AN ANALYSIS OF GRAMMATICAL ERROR IN WRITING PERSONAL LETTERS

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Abstract

The study aims to discover the grammatical errors made by students when writing personal letters. The indicators are sentence pattern error, tense error, pronoun error, preposition error, and punctuation error. The researcher would be able to determine the types of errors that students made in their writings based on these indicators. The descriptive qualitative method was used in this study. The students were from SMK Negeri 1 Bintan Timur's class XI. The Samples consisted of 13 students. The samples were collected using total sampling by the researcher. The instrument was performing a test. In conclusion, the results revealed that each student made an error in each indicator. And the most common error made by students was an error in Sentence Pattern, which accounted for 37% of all errors. And the lowest error is in Pronoun by 19%.

Keywords: Grammatical Error ; Writing ; Personal Letter

Introduction

One of the international languages is English. . Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are the four language skills that students focus on when learning English. The writer concentrates on writing since it is regarded as the most complicated and challenging of the language skills. When writing, students must master grammar, have a strong vocabulary, have ideas, and be aware of the following: The fact is that language students do not always use correct English.

The more freely they write and speak, the more mistakes they make. The goal of writing is to convey a message. It means that a writer has to pay attention to the ideas conveyed in written form in order to make the reader understand the meaning of the messages that the writer intends.

Accounting majors in Vocational Schools, in particular, cannot avoid the name of writing letters when studying in the field of writing. Letters are written messages that can be written by hand or printed on paper. Letters can be formal (business letter) or informal (personal letter). A formal letter is prepared and sent to someone with whom you do not have a personal relationship. Informal letters, on the other hand, are usually addressed to people you know, such as friends and family members.

The author of this study looked at students' writing on personal letters, focusing on grammatical faults. The researcher only looked at sentence patterns, prepositions, pronouns, and punctuation when analyzing grammar. When kids are starting to write, they frequently make mistakes since these are situations that are tough for them to avoid. To prevent students from making the same mistakes and to assist students in writing better texts in the future. Teachers should be aware of the elements that impact errors in order to fix grammatical errors and offer students with a better knowledge while teaching writing.

According to the findings of the researchers at SMK Negeri 1 Bintan Timur, students had many difficulties using grammar, particularly when writing personal letters. In writing personal letters, almost all of the students in the eleventh grade at SMK Negeri 1 Bintan Timur made grammatical errors. The examples of erroneous sentences made by the students are "I am here *are* healthy and in good shape". The correct answer is "I am healthy and in good shape at here". In a sentence we can't use 2 to be. Second examples are "My friend and **me** have a plan to open up restaurant". The correct answer is "My friend and **I** have a plan to open up restaurant". The students make error in use of subject pronoun. This error happens because of the students' less understanding in using subject pronoun. The third example is "….you can come again to visit **i**ndonesia". The correct answer is "….you can come again to visit **i**ndonesia". This error happens

because some of the students do not know the function of capitalized. Certain regions, localities, countries, and geographical features have their names capitalized. In most cases, mistakes in the classroom are understood to be something that the teacher rejects because it is incorrect or inappropriate. As a result, it is critical to discuss error analysis because it aims to teach us something about the language learning process.

Method

This research used quantitative research design. The writer used test to get the data. The participant of this research was the second grade students of SMKN 1 Bintan Timur in academic year of 2020/2021. Then, there were only one class which consisted of 20 students. In this research, the learning material was focused on personal letter.

Results and Discussion

The percentage of recapitulation of students' errors are converted into diagram. The diagram covers the biggest until rank as follows:

Types of Error

- Sentence Pattern 37%
- Pronoun 19%
- Preposition 23%
- Punctuation 21%
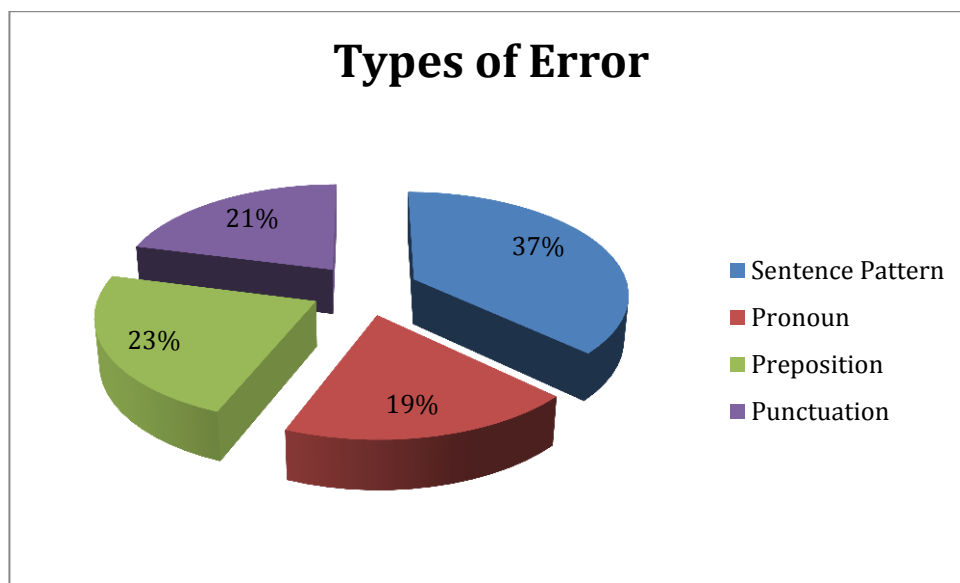
The chart explains the kinds of errors that students made. The writer would like to elaborate the result of the chart above from the highest error number until the lowest rank. Most of students made error in Sentence Pattern, there are 13 or 37%. The errors in Preposition are 12 or 23%. Punctuations are 9 or 21%. Pronouns are 8 or 19%. The data from the students collected and then analyzed the errors by using classify the error. To know the result of students' grammatical errors, the writer made the table of students' grammatical errors as follows:

Table 1. Recapitulations of Students' Grammatical Errors in Writing Personal Letter

Students' Name	Frequency				
	Sentence Pattern	Pronoun	Preposition	Punctuation	Total
S1	4	3	3	2	12
S2	3	3	2	3	11
S3	3	0	3	3	9
S4	2	3	3	0	8
S5	4	2	2	3	11
S6	3	4	2	2	11
S7	4	0	3	3	10
S8	3	0	1	0	4
S9	4	0	0	0	4
S10	3	3	2	2	10
S11	3	2	2	4	11
S12	4	0	2	3	9
S13	3	2	2	0	7
Total	43	22	27	25	117
Percentage	37%	19%	23%	21%	100%

1. Sentence Pattern

Based on the results here are the errors 37% in Sentence Pattern that made by all students. Examples :

Table 2. Sample Error on Sentence Pattern

Student	Error Identification	Sentences	Correction
S3	Pattern 3	If you still do it often?	Do you still do it now?
S4	Pattern 1	For rarely giving you my news.	I am late for giving my news to you.
S1	Pattern 4	I will try my very best to make you always happy.	I will try the best to make you always happy.

2. Pronoun

The writer found 19% students error in Pronoun. Many students still confuse about pronouns. Examples :

Table 3. Sample Error on Pronoun

Student	Error Identification	Sentences	Correction
S1	Object Pronoun	Thank you for all your hardwork to raise **I** until now.	Thank you for all your hardwork to raise **me** until now.
S3	Object Pronoun	It's **I**, your old friend.	It's **me**, your old friend.
S7	Subject Pronoun	That's all I can tell you, hope **us** can meet later.	That's all I can tell you, hope **we** can meet later.

3. Preposition

The third error was Preposition. The writer found 23% errors in Preposition.

Table 4. Sample Error on Preposition

Student	Error Identification	Sentences	Correction

S2	Time	**In** 3rd May in the morning around 10 a.m he got sick.	**On** 3rd May in the morning around 10 a.m he got sick.
S11	Place	How is live **at** Bali?	How is live **in** Bali?
S12	Place	**At** Indonesia we have many unique cultures…….	**In** Indonesia we have many unique cultures…

4. Punctuation

The last but not least error was Punctuation. The writer found 21% error in Punctuation. Examples:

Table 5. Sample Error on Punctuation

Student	Error Identification	Sentences	Correction
S3	Comma	It's me your old friend.	It's me**,** your old friend.
S7	Capital Letter	….you can come again to visit **i**ndonesia.	….you can come again to visit **I**ndonesia.
S9	Full stop	I'll see you soon, Dad I love you	I'll see you soon, Dad. I love you**.**

It can be concluded that the students can not write the words correctly. Therefore, it can be found many mistakes punctuation. It means that the teacher plays an important role in teaching to make students write correctly.

Conclusion

Based on the description of the data above, it can be concluded that from four classification of grammatical errors, those are sentence pattern, pronoun, preposition and punctuation, the writer found that the most grammatical errors made students was sentence pattern, with total errors are 43 or 37 % because of that, we as teacher should pay more attention to students grammar especially in English learning so that the students could minimize their errors in their writing.

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