

ABSTRACT

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This research aims at finding out the kinds of syntactic errors and the source of errors in writing essays conducted by the fourth semester students of Muhammadiyah University of Makassar.

The method used in this study was descriptive which included as qualitative technique. The population was the fourth semester students of English education at Muhammadiyah University of Makassar. The researcher used purposive sampling by taking two classes represented by 15 students for each classes. There were 30 students took apart in this research. Students' essay was used to see what kind of syntactic error that students committed.

The students committed a total of 94 errors with dominated by misformation with 52 times appearances or 55.3%. Misordering occurred 20 times of appearance or 21.20 % of the total errors. Omission appears 14 times or 14.8% from the total number of errors and addition appears 8 times or 8.5% from the total number of errors. While, the total number of the sources of errors are 94 where ignorance of the rule restriction is the most dominant sources of error with 54 times of appearances or 57.4% from the total number of sources of errors, false concept hypothesized 20 times or 21.2%, incomplete application of rule 14 times or 14.8 % and overgeneralization appears 6 times or 6.4% from the total number of source of error.

Therefore, students committed four kinds of syntactic errors. They are omission, addition, misformation and misordering. While the source of errors found are overgeneralization, false concepts hypothesized, Incomplete application of rule and ignorance of rule restriction.

Keywords : syntactic, phrases, errors, essays