



**STUDENTS' GRAMMATICAL ERRORS IN THEIR  
INDONESIAN-ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE THIRD  
SEMESTER STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITAS ISLAM KADIRI**

**THESIS**



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## Abstract

One of the language aspect required in translating English text is grammar. In addition to word-choice for example whether or not a product of translation is good can be identified by its grammatical structure of sentences. Wrong or incomplete grammar in writing may sometimes cause readers to get confused in understanding the message. This study aims at analyzing grammatical errors made by students of sixth semester of English Department of Universitas Islam Kadiri academic year 2018, in translating first language (Bahasa Indonesia) into target language (English). The major types of errors made by the students were related to incomplete clauses having no either subject, verbs, or either both, subject-verb agreement and the absence of subordinators and plural nouns. Out of the six types of identified grammatical errors, incomplete plural nouns ranked number one followed by the absence of verb, and subject-verb agreement. The highest number of students making mistakes on using plural nouns was 41 (29%), and the lowest one on the absence of subject and verb was 7(5%). From the error analysis, it could be generalized that the students were probably influenced by their native language system which does not exist in English. Therefore, differences of the language system especially in grammar should be introduced to the students during the translation studies.

Keywords: *grammatical errors, language aspects, first language interference, subject-verb agreement, plural nouns.*



### Abstrak

Salah satu aspek bahasa yang dibutuhkan dalam menerjemahkan teks bahasa Inggris adalah tata bahasa. Selain pilihan kata misalnya baik tidaknya suatu produk terjemahan dapat diidentifikasi dari struktur kalimatnya secara gramatikal. Tata bahasa yang salah atau tidak lengkap dalam tulisan terkadang membuat pembaca bingung dalam memahami pesannya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kesalahan tata bahasa yang dilakukan oleh mahasiswa semester enam Jurusan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Islam Kadiri tahun ajaran 2018, dalam menerjemahkan bahasa ibu (Bahasa Indonesia) menjadi bahasa sasaran (Inggris). Jenis kesalahan utama yang dibuat oleh siswa terkait dengan klausa tidak lengkap yang tidak memiliki subjek, kata kerja, atau keduanya, persetujuan subjek-kata kerja dan tidak adanya subordinator dan kata benda jamak. Dari enam jenis kesalahan tata bahasa yang diidentifikasi, kata benda jamak tidak lengkap menempati peringkat nomor satu diikuti dengan tidak adanya kata kerja, dan persetujuan subjek-kata kerja. Jumlah siswa yang melakukan kesalahan dalam penggunaan kata benda jamak tertinggi adalah 41 (29%), dan yang terendah pada ketiadaan mata pelajaran dan kata kerja adalah 7 (5%). Dari analisis kesalahan, dapat digeneralisasikan bahwa siswa mungkin dipengaruhi oleh sistem bahasa asli mereka yang tidak ada dalam bahasa Inggris. Oleh karena itu, perbedaan sistem bahasa khususnya dalam tata bahasa harus dikenalkan kepada siswa selama pembelajaran penerjemahan.

Kata kunci: *kesalahan tata bahasa, aspek bahasa, gangguan bahasa pertama, kesepakatan subjek-kata kerja, kata benda jamak.*

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes some points including the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, and the operational definition of key terms.

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

Translation activities have been a part of people's needs when they are involved in bilingual and verbal communication. The need for translation has been increasing from time to time as the growth of science and technology for which people seek information increases. When the world is becoming smaller and smaller because people need to exchange information and cooperate with each other, translation is one of crucial things nowadays. It is stated in Al-Salman (2007) that "while acknowledging that the global market has given rise to the use of English as an international language", the need for translation from English into other languages or vice versa has become a pressing necessity.

When we are doing translation, it means that we are changing and conveying the meaning of words and sentences stated in a source language into the target language as perhaps readers or listeners could understand or interpret the message. Nowadays, translation is very crucial in the world which is becoming borderless and smaller because people need to exchange information and cooperate with other people or another country. Skillful translators are needed; even people have created software of translation which is available on the internet.

In learning language, learning grammar is considered difficult by many learners; moreover it is a foreign language grammar, especially English grammar. Whereas, many people think that learning English grammar is important in order to be able to be fluent in English skill, especially speech and written language. It is true, because grammar is a basis of learning language (Hariyanto and Hariyono, 2003:3).

Translation as one of the subjects taught in college seems to receive less attention. It seems that not all students do well. Grammatical errors are still found in learning translation, and revealing the kinds of errors in students' translation is an essential part of improvements for teachers and the students themselves. In translation class, it is quite difficult for teachers to discover any difficulties faced by students. Students will not be able to fully express their problem because they do not know how to start expressing what they have not understood. Teachers can see the errors to evaluate what has been achieved and what is lacking. By knowing the errors, teachers can find specific problems or difficulties had by students and, further, improve the certain point that is still lacking.

This study aims at analyzing grammatical errors made by the students of English Department of Islamic University of Kadirri in translating the first language into the target language, English. There is a translation subject which is given in the third semester. The grammatical errors that will be analyzed are: Subject missing in the clause, Verb missing in a clause, Subject and Verb missing in a clause, No subordinator or Connector in a clause, incorrect subject-verb agreement, and absence of plural nouns.

## 1.2. Statement of the problem

The problem that the writer would like to analyze in this thesis is: “What kinds of grammatical errors are mostly made by the students in translating an Indonesian text into English?”

## 1.3. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem above, the objective of this research is to describe the kinds of grammatical errors which are made by students of the academic year 2018 of English Department of Islamic University of Kadiri in translating an Indonesian text into English.

## 1.4. Significance of the Study

The result of this classroom action research is:

For the lecturers, sometimes, it is pretty difficult to understand students' difficulties if the students themselves do not know the errors they have made. Teachers may use the result of the study as emphasizing the source of teaching. Knowing students' errors, teachers may focus more on developing the lacking aspect, hopefully this thesis is useful for the lecturers who teach translation subjects to find an effective strategy to minimize the grammatical mistakes made by students in translation.

For students, by reviewing this study, students will know some grammatical errors they often made. They will learn from their errors and not to do another again next time they translate the written language in Bahasa Indonesia into English or other language construction. It's hoped that the students become

Careful and pay more attention to grammar of language that they try to construct, moreover on the errors commonly they have made. Although the students may have not fully understood the errors meant, at least they know their difficulties which further can be discussed with their teacher to have better understanding. Hopefully this thesis is useful for all students who are interested in translation to improve students' ability in doing translation in order to produce a better translation.

For the researcher, hopefully this thesis can develop thought, increase knowledge, experience, and skill in order to examine and solve a problem about translation. In this case, know the reason for the error that happens in the teaching of grammar, especially for the translation matter

#### 1.5. Scope of the study

This study is intended to identify and describe the grammatical errors in the Indonesian-English Translation of the third semester students of English Department at Islamic University of Kadiri. The researcher chose them as respondents because they have already learned the Translation subject, because of the limitation in time the researcher uses them as a sample of all the students who have a translation subject in that semester. The grammatical items that are analyzed are limited to six criteria, they are: Subject missing in the clause, verb missing in a clause, subject and Verb missing in a clause, no subordinator or Connector in a clause, incorrect subject-verb agreement, and absence of plural nouns.



### 1.6. Operational Definition of key terms

To sake of avoiding misinterpretation, the writer will of course provide obviously operational definitions for some terms used in this research, such as in the following ways:

Error is a systematic deviation, when a learner ha not learnt something and consistently gets it wrong.

Error Analysis is identifying, classifying errors of a foreign language and giving solutions.

Grammar is one of the basic aspects which must be mastered by students to produce and arrange words into correct sentences especially when they speak or write sentences in English.

Grammatical errors are the errors made by the students in the area of English grammar that deviates from the selected.

According to Newmar (1988:5) Translation is a rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text.

Indonesian-English Translation is one of the subjects that are taken by the 3<sup>th</sup> semester of the students of the academic year 2018 of English Department at Islamic University of Kadiri. In this source, students are asked to translate Bahasa Indonesia into English. The materials translated can be any kind of text and scientific text.

## CHAPTER VI

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

After having analyzed the grammatical errors in the Indonesian-English translation texts assignment of students of English Department of Islamic University of Kadiri based on the six categories above, finally he has come to this conclusion and suggestions chapter.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

After discussing the content of each chapter, the writer can conclude that the sixth semester students of English Department of Islamic University of Kadiri academic year 2018 still make a lot of error in translating sentences from Indonesia into English.

From the data analysis, the writer found 29% students made mistakes on using singular or plural nouns, 21% on using subject-verb agreement, 18% students on missing verb, 14% on missing subordinator or connector, 13% on missing subject and 5% on missing subject-verb.

And then the writer concludes that mistakes on using singular and plural nouns is the most dominant error. In this case the students usually disorder the sequence of word in translating noun phrase, because the student are due to the lack of knowledge the appropriate rules of grammar and their translation still interference by their native language (L1). Besides,

the students are not master yet the technique of translating. So their result of translation does not agree with source language.

Since one of the grammatical errors is caused by L1 interference, it is imperative that the students be introduced grammatical system of both languages. Both similarities and differences must be completely discussed during translation studies so that L1 interference could be avoid. In the other words, the grammatical errors could be reduced by introducing the grammatical system of both languages while teaching translation subject.

## 5.2 Suggestions

Based on the result of the study above the writer recommends some suggestions that the students can solve their problems in composing a written composition on translation texts. May these also help the teacher anticipate the problem that might be faced by their students when they teach grammar. And these will be useful to the future education of English grammar in translation class especially.

1. To the Students
  - a. Keep thinking of using English grammar is easy to make it familiar in mind
  - b. Memorize the grammatical forms to make the sentences correct when you are doing translation
  - c. You have to improve your understanding about grammar well.

d. You have to add frequency of translation exercise to improve your ability in order to produce a better translation.

2. To the Teachers

a. Give comparison to the students between Bahasa Indonesia and English grammatical rules clearly

b. Keep reminding the students to think about using English point of view when they write sentences in English, so that each structure (Indonesian and English) is not mixed in the sentences

c. Give the students more exercises classroom as well as home assignment, in order to make the students more skillful and familiar with English grammar

d. Make the students aware of the English and Indonesian grammar by explaining the differences between them clearly

e. Create a good way of teaching, the teacher should improve and more active to encourage the learning motivation of their students with providing an opportunity for interact and real communication.

3. To the Readers

This thesis can be an alternative reference for others that want to write analysed the grammatical errors, especially in translation.

Finally, for all the things that have been discussed more detail in this research can be done and discussed by next researchers. Perhaps they want to use the same title as this thesis to make a better future education for the next generation.

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