


ANALYZING STUDENTS' ERRORS IN USING INFINITIVE IN WRITING PARAGRAPH

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Article history: Received: February 28, 2021 Revised: March 3, 2021 Accepted: March 3, 2021 Published: December 25, 2021</p> <p>Keywords: Analysis Infinitive Descriptive Paragraph</p>	<p>The purpose of this research is to analyze the types of errors of the third semester students of English department at Muhammadiyah University of Makassar in using the infinitive and to find out the cause of the errors. In this study, the researcher used descriptive qualitative method in term of percentages. In collecting data, the researcher used writing test and interview as the research instrument. The result of this study to determine the types of errors of students in using infinitive showed that the total errors of the students in using infinitive were 63 errors. This error consists of two types of errors, namely omission and addition. In omission, there are 33 errors or 50, 77%, while in addition there are 30 errors or 46, 16%. As for the cause of the students' errors in using infinitive, some students do not understand and do not even know what the infinitive means and the function of the infinitive.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>This is an open access article under the CC BY-SA license.</i></p> 
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INTRODUCTION

English is the second language used by some Indonesians to communicate with other people in various aspects such as speech, culture, science, and many more. In Indonesia, English has become the second language that students from elementary to high school and even college students must learn. As for learning English itself is to increase the knowledge and skills of students in using English or commonly known as foreign language terms. Launder (2008). Saleh in Arjuninengsih (2012) states that English has an important role in the world of education in Indonesia. It can be seen from the curriculum where English is a compulsory subject for elementary, junior high and senior high school, even universities.

In English lessons, there are four skills that students must have. The four skills are listening, reading, speaking and writing. Listening and reading lead to students' input ability in listening as well as reading. Different from speaking and writing, speaking and writing skills

lead to student skills related to the output or product produced. However, as we can see that to master these four skills is not easy for a student.

The four skills in English lessons, writing is a skill that is difficult. The proof is that not a few students say that writing skills are quite difficult. However, in fact the importance, writing is a very important skill in learning English. As quoted in Alfiyani (2013) states that writing skills are one of the skills that are not easy to learn because of the writer it is difficult to learn because the writer has to combine a word or sentence to become a paragraph which has meaning and is easy to understand. At the time of writing, we must pay attention vocabulary and the grammar used. Grammar has an important role in terms of writing because grammar is the rule of arranging words between words that will become a sentence that is easy to understand. Not only that, "Grammar generally refers to how to combine, arrange and change parts of words and groups of words to make meaning" (Spratt, Pulverness, and Williams, 2011). Infinitives are a part of grammar, so making infinitives is something that needs to be learned.

To infinitive is learned by students since they started learning English. In Indonesia, English is taught as a compulsory subject in higher education. In fact, third semester students still have difficulty writing English grammatically. Even though they have studied English for many years and are good at grammar, they still make many errors when writing. That is, it takes grammatical knowledge to write. As in infinitive use.

In this study, the researcher chose third semester students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of Makassar as research objects. The third semester students consist of six classes, namely class A to class F. From the six classes the researcher chooses four classes, namely classes A, B, C, E, F, as subjects in this study.

This research was conducted on third semester students because researchers saw that third semester students still made grammatical errors in using infinitives. Another thing that is of concern is that infinitives are part of grammar and infinitives that are often used when writing, so that researcher feels that infinitives are important to learn. In addition, research to infinitive itself is still very little in the realm of the Unismuh Makassar campus so that it makes researcher interested in researching the use of student infinitives.

In this study, researcher analyzed the errors of students in learning English. Researchers try to find the most common errors students make in using infinitives. This can help teacher to minimize student errors in using infinitives.

Based on the explanation from the background above, the researcher is interested in analyzing errors in paragraph writing by paying attention to the background entitled Analyzing Student Errors in Using Infinitives in Paragraph Writing. This research was conducted on third semester students of the English Department.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. According to Suryana (2010), qualitative descriptive is a research method that focuses on facts on an object systematically and accurately. The subjects of this study were third semester English students at

Muhammadiyah University of Makassar. The numbers of samples in this study were 13 students. The sampling technique is probability sampling and uses the Solvin technique in determining the number of samples. Researchers used research instruments, namely writing tests and interviews.

In this study, the first thing the researchers were conducting a writing test, where the researchers gave six topics where students would choose one of the six topics that had been provided. This writing test aims to determine the extent of students' knowledge or understanding in the application or use of infinitives, as well as to find out the types of student errors in using infinitives. After conducting the writing test, the researchers also collected data from the results of interviews with students, and then analyzed the errors and what caused the errors. In the interview test, researchers conducted interviews indirectly, namely via chat, which was due to conditions and situations during the Covid-19 pandemic. This interview stage aims to find out more about the causes of student errors in using infinitives.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research has a research instrument, namely writing tests and interviews that focus on infinitive paragraph descriptive writing conducted by third semester students of the English department of Muhammadiyah Makassar University.

1. Writing Test

From the results of writing tests collected and analyzed, the researcher found 63 students' errors in using the infinitive in the descriptive paragraph. Of 63 errors are divided into 30 errors or 46.16% in addition and 33 errors or 50.77% in omissions.

Table Recapitulation of Students

Respondent	Classification of Errors	
	Addition	Omission
Students 1	3	2
Students 2	1	3
Students 3	4	2
Students 4	-	3
Students 5	2	2
Students 6	4	3
Students 7	1	2
Students 8	2	4
Students 9	3	2

Students 10	3	2
Students 11	2	5
Students 12	2	1
Students 13	3	2
Total	30 errors	33 errors
Total Score Errors	63 Errors	

Based on the research results table above, the researchers found that in Omission there are 33 or 50, 77 % errors of students in using "to". Omission is the opposite of addition, where the sentence should use "to" but there is no "to" in the sentence. 50, 77 % of students' errors in omission can be said to be high, because there are many student errors in omission.

From the explanation above, the researcher concluded that the students' errors in using to infinitive were mostly in omission. We can see that from the calculation results in the table above

2. Interview

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In interview, the researchers give 3 simple questions to find out the causes of student errors in using infinitives. Interviews were conducted over three days in five classes. The researchers only interviewed five classes because only five classes were willing to be the sample in this study. The number of samples varies from each class, there are four people in one class, there are three people, and two people in one class. Therefore, the total numbers of samples in this study were thirteen students.

In the interview this time, it was a little different because the researcher interviewed students via chat using the WhatsApp application. This is because the situation and conditions are in new normal and must maintain a distance, where some students are not in the location (Makassar) but stay in their hometown. Therefore, it is not possible for researcher to conduct direct interviews with students. For further information, the researcher explains the results of the interview in the form of the discussion below.

What do you know about to infinitive?

The conclusion from the answer to the first question is that there are still some students who do not know what is meant by the infinitive, and there are some students who know about the infinitive but do not understand the rules or how to use it.

What do you think about the placement of to in a sentence / paragraph?

In the second question, the researcher concluded that third semester students majoring in English are sometimes still confused about the rules for placing to in a sentence or in a descriptive paragraph. However, some have understood the use of the infinitive, that to is followed by verb 1. But there were also students who explained that they did not understand the placement of to infinitive.

What difficulties do you often encounter when making sentences / paragraphs using to infinitive?

In the last question, which is related to the difficulty that the third semester students often encounter when making a sentence or paragraph involving to, is the difficulty in determining the placement and also matching the word to with the verb. In fact, from the research results, the researcher knows that the third semester students still have not received material about the “to infinitive”. This is one of the reasons why third semester students make several errors in the use of the infinitive.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis description in the previous chapter, the researcher concluded that through this study the researcher obtained data that could answer the problem statement in chapter I.

1. Based on the formulation of the first problem, which is related to what types of student errors in using the infinitive. In addition, to find out the types of student errors in using the infinitive, the researcher conducted a writing test for the students. From this test, the researcher analyzes omission and addition to the use of infinitives in descriptive paragraphs. From the results of the student error analysis test on the writing test, the researcher found that the total error was an additional 30 errors or 46.16%, and in the negligence, there were 33 errors or 50.77%. From the results above, it can be seen that the most mistakes made by students are negligence.
2. In the second problem statement, the cause of the students' errors in using infinitives in paragraph descriptive. To find out the causes of the errors made by students, researcher conducted interviews with third semester students. From the results of the interview, the researcher can conclude that most of the third semester students do not know what is meant by the infinitive and the rules for using the to infinitive. Researchers also found the reason students made mistakes in using infinitives because they (students) were still

confused about the use of infinitives even though they often used them when making sentences or paragraphs.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that some of the errors made by students are due to their lack of understanding regarding the infinitive, which results in them making errors in using the infinitive in a sentences or paragraph.

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