

**THE ANALYSIS OF COMMON GRAMMATICAL ERRORS IN WRITING
NARRATIVE ESSAY OF ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM STUDENTS AT
JAMBI UNIVERSITY**

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ABSTRACT

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The purpose of this quantitative research is to reveal common grammatical errors in writing narrative essay of English Study Program students at Jambi University. The data were collected through writing test. The data were analyzed by using format error identification.

There were twelve errors that this research reveals. They were verb-tense, punctuation, capital letters, word choice, spelling, preposition, pronoun, pluralism, redundancy, word order, article, and possessive case. There were 599 errors happened in students' papers, and the highest amount of error occurred in verb-tense category.

There were 303 verb-tense errors (50.58%). Meanwhile, the smallest number of error occurred in article and possessive case category. Both have the same frequency and percentage which are 6 errors (1.00%) in article and 6 errors (1.00%) in possessive case. The researcher concluded that students made errors because of the lack of grammatical knowledge. The students also still got influenced by their native language which is Bahasa that lead them to made errors.

INTRODUCTION

1. Background

Writing is one of the language skills which produces ideas through written form. According to Meyers (2005), writing is a way to produce language, just like humans do naturally when they speak. Writing is communication with other in a verbal way. Also, Byrne (1979) states that writing is one of the language skills that tells writer's ideas into written form. It is also an action of a process of discovering and organizing the writer's idea, putting them on paper and then reshaping and revising them.

Not everyone can be a good author or writer, even in their own native language. Everyone needs to learn about writing in depth to master it. Blanchard & Root (2003) assert that writing in new language can be more difficult because of the first language writing and the target language writing have such differences in using appropriate grammar and conventions, and lexical variety. In writing, sometimes people make mistakes in developing their writing. Lack of grammatical knowledge and vocabulary can be a factor the idea of writing become ambiguous. Braganza

(1998) says that by breaking the fundamental rules and grammar, the ideas become wrong, the sentences become erroneous and the author and the readers stand self-condemned. So, grammar is really important to make each component in writing become connected or related one and another.

In writing, grammar has become something that cannot be separated from it. Grammar is a set of rules that decide how the words are arranged into formation of a meaningful unit. According to Harmer as cited in Cook (1999), learners who learn a language should learn some aspects of grammatical structure to obtain a competency in using a language that consist of verbs, adverbs, adjectives, and noun and pronoun. With a good grammatical understanding, the writer can make a content of the writing can be easily understood and the message, idea, or information will be delivered properly and more meaningful. Without good or correct structure, there will be misunderstanding as a result.

In this study, the researcher focused on analyzing common grammatical errors in narrative essay. Narrative essay explains something based on writer's experience or knowledge about a story or events. This kind of essay that carrying an aspect of telling a story. Although this essay is kind of storytelling, the students must use an appropriate tense for narrative essay to support their own essay. As a result, there were some writing errors because they have lack of knowledge on how to write the essay. To find out the errors in writing narrative essay which made by the students, there was an error analysis regarding the problem that measures how frequent the students made errors in writing. Based on the explanation above, the researcher

analyzed the students' writing errors by using error analysis form that shows what kind of common grammatical errors they did in order to avoid them and the readers to not repeat the same mistake in writing essay.

2. Purpose of the Study

Based on the background of the research, the researcher has a purpose to analyze each type of common grammatical errors made by students in writing narrative essay in order to reveal common grammatical errors that occurred in students' essay.

3. Question of the research

The question for this research is what types of common grammatical errors do the third semester students of English study program make in writing narrative essay at Jambi University?

4. Significance of the study

The researcher expects this study will be useful for many parts of education and hopefully can solve some problems in writing issues. Theoretically, this research will inform the readers about the errors in writing narrative essay so they can learn the problems and not repeat the same errors. Practically, for students, this research is expected to increase knowledge of the errors in writing essay. For lectures, this research may provide them how they teach the students based on the problems that will be identified, and hopefully will make the lectures find a new method of teaching writing essay based on the finding in this study.

REVIEW LITERATURES

Various definitions of writing skill have been presented by experts. Basically, those definitions have the same meaning but the experts have the different ways to deliver and formulate them. Randal (2004) says that writing is an ability to make a form of words that in general it may have higher truth value than the fact that it has set it down. So it means that the writer can set his/her ideas down and combine them with the facts to make the writing can be accepted by the reader. We can classify our writing types based on the aim and the composition of our writing. According to George and Julia (1980), there are four types of writing. First is narration, second description, after that argumentation, last is exposition.

Essay writing is a kind of academic writing that usually done by students in university. The essay should be readable and contain the idea from author and some evidence. Meyers (2005) says that an essay is a group of paragraphs about a single subject. It means that essay is a product of writing which contain several paragraphs that evaluates and analyses the topic. In writing essay, the students need to prove their statements with some evidence and make their writing is logic and acceptable.

In this study, the researcher focused on analyzing students' errors in writing narrative essay. Narrative essay is a kind of essay that aims to entertain the readers with complication or events and also try to solve the problems. Relating to kinds of text, which student has to complete studying in college, narrative is a text which

retells the story or previous experiences. There are several kinds of narrative such as comedy, mystery, romance, horror are some of the commoner types.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used descriptive quantitative method. The purpose of descriptive research is to become more familiar with phenomena, to gain new insight, and to formulate a more specific research problem. So, the main purpose of this research is to gain information about phenomena in order to describe existed condition in the field. Specifically, this research found out the types of common grammatical error made by students in narrative essay.

The researcher used a test as research instrument. According to Kizlik (2012) test is a method to determine a student's ability to complete certain tasks or demonstrate mastery of a skill or knowledge of content. It means that test is really fit as an instrument for this research. The test was in written form, and it was given to know and to identify the errors made by students in writing narrative essay. In this research the researcher asked permission to writing essay lecturers and told the students to write a narrative essay about their unforgettable moments in life as the topic of the essay.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

This research was conducted in order to reveal the common grammatical errors that English Study Program made in writing narrative essay. In this research, a writing test was conducted in the writing essay classes. The English Study Program

students of Jambi University in B class and H class were the samples for this research.

There were twelve error categories that this research revealed, and it happened 599 times in students' essays. English Department students of Jambi University also made errors in writing narrative essay. First as the result, the students made 303 (50.58%) errors in verb-tense. It was the highest number of error in this research. Second, punctuation took place as the second highest number after verb-tense. There were 76 errors in punctuation or 12.68%. Third is capital letters error, there were 50 errors (8.34%) that happened in this research. Next, word choice came with 43 errors or 7.17%. Spelling error also occurred in this research and it has 38 error or 6.34%. After that preposition error occurred with 21 errors or 3.50%. Pronoun error happened in this research with 18 errors (3.00%). Next, pluralism error came with 16 errors or 2.34%. Redundancy error occurred with 14 errors or 2.33%. Next, in this research word order error happened with 8 errors or 1.33%. Last, there were possessive case and article errors that happened in this research. Each of them has the same number in frequency and percentage. Possessive case error has 6 errors (1.00%) and article error also has 6 errors or 1.00%, and these two points became the smallest number of error in this research.

CONCLUSION

After this research analysis had been conducted, this research revealed twelve errors that English students program made in writing narrative essay, and mostly it

happened because of the influenced of students' first language which is Bahasa. This finding provides the reader that although narrative essays data in this research were made by English Study Program Students, the students also did some errors in their papers. These things might be commonly found in many kind of situation in the process of learning that need to be controlled seriously.