A STUDY OF SYNTACTIC ERRORS IN ENGLISH PRODUCED BY NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS USING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

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Abstract

The study investigated syntactic errors in English produced by non-native speakers using social media platforms. To collect the data, the researcher analyzed based on the students' opinions in Whatsapp group. The partcipants of the research were the students of Islamic Institute Darul A'mal Lampung. There were 15 participants of English Education Department. The results showed that there were 15 syntactic errors based on their chatting. Syntactic error could be caused by intralingual factors, which are limited vocabulary knowledge, weak grasp of English grammar, sentence structure mistakes, punctuation errors, and confusion about different types of clauses. To reduce students' sentence errors, teachers can increase students' awareness of the differences between first and second language rules. Additionally, it is recommended that teachers explicitly teach sentence types and common sentence errors through sentence combination tasks. These strategies can be effectively implemented if teachers use engaging teaching methods and techniques.

Keywords: Error Analysis, Social Media Platforms, Syntactic Error

Introduction

In the globalization era, social media can be used as communication tool to communicate with others. In teaching learning process, students can improve their languge especially in English. The varieties of media are the result of rapid technological progress and development. Social media provides many advantages. It is supported by (Justina & Phil, 2016) stated that using social media makes the user get many effects for themselves. There are example of social media. They include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and WhatsApp. Among the mentioned social media platforms, WhatsApp stands out for its numerous features that help students enhance their skills quickly. It is enabling them to share pictures, videos, and text messages. (Ta'amneh, 2017) stated that stated that WhatsApp has spread for the most part among youngsters who are students and use it is as an amusement and entertaining device.

In addition, Whatsapp is an application that allows users to send a message through an internet connection. Besides, students can join in

groups to share and discuss something. It effects for improving their communication in written form. They can apply their daily status feature to make an English opinions in heir Whatsapp group. Sometimes, the lecture gives task in Whatsapp group to discuss about one of th object. Then, the students give their sugestions about it. For instance, they are lack of making correct sentence based on grammatically. They are no able to apply many sentences and less attention to proper punctuation. One of the reasons students make some errors is a lack of writing English comprehensive knowledge. Furthermore, another statement support the previous reserch that was conducted by (Saputra, 2021). He conducted research to discussed the data about students' sentence errors when they create an English story on WhatsApp. The data obtained from e-Perpusnas, research gate, science direct, and Google scholar. Interlingual and intralingual factors are error sources of students' WhatsApp daily status.

WhatsApp is a messaging application, similar to other social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Line, and Telegram. It enables users to send text messages, images, videos, and even make video calls, all via an internet connection. WhatsApp can be utilized as a tool for teaching and learning due to its various features. According to (Maulina dkk., 2021), WhatsApp can uphold unconstrained correspondence, the trading of pictures, and the sharing of catching video cuts in instructing and learning exercises.

In addition, (Alshammari dkk., 2017) states that WhatsApp is an informing application for savvy gadgets that can be utilized as an option in contrast to SMS. However, like other applications, WhatsApp also has its limitations. Unlike platforms such as Zoom or Google Meet, it does not support video conference presentations. While WhatsApp offers a video call feature, it isn't ideal for presentations due to the limited number of participants it can accommodate and the lack of a feature to share or display materials during the call.

In English language context, the written message in understood if the sentences are constructed according to the rules of syntax. Therefore, ny disagreement with the syntactic rules is called syntax errors. In writing, syntax complexity is defined as the ability to produce writings that present the ideas and the large chunks of information blended together with the use of subordinate and embedded subordinate clause (Sotillo, t.t.)

Errors occur when students freguently do not use the structure of language correctly (Calanoga & Arellano-Tamayo, t.t.). Errors are consistent mistakes in grammar that reflect students' understanding of the target language. Errors reveal how students acquire a language, helping teachers to define learning objectives and enhance their instructional strategies. It can be supported by Errors can reflect students' proficiency in the target language and provide insights into teaching methods, the effectiveness of instruction, and evaluation strategies.

Besides, another previous research was conducted by (Yusuf dkk., t.t.) which states that the students' error when their mother tongue influences their language development. To sum up, the causes of students' sentence errors are incomplete knowledge and influenced by mother tongue. The Error Analysis procedures were used to analyze the grammatical errors in the students' essays. The errors were classified into omission, addition, misformation, and misordering categories, which are based on the surface strategy taxonomy. The results showed that the most dominant errors committed by the students were of the omission type (61.04%), followed by misformation (18.78%), addition (16.85%), and misordering (3.31%).

The last previous research was conducted by (Ngangbam, 2016), the study examined the English syntactic problems persistent in the written performance of freshmen English language class of Mutah University. The results showed performance problems committe in this study were due to mother- tongue interference, misuse sentence fragment, overuse, lack of grammatical knowledge, formation and development errors.

Based on the description above, the researcher will focus on a study of syntactic errors in English produced by non-native speakers using social media platforms. The students make a Whatsapp group and the researcher analyzes their sentences based on the grammatically. It includes on syntactic sentences errors in English that produced by the students of Islamic Institute of Darul A'mal Lampung using Whatsapp platforms.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design of this study is qualitative; this design is known to focus on understanding social phenomena from the perspective of the participants in the study. Method consists of the type of research, data, and technique of collecting data, instrument, procedure, and analysis method of data. Students' sentences error on WhatsApp is the main focus in this study that selected by the researchers. The subject of the research is the students of English Education Department that consist of 15 participants at Islamic Institute Darul A'mal Lampung. Since, the study focuses at investigating the problematic areas of syntactic errors committed in writing compositions, the researcher postulated a set of syntactic error categories to be analysed. They are noun-phrase errors, sentence structures errors, and word order errors. The data was analyzed by steps as follows; data collection, identification of rrors, classification of errors, a statement of errors frequency, and methods of collecting data.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

FINDING

The study analyzed the syntactic errors found in students' sentences produced by non-native speakers on social media platforms, specifically focusing on Whatsapp. The data were collected from 15 students of their

sentences on Whatsapp group. The errors were categorized based on Richard's Theory(Richards, 1971) including subject-verb greement, tense error, sentence fragment , run-on sentence, and misordering. The data were classified below. They were as follows;

Table 1.1 The students' Sentences Errors in Whatsapp group of English Education Department

Students' Sentences on Whatsapp Platform	Classification of Errors
In my opinion, there are two, namely positive and negative, for example, positive examples such as helping human performance such as online trading and so on, an negative, there are lots of hoax opinions spread on various social media.	Incorrect: Positive examples such us (syntactic error) Correct: Positive examples are such as (adding verb after subject) Incorrect: An negative (article error) Correct: The negative impact
In my opinion. This social is important for us. But, it depend on our needs.	Incorrect: It depend on (syntactic error) Correct: It depends on (singular verb in subject-verb agreement)
In my opinion, social media is an amazing tool for staying connected with the people in your life. It's great for staying up-to-date on friends' and family members' lives, sharing pictures and memories, and even making new connections.	Incorrect: Friends' and family members' lives (syntactic error) Correct: Friends' and family's member live (plural verb in subject-verb agreement)
Social media is important for us. There is a lot of be gained from using it. For example, getting the latest news, promoting merchandise or business, interacting with friends and relatives, and uploading selfies.	Incorrect: There is a lot of (syntactic error) Correct: There are lot of (plural verb in subject and verb agreement)
Yes miss, I got it, with social media, I don't need to go around selling my wares. Responding to hoaxes on social media, we need to find the truth first, clear facts or just opinions,	Incorrect: I got it (syntactic error) Correct: I get it (present form)
In my opinion, social media is good because you can find out the latest information and make it easier to stay in touch and save memorable photos.	Incorrect: It make it easier (syntactic error) Correct: It makes it easier (singular verb in subject-verb agreement)
Yes, I think this is very important for the us, because social media was	Incorrect: Social media was created

created from the us, so indirectly the whole world is using this alternative, even though it is said to make communication easier, in fact this social media actually has a bad impact on people all over the world, for example, lack of clarity, news that causes misundersanding	(syntactic error) Correct: Social media is created (present form)
Yes, because social media can expand access to information and learning resources, facilitate collaboration between students, enable faster communication between students and teachers, and also, social media introduce innovative and interesting learning methods through various platforms	Incorrect: Social media introduce innovative and interesting learning methods (syntactic error) Correct: Social media introduces innovative and interesting learning methods (singular verb in subject-verb agreement)
Social media important and useful as long as we are wise in using it	Incorrect: Social media important and useful (syntactic error) Correct: Social media is important and useful (singular verb in subject-verb agreement)
Yes, because there is a lot of information in the form of short videos or long education videos	Incorrect: There is a lot of information (syntactic error) Correct: There are a lot of informations (plural verb in subject and verb agreement)
Yes, it makes it easier for us to get news quickly, for example regarding impoant noifications	Incorrect: It makes it easier for us to get news quickly (syntactic error) Correct: It makes it easier for us to gets news quickly (singular verb in subject and verb agreement)
There is many applications in social media. Instagram is importan for me because it covers everything in other applications.	Incorrect: There is many application (syntacic error) Correct: There are many applications (plural verb in subject and verb agreement)
Instagram is importance application because it provides the latest information and just like the appearance	Incorrect: It just like the appearance (syntactic error) Correct: It just likes the appearance
The people who didn't use technology often missing information	Incorrect: The people who didn't use (syntactic error) Correct: The people who don't use (present form)
Diferent way of thinking and living	Incorrect: different way of

life, because in everyday life people are now assisted by technology in almost all areas, for example in cooking, washing and so on.	thinking and living life (syntactic error) Correct: It is different way of thinking and living life (subject-verb agreement)

(Source: The students' sentences in Whatsapp group of English Education Department)

DISCUSSION

Based on the data above, there were 15 opinions based on the students' chatting in Whatsapp group. The students gave their opinions about social media. The results showed that there were 15 syntactic errors based on their chatting. Syntactic error could be caused by intralingual factors, which are limited vocabulary knowledge, weak grasp of English grammar, sentence structure mistakes, punctuation errors, and confusion about different types of clauses. Other contributing factors are low motivation, insufficient time for reviewing class materials at home, too much focus on basic sentence drills, and a lack of attentiveness in class. Furthermore, it's not surprising that students make errors in learning a second language due to intralingual factors, as this has been supported by previous research findings. It is supported by (Hussain & Hanif, 2013) stated that it was also shown that the errors made by students were a result of the internal processes involved in learning a second language, rather than the influence of their first language (L1)

The second finding relates to the epistemological aspect of this study. While previous research has focused on examining students' errors from their own perspectives, this study distinguishes itself by exploring the nature of students' sentence errors from the teachers' viewpoints. In other words, this research offers a more holistic understanding of the nature of students' errors.

The pedagogical implications of this study are quite clear. To reduce students' sentence errors, teachers can increase students' awareness of the differences between first and second language rules. Additionally, it is recommended that teachers explicitly teach sentence types and common sentence errors through sentence combination tasks. These strategies can be effectively implemented if teachers use engaging teaching methods and techniques that motivate students to take learning correct sentence formation seriously in the classroom.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

CONCLUSION

The present study investigated syntactic errors in English produced by non-native speakers using social media platforms. It could be concluded that the sudents faced difficulties in syntactic error. Syntactic error could be caused by intralingual factors, which are limited vocabulary knowledge, weak grasp of English grammar, sentence

structure mistakes, punctuation errors, and confusion about different types of clauses. They still confused to determined the subject-verb agreement in the sentence. To reduce students' sentence errors, teachers can increase students' awareness of the differences between first and second language rules. Additionally, it is recommended that teachers explicitly teach sentence types and common sentence errors through sentence combination tasks. These strategies can be effectively implemented if teachers use engaging teaching methods and techniques.

SUGGESTION

Further the study may focus on comparing syntactic errors across diferent platforms like Instagram or Facebook, age groups, or proficiency levels. A longitudinal study could also explore whether users' syntactic accuracy improves over time through frequent online interaction in English.

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