

## Grammatical Errors in Essay of English Letters and Philosophy Students in Panca Marga University Probolinggo

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**Abstract:** Understanding grammatical in making writing and composition being crucial for the learners. It takes important rule for making good writing and composition so that the readers can comprehend the benefit of it. Some grammatical errors have been found in the writing of English Letter and Philosophy students. Errors in grammar automatically cause misunderstanding and misinterpretation. Through descriptive qualitative method employed in this study it revealed that the writer's prior knowledge o grammatical rules in Indonesia language had caused problems. Ten essays were taken as the main source of the data. The essays were taken from the final test of Writing II that was held on January, 15<sup>th</sup> 2018. From the findings it can be conclude that the writers have big deals in giving ending -s/-es in present form, giving the article, determining correct preposition, choosing appropriate words, forming passive, adding suffix, and giving final 's in possessive and determining plural and singular. All those problems were suspected as the impact of writers' prior knowledge on the source language. The leaners were still in adaptation on using grammatical rules in the target language, English in this case. The formulation of some phrases and sentences were often come in source language rules. Finally, the result of this research is expected to be able to give meaningful contribution to students of English Letter and Philosophy and all the readers as well.

**Keywords:** essay, grammatical error, meaning, source language, tgainrget latnquaiger

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Writing abilities, along with other English skills (reading, listening and speaking), has always been an issues of great concern to EFL teachers and researchers. As a second or foreign language, teaching situation, writing is one of production skill that need special desire to understand well about how to produce a certain aspect of language. Despite the strong desire to write well in English, quite numbers of University students still remain incompetent in understanding the writing performance. Both students and teachers increasingly feel frustrated and complain about the quality of the learning outcome. .

Writing essay being problem for the students. The first problem is not about less facility for writing but they are not master in grammar even though they have taken grammar course.

The reality shows that writing skill be requirement in academic world, such for writing essay, journal, thesis, and dissertation. This condition make the students or lectures be stressful. Therefore, the study is conducted with a view to find out the existing problems

on grammatical errors in essay of English Letter and Philosophy students of Panca Marga University Probolinggo. The essay has taken on final test of writing II, January 15<sup>th</sup> 2018

## **2. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the introduction above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To know the grammatical errors on essay of English letter and Philosophy students in Panca Marga Probolinggo.
2. To know how the grammatical errors occur on essay of English Letter and Philosophy students of Panca Marga University of Probolinggo.

## **2. THEORY**

Grammar is a collection of rules that consist of the grammatical structure of language (KBBI, 2017). Crystal (1987: 422) also defines that grammar is the study of sentence structure, especially with reference to syntax and morphology and presented as textbooks or handbooks; a provision of rules that control language in general or certain languages which include semantics, phonology, and pragmatics. When we classify narrowly, the scope of grammar includes; syntax and morphology, whereas syntax and morphology are includes semantics, phonology, and pragmatics (broadly).

Richards (1987: 125) states that grammar is provision or description of structure that produce sentence in language. Commonly, by considering the meanings and the functions contained by these sentences in the whole language system. The author to study the essays that become data in this research uses this definition. With the consideration that errors in sentence construction lead to errors in giving meaning. Readers do not need to experience errors in giving meaning as the beneficiaries of the existing essays.

### **Grammatical Errors**

According to Burt and Kiparsky (1974), grammatical errors are not appropriate with the rules of grammar that make the writing is bad, while Ellis states that according to the grammatical tradition tends to principles that are determined by the form and interpretation of words, phrases, and sentences. So, grammatical errors are an important part of what students consider these grammar mistakes are not compatible with the grammar system of a language. Grammatical errors are found in students' writing will affect the meaning of the writing.

## **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Research design of this study is qualitative descriptive through essay as the main source. In other word, this method as procedure to solve the research problem through describe the subject or object based on the facts in the field.

Latief (2011:176) added that descriptive method is one of method that is to describe social events in education context, such as learning process in the classroom. This method is used to understand the question of what, when, where, who and how. In other word, qualitative descriptive is determined on the social process, social events (phenomena) and tried to understand the meaning behind the text whether oral or written texts. In this research, the researcher focuses on the written texts that is essay of

students of English Letter and Philosophy. It can describe those grammatical errors of their writing, whether on producing words or writing words on English.

The source data of this research is textual data of the final test in English Letter and Philosophy faculty, exactly on January, 15<sup>th</sup>2018. The data is phrase and sentence of their essay. The collecting data is through reading their essay. Then, the researcher identify the grammatical error of their written text. Collecting and analyzing data is done together by reading their essay carefully. In this research, the researcher take their essay randomly as much five. The researcher will identify the grammatical errors on essay of English Letter and Philosophy students. Analyzing data will be collected based on the problem of the research. Every data will be analyzed and concluded

#### 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this part, discuss the findings of grammatical error that are found in their essay of English Letter and Philosophy students. These findings are written down on the table and followed by description of it.

##### Data 1

Social Media (1)Change Trend of Communication Social media (2)allow people (3)accessing all (4)information in the world. People can reach other people even for away easily. The easiness in social media (5)made people lazy to make direct conversation like face to face meeting. Many kind of (6)communication(7)purpose (8)held without directly meeting example education, (9)tutoring, bussiness meeting, exhibition. It (10)closer for people but (11)sometimes fartherthe close people because people prefer to be active in social media without any (12) interaction with people arround (13)him. Even people stay in on location communicate (14)using this device. Therefore, social media (14)using is (15)easily(16)change the trend of communication.

##### Findings

No	Grammatical Errors	Alternatives
1	change	changes
2	allow	allows
3	accessing	to access
4	information	informations
5	made	makes
6	communication	communications
7	purpose	are purposed
8	held	to hold
9	tutoring	tutor
10	closer	is closer
11	farther	is farther
12	interaction	interactions
13	him	Tidak diketahui maksudnya
14	using	uses
15	easily	easy

16	change	to change
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## Discussions

There are some grammatical errors of the first essay. The first grammatical errors are on using present verb for subject he, she, and it as in number 1, 2, 5, and 14. In simple present tense, the verb of subjects he, she and it should be add –s/-es. The second grammatical error is about infinitive (to+verb) as in number 3, 8 and 16. Based on the pattern, to should be follow by bare infinitive without any suffixes.

The third grammatical error are determiners (all, kind of, and any) such as in number 4, 6, and number 12. Based on the pattern, determiner all, kind of, and any should be follow by plural noun. The fourth grammatical errors are in using passive voice, such as in number 7 (supposed). Based on the general pattern of voice is (be+V3). The using of be is determined by subject whether plural or singular.

The using of comparative degree also found in the fifth grammatical errors, such as in number 10 and 11. The pattern is adjective + er...than... for short syllable. Nevertheless, comparative degree (farther) in number 11 is one exception for comparative degree that is irregular comparative degree. The sixth grammatical error is reflexive pronouns (objective) also found in this data, such as in number 13. Him is object of subject (he), whereas people is plural. So that, object of people is them. The seventh is about using adverbs, such as in number 15. Adverbs are words that used to describe verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. In this data (in number 15), there are no verbs, adjectives, or adverb that are explained. The last is about ineffective words, such in number 9. The words of tutor is include in noun of this text without adding –ing on the process formed.

## Data 2

Living in Village is Difficult

One of the reasons (1) why living in village is difficult (2) is because of the less facilities that we get in village. It is so much different with the facilities that we get (3) city. For example, the hospital in village is not as good as the hospital in city, the schools in village (4) is not (5) good as the schools in the city. For those reasons if (6) a villager want or need a good hospital and school they have to go to the city.

Another reason (7) why living in village is difficult is because of the equality. In city, men and women are equal almost in all part of life, (8) but men and women can go to school, get same equality in work and (9) has same right. But in village, we still can see the equality between men and women. For example is if a family has two children, boy and girl. They will give the best (10) education the boy, they will send him to the best school but not for girl. They will only put her in a school that's near to their (11) home. They don't care about the quality of it school. The same problem is in the work world. For example is if a woman in village (12) work as farmer. She will get less of salary than the man but it is not happened or (13) occur in city. Therefore, living in village is difficult because of (14) it characteristic.

## Findings

No	Grammatical Errors	Alternatives
1	why	without why
2	is	without is
3	city	in city
4	is	are
5	good as	as good as

6	a villager	villagers
7	why living in village is difficult	repetition
8	bot	both
9	has	have
10	education the boy	education for boy
11	home	house
12	work	works
13	occur	occured
14	it	its

### Discussions

In the second data, the first grammatical errors are about using inappropriate phrase, such as in number 1, 2, 8, 10, and 11. The second grammatical error in using preposition, like in number 3. Based on the function, preposition is used to show the correlation among the words and sentences. The third grammatical error also found in deciding the plural or singular, such in number 4. If the subject of the sentence is plural, so be of the sentence should be in plural. Contrary of that, if the subject of the sentence is singular, so be of the sentence should be in singular.

The fourth grammatical error is degree of comparison, such as number 5. Positive degree is used to compare two things or persons that are the same, which is the pattern (as + adjective + as...). The fifth grammatical errors are simple present tense, like in number 6 and 9. This error is showed that the subject is singular. The subject should in plural form. So, the present verb should be follow the subject, whether by giving ending -s/-es or not. In number 9, the present verb should be in plural form (have) because the subject is plural.

The sixth grammatical error of the second data are passive form, like in number 13. Based on the pattern of passive (be + past participle). The sequence of passive form; first, we have to find type of the tense; second, decide be of the new subject; and the last find the participle form. Then in number 14 is about possessive. After using because of, it should be followed by noun or phrase. In the second data, also found inappropriate sentence such as repetition in number 7.

### Data 3

The (1)Confident Which Can make More Awesome

(2)Confident is a condition which people (3) do not shy about their (4)body, (5)face, hair, and (6)another they have. People (7)who confident of (8)their self look more awesome than people who (9)did not confident. Although, (10)every people have not perfect self, but when (11)they confident about (12)their self or (13)makes awesome. The (14)confident can (15)uper ourselves beauty inside which (16)make us look awesome.

Awesome is a condition when he or she looks different from another, like more beautiful, handsome, charismatic and stunning. Moreover, people nowadays (17)is not confident about (18)their self. Some of them are shy about (19)ther (20)body, (21)face, hair, and another they have. Although they have perfect (22)body, (23)face, hair, but they (24)fell they look so ugly and it makes them not awesome. People always feel that they (25)ugly, but they are not.

The conclusion is whatever self condition we have, we should to be confident of ourselves because (25)confident can (26)uper our beauty inside and make us more awesome that the other who are not.

### Findings

No	Grammatical Errors	Alternatives
1	Confident	Confidence
2	Confident	Confidence
3	ther	their
4	face	faces
5	Confident	are confident
7	their self	themselves
8	did	is
9	every people	everyone
10	have	has
11	confident	are confident
12	their self	themselves
13	confident	confidence
14	uper	upper
15	make	makes
16	is	are
17	their self	themselves
18	ther	their
19	body	bodies
20	face	Faces
21	body	bodies
22	face	faces
23	fell	feel
24	ugly	are ugly
25	confident	confidence
26	uper	upper

### Discussions

In the third essay, the grammatical errors are dominated by the use of countable nouns. The first grammatical error is about countable noun, such as in number 4, 9, 20, 21, and 22. Based on the pattern, most of the noun formation processes are added with the suffix-s/-es for the plural of noun.

The second error occurs in word choice (diction), like in number 1, 2, 13, and 25. The understanding of word class grouping as a factor in making English writing. The writer tries to use the possessive but it is not appropriate with the sentence, as in number 7, 12, and 17. Errors in writing the words also occur in number 3, 14, 18, and 26.

The third grammatical error is about the simple present tense, such as number 5, 8, 11, 16, and 24. The form of nominal sentence in simple present tense is using be. Be should match with the type of the subject in the sentence. If the subject is (you, we they), it should use be (are). If the subject is (he, she it), it should use be (is). Meanwhile, verbal sentence in simple present tense for subject (he, she, it), verb should be giving suffixes –

s/-es, such as in number 10 and 15. Subject (I, you, we, they) without giving suffixes – s/-es in that verb.

#### **Data 4**

##### **Living in City is So Stressing**

Many people think that living in a city is really fun. They think that a city provides everything we need, such as (1)entertainment, jobs, money, rich people, and other. But, in fact, people who live in a city for years feel uncomfortable. They say that they want to live in a better place because living in a city is so stressing.

A city is abig place of a country that becomes the (3)most busy(4)place. We can find anything in the city, an entertainment places until shopping places. The environment of a city is so solid. We might quite difficult to find a quite place. We can hear noise sound almost everytime. The highway will never be quite of (5)transportation sound. For example, Jakarta, Surabaya, and Malang always have (6)traffic jam in every part of the highway. As we know that many people who live in the city (7)is rich people. Each family almost has more (8)that one transportation. They feel lazy to use (9)public transportation. It makes traffic jam getting worse over time. Not only that, but also from people who live in the city will always increase. Because people think that when they come and live in a city, they will get job and money easily. It makes city more solid and crowded.

When the city becomes crowded, we will be quite difficult to find a free land without (10)high building or houses. It makes the nature of the city decreased. It will be more stressing when we can not find and see the nature, such as plants, (11)tries, flowers, and animals. An environment without nature will be (12)unblanced. It will be risk of flood, land side, dirty environment, and disease. Because we really need nature to make our live balance. We need trees to make our air clean, we need root to make the land strong, we need animals to make the ecosystem goes on. Because of crowded (13)transportation and dirty the air.

People who live in the city are known as individualism. Each person will only think about herself and himself. Because they are too busy with their jobs and money. They are careless with another people. They will think that thinking about other people (14)is useless. Maybe, we can find socialism people in the city, but it is not all of them. It makes more stressing and exhausting, when we onli live alone in the city. Living in a city is so stressing for our live. There are many things that will make us (15)thing twice to live in a city from the environment, people, and the (16)risk of natural disaster make a city really stressing for human life.

#### **Findings**

No	Grammatical Errors	Alternatives
1	entertainment	the entertainments
2	other	others
3	most busy	busiest
4	place	places
5	transportation sound	the transportation sounds
6	traffic jam	the traffic jams

7	many people who live in the city is rich people	many people who live in the city are rich people
8	that	than
9	public transportation	the public transportations
10	high building	the high buildings
11	tries	trees
12	unblanced	unbalanced
13	transportation	transportations
14	other people is useless	other people are useless
15	thing	think
16	risk of natural disaster	risks of natural disaster

### Discussions

The grammatical errors in the fourth essay is dominated by using the articles. The first error are in number 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 16. The second in number 2, 4, and 13, the grammatical are found in countable noun, that is add 's for that noun. The third grammatical error is on degree of comparison, such as number 3. The error are showed by adding the most on word busy. Based on the pattern, for short syllable in superlative form, only giving -est in the adjective (the + adj + est...).

The fourth grammatical error is about noun clause, like in number 7. Based on position of noun clause in sentence that is (subject +be/verb) noun clause (relative pronoun + S +V) the mistake in number 7 is in using be on the noun clause. The fifth grammatical error is about pronouns, such as number 14. It should be in plural form. The sixth grammatical error is about using countable or uncountable noun, like in number 16. In countable noun, we should add suffixes -s. In this essay also found ineffective sentences, such as in number 8, 11, 12, and 15.

### Data 5

Honesty is Important and the Power for All of Human

Honesty is a moral attitude for all of human. (1)Its very important, (2)straigh for (3)wardness of conduct, along with there is no lying. Honesty is very expensive cause a little (4)bite human who (5)apply it in their life.

Honesty (6)should started since child. The parent should (7)the children teach about the honesty cause (8)its very important for the future. For example we must apply the honesty in our life so the children can be (9)follow her parent cause theparent is a school for the children. We must tell with a good way (10)notangry cause it (11)make(12)her children afraid.

Honesty should teach in school also. (13)Cause it (14)make good (15)character for (16)a students (17)self. For example not lying with a teacher, friend, etc. If we can apply until adult we can have a good future and make(18)a friends (19)truthfully with us. And if we can apply it for power our life (20)an happy cause there is no friend hate us and our job is good. So the honesty is important for our life cause it (21)make(22)we are future is bright and if we can apply the power we can have a good future in our life.

### Findings

No	Grammatical Errors	Alternatives
1	Its	It is
2	straigh	straight
3	wardness	-
4	bite	bit

5	apply	applies
6	should	should be
7	the children teach	teach the children
8	its	it is
9	follow	followed
10	not	not to be
11	make	makes
12	her	their
13	cause	without cause
14	make	makes
15	character	characters
16	a	without a
17	self	selves
18	a	without a
19	truthfully	truthfulness
20	an	without an
21	make	makes
22	we are	our

### Discussions

The fifth is the last data of this research. The first grammatical error is showed in using possessive adjective, like in number 1 and 8. Based on the function, possessive adjective should be followed by noun. The second is about passive form, such as number 6 and 9. Based on the pattern is (be + past participle/V3). Be in passive form should be suitable with the subject (plural or singular) and the tenses whether simple present or simple past.

The third is about simple present that is in number 5, 11, 14, and 21. Based on the pattern of simple present tense, for verbal sentences that are the subject (he, she, it personal pronoun) should add -s/-es (suffixes) in that verb. The fourth is about using definite and indefinite article. Like in number 16, 18, and 20. Article a is used before a word beginning with a consonant sound and for things we can count. Meanwhile, article an is used before a word beginning with vowel sound, before a word beginning with a silent 'h', and for things we can count. The fifth grammatical error is about countable and uncountable noun like in number 15. In countable noun, the noun or thing should be added by giving -s.

Beside of those grammatical errors, there are some error in written English, like in number 2, 4, and 6 and the inappropriate found in number 19. The word (truthfully) is adverb of manner that is used to explain the verb.

### 3. CONCLUSION

Based on the five essays above, the findings of grammatical error generally occur in the use of -s/-es at sentences of present verb, use of articles a, an (definite and indefinite) use of possessive, use of countable and uncountable non, writing passive sentences, use of comparison (degree of comparison), word selection plural and singular forms as well as a few words phrases, sentences with unclear meaning.

The influence's factor of grammar is the source language of the writers. It is major factor in grammatical errors, such as the use of article a and an (definite and indefinite).

The example of article in conversation:

Sue : "What do you bring?"

Jack : "I bring an umbrella"

The word an in this conversation

The word in conversation above is Indonesian means a. The reason uses that word because Jack already understand s what Sue means that the camera was moved and nothing else. In English is called the definite article.

The addition of -s/-es at the end of verb in the present context is also challenge for the writer. In Indonesian grammar does not happen. The following sentence is a clear description of the differences between the two languages.

Example A : Bety menulis sebuah surat

Example B : I write a letter

Example C : Bety writes a letter

A significant difference can be seen in the examples above. In example A, the subject does not influence form of the verb because Indonesian grammar does not recognize this rule. Example B is also the same, but the subject is not included in the category of a single third person. On the other hand, in example C subject of the sentence has an effect on changes to the existing verb. This changing will continue flexibly depend on desired of the time. That is why, this error often occurs. In this writing, the writer is still influenced by the grammar of source language.

The mistake of choosing prepositions is also common. The responsibility of this meaning is several prepositions in English that are considered the same in Indonesian. At and in are the example of several prepositions that have meaning in Indonesian.

At school : di sekolah

In school : di sekolah

The writers' mastery of word classes is also very important in writing a good essay in English. Errors in choosing words due to carelessness of the writer have an impact on the effectiveness of the written sentences. The dictionary is the solution for this problem, especially with software that can be accessed by internet, play store and stored as an offline application on android. Almost all dictionaries of this model are equipped with word classes that make easier for users.

Grammatical errors often occur in writing scientific articles. The translating process of essays from Indonesian to English is not an easy case. Indonesian grammar often give a big influenced on translation results. It should be concern for anyone who belongs to the academic circle. It is undeniable that mistakes are process of learning, but it is necessary that these mistakes can be resolved immediately, so the quality of essay can be further improved. It would be a shame if the results of thoughts and research did not reach the reader because of grammatical errors in essays that are key to complete picture of completely scientific writing.

#### 4. SUGGESTION

The practitioner should consider that the guided questions through spiral circle strategy may increase the students' ability on reading skill. It is suggested that through argumentative reading (extensive reading) approach can be improved the subconscious on communicative competence of the students. For the next researcher, hopefully they can do use the same approach in applying another skill of English, such who are the introvert students in receptive skills and productive skills.

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