

# THE INTERFERENCE OF INDONESIAN LANGUAGE STRUCTURE TOWARDS ENGLISH WRITING IN ENGLISH SENTENCES ON THE FOURTH SEMESTER STUDENTS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM AT SATYA WIYATA MANDALA UNIVERSITY

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## ABSTRACT

The main objective of this research is to find out the interference of Indonesian language Structure towards the ill-formedness of English language sentences in the fourth semester students of the English Language Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Satya Wiyata Mandala University. This research studies the morphosyntax elements which can cause the formation of ill-formed sentences made by the Indonesian Students in writing in English, and analysis the most frequent ill-formaeness.

The data of this research is taken from the results of the English essays written test of the University Students of USWIM Nabire. And the researcher collects data by writing test.

From the essay analyzed, there are 79 ill-formedness sentences which are divided into 12 types. The types of ill-formedness from the most frequent to the least frequent occur are : Noun form, Word choice, Concord, Gerund, Preposition, Article, Word class, Sentence without verb, Spelling, Tense, Conjunction, Passive form, Comparison, Aspect, and If clause.

**Keyword:** Interference, Structure

## BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH

English has been considered as a first foreign language in Indonesia. It was taught as a compulsory subject at the Elementary school to Senior High School and Optional Subject at some Universities. It formerly taught in successive years : three

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years at Junior High School, and three years at Senior High School. The fact shows that the result of English teaching in some schools are unsatisfactory; most of SMA graduates who continue to university are still poor in their writing.

The university students are expected to master four language skills after learning English. The four language skills are listening skill, (to catch the content of a speech), Speaking (to deliver a message orally), reading (an activity to understand the passages) and writing (an act of sharing ideas with human community in written form).

People express their ideas or opinion and feeling with language. Writing is one way to deliver their messages or opinion and ideas. But sometimes, they make mistakes in expressing their ideas in the English writing. And some of the people feel that they are more comfortable in delivering their ideas, problems, suggestion in a written form than in spoken one. They can write about everything in their diary, note books, or letter. So writing is the effective way to express their problems.

Since English is a foreign Language for Indonesia, students' mother language structure often takes place in their English writing. For Indonesia students, writing in English becomes a burden ; it is much more difficult than writing in Bahasa Indonesia. The students still use Indonesian way, of thinking and concept namely the Indonesian in expressing their ideas in English. Writing can be done as a single activity, but it can be part of reading, listening, and speaking activities. For the reasons, the grammatical knowledge in writing have always been the main emphasis of the teaching English.

In spoken language sometimes grammar is not so important. It demands people communicate to understand each other. However in writing language, grammar is very important to understand the meaning of those writing (descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive, and argumentative).The grammatically correct writing is very important for the students of English Department to fulfill requirement for the degree of Scholars in English Education.

In writing, there are a number of language aspect involved. The writing is a composition of a task which involves the students in manipulating words in

grammatically problem sentences and in linking these sentences to form a piece continuous writing which successfully communicates the writer's thought and ideas on a certain topic. The fact is that there are still a lot of problems happening in English writing caused by the interference of Indonesian Language Structure up to now. They have problem in writing process, especially when they should express their ideas and create their opinion in written form. It seems that they have difficulties in making good sentences. They are wondering whether their sentences are grammatically correct or not. They are not capable of choosing vocabulary and tenses which are suitable to the sentences, and they are not able to get their ideas to write easily yet. It is because they have not much experience in the grammatically correct English writing.

Writing in English it is not easy because of the complexities of English grammar. The mistakes often take place when Indonesian's students speak or write in English. It is derived from the difference of Indonesian language morphosyntactic as well as the English language structure. The differences bring about most of Indonesian students get difficulties in using grammatically correct tenses to write.

Nowadays English become the main thing needed by most people. As we know that English is used in carrying out the communication with the foreigner in social and business network. English become a primary language that is used to continue to study in other country. The ability to master English is a main requirement. Based on the experience, there is still Indonesian language structure that influences in English writing ( composing ). That is a clear sign that Indonesian students do not realize yet, how important to write well in line with the appropriate tenses. It needs a conscious endeavour of the students to develop their way of thinking. Furthermore it was said that "Writing was the result of man's conscious endeavour at once to substitute for speech and overcome some of its disadvantages. (Arthur Delbridge and J.R.L Bernard, 1967,11 ). How to self motivate to improve the disadvantages are expected in order to help the students to right arrangement of the sentences.

## THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

To identify the common writing problems caused by the interference of Indonesian language structure. To explain the possible sources of the problems.

## THE METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

Is divided into fifth part main issues. First issue is the method of collecting Data, Second issue is technique of collecting data/the instrument of data collecting. Third issue is population. Fourth issue is sample, and the last is technique of analyzing data. The writer chooses a specific research design that suitable with the topic. According to Jhonson ( 1992:85) says that the design lays out, step by step, what need to be accomplished to carry out the study. Depends on the data was needed for the research, the writer decided to use the qualitative research design. The writer uses descriptive and analyze method. According to Bodgan and Biklen 1982 in Prof.Dr.Sugiyono,2008:21, there are five features of quality research, namely: 1) *Qualitative research has the nature setting as the direct source of the data and the research is the key instrument*, 2) *Qualitative research is descriptive*, 3) *Qualitative research are concerned with process rather than simply with without comes or products*, 4) *Qualitative researches tend to analyze the data inductively*, 5) *Leaning of essential concern to the qualitative approach*.

This category of the data was not analyzed statistically process, so that this research is all a qualitative research. (Selinger and Shohamy 1989:93, in Prof. Dr. Sugiyono, 2008) So, qualitative research can be done by predating table graphics or the number, taking explanation and estimating. And the quality method was used by the researcher since the research was closely related to direct source of data which constitute the words and not numerical data, by using the qualitative method, the research was able to analyze the data and give the description or explanation deeply.

Research instrument is a part of the important thing in the research activities. Instrument is used to collect data in the research. Further, Arikunto 1998 in Prof.Dr.Sugiyono,2008:164 says that there many kind of instruments such as: test, questioner, interview, observation, rating scale, and documentation. And the instrument in this research is test. The researcher got the data from answer sheets of English essay written test.

The fourth semester students of Satya Wiyata Manadala University Nabire are as the subject involved in the research. Object of the research is “essay written form” in writing IV class. The writer analyzes the students problems as results of the influence of Indonesian language structure in English writing among the semester fourth students of English Language Program at Faculty of Teaching Training and Education of Satya Wiyata Mandala University.

This study is focused on the student’s influence language structure problems that have occurred in their written task, (short composition). The researcher specifies this study on written errors that only deal with the use of English sentences correct.

The researcher investigates the entire errors of 18 English students of the fourth semester. To enable researcher to get the data of the uses random sampling technique is employed. Thus it will allow all English students to have opportunity to be sample of this research.

Technique used in this research is descriptive. In analyzing data, the researcher used the problem analysis. The problems were listed, identified, and described. That was done to know the English language sentences’ errors made by the students in their writing. The researcher also tried to include explanation about the causes of the problems. There are some steps used in analyzing the data namely : first of all, from the data, researcher determined all of the ill-formedness sentences from entire of the essays written. Then analyzed and established the types of ill-formedness sentences from the most frequent to the least frequent one, than each the errors analyzed based

on the comparison morphosyntax of Indonesian language structure as well as English language structure.

## RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Problem Categories and Their Frequency

The discussion will deal with analysis of the ill-formedness of English sentences in writing IV. The data used in the study were collected from 16 answer sheets of the essay written test made by the fourth semester students of the English Language Program of Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Satya Wiyata Mandala University. The essay written test that was given entitled: *“Some people prefer to live in a big city and other prefer to live in a small city”, Which place would you prefer to live in?*. This research focuses on the ill-formedness sentences of the essays written.

From the data collected, namely, the students' writing test results, firstly the researcher determined the ill-formedness sentences from the whole writings. These sentences then analyzed and determined the category of errors and classified them based on the category of errors, from the most frequent to the least frequent occur. Then each kind of errors was analyzed based on morphosyntax comparison in Indonesian and English.

The discussion on this chapter is divided into two main parts; they are research findings and discussion. The ill-formedness sentences are shown below:

1. Some people prefer to live in small town because of the fresh air, friendly neighbors, and peacefully condition.
2. There are not many pollutions
3. There are not many politic and social problems
4. There are also people who live in the big city
5. We can get many informations
6. The technology from abroad, especially from the west, are

7. A house is a place for lived
8. Beside the house, people also see the environment.
9. Live in small town in preferred.
10. There is less pollution and the air will be fresh
11. A small town usually have just about a thousand people
12. Because the number of people-not too many, .....
13. Some of them can be a manager and others can be a taxi driver
14. There are many type of people
15. One of the reason is that they want a quiet life
16. Their lifetime will –longer that the people who live in a big city
17. They want a simply life
18. They want –develop their life
19. People who is very diligent will be success
20. They are usually looking for it in many ways
21. One of the example is about a place to live
22. There are some advantages –living in a small town
23. Living in a small town also has less demandant
24. The facilities in a big city is very useful
25. We can be a modern people with all of those facilities
26. There is many people prefer to live in a big city
27. The salary they get is usually lower than the people who live in a big city
28. The cost to live in a small town is low
29. There is just a few cars
30. I prefer to live in the big city
31. In a small town they can sleep well without disturbed by any noisy
32. The pollution in a small town not as bad as the big city
33. There are many school that we can choose
34. We can also prefer the schools
35. We can go anywhere easier
36. Live in a big city is better than live in a small town

37. There are many problems in the big community
38. Some people prefer to live in a small town because they want to have a quite life
39. In a big city there are a lot of vacancy
40. They want to make a lot of money and become a rich people
41. A small town have a peacefull life
42. The others people still prefer to live in a small town
43. There are some advantages of live in a small town
44. People in a small town -usually friendly
45. There are only a few cars, so the air not polluted
46. They want to be a modern people
47. People who live a village always thought that people who lives in a big city is rich and great
48. There are a lot of market and mall
49. Some live in a small town, although some live in a big city
50. People who live in a big city have many activity
51. There is not any noise that can disturb the habitants
52. It can make them easier to socialization
53. If they work in a big city, they would earn much money
54. There are two different kind of places
55. You will face with a traffic jam
56. You can go to the mall
57. They can live in peace and enjoy their day if they are not working anymore
58. You will find a lot of rivers –are still clean
59. There are two kind of city
60. They do not have complex problem
61. The air –not only clean and cool but also good for our health
62. People knew each other
63. There are a lot of game
64. Money is equal as water.
65. Every weekend we can go to different places and find different thing

66. Situation in a small town -usually peaceful
67. There are no polution at a village
68. There are a lot of development in many sector of life
69. There is a better change to find a job
70. I think live in a big city is better than live in a small town
71. We can know what was happening on the earth
72. In many country, there are two kind of city
73. Because of there are no cars or factories, there is no polution in a small town
74. There a lot of environment that we can enjoy every day
75. Live in a big city also has many disvantages
76. There are also some advantages of live in a small town
77. There is no polution because of people do not use cars
78. I think live in a small town is a better
79. Live in a big city also has some advantages.

Furthermore, the researcher reported the classification of common and grammar problems from sentence formation errors on the essays written test of semester IV, as follows :

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Noun Form             | 9. Spelling      |
| 2. Word choice           | 10. Tense        |
| 3. Concord               | 11. Conjunction  |
| 4. Gerund                | 12. Passive form |
| 5. Preposition           | 13. Comparison   |
| 6. Article               | 14. Aspect       |
| 7. Word class            | 15. If clause    |
| 8. Sentence without verb |                  |

**TABEL 1.1**  
**THE SUMMARY OF GRAMMAR AND COMMON PROBLEMS AND THEIR PERCENTAGES**

No	Categories	Problems	Percentages
1.	Noun Form	18	20%
2.	Word Choice	9	10%

3.	Concord	9	10%
4.	Gerund	9	10%
5.	Preposition	8	9%
6.	Article	7	8%
7.	Word Class	7	8%
8.	Sentence Without Verb	6	7%
9.	Spelling	4	4%
10.	Tense	4	4%
11.	Conjunction	3	3%
12.	Passive Form	2	2%
13.	Comparison	2	2%
14.	Aspect	2	2%
15.	If Clausa	1	1%
	TOTAL	91	100%

Based on the table analysis above, the researcher found common and English grammar problems of the essays written test of Writing IV, there are 91 problems on their all ill-formedness sentences or 100%, they are 18 problems of Noun form or 20%, 9 problems of word choice or 10%, 9 problems of concord or 10%, 9 problems of gerund or 10%, 8 problems of preposition or 9%, 7 problems of article or 8%, 7 problems of word class or 8%, 6 problems of sentence without verb or 7%, 4 problems of spelling or 4%, 4 problems of tense or 4%, 3 problems of conjunction or 3%, 2 problems of passive form or 2%, 2 problems of comparison or 2%, 2 problems of aspect or 2%, 1 problems of if clause or 1%.

## 2. Discussion

It is found that among the categories of the problems, there are eleven grammatical problems and one non grammatical problem, that is *word choice*. That is a clear sign that *noun forms* have the highest frequency, while *concord* and *gerund* on the second problem. *Preposition* is the third frequent of the problem. And *article*, *word class* on the fourth frequency. So it is necessary to increase material of the noun forms and the components in the class activities and ask the students to identify and teach them how to manipulate it since the beginning. And according to the data analysis above some of another causes

problems are the difficulties of the English itself, but the influenced of Indonesian structure on the English sentences as well.

### CONCLUSION

Ill-formedness sentence in a language can be well-formed sentence, if it is translated with the same syntaxes function into another language. This fact is caused by elements differences among the languages. Every language has basic order form unique sentence structure. Sentence *read the man the book* is listened strange in English, however that function order can be a right sentence in another languages. Basic order of English sentence structure is *subject-verb-object* (*The man reads the book*), in another language example, such as; in Japanese: *subject-object-verb* (*sono otoko ga hon o yonda*), etc. ( Sony Pangesti 2007 : 29 ).

In languages which have sentences with similar basic order, there is also differentiation in each filling function. From the ill-formedness sentences analysis of the English writing by Indonesian people, can be concluded that although English and Indonesian syntaxes have similar basic order sentence pattern, the differentiation pattern of constituent filling function of sentence can causes errors in sentence order.

Based on the categories and ill-formedness analysis of the respondents' sentences, can be concluded that those errors sentences are caused by the influenced of morphosyntaxis structure of Indonesian on their writing in English. In writing learning, the audiences need to be remembered about structure differentiation morphosyntaxis between English and Indonesian, thus they can write in English with right structure. The 15 categories which are explained above need to be focused more by the teachers, so the students can construct their writing with well-formed sentences.

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