

An Analysis of the Grammatical Errors in Articles' Abstract Writings of Indonesian Scholarly Journals

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ABSTRACT: This research was aimed to investigate the types and frequency of grammatical errors in articles' abstract writings of Indonesian Scholarly Journals. This research was categorized into a case study by using a qualitative descriptive approach. The data source of this research was the English abstracts of the journal's articles on one State College of Islamic Studies in Indonesia published in 2018. In order to analyze the data, the researcher used the theory of Burt and Kipsarsky namely surface strategy taxonomy to identify and classify the grammatical errors found. The results revealed that (1) the total number of the grammatical errors was 40 errors for four categories of the errors: omission, misformation, addition, and misordering and (2) the biggest error occurred mostly was the error of omission by the percentage of 50% and the smallest number was misformation error for about 10%. Thus, it could be concluded that the grammatical errors were frequently found in some articles' abstract writings of Indonesian Scholarly Journals that were written in English regarding to the analysis of surface strategy taxonomy.

KEYWORDS: *-Error Analysis, Grammatical Error, Surface Strategy Taxonomy, Articles' Abstract Writings*

I. INTRODUCTION

English as an International language seems to be used in all parts of the world by dominating the highest position as the respect to the world languages (Miar, 2003). This current issue of English is merely being considered by the world communities in order to be fluent as the English language users. On the other hand, by the development of English, it had been encouraged the world language users to acquire English as the second language or foreign language either. In doing so, the statistics collected suggests that about a quarter of the world's population is already fluent or competent in English, and this figure is steadily growing in the early 2000s that means around 1.5 billion people (Crystal, 2003).

Since it is believed that the role of English as an International language is used to get engaged in communication globally, the access to the global communication is considered to be involved by using English orally or written. In doing so, many people are encouraging themselves to be fluent in using English for the sake of communication purpose. Thus, the consideration of being good at English can be seen by the quality on how people use English on their writings.

Especially in Indonesia, many institutions have implemented foreign language role in writing of journal. Thus, the journals' writing has been ruled by the strict guidelines of each journal publisher. Particularly in abstract writing of journal's articles, some publishers are strictly suggested to use English or both English and Indonesia either. However, there are still a number of errors occurred in the abstract writing according to the grammatical category (Wulandari, 2014). Another research finding reveals that the cause of the grammatical errors is frequently dominated by the native language interferences and intralingual errors (Suhono, 2016). Therefore, there seems to be an analysis of the grammatical errors to identify and classify the numbers of error that might be occurred. Besides, it is also valuable to describe what kind of the errors mostly found in articles' abstract writings of journals. Thus, the research questions are further formulated as follows:

- What types of the grammatical errors found in articles' abstract writings of Indonesian Scholarly Journals?
- Which type of the grammatical errors mostly found in articles' abstract writings of Indonesian Scholarly Journals?

II. METHOD

2.1 Research Design

This research was categorized into a case study by using a qualitative descriptive approach that is focused on providing a detailed account of one or more cases (Johnson & Christensen, 2000). In carrying out this study, the researcher worked in identifying, describing, categorizing, explaining, and evaluating the grammatical errors found in the articles' abstract writings of Indonesian Scholarly Journals. In this research, the researcher only focuses on investigating the grammatical errors and describing the errors percentage found in articles' abstract writings of Indonesian Scholarly Journals.

2.2 Procedures

The procedures conducted by the researcher are starting with the act of collecting the data, identifying the grammatical errors in articles' abstract writings, categorizing the errors based on the surface structure taxonomy, quantifying each item of the errors, and calculating the errors' percentage.

2.3 Data Source

The data source of this research is the English abstracts of the journal's articles on one State College of Islamic Studies in Indonesia published in 2018. There are 5 abstracts collected as the data sources from 5 different journals by using purposive random sampling.

Table 1 Data Source of the Research

No	Journal Title	Title of the Article	Year
1	AKADEMIKA	PeppungsebagaiMekanismeDemokrasiLokalpadaMasyarakatMegouPa'TulangBawang	2018
2	ELEMENTARY	PengaruhStimulasiMendengarkanLagudanBernyayiterhadapPerkembanganBerbahasapadaAnakUsiaDini	2018
3	TARBAWIYAH	Sikap Spiritual Guru dalamPembelajaran (Studipada Guru Madrasah AliyahQodiriyahHarjoWinangunDempetDemak)	2018
4	ADZKIYA	AnalisisSistemPembayaanpada PerbankanSyariah	2018
5	FINANSIA	UpayaMenumbuhkanJiwaWirausahadalamRangkaPeningkatanNasabahBaitulMaalwaTamwil	2018

2.4 Data Collection

In this stage, the researcher gathered the data by visiting the journal online website of one State College of Islamic Studies in Indonesia. Then, the researcher decided to observe 5 articles' abstracts from 5 different journals published in 2018. In doing so, those articles are further being discussed in their abstract writings to find out the grammatical errors.

2.5 Data Analysis

Data analysis is regarded as the process of analyzing data in order to organize data for a further discussion. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses several errors analysis methods suggested by Gass and Selinker (2008), they are:

- Identifying the grammatical errors found in the journal article's abstract.
- Classifying the grammatical errors found in the journal article's abstract based on the surface strategy taxonomy suggested by Dulay, et. al. (1982) into four type error categories: omission, addition, misformation and misordering.
- Calculating the frequency of the grammatical errors found in the journal article's abstract. The frequencies of the errors are further showed in the table of Frequency of Errors.
- Calculating the percentage of the errors after gaining the data frequency. The formula used to analyze the error percentage is based on Gay's Theory (1992):

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

P = Percentage of each error

F = Frequency of errors based

N = Total of the whole errors

III. RESULTS

This result attempts to answer the first research question that is the types and frequency of grammatical errors found in the articles' abstract writings.

3.1 Grammatical Errors Found in the Journal Article's Abstract

There are 5 articles' abstract writings taken as the sample from 5 different journals. The first step that has been conducted was identifying the grammatical errors. Then, the errors were classified into the category of errors based on the theory of surface strategy taxonomy. After that, the researcher counted the frequency of errors found in the articles' abstract writings by each category of errors. (see Table 2)

Table 2 Frequency of Errors

No	Title of the Article	Year	The Frequency of Error Categories			
			Omission	Mis-formation	Addition	Mis-ordering
1	PeppungsebagaiMekanisme DemokrasiLokalpadaMasyarakatMegou Pa' TulangBawang	2018	2	1	3	4
2	PengaruhStimulasiMendengarkan LagudanBernyayiterhadapPerkembanganBerbahasa PadaAnakUsiaDini	2018	2	0	2	0
3	Sikap Spiritual Guru dalam Pembelajaran (Studipada Guru Madrasah AliyahQodiriyahHarjowinangunDempetDemak)	2018	9	1	1	1
4	AnalisisSistemPembayaanpadaPerbankanSyariah	2018	3	2	2	1
5	Upaya MenumbuhkanJiwaWirausahadal amRangkaPeningkatanNasabahBaitulMaalwaTamwil	2018	4	0	1	1
Total of Errors			20	4	9	7

From the table 2 above, it can be seen that there are four types of grammatical errors found in thearticles' abstract writings of Indonesian Scholarly Journals, namely: error of omission, error ofmisformation, error of addition, and error of misordering.In identifying the error of omission from those five articles, there are 20 errors found. These errors occurred in both two types of omission errors, they are: content word and grammatical word. Then, the next error found is in the category of misordering error by the number of errors is 7. For the further errors, it can be categorized as addition error by which it is counted for about 9 errors. Finally, the last category of errors found is misformation error by 4 errors counted. To sum up, the total number of errors found in 5 articles' abstract writings is 40 errors.

Another result provided below is attempted to answer the second research question that is investigating the biggest number of grammatical errors found articles' abstracts.

3.2 Grammatical Error Percentage

In line with the result provided in the table 2, the researcher further calculated the number of the grammatical errors found in those 5 articles by using percentage. The percentage was used to describe the biggest number of grammatical errors mostly found in the articles.In order to get the data of grammatical error's percentage, the researcher used the formula as follows:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

P = Percentage of each error

F = Frequency of errors based category

N = Total of the whole errors

Table 3 Percentage of Grammatical Errors

No	The Categories of Errors	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Error of Omission	20	50%
2	Error of Misformation	4	10%
3	Error of Addition	9	22,5%

4	Error of Misordering	7	17.5%
Total of Errors		40	100%

From the table above, the percentage of grammatical errors can be further described on the following diagram of Figure 1.

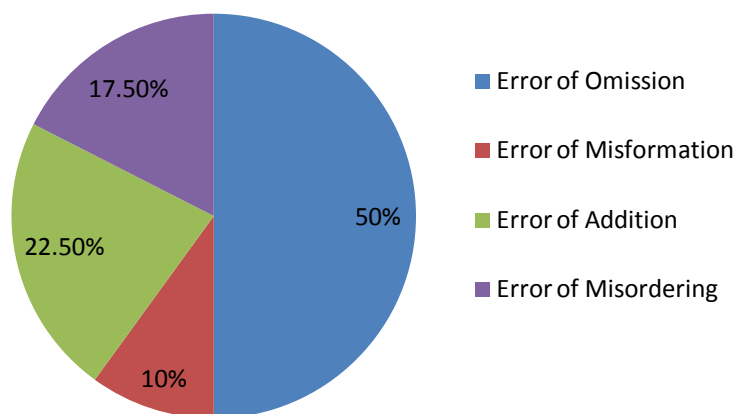


Figure 1. The percentage of grammatical errors in each type

Based on the data described in table 3 and figure 1, the first grade of the grammatical errors is mostly found in the category of omission error. It shows the percentage of 50%. Then, the next grade of errors is found in the category of addition error with the percentage of 22.5%. Furthermore, the third grade of errors is frequently found in the category of misordering error that shows the percentage of 17.5%. Finally, the fourth grade of error category is found in the error of misformation which is about 10%.

IV. DISCUSSION

4.1 Errors of Omission

Error of omission becomes the most frequently errors occur on the articles' abstract writings. The total error found of this category is 20 errors. The percentage of errors is 50%. In this category, the error occurs when the writer leaves off a necessary item that must be put together in the structure of morpheme or structure. In this articles' abstract writings, the omission of error is frequently found in the omission of content word (e.g. noun, verb, adjective, and adverb) and grammatical word (e.g. noun and verb inflection, verb auxiliaries, article, and preposition). Here are some examples of the omission error:

1. Language is one of aspects that *need* to be increased for the development of early childhood.
2. Personal Competences of teacher in the Regulation of the Minister of National Education in 2008 are faithful, cautious and Consistent in applying religious life and *tolerant*.
3. The importance of financial institutions as one of the pillars of the economy can be seen from various policies disbursement of business loan *funds* ^...^ *various* businesses.

In the sentence 1, the error is characterized as the omission of grammatical word since the word "need" is indicating the singular noun of "language". Hence, it must be in the form of "needs". Then, in the sentence 2, the writer puts the word "tolerant" as indicating the adjective word class. Thus, to be a well parallel structure, the word "tolerant" must be followed by noun word class that is "life" so it will be formed as "tolerant life" or as a noun "tolerance". Meanwhile, in the sentence 3, the preposition "in" is needed to complete the prepositional phrase of the italic bold words above.

4.2 Errors of Misformation

Error of misformation becomes the fourth grade of errors occur on the articles' abstract writings. The total error found of this category is only 4 errors. The percentage of errors is 10%. In this category, the error occurs when the writer uses the wrong form of a structure or morpheme. In this articles' abstract writings, misformation errors are found in the violation of rules transformation of verb. Here is the example:

- The Islamic finance and banking system *is* part of a broader concept of Islamic economics.

In the sentence 1, the verb auxiliary of “is” is not suitable for plural noun/subject. It must be “are” to indicate the subject of plural.

4.3 Errors of Addition

Error of addition becomes the second grade of errors occur on the articles’ abstract writings. The total error found of this category is 9 errors. The percentage of errors is 22.5%. In this category, the error occurs when the writer puts the words by the presence of items that should not be appeared in the structure or morpheme. Here is the example:

- A party *lack* lacking funds.

In the italic bold word of “lack”, the word is used as a predicate of the subject. Since the article “a” is put in the subject to indicate the singular one, so it is suggested to use the predicate form of lack by adding *-s* as the suffix, “lacks”.

4.4 Errors of Misordering

Error of misordering becomes the third grade of errors occur on the articles’ abstract writings. The total error found of this category is 7 errors. The percentage of errors is 17.5%. In this category, the error occurs when the writer puts incorrect placement of a morpheme in a sentence. Here is the example:

- What is the background of the tradition so that *for that so long* it can survive

In the italic bold phrase of “for that so long”, the phrase is misordered since the violation of grammatical structure is influenced by the L1 structure. It must be written as a part of the clause of “it can survive”. Thus, using adverb as the additional information of the clause is more appropriate to be written as follows: “it can survive any longer”.

Based on some previous study results, the greatest number of grammatical errors is omission error (Wulandari, 2014; Suhono, 2016). Related to the findings of this study, the results show that omission error is the most frequently error occurs in these articles’ abstract writings. It can be further discussed that the errors are influenced by some factors, such as: misconception of understanding the L2 structure and language interferences or negative transfer. Hence, those factors may cause the writer to do some errors in their writings. In short, the results of this research are indicating the same result as some previous studies.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings above, all the research questions were answered by showing the table and calculating the percentage of grammatical errors analysis. There the total errors occurred in the articles’ abstract writings are 40 errors. The most frequent error was found in the category of omission error that is 20 errors (50%). Then, the second category was found in the error of addition with the number of errors is 9 errors (22.5%). The third error was followed by the category of misordering error for its error found is 7 errors (17.5%). The last rank of errors with the smallest percentage was rarely found in the category of misformation error by the number of errors found is about 4 errors (10%). The findings of this present study indicate that there are still a number of errors probably made by the researchers in their abstract writings. Therefore, there is still a need for further study to investigate another factor that may influence the production of scholarly journal’s abstract writings in the EFL context.

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