

## **ABSTRACT**

**Nain Anggrayeni Otoluwa, (2013) : An analysis of students' ability in using past tense (A research conducted at SMP N I Batudaa in 2012/2013 academic year), English Departement, Faculty of Letters and Culture, State University of Gorontalo. First advisor Dr. Kartin Lihawa M.Pd and second advisor Sri Widyarti Ali, S.Pd, M.Hum.**

The objective of this research is to know the students' ability in using past tense. subjects of this research are the students in SMP N I Batudaa at eight grade that consist of 29 students. The method of this research is qualitative method. The result of this research present the overall of students score in using past tense in recount text. The total of students answer is 567 with percentage 65,17 and the total of students incorrect answer is 303 with percentage 34,83. Therefore the total of students score is 65,17 and can be classified into high level in intensity 61% - 80%. Based on the result, it is suggested that the school and teacher should provide the adequate facility which can support the learning process to keep to students' motivation and interest, and also to improve the students' ability in using past in recount text.

***Key words. Students' ability, Past tense, Recount text.***