

**AN ANALYSIS OF PREPOSITIONAL ERRORS IN STUDENTS TRANSLATION  
AT ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM  
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF BENGKULU**

By:

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**Abstract**

The objective of this research was to find out the prepositional errors which found in the Students' Translation at English Language Education Study Program of Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu. The design of this research is descriptive method. The sample of the study is 50 students. The instruments would be used to collect the data in this research is Translation Test. The data of this research would be collected by doing the steps below. 1) The researcher came to class and gave greeting to students; 2) The researcher gave explanation about the purpose of the research; 3) The researcher gave the descriptive text in Bahasa Indonesia and in English to the students. There were four texts, two texts in Indonesian and two texts in English which the texts made by researcher. Each text consists of one paragraph; 4) The Researcher asked them to be translated. The researcher will give 45 minutes to the students to translate the texts. The researcher collected the students' translation. The results indicate that the the students' error in preposition is in the type of preposition of *place* and preposition of *time*. This finding because the students seem still confused to use and differentiate the types of the preposition that should be used in correct translation.

**Keywords:** *Preposition, prepositional errors, translation.*

**I. Introduction**

Preposition is a member of a set of words used in close connection with, and usually before nouns, and pronouns to show their relation to another part of a clause. According to Wren & Martin (2006:127), A preposition is a word placed before a noun or a pronoun to show in what relation the thing denoted by it stands in regard to something else. Preposition expresses a relation between two entities and one being that represented by the prepositional compliment. Preposition has various types of relational meanings, place, and time are the most prominent and easy to identify. Other relationship such as instrument and cause may be recognized.

Preposition can be divided into three main categories. They are simple prepositions, compound prepositions and phrase prepositions. Simple prepositions are prepositions that consist of one word,

such as *at, on, in, over, by*, etc. Compound prepositions which are generally formed by prefixing of preposition (usually **a** = no or **be** = by) to a noun, an adjective or an adverb such as *about, above, across, along, amidst, among, around, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, inside, outside, underneath, within, without*. Phrase prepositions are groups of words used with the force of a single preposition, such as *According to, along with, because of, away from, for the sake of, by means of, agreeably to, in front of, in case of, in order to, in additions to, in comparison to*, etc.

Prepositions, which indicate a relation between the noun it governs and another word, are very often followed by their complements. However, there is still an exception. This may be caused by its complement that has to take first position in the clause or due to the absence of clause or complement, e.g. *what hotel are you staying in?* This makes that prepositions are

also often termed as syntactic and semantic specification connecting words. The selection of a preposition is decided by the meaning of the syntactic elements that determine it and the meaning depends partly on the preceding syntactic elements and partly on the ones that follow.

Preposition in Indonesia is used to indicate a markedness between the front constituent and the back constituent. From the syntactical point of view, the prepositions exist in front of adjective, adverb or noun. Then, this group of words constitutes a prepositional phrase. In Bahasa Indonesia, each preposition has fewer functions than the case in English. Many kinds of preposition in Indonesia. According to Chaer (2008:96), there are nine kinds of preposition. There are: (a) preposition of pointer origin such as *dari*; (b) preposition as a bookmark whereabouts such as *pada, di, dalam, antara* and *atas*; (c) Preposition as perpetrators instructions such as *oleh*; (d) preposition of signpost destination such as *kepada, akan, ke, terhadap*; (e) preposition of marker tools or methods such as *dengan* and *berkat*; (f) preposition of pointer a problem such as *mengenai* and *tentang*; (g) preposition of marker comparison relations such as *daripada*; (h) Preposition of markers relationship cause – effect such as *hingga* and *sampai*; and (i) preposition of pointer or purpose such as *untuk, buat, bagi, and guna*.

In English also contain a preposition. According to Mukti in Dinazad (2014), kinds of preposition such as *with, of, on, in, at, from, out, over, to, until, up, after, into, onto, about, above, between, before, across, for, by, but, along, behind, among, around, beside, beyond without, outside, inside* etc. Base on the function, there are: (a) preposition of time such as *in, on* and *at*; (b) preposition of place such *in, on* and *at*; (c) preposition of directions such as *to, toward, trough* and *into*; (d) preposition of agent such as *by*; and (e) preposition of instrument such as *with*.

In translating Indonesian sentence to English students still have error in translating. For example students need to write in English “*Dia suka berlari di pagi hari*” which is written in English “*He likes to jog on the morning*”. Preposition *on-* is not proper with context and grammatical well. It happened because in Indonesia use preposition as agglutinative system where preposition *di-* can be used for all situations. Error that made by students in writing preposition called preposition error. Preposition error is things that occur because the students are not able to write. Preposition errors are also happen because students still got an influence from first language.

The objective of this research was to find out the prepositional errors which found in the Students’ Translation at English Language Education Study Program of Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu.

## II. Methodology

The design of this research is descriptive method, because in this research, the researcher described the contrastive analysis of prepositional errors in students’ translation at the sixth semester of English Language Education Study Program of Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu. According to Maxwell (1996), “the strength of qualitative research design derive primary from its inductive approach, its focus on specific situation or people, and its emphasis on words rather than number”. The subject of this ressearch is the sixth semester who has taken Translations and Interpretations subject at English Language Education Study Program in the Academic Year of 2016/2017. Total sample of the study is 50 students. The instruments would be used to collect the data in this research is Translation Test. Researcher gave two descriptive texts (1. Pantai Panjang, and 2 Benteng Marlborough). The text were in

Bahasa Indonesia and has to be translated into English.

### III. Finding and Discussion

#### A. Finding

After collecting the data and analyzed them, the researcher found that there were some errors of preposition used by the students in their translation. The errors are in preposition of place, preposition of time because only two types

of preposition used by the students in their translation tasks.

The students errors in preposition of place are in the use of *between*, *in* and *on*. The students' errors in preposition of time are in the area of *in*, *at*, *on*, *under*. Their errors are happened where the students miss the use of preposition many times.

The examples of students' errors in their use of prepositions are shown in the tables below.

##### a. Preposition of place

No	Error use	Correct use
1	It's <i>betwee</i> tapak Paderi beach	It's <i>around</i> Tapak Paderi beach
2	The story of war <i>at</i> Bengkulu	The story of war <i>in</i> Bengkulu
3	The visitors come from some place <i>on</i> Bengkulu	The visitors come from some place <i>in</i> Bengkulu
4	The beautiful sunsets <i>in</i> this beach	The beautiful sunsets <i>on</i> this beach
5	If they bring the children to play water <i>in</i> this beach	If they bring the children to play water <i>on</i> this beach

From the table, it can be indicated that the students miss using the preposition correctly because they cannot differentiate which one is correctly used when they translated the text from Indonesian into English. In no. 1, the students cannot use

and differentiate between the use of *between* and *around*. The students also get confused to use the preposition *at*, *on*, and *in* based on their function to refer to the position or place of the things.

##### b. Preposition of time

No	Error use	Correct use
1	Fort Marlborough was built by England Colonial <i>on</i> 1714-1719.	Fort Marlborough was built by England Colonial <i>in</i> 1714-1719.
2	..also known that <i>on</i> it's period	..also known that <i>in</i> it's period
3	<i>At</i> holiday this beach very crow...	<i>On</i> holiday this beach very crow...

The table above shows that the students also made the errors in using preposition when they translate the text. It can be seen that they still confused when to use *in* and *on*. The use of *on* could be to show 'month' not 'year' (example 1 and 2). For example no. 3, *at* should be used for specific time of hours, not for the specific days.

#### B. Discussion

From the data that had been analyzed, the students describe them in detail discussion. The description are:

##### a. The use of preposition of place.

Examples:

- a. It's *between* tapak Paderi beach.  
The correct one is It's *around* tapak Paderi beach.

From the example, the students cannot differentiate the use of *between*, and *around*. *Between* is used to place something between two objects. For example the Marlborough fort is located *between* Tapak Badri and Pasar Bawah. However, in example a, the students should use *around* because the position of Marlborough fort is around many objects. According to McCarthy (2008) **Between** means 'in or into the space which separates at least **two** places, people or objects.' Meanwhile, preposition *around* is used to show objects in a circle and near, approximately.

- b. The story of war *at* Bengkulu. The students should write The story of war *in* Bengkulu since *in* here is telling about the location of a province. Here, preposition *in* is used with city or town names (Beare, 2017).
- c. The visitors come from some place *on* Bengkulu. It has similarity with the example B.
- d. The beautiful sunsets *in* this beach. Here the students should write The beautiful sunsets *on* this beach.
- e. If they bring the children to play water *in* this beach. The students should write. If they bring the children to play water *on* this beach.

#### b. Preposition of time

From the examples displayed in the column, the researcher can explain that the students seem that the students also did not know well how to use the preposition correctly that can be reviewed from the example.

1. Fort Marlborough was built by England Colonial *on* 1714-

1719. The students should write Fort Marlborough was built by England Colonial *in* 1714-1719. This error because the students still confused to differentiate the preposition in *year* and in *month*. Here, Use "on" with specific days of the week or year (Beare, 2017)

2. ..also known that *on* it's period. The students should write ..also known that *in* it's period.
3. *At* holiday this beach very crow...the students should write *On* holiday this beach very crow...this happen because the students cannot differentiate the use of preposition for specific day. Here, Use "on" with specific days of the week or year (Beare, 2017)

## IV. Conclusion and Suggestion

### A. Conclusion

The researcher concluded the the students' error in preposition is in the type of preposition of *place* and preposition of *time*. This finding because the students seem still confused to use and differentiate the types of the preposition that should be used in correct translation.

### B. Suggestions

There are several suggestion that the research could give in this research, they are:

1. Students are suggested to develop their skills in using preposition by reading much about the materials.
2. Translation, Writing, and Grammar lecturers, they could encourage the students to facilitate them to study well especially in using types of preposition.

3. Further researcher

It is suggested to the further researcher to conduct similar research by using observation list as the instrument of the research to get more valid data.

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