

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

Making errors is the most natural thing in the world and it is evidently attached to the human being. It is usually be a necessary part of learning moreover in English learning process. Human learning is fundamentally a process that involves the making of mistakes, misjudgments, miscalculations, and erroneous. It is not only errors but also mistakes. In order to analyze learner's language in an appropriate perspective, it's crucial to make a distinction between mistakes and errors, which technically are two very different phenomena.

According to James, "A mistake refers to a performance error that is either a random guess or a slip in that". It is a failure to utilize a known system correctly. An error, a noticeable deviation from the adult grammar of a native speaker, reflects the competence of the learners.

English learners who ask, "John cans sing". It's all in likelihood reflecting a competence level, in which all verbs required *s* for the third person in the present tense, but it is an overtly idiosyncratic sentence and it can be called an error that reveals a portion of the learning competence in the target language.

Learning a foreign language like English, of course, takes times. English as an International language is not new for Indonesian students because it is a compulsory subject which is taught since kindergarten until Students College.

However, there are many students who still can't use English well. In practice, students are still making errors when they are using English especially in written forms. Focuses on learning packages aimed at students who are learning English as foreign language, these errors made can be caused by their carelessness about using a good structural or they are in a rush. This learning can be as evaluation of materials for learners, awareness of the needs of teachers in terms of teaching training (Taylor, 2002: 306).

Writing is the production of the written word in the form of text and it must be read and comprehended in order to communicate. Writing is as the reflection of the language users' cultural background. When students are writing, they express what are on their minds and feel. Writing is not an easy thing to do. It needs some guidances such consulting with dictionaries in choosing the appropriate words to be written; books of grammar in avoiding the erroneous of structural; or consulting with the people who are expert in grammar.

Error, it is often found in writing thesis as the final assignment for students' college. Students' mastery in Indonesia and English is not same proportion. It can be that Indonesian students who are learning English are affected by Indonesia ways of thinking. These errors can be recognized by syntactic means. These are perhaps here that the native-language modeling which is described by Catt (1988) might be effective. The range of possibilities goes from several dozen rules to an extensive system of English grammar modeling.

In writing, students are expected to concern about grammatical structure rather than in speaking where they are expected to be able to communicate with

another effectively and fluently without worrying grammatical relations such as about agreement or tense shifting.

Based observation that is often seen by the writer in Faculty of Language at State University of Medan, from the whole theses it is found that there are some syntactical errors in writing thesis. The thesis, of course, the thesis which is written in English. They belong to graduate students' theses – Applied Linguistics and English Department. The researcher chooses graduate students' thesis to be analyzed because it is the final work which is as product of their writing skill as well as their skill in constructing sentence well. The researcher believes that the students who learn syntax study have to write sentence well, but the fact shows that their thesis have errors in the sentence construction. Syntactical error is a confusion in part of speech. Some of the errors are difficult to categorize unambiguously, however an error in word meaning may be caused by ignorance of just one word, but it effects are sometimes global: that is the entire sentence may be affected in unpredictable ways (Ruth Sanders, 1987).

1. Human beings known as a novelist, dramatist or short story writers have created literary works.
2. To obtain the validity of the test of the following correlation product moment by person is used.
3. Subject and auxiliary verb are regularly ordered to indicate whether a sentences is in the interrogative form.

The above examples are not only a matter of formula in each sentences but also the omission, addition, misformation, disorder and transformation, so the

errors of the examples given is sentence (1) The error is in omission that is omission in verb phrase, which is in 'be' and transformation in passive voice pattern, then the correct sentence must be "Human beings are known as a novelist, dramatist or short story writers have created literary works". Syntactic error in (2) is disorder, and then the correct sentence must be "To obtain the validity of the test of the following correlation product moment is used by person". Sentence (3) is addition of 's' in singular nouns. There is an addition of the unimportant object when it is in numeralization. The correct sentence must be "Subject and auxiliary verb are regularly ordered to indicate whether a sentence is in the interrogative form".

From this observation, the writer is interested to take this problem so that from the errors analyzed, it can improve the students' knowledge of mastering grammar in writing. The writer assumes that this study becomes a useful research and makes students understand about grammar.

B. The Problems of Study

Based on explanations above, the problems of the study are formulated as following:

1. What are the types of the graduate students' syntactical errors in writing thesis?
2. What are the dominant types of the graduate students' syntactical errors in writing thesis?

C. The Objectives of Study

Related to the problems, the objectives of this study are to find out:

1. The types of the graduate students' syntactical errors in writing thesis
2. The dominant types of the graduate students' syntactical errors in writing thesis.

D. The Scope of Study

The study is limited on the area of error which is focused on syntax based on the classification of surface strategy taxonomy proposed by Dulay, Burt, and Krashen based on Politzer and Romirez theory as guideline. The analysis of syntactical errors are limited in the area of chapter 1, chapter 3, chapter 4 and chapter 5.

E. The Significance of Study

The findings of this study are expected to be useful. The benefits of this study are:

Theoretically, the result of the research can be a reference for those who want to conduct a research in Error Analysis especially in analyzing writing. Practically, the writer hopes that this study will be useful for:

1. The students, to enrich their knowledge and understanding in identifying the types of errors and to avoid making the errors over and over.
2. The other researchers, to enrich their knowledge about errors. It will give clear understanding about them so they can study and analyze deeply.