

## **ERROR ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' WORKS IN PAPER WRITING CLASS 2021**

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### **Abstract**

This research purported to identify, describe and analyze several errors committed by students enrolling in Paper Writing Class held in the year 2021 at STBA LIA Yogyakarta. Three paragraphs of works submitted by the students, which can best represent the typical mistakes committed by learners of English as a second language, were purposively selected and evaluated. The data collection method in this research relied on documentation. The data analysis method incorporated the three steps data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions. The results of the research indicated that the students were not very proficient in constructing sentences with a passive voice, maintaining a subject-verb agreement, and using prepositions in their compositions. In several cases, unnecessary additions also rendered their sentences grammatically incorrect. The use of software aid like Grammarly, peer review, and proofreading before a submission is highly recommended to avoid repeating similar mistakes and to improve the overall quality of the works.

***Keywords: error analysis, students, paper writing***

### **Introduction**

Writing has been a challenge to many ESL students. Not only do we have to learn to build and articulate ideas, but presenting our ideas using suitable expressions and wordings while also maintaining grammatical correctness and other literal considerations at the same time may give a shiver to newbies. Add to this is the requirement of writing an academic paper that demands a certain structure to be followed. Little wonder, some students faltered and when their lecturer said they must reconstruct their essay from the very beginning, many would start over again only with even a much bigger hesitation to write.

Research by Nurwahida (2018) reveals that students who learn English as a second language (ESL) often make mistakes such as omitting or misusing articles, applying the wrong tenses, parallelism, and subject-verb agreement. Wahyuni (2014) indicates that students in Indonesia tend to commit tenses errors in writing, which could be partially due to either an incomplete learning process (developmental) or simply not exercising enough

effort to check their works for errors. Simple grammatical mistakes like tenses can be avoided by consulting software such as Grammarly or relying on peer review, unfortunately, many students often write in haste and do not bother to proofread before submitting.

Other books focusing on writing such as the one written by Strunk (2011) indicates that many writers often use unnecessary words; an academic paper ideally should be concise without superfluous words that do not add to understanding. Students sometimes also misuse words, that is, use them not according to their semantic meaning and as a result reduce the readability level of their sentences.

Whenever students make mistakes, analyzing their errors can be very beneficial both to the students themselves and to researchers interested in teaching English as a second language alike. By analyzing other works, students can develop proofreading skills and editorial insight. This can significantly improve the quality of their own articles. Researchers and lecturers, on the other hand, can provide basic suggestions to help their students identify their own weaknesses and strength in writing. A such, error analysis should be an integral part of ESL study, and based on the results, a specific set of practices and courses can be developed to help students avoid similar errors in the future.

### **Research Methodology**

In this qualitative study, the research subjects are written works submitted online by students of STBA LIA Yogyakarta participating in Paper Writing Class 2021. The research object is the grammatical errors and other types of errors found in their writings. The researcher acts as the research instrument.

The data collection method in this research relied on documentation. All students of STBA LIA enrolling in paper writing class were required to write papers and submit them to the lecturer for grading. Some notable errors were purposively selected for this research.

Data analysis in this research followed a method developed by Miles & Huberman (2014) comprising data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions. Data reduction is accomplished by selecting the erroneous parts in a sentence. Data display is accomplished by presenting all relevant issues and error classification in tables. Conclusions are drawn by analyzing the results using grammatical rules or other relevant linguistic concepts. Explanation and solutions and/or alternatives are also discussed to reveal the underlying problems.

### **Result & Discussion**

In this section, three paragraphs from several essays written by students in the year 2021 and submitted for Paper Writing class are examined. Some major errors are identified and analyzed after a whole paragraph quote. Each number represents a single error committed by the writers.

The first is about the pros of online shopping. By online shopping, you can choose the items you want easily. You can choose a variety of fashion models from vintage clothes, to the latest models that yesterday showed on the fashion weeks without going out and walking far around the store that takes a long time. You can do it only by suffering from your gadgets at your home, this is very useful because it saves your energy, as well as your time in shopping. In addition, the other convenience that you will get if you purchase something online is you can also buy goods or services from another country without having to go there. Because of free trade, we can buy and even sell goods or services to other countries easily. You can also make payments very easily by using your electronic payment card so you don't have to make complicated payment methods. Only from home and your gadgets, you can buy goods or services with a more varied type and does not take a long time

	Quotation	Type of error	Analysis
1.	Showed on the fashion weeks	passive voice and preposition	The correct passive form for show is shown; the correct preposition is in instead of on
2.	The store	Definite article, plural noun	The can be omitted since it does not refer to anything specific or mentioned before, the plural form stores should be used instead of its singular form store
3.	Suffering from your gadgets	Mistyping verb and incorrect preposition	surfing with your gadget is the intended meaning
4.	the other	plurality	Another is preferable since it refers to one thing only
5.	And does not take a long time	missing subject	English needs a subject, it usually serves the purpose (as in it does not take a long time)

Movie industry now is big and various, there is many movies that produced every years with different genres and topics that they discuss. There is many movies that bring the issue about gender equality in it such as Hidden Figures, Mulan, Bombshell, Brave, and Legally Blonde. These movies explain much about gender equality, they discuss about some things that people think women

cannot able to do it and also break people's negative stigma about women. For instance, in movie Hidden figures that based on the true story tells about a black woman who worked at NASA with her two other friends. During their work, they have to face discrimination and also racism. One of the example is that the toilet that three of them use are separated with another people. This movie shows that not only women are often experience discrimination in their work place compared with men.

	Quotation	Type of error	Analysis
6.	Big and various	word choice	Various cannot be considered plainly wrong in this context, but assuming that the author wishes to convey the greatness in the variety of movies produced in Hollywood, diverse is the more suitable adjective.
7.	There is many movies	subject-verb agreement	Movies is a plural word and are should be used instead of is.
8.	That produced every years	passive voice & plural form	Being should be inserted between movies and produced, and the use of that becomes unnecessary (there are many movies being produced every year); notice also that the sentence uses years after every, which denotes singularity.
9.	That they discuss	addition	That they discuss can be deleted from the sentence without a change in meaning.
10.	Women cannot able to do it	addition	Able to is not grammatically necessary for this sentence.
11.	That based on true story	passive voice	Grammatically this should be written as the movie was based on a true story which requires the use of was and the past participle based plus an article a.
12	Women are often experience discrimination	addition	The sentence is fine without the addition of are. Using are in the sentence is not grammatically required, and readers may assume that the writer confuses this sentence with its possible passive counterpart (women are often discriminated...).

Each people, woman, and man must have emotions that are shown every day. There are so many types of emotions such as happy, angry, afraid, sad, crying, etc. Women and men, it's very natural for them to express the same emotions. For example, is crying, both of them can have and show sadness with crying. However, some people think that crying is something that men shouldn't show. It is a cultural pressure for men to behave in a certain way or commonly called toxic masculinity.

	Quotation	Type of error	Analysis
13.	Must have emotions	addition	The use of must is not necessary; the phrase have emotions sufficiently indicates a normal mental state
14.	Shown every day	word choice	Felt instead of shown is the better choice and reflects the more realistic situation in life.
15.	happy, angry, afraid, sad	word from	The correct form is noun (happiness, anger, fear, sadness)

As many as 15 errors have been identified, described, and analyzed in this paper. The errors can be grouped into several grammatical errors such as subject-verb agreement, plurality, and passive voice. Another type of mistake such as word choice is somewhat harder to tackle. Students cannot basically rely on themselves and on their peers to evaluate their work in this respect, since a degree of higher fluency and mastery of English lexemes are required to provide assistance and relevant alternatives. Words might be synonymous, each synonym presents a certain nuance to their readers and thus warrants a particular usage and context not possible with other alternatives; learning this demands exacting comprehension and experience.

## Conclusion

The result of the research confirms the findings from previous research on a similar topic. A study by Hermini (2015), for instance, reveals that students at the university level often made mistakes with regard to the correct use of verbs and prepositions. To avoid repeating similar errors, students should be encouraged to proofread after writing and make use of peer review. Software aid such as Grammarly can be constantly advised to promote more grammatically consistent output. Reading should ideally study words in context, and if possible, identify the limit of its scope and application in academic papers, and study other alternatives, which may be synonymous but not interchangeable, to enrich and strengthen their writings further.

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