

**AN ERROR ANALYSIS OF FUNCTION WORDS AS FOUND IN THE  
COMPOSITIONS OF FRESHMEN AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
ANDALAS UNIVERSITY**

**A Thesis**

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## ABSTRAK

Dalam skripsi ini, penulis membahas kesilapan penggunaan Kata Fungsi (*Function Words*) oleh mahasiswa Sastra Inggris dalam mengarang. Kata fungsi adalah kata yang menggabungkan beberapa *lexicon* agar menjadi kalimat yang gramatikal tetapi hanya mempunyai sedikit makna bahkan tidak mempunyai arti. Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk mengetahui jenis kata fungsi yang digunakan mahasiswa dan penyebab kesilapan yang terjadi.

Data diambil dari karangan mahasiswa Sastra Inggris tingkat pertama kelas A tahun ajaran 2008/2009 yang berjumlah 29 orang. Data tersebut dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori Brown (1980) untuk mengklasifikasikan jenis kesalahan, dan teori yang dikemukakan Dulay (1974) untuk menganalisa sumber kesalahan. Dalam analisis data digunakan metode distribusi menurut Sudaryanto (1993).

Hasil analisis memperlihatkan bahwa ada empat bentuk kesilapan yang dilakukan mahasiswa ketika menggunakan kata fungsi dalam karangan mereka. Bentuk kesilapan dimaksudkan ialah: pelesapan (*omission*) 34,6%, penambahan (*addition*) 7,6%, penggantian (*substitution*) 50%, dan kesalahan penyusunan (*ordering*) 7,6%. Penyebab kesilapan secara garis besarnya adalah karena pengaruh dari bahasa ibu dan pengaruh dari bahasa yang sedang dipelajari. Dari 25 data yang dianalisis, ditemukan 13 kesilapan karena pengaruh dari bahasa yang sedang dipelajari yang disebut dengan *developmental*, 8 data disebabkan karena pengaruh dari bahasa ibu yang disebut *interference*, dan 4 data yang tidak disebabkan oleh bahasa yang sedang dipelajari ataupun bahasa ibu yang disebut unik (*unique*).

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Since English is an international language most people in the world make effort to speak English. In some countries, such as; Australia, USA, and England, English is used as the first language. In other countries, such as Malaysia, India, and France, English becomes a second language. In Indonesia, English is considered as a foreign language. The important role of English as international language makes the Indonesian government established English as one of the compulsory subjects in the curriculum from elementary school to university.

On this context, English Department students are assumed to have good English. They have learned this language since elementary school until university. Yet, they still have a lot of difficulties in using English in written form. Especially, the students of English Department. Having seen the fact that they tend to produce ungrammatical sentences, the writer encourages to analyze the error of using function words and the factor which influence the students.

According to Fromkin (1993:519), "Ungrammaticality refers to the degree to which string of words does not conform to the syntactical rule of sentences. " Ungrammatical sequences are produced by learners due to the stages in their

language learning process. In this way, learners who have not comprehended the syntactical rule of the language being learned will produce errors.

Based on those phenomena, the writer is interested in analyzing the errors made by the Freshman Students, Faculty of Letters, Andalas University.

### **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

In this research, the writer would like to analyze grammatical errors, especially when using function words in compositions, which are made by the freshman students of English Department, Faculty of Letters, Andalas University.

There are two problems for limited in this research;

1. What types of error in using function words are made by the Freshman Students?
2. What are the factors that influence the students in using the wrong function words?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

This writing aims to analyze the types of errors in function words produced by the Freshman Students of English Department. Then, it is also aimed to identify what factors influence the students producing the errors when using function words.

## CHAPTER 4

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, the writer finds out four types of errors such as; addition, omission, substitution, and ordering. Besides, the writer finds out the factors which influence the students in using of the function words wrongly.

In this analysis, there are two main factors which influence the students. Firstly, the learners do not have ability in mastering the rules of English structure, secondly, the interference of the mother tongue the so-called Interferences. Another type of errors which shows that the learners do not follow either Indonesian or English rules is classified into Unique.

Furthermore, based on the types of errors in using function words the writer finds out the errors in the form of omission is 34,6%, in the form of addition is 7,6 %, in the form of substitution is 50%, and 7,6% in the form of ordering.

In addition, the writer finds out that the dominant causes of error which are found in student's composition are Developmental. Those errors reflect the target language structure, English. The interference is produced by freshman students' composition, due to the fact that students here learning English after having acquiring the basic of Indonesian. Therefore, they transferred Indonesian pattern while producing English.

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