AN ANALYSIS OF GRAMMATICAL ERROR ON STUDENTS' PERSONAL LETTER WRITING

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this research are to know the types, the frequencies, the factors of an error analysis and to find out how to improve the grammatical errors made by students on the use of article, preposition, and pronoun in writing personal letter on the eleventh grade of students of SMAN 3 Kabupaten Tangerang. The research used descriptive analysis method. There were 424 students as the population, and sample of this research consisted 70 students which are divided into two classes, and chosen by using random sampling. The writer found that the most common errors made by the students is use of preposition with the total number 30 errors or 54.54%. The second rate is the use of article with the total number 22 errors or 40.00%. The last is the use of pronoun with the total number 3 errors or 5.54%. The conclusion of this study is the students still made errors on the use of grammar in writing personal personal letter including the use of article, preposition, and pronoun.

Keywords: *error analysis, grammatical error, personal letter, writing skill*

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language which is widely used in many countries as a means of communication around the world and it has a great function in many aspect of life such as in business, education, and trade. Considering the importance of English, Indonesian government has chosen English as the first foreign language and fundamental subject in our educational system. English is taught as one of the main compulsory subjects in junior and senior high school. In the process of teaching and learning English, there are four skills that must be learnt by students, speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

Writing is one of the communication means in which the writer uses the language to express the ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Most of the students are difficult to express it in the written language. Written language is complex when the students make some sentence or paragraph. According to Javed, Juan, and Nazli (2013 : 130), writing skill is more complex or complicated. Meanwhile, Forsia (2018) students have difficulties in expressing their ideas and using correct structure in written language. It means, written language is complex when the students make some sentence or paragraph. Many students cannot get and generate their own idea. Usually some students have idea but cannot express it in their own sentence. They also have difficulties in arranging the idea into good order to form a good paragraph because they lack of vocabularies.

In this study, the writer analyzed students' writing about personal letter especially analyzed in grammar. To analyzed the grammar, the writer just focus in article, preposition, and pronoun. According to Betty Azar, a pronoun is used in place of noun. It is mean that pronoun is word used to replace noun in sentence which can be a person, object, animal,

place, or abstract concept. The next is preposition, according to Seaton and Y.H. Mew (2007:132) define preposition as a word that connects one thing with another, showing how they related. It is usually followed by a noun or pronoun. Meanwhile, Brown (2004:958) defines preposition as a word used to express some relation of different things or thoughts to each other and is generally placed before a noun or pronoun. Its mean a preposition is a word which shows relationship among other words in the sentence. The relationships include direction, place, time, cause, manner, and amount. The last is article, An article is a word used to modify a noun, which is a person, place, object, or idea.

From the explanation above, it appears there are several possible causes of the problem that can be identified by the writer such as they lack of writing skill and its organization because in writing learning process, students usually make some errors in their writing because the errors are cases which are difficult enough to avoid by the students. Many aspects that can cause the students make some error such as ignoring the rules, carelessness, and translations. However there are some students who have good skill in writing. They can make the sentences in correct grammar and follow the rules of writing well. They are students who have higher ability than others.

To avoid the students make the same error and to help the students to write the text better in the future. The teacher should know that factors that influence the error to improve their grammatical error in teaching writing and also to give them a better comprehension.

Based on the above explanation, the writer would like to conduct an analysis on students' personal letter which entitled "An Analysis of Grammatical Error on Students' Personal letter writing by Senior High School".

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Definition of Writing

According to Wilga cited in Ningsih (2004:35), writing is the expression of ideas in a consecutive way, according to graphic convention of the language, the ultimate aims of a written at this stage to be able to express himself in a polished literary from which requires the utilization of a special vocabulary and a certain refinement of a structure. Meanwhile, writing is a complex skill to learn and to teach, as a necessities the acquisition of many other skills (Kamelia et al., 2019). According to Meyers (2005), writing is similar to producing speech. It is a way of communicating with others through paper and expressing idea in a way that is comprehensible for the reader or the audience. Beside, Harmer (2006 : 79 – 80) add that writing is a basic language skill as important as speaking, listening, and reading.

Based on explanation above, writing is an activity to express one's thoughts, ideas, and feelings expressed in written language. In another sense, writing is an activity to express thoughts and feelings in written form that are expected to be understood by the reader and function as an indirect means of communication. Thus, it can be concluded that the notion of writing is an activity to convey ideas to readers in written language, so that the readers can understand it.

The Differences between Error and Mistake

According to Brown in Rustipa (2006), differentiaties between error and mistake. An error is a noticeable deviation, reflecting the competence of the learner. It is a systematic deviation made by learner who has not yet mastered the rules of the target language. The learner cannot self correct an error because it is a product reflective of hisor her current stage of L2 development or underlying competence. It has meaning, errors are used in a scientific context, errors are generally used in written language or

usually used in computer language, programming, and technology. For example, a students either wrote a sentence or did not use the correct grammar. This occurs not by intentional or unaware, this error because students do not know or understand the rules of the correct grammar. The students will not be able to correct the error until they understands it.

Meanwhile, a mistake refers to a performance error that is either a random guess or slip in that is a failure to utilize known system correctly. All people make mistakes, in both native and second language situations. Native speakers are normally capable of recognizing and correcting such mistakes, which are not the result of a deficiency in competence but the result of some sort of breakdown in the process of production. Its means, a mistake is used in the context of daily conversation than in formal situations more often used in spoken language such as someone making mistake or unintentional action. That is called a mistake; this mistake can be regretted after realizing it.

Based on the statement above, the writer concludes that error different from mistake. An error is a problem of students' learning language which they cannot correct it by themselves. Therefore they need explanation from the teacher, but mistake is a problem which someone or students in spoken language.

Types of Error

According to Dulay, Burt and Krashen in Afida (2006 : 15), describes the types of errors into four classifications. They are 1) Linguistic Category; 2) Surface Strategy Taxonomy; 3) Comparative Analysis; and 4) Communicative Effect. The writer only focuses on linguistic category because it type of errors give more contributions to this research than other types of errors.

The linguistic category classifies language errors based on linguistic components or certain linguistic elements that are affected by errors. The linguistic components include phonology (pronunciation), syntax and morphology (grammar), semantic and lexicons (meaning and vocabulary), and discourse (style).

Grammar

Grammar is an important element of a language. There are several definitions of grammar. According to Richards and Schmidt (2010:251-252), grammar is a description of the structure of a language and how language units such as words and phrases are formed into sentences. Meanwhile, according to Brinton (2000:8), grammar is a set of rules or principles of the working of a language; it's a system or structure.

Based on both definitions, grammar are structures or element of a language which are used to make a good sentence. Therefore, in studying language formally, grammar is a subject that should be studied in depth. The students need to be given adequate provision of grammar so that they have good language skills. The writer only focuses in using preposition, pronoun, and article.

Preposition

Seaton and Y.H. Mew (2007:132) define preposition as a word that connects one thing with another, showing how they related. It is usually followed by a noun or pronoun. Meanwhile, Brown (2004:958) defines preposition as a word used to express some relation of different things or thoughts to each other and is generally placed before a noun or pronoun.

Pronoun

According to Betty Azar, a pronoun is used in place of noun. It is mean that pronoun is word used to replace noun in sentence which can be a person, object, animal, place, or abstract concept.

Article

An articles is a word that is used with a noun to indicate the type of reference being made by the noun. English has two articles: "the and a/an". "The" is used to refer to

specific nouns. It was clear or beforehand. It used before countable or non-countable. While, a/an used in the non- specific or never explained before and used before singular countable noun. "The" the definite article and "a/an" the indefinite articles.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used qualitative research to find out students' errors in using article, preposition, and pronoun in writing personal letter and to explained how students use article, preposition, and pronoun in their writing.

The population of the research was the eleventh grade of SMAN 3 Kabupaten Tangerang in academic years 2018/2019. There are 12 classes which each class consists of 35 students. The total population are 424 students for the eleventh grade at this school. The writer only took two classes. They are XI IPS 1 and XI IPS 2. The writer take random sampling as the school recommended.

Procedure of Research

Analysis in this research concerned with article, preposition, and pronoun of errors, which are find in the students' personal letter. The steps in analyzing errors to guided analyzing obtain test and questionnaire. The writer made guidance as follows:
1. Explain the purpose and given the test to the students about personal letter.
2. Collected the results of the students writing.
3. Processed the error to be a data.
4. Give the questionnaire to the students that gets of errors in order to help the students to know how correct their error in using article, preposition, and pronoun.
5. Drawing the conclusion based on the category of error.

Data Analysis

Collecting data is a part of a process of supplying the primer data for necessary of the research. In qualitative data, the writer use simple statistical analysis to process the data. The formula which is used by the writer is :

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

Note:
P= Percent
F= Frequency of Errors
N= Total Number of the Whole Errors Evaluation

RESEARCH FINDINGS

This chapter explains the result of the research and discussion of findings that consist of data analysis and findings which explore about the result from data which have been analyzed. A writing test used to get the data in this research, which is The writer only focussed the analysis of the errors in using of article, preposition, and pronoun. The following is the result of the data that has been analyzed:

Table 1. Proportion of Errors Committed by Students

Category	Sub Categories	Frequen-cy	Percentage
Grammar	Article	22	40.00%
	Preposition	30	54.54%
	Pronoun	3	5.54%
Total		**55**	**100.00**

From From the 70 students, data of 55 errors were found. The dominant error classification was preposition use with the total number of 30 errors. The second rate is article with the total number of 22 errors. While, the last is pronoun with the total number of 3 errors. Based on the category, the total of errors can be classified in the following graph:
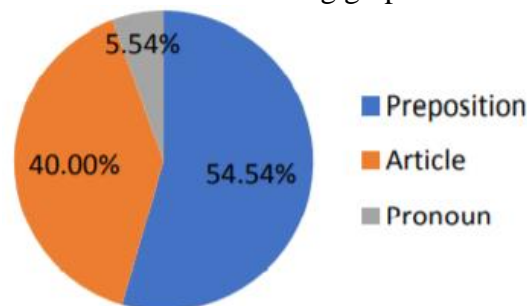
Picture 1. Percentage of Each Error Categories

The highest of grammatical errors is preposition with the percentage 54.54% errors. The second rate is article with the percentage 40.00% errors. The last is pronoun with the percentage 5.54%. Those grammatical errors classification is further explained below:

Preposition

Seaton and Y.H. Mew (2007:132) define preposition as a word that connects one thing with another, showing how they related. It is usually followed by a noun or pronoun. Meanwhile, Brown (2004:958) defines preposition as a word used to express some relation of different things or thoughts to each other and is generally placed before a noun or pronoun.

Some students demonstrated confusion for the right usage of prepositions as shown in the example below:

Table 2. Error on the Use of Preposition

Error Identification	Correction	Explanation
In October 5th 2018	On October 5th 2018	The preposition "on" is more specific than use of "in" because "in" is also commonly used when talking about centuries and months.
Please arrive by 5.30 pm	Please arrive at 5.30 pm	The appropriate to use "at" than used "by", because "at" is used to indicate a specific of time.

Pronoun

According to Betty Azar (1999), a pronoun is used in place of noun. It is mean that pronoun is word used to replace noun in sentence which can be a person, object, animal, place, or abstract concept.

Table 3. Error on the Use of Pronoun

Error Identification	Correction	Explanation
We hope you can give permission to you children	We hope you can give permission to your children	This sentence show that"you" is ownership, so it should use"your" to be more precise.
For more details, please check they contact	For more details, please check ours contact	Ours is more appropriate than they , because it show the ownership.

Article

An article is a word that is used with a noun to indicate the type of reference being made by the noun.

Table 4. Error on the Use of Article

Error Identificatin	Correction	Explanation
Large yard	A large yard	A/an used in the non-specific or never explained before and used before singular countable noun.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion above, the writer concludes several points as follows:

a. There were 55 found of errors in using articles, preposition, and pronoun. That has been identified by the writer in students personal letter at SMA Negeri 3 Kabupaten Tangerang.

b. There are some factors influenced the errors, the first is carelessness,

it happened because in the use of article, preposition, and pronoun. The second is ignoring the rules, it can be seen that the students had difficult to understand for the right usage and the students cannot distinguish the rules of grammar, especially when the students is writing personal letter and they cannot choose the right of grammar especially in article, preposition and pronoun to use in a sentence. The last is translation. Translation is one of causes of error. This happens because a student translates his first language sentence in to target language word by word.

SUGGESTION:
a. The writer hopes that the students can find a way to improve their grammatical errors on students writing personal letter especially in using article, preposition, and pronoun.
b. The students have to practice more in writing English

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