are associated with the time of use. In English, one verb can change its form depending on the time intended in the sentence.

Discussion

Simple present tense is used to express facts, tell stories about events, or habits that will occur in the present. This tense is the most widely used in English. The functions of the simple present tense are: 1) To describe regular, routine, or habitual events that continue to occur every day. 2) To state general facts or absolute truths. 3) To state commands or instructions that must be carried out. 4) To state a fixed schedule or a predetermined plan. 5) To state conditions that may occur in the present or future.

In nursing communication, the simple present tense is used for

1. Describe the patient's habits. Behavior that is a patient's habit can be a cause of illness, such as whether the patient likes to drink coffee (*do you like drink cooffie?*), does the patient smoke frequently (*do you always smoke?*) or does the patient like to sleep late at

night (*do you always sleep late at night?*). This form of communication is used to seek information about the patient's lifestyle. The patient's lifestyle is the main source of the disease to be treated. For example, patients who experience high regional pressure pain (*high blood pressure*). The disease can be caused by the patient's lifestyle. Therefore, in handling patients, the information obtained becomes a strength for a more efficient handling process.

2. Stating general facts or absolute truths

Simple present tense is used to describe general facts or absolute truths. General facts or absolute truths in the field of health services relate to several things, procedures for handling high blood pressure patients, procedures for handling accident patients, procedures for handling childbirth patients and others. General facts or absolute truths also relate to the types and functions of drugs such as fever reducers, drugs for wounds and so on.

3. Stating commands or instructions that must be carried out

Simple present tense is used to give instructions. In health services, instructions are given when: 1) The patient is in the information room or the patient receives a prescription and so on. The command or instruction when the patient is in the information room is that the patient receives instructions to register such as filling in their name, age and other biodata. This tense is also used to give instructions regarding directions such as a straight road (*straight ahead*), turn left (*turn left*), turn right (*turn right*) and others. 2) Instructions when giving a prescription. Usually used to explain the prescription to be taken, such as this medicine is taken 3x1 or 2x1 or 1x1 before bed or after eating (*this medicine is taken three times a day/ this medicine is taken once a day at night before sleep*). Or this medicine is taken at night or this medicine is taken after eating or this medicine is taken before going to bed. This tense is also used to give instructions on what patients should do, such as: not smoking (*no smoking allowed*), can't drink alcohol (*not allowed to drink alcohol*), can't eat hard food, can't eat greasy food, can't eat spicy food and others

4. Stating a fixed schedule or predetermined plan.

The use of simple present tense in health services in relation to predetermined plans is related to examination schedules, control schedules and so on. In health services for cases of outpatient treatment, patients usually have to return to the hospital or health center according to the specified schedule. An example of a sentence that is often used is please return to the hospital two days after today to change the bandage (*please come back to the hospital two days after today to change the bandage*). Please come back to the hospital in one week for a checkup (*please come back to the hospital in one week for a check-up*). Please come back to the hospital in one month for a checkup (*please come back to the hospital in one month for a check-up*), come to the hospital on Tuesday, January 10, 2025, and so on.

5. Expressing conditions that may occur in the present or future.

Simple present tense is also used by patients to describe the patient's current condition such as I have a cough (*I Am coughing*), I feel dizzy (*I feel dizzy*), I have difficulty defecating (*I have trouble defecating*). Simple present tense is also used to ask about the patient's condition such as how are you doing now (*How are you currently*)? How does it feel after taking the medicine? (*How does it feel after taking medication*)? Are you still feeling weak (*Do you each feel weak*)?

The use of simple present tense to describe future conditions is in the form of things that must be done by the patient after this moment. Examples of sentences that are usually used are If the cough has healed then stop taking this medicine. If the fever is no

longer there then stop taking this medicine. If you return to the hospital, don't forget to bring your medical card and so on.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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5. CONCLUSION

Simple present tense is one of the most widely used tenses in English. Simple present tense is also used in nursing communication for health services. The functions of simple present tense are 1) Explaining regular, routine, or habitual events that continue to occur every day. 2) Stating general facts or absolute truths. 3) Stating commands or instructions that must be carried out. 4) Stating a fixed schedule or a predetermined plan. 5) Stating conditions that may occur in the present or future. The above functions are quite relevant in health services.

Unimor's nursing study program, which is involved in the world of health in border areas, really needs to understand the function of the present tense, this is related to the relevance of the use of the simple present tense in health services, especially in Belu Regency.

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