

ABSTRACT

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The main purpose of this study is to find the most dominant type of errors made by the second year students of English Department of Padang State University in writing argumentative essay. Besides, the writer also gives correction to those errors and hopes that the students can prevent committing errors when they write an argumentative essay in the future.

This research was conducted to 34-second year students of English Department of Padang State University. The writer chose them as subjects of the research because they have already taken writing subject concerning with writing argumentative essay in the previous semester.

This error analysis uses theory proposed by John Langan in his book entitled "College Writing Skills with Readings" which was published 1997. This analysis refers to the four bases in writing essay; they are unity, support, coherence, and sentence skill.

The results show that the most dominant type of errors committed by the students in writing argumentative essay is related to the sentence skill or grammatical structure. 264 errors or 92 % of 287 errors are about grammatical structure. Errors in coherence come in the second place; its amount is 14 errors or about 5. Next is errors which are related to supporting ideas with 5 errors or about 1.7 %. Error in unity is the least dominant type of errors found in the argumentative essay made by the second year students of English Department of Padang State University. Only 4 errors or 1.3 % of 287 errors are found.

The results reveal that the second year students of English Department of Padang State University has good ability in developing and organizing ideas; however they have the very significant weakness in mastering English structure.