

ANALYSIS OF THE SIMPLE TENSES USED BY CHINESE STUDENTS

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## ABSTRACT

With the extensive usage of English, the issues on English language teaching method in China and the study environment for language acquisition are becoming important concerns to language teachers.

Chinese students encountered some problems in learning English, particularly in using the simple past tense. Studies show that problems on the tenses of verbs are linked to the grammar-translation method which is common in China.

This research involved 20 Chinese students at UCSI University in which a self-made questionnaire was used to collect the data. The questionnaire consists of specific instances involving the general use of the simple past tense.

The findings show that some common mistakes in using the past tense were committed by Chinese students. It shows their inability to judge the correct form of the past tense. These problems perhaps reveal the problems of the Chinese education system which is reflected in their teaching method and the use of exam-based education system.

The findings of the study can perhaps be useful for Chinese educators to enhance and develop new teaching strategies in teaching English as a foreign language to Chinese learners.

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