

STUDENTS' ERROR ANALYSIS IN WRITING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze and classify the errors made by students in writing descriptive text. This research used descriptive qualitative method. The participants were the X-1 grade Senior High School students of SMA Swasta Puteri Sion, in the academic year of 2020/2021. Data for this research were taken by doing a task. The researchers gave a paper about descriptive text which has no punctuations on it, then students answered it. This study showed that there were four errors that students made which are *addition*, *misinformation*, *misordering* and *omission*. The percentage error of addition was 23,5%, error of misinformation 21,3%, error of misordering 18,4% and error of omission 36,8%. According to the percentage, it could be concluded if error of omission is the most dominant error by students with 36,8% and error of misordering is the lowest error students made with 18,4%.

Keywords : Punctuation Mark, Descriptive Text, Writing

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

Descriptive writing is the cycle of make correspondence picture through words. As indicated by Oshima and Hogue expresses that "depiction is expounding on how something or on the other hand somebody looks and uses space order, Oshima (2005:9). Moreover, Knapp and Watkins states that Descriptive writing is likewise a focal component of story text giving the way to creating portrayal, feeling of spot, and key themes, *Knapp and Watkins (2005:9)* likewise, Dorothy E Zemach additionally expresses that graphic section clarifies how a person or thing looks or feels, *Zemach and Rumisek (2005)*.

Substance errors divided into capitalization errors, punctuation errors and misspelling errors. In this research, the researchers will research the students omission errors, an error that are not supposed to be done, either such an amount or the existing facts and punctuation errors, which an error in using or putting punctuation in writing descriptive text. James (1998.129-161) conclude that error in learning language consists such as grammar errors, lexical errors, discourse errors, text errors, substance errors, and classifying lexical errors. Meanwhile, Ellis in Hasan (2008, p. 2) firmly believe that mistakes in acquisition of the first mother language to the second foreign language have a big impact which is the first language will influenced the second language.

Ernawati (2019: 1) The result in this research that are errors were made by students based on the surface strategy taxonomy was four types of the grammatical errors they are Misformation (42 errors = 41,1%), addition (30 errors = 29,5%), misordering (17 errors = 16,6%), and omission (13 errors = 12,8%). It means that dominant type of grammatical errors in this research is misformation.

Supiani (2018:19) The analysis showed the most error were (1) the student omitted the use of comma that was 37.77% (2) Error in using comma was 31.11%; (3) error in using period that was 20%; (4) students ommiting that was 6.66%; and (5) students omitted the use apostrophe that was 4.44%. Based on the explanation above, the researchers try to find out what does actually dominantly error made by students in writing descriptive text and what is the most problem that make students ignoring the important of writing correct punctuation in descriptive text.

CHAPTER II

RESEARCH METHOD AND DESIGN

The research design of this research was descriptive qualitative. Sandelowski stated that descriptive qualitative research can be categorized as a non-categorical to be investigated, is less than interpretative approach but it is more interpretative description, because this research does not require the researchers to supervise further or entering data and it does not require conceptual because this data more abstract than the other qualitative research. On the other hand, Dantes (2012, p.51) says descriptive qualitative is a reasearch which aims to describe some activities or events objectively and systematically.

Participants

The population of this research were the students on X-1 grade of SMA Swasta Puteri Sion, in the academic year of 2020/2021. This school is located at Jl. Letjend Jamin Ginting, No.160 Km 9,4 / Jl. Pales IX, Sumatera Utara.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

In this research, the writers collected qualitative data. According to Sugiyono (2013, p.233), a research which including into qualitative research used the researchers as the main instrument. In addition, Sugiyono (2013, p.233) stated after the finding result the instrument that used before can be improve by the other instrument. In collecting qualitative data, the researchers used descriptive text writing task as the instruments. The techniques for collecting data, the researchers asked the students put the correct punctuation on the paper of descriptive text that the researchers has given.

Sujiono (2008) stated here is a percentage formula for the researchers used to measure how many errors that students produced.

$$P = \frac{f}{n} \times 100\%$$

Note :

P = Percentage

f = Frequency of error

n = Number of error

100% = Constant value

3.1. Research discussion and Findings

The researchers gaved the students descriptive text which is there is no punctuation on it. Then, the researchers asked the students to put the correct punctuation on the text; *period, comma, quotation mark and apostrophe*. As explained above, the researchers had collected some of errors that have been done as follow.

Table 3.1.1 Various Kinds of Students' Punctuation Errors

No	Name	Wrong Sentences	Correct Sentences	Kind of Errors
1	ABS	The tower stands 324 meters (1063 ft) tall about the same height as an 81-story building.	The tower stands 324 meters (1,063 ft) tall, about the same height as an 81-story	Error of omission (comma)

			building.	
2	AT	Bill Gates or Trey as his nickname was born on 28th October 1955, in Seattle Washington USA	Bill Gates or Trey as his nickname wa born on 28th October 1955 in Seattle, Washington, USA.	Error of misordering (comma) Error of omission (period)
3	AAT	This plant has stems which are different from other plants	This plant has stems which are different from other plants.	Error of omission (period)
4	APA	This cat was first discovered in Persia, so its name followed the area where the cat was found	This cat was first discovered in Persia so its name followed the area where the cat was found.	Error of addition (comma) Error of omission (period)
5	AES	I got this blanket from my friend when I had a birthday,	I got this blanket from my friend when I had a birthday.	Error of misinformation (comma to period)
6	DKS	“William Henry Bill Gates III” is one of the richest and influential people.	William Henry “Bill” Gates III is one of the richest and influential people.	Error of misordering (quotation mark)
7	ES	When other plants use their leaves for photosynthesis cactus turn their leaves in form of spines to reduce the water loss in hot weather	When other plants use their leaves for photosynthesis, cactus turn their leaves in form of spines to reduce the	Error of omission (comma and period)

			water loss in hot weather.	
8	FNSB	If observed somewhat sideways, the nose, forehead, and chin look flat.	If observed somewhat sideways, the nose, forehead and chin look flat.	Error of addition (comma)
9	JTK	This material is mostly made with artificial wool, which has a very soft surface texture	This material is mostly made with artificial wool which has a very soft surface texture.	Error of addition (comma) Error of omission (period)
10	JKRS	Named for its designer engineer Gustava Eiffel the tower was built as the entrance arch to the 1889 Worlds Fair.	Named for its designer, engineer Gustava Eiffel, the tower was built as the entrance arch to the 1889 World's Fair.	Error of omission (comma and apostrophe)
11	JPG	In 1975 together with his friend, Paul Allen. he co-founded Microsoft which became the worlds largest PC software company.	In 1975 together with his friend, Paul Allen, he co-founded Microsoft which became the world's largest PC software company.	Error of misinformation (period to comma) Error of omission (apostrophe)
12	KFL	The roots will widenduring the rainy season, so that, it quickly gets water in the soil.	The roots will widenduring the rainy season, so that it quickly gets water	Error of addition (comma)

			in the soil.	
13	KA	In 2000 he and his wife created Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.	In 2000, he and his wife created Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.	Error of omission (comma)
14	MAP	This cute pet, is one of the kind of ornamental cat that many cat lovers around the world not at least in Indonesia,	This cute pet is one of the kind of ornamental cat that many cat lovers around the world, not at least in Indonesia.	Error of misordering (comma) Error of misinformation (comma to period)
15	MJS	“The edge of the blanket is above with blue cloth 5 cm in size”	The edge of the blanket is above with blue cloth 5 cm in size.	Error of misinformation (quotation mark to period)
16	MP	The walk to the first level is over 300 steps as is the walk from the first to the second level.	The walk to the first level is over 300 steps, as is the walk from the first to the second level.	Error of omission (comma)
17	NSH	Persian cat based on the classification of his race is divided into two kinds, namely persia bright silver and persia black	Persian cat based on the classification of his race is divided into two kinds namely persia bright silver and persia black.	Error of addition (comma) Error of omission (period)

18	RS	It has soft stems because, the water are stored in it.	It has soft stems because the water are stored in it.	Error of addition (comma)
19	YV	Through this Foundation Bill Gates, donates large amounts of money to many charitable organizations and scientific research programs.	Through this Foundation, Bill Gates donates large amounts of money to many charitable organizations and scientific research programs.	Error of misordering (comma)
20	YN	Not including broadcast antennas it is the second tallest structure in France after the 2004 Millau Viaduct,	Not including broadcast antennas, it is the second tallest structure in France after the 2004 Millau Viaduct.	Error of omission (comma) Error of misinformation (comma to period)

3.2 Data Result

In this section, the researchers clasified the errors that students make. The errors which has been done are the addition, misinformation, misordering and omission in using punctuation such as period, comma, quotation mark and apostrophe. The data result which has been obtained by the researchers are below.

Tabel 3.2.1 Students' Error in Using Punctuation in Descriptive Text

No	Students' Initial	Types of Error			
		Addition	Misinformation	Misordering	Omission
1	ABS	2	1	-	3
2	AT	1	2	2	5

3	AAT	-	1	1	2
4	APA	2	1	2	3
5	AES	1	3	4	1
6	DKS	-	1	2	1
7	ES	4	2	2	-
8	FNSB	4	1	1	2
9	JTK	3	-	-	5
10	JKRS	1	1	-	3
11	JPG	-	2	1	5
12	KFL	3	2	-	1
13	KA	-	1	-	3
14	MAP	1	2	2	3
15	MJS	2	3	1	2
16	MP	-	-	3	5
17	NSH	3	2	-	3
18	RS	3	-	2	1
19	YV	2	2	3	1
20	YN	1	3	-	3
Total		33	30	26	52
Total Error			141		

As the calculation on the table, the researchers has included the percentage of each error as below:

1. **The Error of Addition** : $\frac{33}{141} \times 100\% = 23,5\%$
2. **The Error of Misinformation** : $\frac{30}{141} \times 100\% = 21,3\%$
3. **The Error of Misordering** : $\frac{26}{141} \times 100\% = 18,4\%$
4. **The Error of Omission** : $\frac{52}{141} \times 100\% = 36,8\%$

3.3 Discussion

In this section the researchers discussed some errors that students made such as addition, misinformation, misordering and omission errors, as stated below.

1. Addition

Addition is a replenishment activity of a punctuation, word or sentence that should not exist that cause the sentence wrong in grammatically. As the result above, the error that students make in addition were 33 or 23,5%. The researchers has summarized the error as follow.

Student's answer : *If observed somewhat sideways, the nose, **forehead**, and chin look flat.*

Correct answer : *If observed somewhat sideways, the nose, **forehead** and chin look flat.*

In the sentence above, the student's answer add comma (,) on **forehead** word that should be not exist as seen on the correct answer.

2. Misinformation

Misinformation is an error of using incorrect punctuation form, word, morpheme or structure in a sentence. In this research, the researchers has found the error of misinformation were 30 or 21,3% and as below.

Student's answer : *"The edge of the blanket is above with blue cloth 5 cm in size"*

Correct answer : *The edge of the blanket is above with blue cloth 5 cm in size.*

In the sentence above, the student's put the wrong punctuation that is quotation mark (") that should be period (.).

3. Misordering

Misordering is a misplacing of punctuation, word or morpheme and form in a sentence. In this research, the error of misordering is the lowest error that students make. The percentage is 18,4% or 26 and the error that researchers has found as below.

Student's answer : *"**William Henry Bill Gates III**" is one of the richest and influential people.*

Correct answer : William Henry “Bill” Gates III is one of the richest and influential people.

According to the sentence above, the student's make error by misplacing quotation mark (“) that should be “**Bill**” not “*William Henry Bill Gates III*”.

4. Omission

Omission is the loss of a word, punctuation mark or part of a sentence that should be exists. According to the result of this research, the error of omission is the opposite of misordering as the lowest error. Omission is the highest error that the researcher found has percentage 36,8% or 52. As for the error made by the students as follow.

*Student's answer : Named for its **designer** engineer Gustava **Eiffel** the tower was built as the entrance arch to the 1889 **Worlds** Fair.*

*Correct answer : Named for its **designer**, engineer Gustava **Eiffel**, the tower was built as the entrance arch to the 1889 **World's** Fair.*

According to the sentence, the student's did not put comma (,) on **designer** and **Eiffel** word. The student's also missing apostrophe (') that should be on **Worlds** word.

Based on data result, the researchers has found that there are four types of error that students produced in this research. Error of addition, error of misinformation, error of misordering and error of omission. As shown on data result, the total of error in using punctuations such as period, comma, quotation mark and apostrophe is 141. With the percentage error of addition 33 or 23,5%, the students make error by adding punctuation that should not exists. Error of misinformation 30 or 21,3%, in this error the students using incorrect punctuation in the sentence. Error of misordering 26 or 18,4%, the students produce error by misplacing the punctuation. Furthermore, error of omission 52 or 36,8%, the students make mistake by losing punctuation that should exists in the sentence. The most dominantly error is omission and the lowest error is misordering. There are some problems that students found in using punctuation especially in descriptive text. The most significance problem is the ignorance that students do. Most of the students more focused on grammar of the sentence than the using of punctuation.

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