



**GRAMMATICAL ERRORS ON THE ESSAY WRITTEN BY THE THIRD-  
SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDY PROGRAM,  
STKIP AL MAKSUM LANGKAT**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This research aims to analyse the grammatical errors made by the students in writing the English essay. The author uses the types of grammar in academic writing proposed by Yakhontova (2003). The research design is descriptive qualitative, and the technique of analysing the data is content analysis. Based on the analysis, there are five grammatical errors made by students. The errors are spelling, noun, subject-verb agreement, punctuation and pronoun. The students made errors in spelling with the total error is 16% and made errors in noun with the total error is 16%. Furthermore, the students made errors in punctuation with the total error is 28 % and made errors in pronoun with the total error is 20 %. The students made errors in pronoun with the total error is 20 %. Punctuation is the most errors made by the students in writing the essay.*

**Key words:** Grammatical errors, students' essay, academic writing.

**I. Introduction**

Students who study the English Language, they are supposed to master the necessary abilities of English Language so that they are easy to communicate with others by using English Language. Besides, learning English language is mainly concerned with the mastery of language skills to reach a practical level of both spoken and written communication. Therefore, students expected to obtain spoken and written goods, such as short functional texts, transactional texts and essays.

The English language has four essentials skill to be learned by students. Donny (2019:1) stated that “listening, speaking, reading and writing are the essential skills that should be studied by the students”. The students have to improve the basic skills of English language in order to increase their skills in English language. Without mastering basic skills in English language, the students hardly to communicate by using English language.

Among the above skills mentioned, one of the important skills to be mastered is writing. In the English Department Study Program, STKIP Al Maksum Langkat, there are there course focuses on learning writing, namely: basic writing, academic writing and scientific writing. In academic writing, students are writing about an essay in

English language. To make a good essay, the students have to follow the steps that consist of planning, organising and revising. Besides, cohesive and coherence are compulsory for students so that the essay is understandable, and the reader is easy to comprehend the text.

Based on the observation in the English department study program in the third-semester academic year 2020-2021, the author found that the students made errors in writing an essay. The error consists of style, content and grammar, and the major error is grammar. The error is known based on the essay is written by students which as an assignment in the academic writing course. The lack of mastering English grammar and the less of vocabulary influences the students' essay hardly organising well.

As a consequence, they write the essay which the grammar is low. Therefore, students need to understand grammar well in order to write a good essay. If their essay has poor grammar, the reader cannot comprehend the meaning inside the essay.

Alufohai (2016:62) stated that “ grammar at the sentence level is fundamental for the writing of compositions in the English language. In addition, Cook (1980) cited in Muhsin (2016: 81) stated that “ there are many rules in grammar, including articles, parts of speech, sentence pattern, and tense, etc.

In conclusion, the author would like to analyse the grammatical error in writing essay made by third-semester students English Department Study Program, STKIP Al Maksum Langkat. The author wants to know the grammatical errors made by the students. Furthermore, the aim is to find the grammatical errors made by the students so that the students may avoid the mistake of using grammar in writing an essay. The author hopes that this research gives contribution as a reference to students and an English lecturer while they want to study writing english.

## II. Literature Review

Yakhontova (2003: 48) stated that grammar should be studied by students in academic writing consists of :

Number	Types of Grammar
1	Word order
2	Agreement of Subject and Verb
3	Nouns Keeping Foreign Plurals
4	Articles
5	Relative Clauses with <i>Pronouns Who, Which, and That</i>
6	Spelling
7	Capitalisation
8	Punctuation: Apostrophe (') Asterisk (*) Slash (/) Quotation Marks (" " and ' ' ) Comma (,)

## III. Research Method

The descriptive qualitative research is used as the design of this research. Khotari (2004:7) states that “descriptive research includes surveys and fact-finding inquiries of

different kinds.”. Percentages and frequencies are used in order to support the result of this research. In this research, the data are the result of students’ essay writing made by the third-semester students of English Department Study Program, STKIP Al Maksum Langkat. There are seven students followed the academic writing course. After collecting the data, the author is going to analyse the grammatical errors in students’ essay writing. In analysing the data, the author uses content analysis as the technique to analyse the data. Ratna (2004:48) stated that “content-analysis consists of analysing the contents of documentary materials such as books, magazines, newspapers and the contents of all other verbal materials which can be either spoken or printed.

#### IV. Discussion

After the data were collected by the author, the author analysis the data, the result of analysing the data is displayed in the below table.

**Table 4.1**  
**The Students’ Grammatical Error**

Students	Types of grammatical error					Total
	Spelling	Noun	Punctuation	Subject-Verb Agreement	Pronoun	
1		1	2	2		5
2					2	2
3		1				1
4	1					1
5	1		1			2
6					1	1
7			1			1
8	1				2	3
9		1		2		3
10			1			1
11	1	1				1
12			1			1
13			1	1		2
Total	4	4	7	5	5	25
Percentage of	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Based on the above table, there are fives significant types of the grammatical error made by students. There are spelling, noun, punctuation, subject-verb agreement and pronoun. Punctuation is the most errors made by students with the total error of 28%.

##### 1. Spelling

The students made errors in spelling with the total error is 16% based on their essay writing. The errors are displayed in the below table.

**Table 4.2**  
**Spelling**

Incorrect sentence	Correct sentence
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He likes choklate	He likes chocolate
John studies how to write a poetry from his	John studies how to write a poetry from him
Sunny learned new languange	Sunny learned new language
Rocky is tal	Rocky is tall

## 2. Noun

The students made errors in noun with the total error is 16% based on their essay writing. The errors are displayed in the below table.

**Table 4.3**

### Noun

Incorret sentence	Correct sentence
Educatations	Education
Electronic	Electronics
Linguistic	Linguistics
Heros	Heroes

## 3. Punctuation

The students made errors in punctuation with the total error is 28 % based on their essay writing. The errors are displayed in the below table.

**Table 4.4**

### Punctuation

Incorrect sentence	Correct sentence
John is playing a guitar	John is playing a guitar.
Consequently Rian cannot follow the test	Consequently, Rian cannot follow the test
However they do not follow the party	However, they do not follow the party
Andrew, 2010:20	Andrew ( 2010:20)
Martin, 2012,40	Martin ( 2012:40)
Full time position	A full-time position
Student's	Students'

## 4. Subject verb agreement

The students made errors in subject verb agreement with the total error is 20 % based on their essay writing. The errors are displayed in the below table.

**Table 4.5**

### Subject verb agreement

Incorrect sentence	Correct sentence
Children likes fried rice	Children like fried rice.
Jonathan have a big house	Jonathan has a big house.
Linguistics are the study of language	Linguistics is the study of language
The data is taken from internet	The data are taken from internet
The man has several tooth	The man has several teeth

## 5. Pronoun

The students made errors in pronoun with the total error is 20 % based on their essay writing. The errors are displayed in the below table.

**Table 4.6**

### Pronoun

Incorret sentence	Correct sentence
Merry has a friend, this name is Putri.	Merry has a friend, his name is Putri.
The cat licked the tail	The cat licked its tail
She age is twenty years old	Her age is twenty years old
They gave books to their	They gave books to them
He hobby is playing a piano	His hobby is playing a piano

Based on the above result, the students have some difficulties using correct grammar in essay writing. To overcome this problem, the students have to study more diligent in order to improve their grammar skills in an english essay.

## V. Conclusions

Based on the above result, there are some conclusions made by the author. The conclusions are:

1. There are five grammatical errors consists of spelling, noun, punctuation, subject-verb agreement, and pronoun.
2. Punctuation is the most errors made by students with total errors of 28 %.
3. The students have to learn English grammar more diligent in order to elevate the quality of the essay.

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